

STATE AND LOCAL BUDGET CUTS

What Bush's Budget Means For Illinois And You

“There's not going to be any pain here.”

-- White House Budget Director Mitch Daniels on Bush's FY2003 budget. [[Washington Post](#), 2/4/02]

In just one year, George W. Bush has taken America from record budget surpluses back into deficit spending. Under his fiscal year 2003 budget proposal, Bush tries to make up the difference from his exorbitant tax cut by cutting programs that American people rely on. These cuts come at a bad time for American states; many are facing budget shortfalls and an increase in the need for services as a result of the recession, but do not have Bush's luxury of deficit spending. From health care and education to programs that aid low-income Americans and public resources, President Bush's budget offers deep cuts for the people of Illinois. What follows is an outline of budget cuts Bush proposed this year and of grants and programs from which Illinois received federal money last year. If the Bush budget plan were enacted, this funding would be threatened with a cut or outright elimination.

Key Budget Statistics In Illinois:

- **Illinois Facing \$400-500 Million Budget Deficit.** The National Association of State Budget Officers reported that currently 40 states are facing budget deficits totaling \$40 billion. In Illinois, there is a \$400-500 million budget deficit. [National Association of State Budget Officers, Budget Shortfalls in Most States, Updated 1/25/02, <http://www.nasbo.org>]
- **More Than 100,000 Jobs Have Been Lost in Illinois.** According to the most recent data, 101,900 jobs have been lost in Illinois since George W. Bush took office in January 2001. [Bureau of Labor Statistics, stats.bls.gov]

Bush Budget Slashed Funding for Key Health Programs

Bush Slashed Funding for Children's Teaching Hospitals. In his FY2003 budget, Bush cut \$85 million from the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education program, which provides grants to independent children's hospitals that train pediatric physicians. In 2001 57 grants were issued nationwide, 2 in Illinois. [HHS, FY 2003 Budget in Brief, <http://www.hhs.gov/budget/docbudget.htm>]

Tommy Thompson Touted Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program. In September 2001, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson announced \$227 million in grants for Children's hospitals and touted the work of this program. “Our children deserve the best medical care possible, and that requires the best trained doctors who care for them,” Thompson said. “These awards will help to assure a brighter future by supporting top-notch medical training for pediatricians and other pediatric specialists.” According to HHS, these children's hospitals train 30 percent of pediatric physicians nationwide. [HRSA Press Release, 9/27/01]

- **Children's Memorial Hospital Received a More-Than \$7 Million Grant For Pediatric Training.** Under the Children's Graduate Medical Education program, the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois received a \$7,716,418.77 grant in 2001 to train pediatric doctors. [HRSA Press Release, 9/27/01]
- **La Rabida Children's Hospital and Research Center Received an Almost \$250,000 Grant For Pediatric Training.** Under the Children's Graduate Medical Education program, the La Rabida Children's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois received a \$248,402 grant in 2001 to train pediatric doctors. [HRSA Press Release, 9/27/01]

Bush Budget Eliminates The Community Access Program With Unique Role Of Integrating Services for Uninsured. Bush's budget proposal for FY2003 eliminates altogether the Community Access Program, by cutting its entire \$105 million budget. The Community Access Program is charged with helping communities integrate health care services for the uninsured. This unique program works with providers to merge federal and local health services, including the Children's Health Insurance Program and Community Health Centers, into one cohesive system to better benefit the uninsured and underinsured. [HHS, FY2003 Budget in Brief, <http://www.hhs.gov/budget/docbudget.htm>; House budget Committee, "Return to Red Ink: Back to Budget Deficits," 2/8/02, http://www.house.gov/budget_democrats; Community Access Program, <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/cap/>]

