



SUMMARY

- **The Governor is building on his track record of fiscally responsible budgets that honor the state’s financial commitments while prioritizing investments that help working families.**
- **This year’s budget proposal continues historic investments in early childhood education, K-12 public schools, and the teacher pipeline to ensure quality education for all of Illinois’ students.**
- **The budget also advances Home Illinois, a whole of government approach to ending homelessness as we know it, and responsibly funds a joint effort between the state, Cook County, and the city of Chicago to welcome asylum seekers.**
- **The Governor unveiled new efforts to make healthcare affordable and accessible to all, including a historic effort to eliminate \$1 billion in medical debt for low-income Illinoisians.**
- **The Governor is also advancing health equity, funding initiatives to address maternal mortality as a whole and maternal mortality for black women in particular, and new protections for health insurance consumers from unfair industry practices.**
- **The budget builds on the state’s historic progress in economic development and business attraction with new capital investments for a quantum campus and infrastructure improvements to make sites ready to host new businesses.**
- **The budget also puts money back into the pockets of working families with a child tax credit targeted at the most vulnerable new parents, and a permanent elimination of the state grocery tax.**

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Continued fiscal responsibility under Governor Pritzker ensures that Illinois stays on the right path as we adapt to a changing economy.
- In the last five years, the state has: received nine credit rating upgrades, raised the budget stabilization (“Rainy Day”) fund to over \$2 billion, reduced outstanding accounts payable and short-term borrowing from \$9.248 billion as of 12/31/18 to less than \$450 million at the end of FY25 (an \$8.8 billion reduction), paid down the \$8 billion bill backlog, passed five balanced budgets, and surpassed a trillion-dollar economy with Gross Domestic Product at \$1.092 trillion.
- In FY25, the state projects a surplus of \$298 million, adjusted to \$128 million after the statutory Budget Stabilization Fund calculation. The proposed total expenditure for the upcoming fiscal year is \$52.697 billion.
- The state also contributed an additional \$700 million above certified amounts to the pension systems in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. These payments were the first time since the 1994 funding plan was implemented that additional state revenues were provided above the certified amounts. These contributions will help pay down the state's pension debt more quickly and will save taxpayers an estimated \$2.4 billion by FY45.
- The Governor is also continuing to pair fiscal responsibility with efforts to put money back into the hands of working families by permanently eliminating the state tax on groceries.

EDUCATION

- In FY24, the Governor’s administration invested \$250 million in Smart Start Illinois, which has already impacted thousands of Illinois families:
 - Created more than 5,800 new preschool slots in preschool deserts throughout the state and added 26 home visiting programs, serving 3,000 new children.
 - Invested \$147 million in Smart Start funding in more than 4,200 childcare programs — benefitting 30,000 child care workers and 166,000 children.

- In FY25, Smart Start will receive \$400 million in new and maintained funding. The FY25 budget includes over \$170 million in general funds for Smart Start through DHS.
- Smart Start combines human services and education investments to target Illinois' youngest residents and make a critical impact.
- The Governor proposed creating a new agency specifically focused on early childhood to make it easier for parents to access services, to ease the administrative burden on providers, and to foster a more equitable distribution of state resources to serve families across the State.
 - It will ultimately bring together programs that were under three separate agencies to streamline services and make navigating the system easier for providers and parents. The FY25 budget includes \$13 million to begin building out this agency.
 - The new Department of Early Childhood will spend the next two years planning for the transition of services from the legacy agencies (ISBE, DHS, and DCFS). It will officially begin administering early learning programs in FY27.
- Other key education investments include:
 - Investing \$350 million in the EBF formula to bring the total EBF program to \$8.6 billion or a \$1.8 billion aggregate increase in funding during the Pritzker Administration.
 - Changing the State's Medicaid program to permit the capture of additional federal match dollars, resulting in a \$200 million increased funding to school districts.
 - Reaching historic levels of scholarship and grant funding with an additional \$10 million in MAP grants – bringing total funding to \$761 million annually across MAP and AIM HIGH.
 - Nearly every community college student at or below the median income level can go to school tuition-free through a combination of MAP and federal student aid.
 - Proposed funding is a 77% increase for MAP since 2019. In FY25, a projected 146,000 students will benefit from MAP grants, up from 128,864 in 2019.
 - Building on historic increases last year, with a \$30.6 million increase for operating costs for public universities (\$24.6 million) and community colleges (\$6 million).

