



## June 2015

We are inching closer to June 30th, the end of FY15 and the July 1st deadline for the state to have a signed FY16 budget. It is unclear whether the Governor and the General Assembly will have agreed on a budget by July 1st, and partners and providers should be preparing for the possibility that the state will not have a budget in place by July 1st and funding for programs will either stop or won't start with the fiscal year. We also need not just a signed FY16 budget, but one that includes adequate revenue generation so as to maintain critical supports for children and families. We need a fair, equitable budget that is not balanced on the backs of vulnerable residents, and we need it by July 1st.

ISBE has said that 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grantees should contact their consultants with questions about the way the budget situation will impact 21st CCLC grants. As Federal funds the money is "protected" but it is still subject to the state's budget appropriation, and that grantees should go through the normal reimbursement processes, but understand that there might be some delays should the budget impasse go much past July 1st. As long as grantees have submitted their application prior to July 1st they will be able to receive funds for services beginning July 1st unless something unforeseen happens. You should contact your 21st CCLC consultant with any questions - the consultants will be best to provide them answers as the situation progresses.

IDHS (Teen REACH, Child Care Assistance Program) posted a sample [Community Services Agreement for FY16 on their Web site](#), and provided the [attached letter](#). In effect, the letter informs providers (across a wide range of programs) that some would receive contracts to provide services in FY16 (starting July 1st) this week (and some would not). There was no indication as to how the determination is being made as to who will and who will not be offered contracts. The letter also states that those who are sent FY16 contracts should be aware that the contract amount could be reduced in the future and partners/ providers may not get paid for services provided after July 1st until the state has a budget.

It is vital the members of the General Assembly and the Governor hear directly from people impacted by the budget impasse. Should the state not have a signed budget by July 1st, many of the supports and services that your communities rely on will be interrupted.

We need to make our voices heard with General Assembly members and the Governor. There's a sense that some of our General Assembly members aren't feeling the sense of urgency around adequate revenue and a timely budget - we need to make sure that they hear from all of us about the impacts that a delayed, inadequately funded budget will have on children, families, and services providers in their districts.

### Here are some actions you can take:

- Work with the children, youth, and parents who participate in your programs to do a sign-on letter. [This letter will be sent to the Governor and General Assembly leadership](#), urging them to pass a fair, adequate and fully funded Fiscal Year 2016 budget, one that raises the revenues needed to ensure ongoing access to services and supports, before the new fiscal year begins on July 1st. If you are authorized to do so by your

organization, we strongly encourage you to add your name to the list of signatories by [providing your information here](#). Organizations are asked to provide their information by COB on Thursday, June 25th.

- Use this [advocacy toolkit](#) to directly engage your elected officials and to support your stakeholders in doing so, too.
- Bring your program teams, youth you serve, and parents to participate in a [rally on July 1st](#) from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago.
- Use social media to maintain momentum around demanding an adequately-funded, equitable and timely FY16 budget. Use our [sample Tweets and Facebook messages](#).

Whichever of the above actions you take, we urge you to keep repeating the message about the impacts the budget impasse and possible cuts will have on your communities.



**33 West Grand Avenue, Suite 300  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
(312) 836-0854  
[www.ilcommunityschools.org](http://www.ilcommunityschools.org)**