- **Hektoen Institute, LLC, on Behalf of Cook County Bureau of Health Services Received More than \$900,000 For Access to Care for the Uninsured.** Under the Community Access Program, the Hektoen Institute, LCC in Chicago, Illinois received a \$902,911 grant in 2001 to provide health care delivery services to the uninsured. [Community Access Program, CAP March 2001 Grantees, <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/cap/>]
- **Springfield and Sangamon County Comprehensive Community Health Initiative Received Almost \$700,000 For Access to Care for the Uninsured.** Under the Community Access Program, the Springfield and Sangamon County Comprehensive Community Health Initiative in Springfield, Illinois received a \$676,780 grant in 2001 to provide health care delivery services to the uninsured. [Community Access Program, CAP March 2001 Grantees, <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/cap/>]

Shimkus Said Community "Should Be Proud of This Grant." In a press release Rep. John Shimkus announced a federal grant for the Springfield and Sangamon County Health Initiative. He said, "The Community Health Initiative is a great supplement to the Capitol Community Health Center that opened less than two years ago." "Providing accessible health care to those in need, coordinating services among area providers, and allowing patients to access care at a variety of locations benefits everyone." Shimkus added, "The community should be proud of this grant, since only 50 other awards were made nationwide." [Shimkus Press Release, 3/19/01]

- **Macoupin County Public Health Department Received More Than \$800,000 For Access to Care for the Uninsured.** Under the Community Access Program, the Macoupin County Public Health Department in Carlinville, Illinois received a \$804,402 grant in 2001 to provide health care delivery services to the uninsured. [Community Access Program, CAP September 2001 Grantees, <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/cap/>]
- **Rockford Health Council Received Almost \$500,000 For Access to Care for the Uninsured.** Under the Community Access Program, the Rockford Health Council in Rockford, Illinois received a \$485,334 grant in 2001 to provide health care delivery services to the uninsured. [Community Access Program, CAP September 2001 Grantees, <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/cap/>]

Bush Budget Eliminates The Community Access Program With Unique Role Of Integrating Services for Uninsured. Bush's budget proposal for FY2003 eliminates altogether the Community Access Program, by cutting its entire \$105 million budget. The Community Access Program is charged with helping communities integrate health care services for the uninsured. This unique program works with providers to merge federal and local health services, including the Children's Health Insurance Program and Community Health Centers, into one cohesive system to better benefit the uninsured and underinsured. [HHS, FY2003 Budget in Brief, <http://www.hhs.gov/budget/docbudget.htm>; House budget Committee, "Return to Red Ink: Back to Budget Deficits," 2/8/02, http://www.house.gov/budget_democrats; Community Access Program, <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/cap/>]

- **Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center Received An Almost \$150,000 Grant For Predoctoral Training in Primary Care.** Under the HRSA Bureau of Health Professions, the Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center received a \$145,8000 grant in 2001 for predoctoral training in primary care in underserved communities. [HRSA Press Release, 6/27/02]
- **Hektoen Institute for Medicine for Cook County Hospital Received An Almost \$300,000 Grant For Faculty Development Training in Primary Care.** Under the HRSA Bureau of Health Professions, the Hektoen Institute for Medicine received a \$292,749grant in 2001 for Faculty Development Training in Primary Care in underserved communities. [HRSA Press Release, 6/27/02]
- **Midwestern University Received a More Than \$100,000 Grant For Geriatric Education Centers.** Under the HRSA Bureau of Health Professions, Midwestern University received a \$107,790 grant in 2001 for Geriatric Education Centers in underserved communities. [HRSA Press Release, 7/23/02]

Bush Cut Funding For Rural Health Activities. The Bush FY 2003 budget slashed funding for rural health activities from \$129 million in 2002 to \$75 million – a 41.9 percent decrease. The Office of Rural Health Policy works with federal state and local governments and with the private sector to provide health care to rural communities in America. The Office of Rural Health Policy funds the following: the Rural Health Outreach Grant Program, the Rural Health Network Development Grant Program, the State Offices of Rural Health Grant Program and the Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant program. [HHS, FY 2003 Budget in Brief, <http://www.hhs.gov/budget/docbudget.htm>; HHS, Office of Rural Health Policy, <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov>]