INVESTING IN CAPITAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \$500 million in capital investments to continue building Illinois' into a world-renowned quantum computing hub, creating jobs and economic opportunities for a changing 21st century economy.
 - Paired with the \$200M Rebuild Illinois investment in the University of Illinois Champaign, the University of Chicago, and the Chicago Quantum Exchange, this investment builds a quantum campus and shared facilities to attract billions of dollars of private investment to Illinois and create hundreds to thousands of jobs.
 - \$200 million will be used to build a shared cryogenic facility for quantum research and development. The development of a high-powered cryogenic facility will help further cement Illinois as a quantum powerhouse by leveraging private investment, leading industry research and development, and our higher education institutions.
 - \$100 million will support infrastructure and site development for a world-class quantum campus in Illinois. These funds will assist in site preparation and infrastructure needed to create new jobs by attracting private quantum research and development companies to Illinois.
- \$200 million will serve as the state's match to aggressively compete for \$11 billion in federal CHIPS R&D funding that will be made available to states over the next 10 years, including the second phase of funding for the quantum tech hub in Chicago previously designated by the federal government in an earlier round; a National Science and Technology Center; the National Advanced Packaging Manufacturing Program (NAPMP); and the CHIPS Manufacturing USA Institute.
- \$900 million for capital projects for maintenance and modernization of DOC facilities.
 - Many IDOC facilities, some of which date back to the early 20th century, face critical challenges due to aging infrastructure.
 - The \$900 million in capital represents an investment in the modernization of the Department of Corrections. The capital will help enable facility improvements that will result in enhanced health care

- facilities, improved living conditions, safety and security enhancements, expanded programming, and facilitate family and community integration.
- \$157 million for additional funding to support construction of the new DPH laboratory in the Chicago areas and rehabilitation of the Carbondale laboratory.
- \$100 M to DCFS for a multi-year capital grant program to improve capacity for youth placement by increasing capacity system wide.
- \$40 million to continue Illinois' growth as a major competitor for site selection.
- \$24 million for additional manufacturing training academies to train Illinoisans for jobs of the future, particularly clean energy manufacturing jobs.

HEALTHCARE

- \$10 million in general funds for a new program to purchase private medical debt of low-income residents from debt collection agencies at a significant discount and forgive those debts, funding up to \$1 billion in medical debt relief.
- \$23 million commitment to decreasing maternal mortality, particularly the disparities that cause Black women to be three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes.
 - \$4.4 million to DPH to assess the state's maternal mortality rate and create an action plan that centers on reproductive care through community-based providers, supports community-based, full-spectrum care birth centers, and a state action plan that centers on community-based reproductive healthcare providers that are in and of the communities they serve.
 - \$5 million increase to continue and expand the DHS Home Visiting Program.
 - \$1 million to DHS to pilot a program to acquire and distribute diapers.
 - \$1 million to DCEO to enhance the state's ability to provide safe and accessible pregnancy support.
 - \$12 million Child Tax Credit for working families with children under three to reduce child poverty and get money back into the hands of the most vulnerable.
 - Competitive Medicaid reimbursement rates for doulas, lactation consultants, home visitors, and other community-based care

- providers to help new mothers before, after, and during birth.
- In addition to investments in state healthcare systems, the Governor is proposing the Healthcare Consumer Access and Protection Act— major changes to prior authorization and utilization management healthcare regulations to save Illinoisans money and ensure timely, effective treatment. The Governor’s proposals to make this system more efficient and accessible for patients include:
 - Increasing requirements around healthcare network adequacy to ensure medical providers are keeping up with the needs of those they cover.
 - This includes things like minimum wait times, minimum numbers of doctors, and access to community providers in low-income and otherwise underserved areas.
 - Setting statewide standards on clinical criteria when performing utilization review.
 - Banning step therapy, the requirement that the prescribing of weaker/less medication or treatment fail prior to authorizing more comprehensive treatments.
 - Banning prior authorizations for in-patient mental healthcare to ensure children and adults can access essential services in a crisis.
 - Requiring insurers to publicly list all treatments that require prior authorization.
- \$6 million for Get Covered Illinois, the State’s Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace, to continue outreach to consumers seeking affordable health insurance coverage.

HUMAN SERVICES

- FY24 was the first year of Home Illinois, with more than \$350 million strategically invested in programs across multiple state agencies that advance the plan’s goal of making homelessness a brief, rare, and non-recurring experience for individuals and families across our state. Based on recommendations from IL Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and the Racial Equity Roundtable on Black Homelessness, the FY25 budget includes:
 - \$50 million in new proposed appropriation for the IDHS Home Illinois line, bringing the total line to \$250 million. This increase brings a sharpened focus on reducing racial disparities:

- \$35 million in court based rental assistance,
 - \$13 million towards the implementation of the Racial Equity Roundtable on Black Homelessness and other special populations,
 - \$2 million for Access to Counsel.
- \$182 million commitment from the state to continue to support asylum seekers arriving in Illinois and close the budget gap necessary to maintain shelter and wraparound services.
 - Nearly \$35 million to continue funding and implementing recommendations from the Children’s Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative, including:
 - \$1.5 million for BEACON, a central portal for navigating services in partnership with Google.
 - \$31.3 million for Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) expansion to target the most at-risk kids.
 - \$2 million for pediatric mental health training.