

## Governor's Proposed FY16 Budget Talking Points

### Homeless Youth Services

- **We Must Find a Way to Prevent Catastrophic Cuts**—The proposed 55% cut to Homeless Youth Services jeopardizes the safety and future of our children and youth. These cuts are even direr than those in the proposed budget last year and won't leave any of our youth unscathed. 1,342 homeless youth will lose access to services providing safe and stable housing.
- **Support Programming That Preserves Our Future**—The data on these programs highlight their effectiveness and significant cost-savings to the state. The annual cost to incarcerate 1 youth is \$111,000. The annual cost to care for 1 youth in residential placement is \$100,000. The annual cost to provide Homeless Youth Services for one youth is \$1,892.
- **Invest in Sound Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Practices with Proven Results**—Homeless Youth Programs help divert youth from much more costly systems such as child welfare and juvenile justice. 82% of unaccompanied homeless youth served in Illinois moved into safe, stable housing. 68% were employed and/or enrolled in education at program exit.
- **Act Now Before It's Too Late**—Due to limited funding, 93% of homeless youth are currently unable to access services. This number will only climb if the proposed \$3.1 million is cut from Homeless Youth Services. We cannot accomplish our objectives if we focus solely on cuts and ignore the need for a revenue solution during this legislative session.