- **Macoupin County Public Health Department Received More Than \$100,000 For Rural Health Outreach.** In FY 2001, the Rural Health Outreach Grant Program issued a \$100,934 grant to the Macoupin County Public Health Department in Carlinville, Illinois. This program funds public and non-profit entities located within rural communities to deliver services to those lacking essential care. [Office of Rural Health Policy Grants by State, <http://www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/map/index.htm>; Rural Health Outreach Grant Program, <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov>]

Shimkus Cosponsored Rural Health Care Legislation in 2001. Shimkus was a cosponsor of the Rural Health Care Improvement Act of 2001. The federal legislation improved Medicare payments to rural providers and offered grants and loans for rural medical facilities. “The inequities between urban and rural Medicare reimbursement need to be corrected in order to maintain medical services in rural areas,” Shimkus said. “Health care providers have been squeezed and squeezed, and this legislation will help ease some of the burden they shoulder.” [Shimkus Press Release, 7/30/01]

- **Community Medical Center of Western Illinois Received Almost \$110,000 For Rural Health Outreach.** In FY 2001, the Rural Health Outreach Grant Program issued a \$108,354 grant to the Community Medical Center of Western Illinois in Monmouth, Illinois. This program funds public and non-profit entities located within rural communities to deliver services to those lacking essential care. [Office of Rural Health Policy Grants by State, <http://www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/map/index.htm>; Rural Health Outreach Grant Program, <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov>]
- **Illinois Received More Than \$70,000 For Rural Health Activities.** The State Offices of Rural Health Grant Program issues grants to states to help improve their rural health care delivery systems. The Illinois Department of Public Health in Springfield, Illinois received a \$470,000 grant under this program in 2001. [State Offices of Rural Health, <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/sorh.htm>; Office of Rural Health Policy Grants by State, <http://www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/map/index.htm>]

- **Illinois Received \$470,000 For Rural Hospital Flexibility.** Under the Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant, the Illinois Department of Health in Springfield, Illinois received a \$470,000 grant to strengthen rural health in FY2001. [Office of Rural Health Policy Grants by State, <http://www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/map/index.htm>]

Bush Eliminated Funding for Newborn Hearing Screening. Bush's budget proposal for FY 2003 would eliminate altogether funding to ensure that all newborns receive a hearing screening before they leave the hospital. Under Bush's plan, this program would lose all of its \$13 million in funding. [HHS, FY 2003 Budget in Brief, <http://www.hhs.gov/budget/docbudget.htm>; HHS, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/genetics/hearingscreen.htm>]

- **Illinois Received A Grant For Newborn Hearing Screening.** In FY 2001, the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening program issued grants to 38 states across America, including Illinois. [<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/genetics/hearingscreen.htm>]

Amid Recession, Bush Budget Cuts Job Training Programs

Bush FY2003 Budget Cut Adult Job Training Programs by \$50 Million. Bush's FY2003 budget cut funding for adult job training programs under the Department of Labor by five percent, from \$950 million to \$900 million. As a result, many programs that provide job-training services to adult workers could be forced to cut services or to turn away new participants. [AFL-CIO, "Cuts that Hurt: The Bush FY2003 Budget for Workers and Their Families," 2/02]

- **Illinois Received More Than \$44 Million for Adult Programs from the Department of Labor in 2001.** In FY2001, Illinois received about 44,094,693 from the Department of Labor under the Workforce Investment Act's adult activities funding. Bush's FY2003 budget cut funding for WIA adult activities grants by five percent. [AFL-CIO, "Cuts that Hurt: The Bush FY2003 Budget for Workers and Their Families," 2/02; Department of Labor, "Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 12-00," 3/6/01]

Bush FY2003 Budget Cut Funding for Dislocated Worker Programs by More than \$165 Million. Bush's FY2003 budget cut funding for the Department of Labor's dislocated worker programs under the Workforce Investment Act by \$166 million -- or 11 percent -- from FY2002 appropriated levels. Bush's budget provides \$1.383 billion in funding for the programs. Originally, Congress appropriated \$1.549 billion for FY2002, which should be the baseline for FY2003 spending on these programs. However, the Bush administration applied a \$177.5 million cut from the dislocated worker program that Congress passed in 2001 supplemental appropriations to the FY2002 funding levels and used the lower figure for its FY2002 baseline to be able to show an increase in spending on dislocated worker programs. [House Education and the Workforce Committee Hearing, 10/16/01; AFL-CIO, "Cuts that Hurt: The Bush FY2003 Budget for Workers and Their Families," 2/02]

- **Illinois Received More Than \$41 Million for Programs to Help Dislocated Workers from the Department of Labor in 2001.** Under the Department of Labor's dislocated worker grant program, Illinois received \$41,575,303 for programs designed to help retrain workers who have been laid off and help them get a job again quickly. [Department of Labor, "Budget Overview FY2003 – Agency Information," 2/4/02; Department of Labor, "Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 12-00," 3/6/01]

Bush's Budget Cut Funding for Youth Job Training Programs by More than \$125 Million. Bush's FY2003 budget cut funding for youth job training programs under the Workforce Investment Act by \$127 million. The Youth Activities funding under the Department of Labor went to programs and activities designed to help low-income youths build skills for academic and employment success. [Department of Labor, "Budget Overview FY2003 – Agency Information," 2/4/02; Department of Labor, "Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 12-00," 3/6/01]

- **Illinois Received More Than \$48 Million for Youth Job Training from the Department of Labor in 2001.** In 2001, Illinois was slated to receive \$48,556,867 in funding for youth activities under the Workforce Investment Act. [Department of Labor, “Budget Overview FY2003 – Agency Information,” 2/4/02; Department of Labor, “Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 12-00,” 3/6/01]

Bush Education Budget Shortchanges America’s School Children

Bush Proposed the Smallest Increase in Education Funding in Seven Years. President Bush proposed a 2.8 percent increase (or \$1.4 billion) increase in education funding, the smallest in seven years. Hidden within this overall increase is \$1.7 billion in cuts from education programs, including a net cut of \$84 million from the bipartisan “No Child Left Behind” education reform law he signed just last month. [House Democratic Staff of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2/5/02]

- **Bush’s Budget Proposed Freezing Teacher Quality.** Bush proposed freezing the Teacher Quality initiative at \$2.85 billion. Due to inflation and growing school enrollments, a budget freeze is actually a disguised budget cut. The Teacher Quality initiative helps states and school districts reduce class sizes and better recruit and train teachers. [House Democratic Staff of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2/5/02]
- **Bush’s Budget Proposed Freezing After-School Programs.** Bush’s budget proposed freezing the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which provide safe, healthy places for more than two million children to learn after school. The Bush budget freezes this popular initiative for the second year in a row at \$1 billion. Bush’s No Child Left Behind Act called for \$1.5 billion for after-school programs this year. [House Democratic Staff of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2/5/02]
- **Bush’s Budget Proposed Freezing Bilingual Education.** The Bush budget proposed freezing Bilingual Education at \$665 million, even though the number of students with limited English proficiency is growing rapidly. [House Democratic Staff of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2/5/02]
- **Bush Provided No Funds for School Modernization.** Last year, President Bush fought for the repeal of a new federal initiative to modernize America’s schools and provide safe, modern places to learn for all children. His budget plan fails to include any dedicated resources to address the \$127 billion backlog in school repairs. [House Democratic Staff of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2/5/02]

Bush Proposed Cutting Even Start by 20 Percent, Almost \$2 Million from Illinois. President Bush’s budget proposed cutting \$50 million, 20 percent, from Even Start funding in FY 2003. Illinois received \$9,417,872 in Even Start funding this year (FY 2002) and Bush’s proposal would cut \$1,745,660 next year. The Even Start Program focuses on the educational needs of low-income families with young children, offering tutoring to preschoolers and literacy and job training for their parents. [www.ed.gov]

Bush’s Budget Proposed Cutting \$13,228 from Illinois’ Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program. President Bush’s budget proposed cutting \$13,228 from Illinois’ Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program next year. Currently (FY 2002), Illinois receives \$19,153,974 in funding for the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, a program designed to prevent school violence by reducing drug, alcohol and tobacco use through education and prevention activities. [www.ed.gov]

Bush Budget Proposed Eliminating State College Scholarships Program. Bush’s budget proposed eliminating the \$67 million Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships (LEAP) initiative, potentially

affecting 1.2 million recipients. LEAP encourages states to establish need-based grant programs by requiring them to match federal funding dollar for dollar. By leveraging state dollars, LEAP provided \$171 million to low-income students last year. [[Associated Press](#), 2/11/02; House Democratic Staff of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 2/5/02]

- In 2002, Illinois received \$3,623,023 in funding for the LEAP initiative. President Bush has proposed cutting all funding to Illinois for the program. [[www.ed.gov](#)]

Bush Proposed Ending State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders. President Bush proposed ending the State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders program that received \$17 million in funding in 2002 to assist incarcerated youth offenders in obtaining postsecondary education and postsecondary vocational training. [[www.ed.gov](#)]

- Last year, Illinois received \$754,934 in State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders and would receive \$0 in 2003 under Bush's proposal. [[www.ed.gov](#)]

Bush Proposed Ending Supported Employment State Grants. Bush proposed ending Supported Employment State Grants that assist states in developing programs that provide employment services for individuals with disabilities. The programs help individuals with disabilities find employment in the competitive workforce or in integrated settings that lead to competitive employment. In 2002, the program received \$38 million in funding and under Bush's proposal, would receive no funding in 2003. [[www.ed.gov](#)]

- In 2002, Illinois received \$1,512,612 in funding for Supported Employment State Grants and would receive \$0 in 2003 under Bush's proposal. [[www.ed.gov](#)]

Bush Cuts to Public Resources Threaten Public Good

Bush's Budget Cuts \$500 Million From COPS Program. In Bush's 2003 budget proposal, the \$1.1 billion in funding COPS received in Fiscal-Year 2002 was reduced by \$500 million. Since its inception in 1994, the office of Community Oriented Policing Programs (COPS) has been responsible for one of the greatest infusions of resources into local law enforcements. COPS has put 114,000 additional law enforcement officials on our nation's streets. [[Washington Post](#), 2/5/02; [Los Angeles Times](#), 2/5/02; [UPI](#), 2/4/02; <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2003/pdf/budget.pdf>; http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/more/pdf/e12990066_f.pdf;

- **Since 1994, Illinois Has Received Almost \$4 Million in COPS Grants.** Since 1994, Illinois has received \$360,602,308.33 in COPS grants that helped provide an additional 5,676 of state law enforcement officials. [http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/foia/foia_err.htm]

Biggert Said COPS Program Would Help "Reduce Crime in Our Communities." In a press release, Rep. Judy Biggert (R-13) announced \$600,000 in federal funds for the COPS Program. Biggert said, "I am pleased that Downers Grove will be able to hire eight new police officers. Community policing is making a positive difference in the lives of people across Illinois." "As we put more officers on the streets, we will continue to reduce crime in our communities." [Biggert Press Release, 1/21/01]

Bush Budget Proposal Requests Elimination of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. Bush's 2003 budget proposal requests the elimination of the \$565 million State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). SCAAP reimburses states for costs incurred for holding illegal immigrants accused or convicted of crimes. At a time when many states are facing their own budget deficits, elimination of this program will add an additional burden. The elimination of SCAAP also runs contrary to Bush's

position on the issue when he was governor of Texas. “If the federal government cannot do its job of enforcing the borders, then it owes the states monies to pay for its failure,” Bush argued in 1995. [[San Diego Union Tribune](#), 5/11/01; [Associated Press](#), 8/19/01; [Washington Post](#), 2/5/02; <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2003/pdf/budget.pdf>]

Bush Budget Would Cost Illinois Jobs

Bush Slashed Highway Funding by Almost \$9 Billion; Shirked Funding Responsibility, Angered Republicans. Bush’s FY2003 budget cuts \$8.6 billion in federal highway funding in the FY2003 budget, from \$31.8 billion in FY2002 to \$23.2 billion, a decrease of 28 percent. Funding dropped because of decreased Highway Trust Fund receipts, causing the first reduction to the federal-aid highway program since passage of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The Bush administration failed to make-up the funding difference despite an \$18 billion surplus in the Highway Trust Fund. Senator Kit Bond (R-MO) said the program fund was a “matter of life or death” and Representative Don Young (R-AK), chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, called the funding “a drastic cut.” Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) said, “it’s hard to say anything nice about this proposal.” [[Journal of Commerce](#), 2/5/02; [New York Times](#), 2/8/02]

- **Illinois Would Lose \$235.9 Million Dollars, 9,911 Jobs Due to FY2003 Highway Funding Cuts in Bush Budget.** The budget proposed by President Bush included a \$8.6 billion reduction in federal highway aid. Illinois would lose \$235,969,524 in federal highway funds and 9,911 jobs if highway funding is cut by the amount proposed in FY2003. [“An Analysis of the Proposed \$8.6 Billion Cut in the Federal Highway Program Contained in the President’s FY 2003 Budget,” www.artba.org, 2/4/02; www.tripnet.org, 2/4/02]

Bush Budget Leaves Out Services for Vulnerable Communities

Bush Planned to Eliminate Funding for Round II Empowerment Zones, Including East St. Louis. Claiming that tax breaks and other economic incentives are more successful in stimulating economic growth, Bush’s FY2003 budget proposed to eliminate grants for 15 urban areas designated as Round II empowerment zones, including **East St. Louis**, Illinois. In FY2002, Bush requested \$150 million for those 15 zones and Congress provided \$45 million. Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-MN) criticized the reduction of funds and said, “There is no way in the world I’m going to let this happen. The Senate will spend many, many, many, many hours on this if they try to do this. I’m absolutely determined to stop them.” [[Associated Press](#), 2/7/02]

- **Round II Empowerment Zones Authorized Under Clinton.** The Round II Empowerment Zones were authorized for the fiscal years 1999 through 2001 under then-President Clinton. The [Associated Press](#), discussed Clinton’s FY2000 budget and said, “It also proposes \$150 million to designate 15 urban areas over the next decade as empowerment zones, a classification that gives federal grants and tax breaks to businesses that invest in poor, rundown regions.” [Department of Housing and Urban Development, <http://www.hud.gov>; [Associated Press](#), 2/2/99]
- **Empowerment Zones Helped Generate Economic Growth and Community Development.** According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, “The Initiative (Renewal Communities, Empowerment Zones, and Enterprise Communities), through federal grants, tax incentives, and partnerships with government, for-profit and non-profit entities, has opened new businesses and created jobs, housing, and new educational and healthcare opportunities for thousands of Americans.” [Department of Housing and Urban Development, <http://www.hud.gov>]

Bush Reduced Funding for CDBG by \$1.3 Billion. Despite a promise from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Mel Martinez in 2001 to fully fund the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Bush’s FY2003 budget proposed to reduce funding for the CDBG from \$6

billion in FY2002 to \$4.7 billion in FY2003. Accusing the CDBG's current distribution procedure of allocating too many grants to "higher income cities and counties," the Bush administration said CDBG had "unknown" effectiveness and needed reform. At the National League of Cities, Congressional City Conference in March 2001, Martinez told delegates that there should be "full funding of CDBG." [Bond Buyer, 2/5/02; National League of Cities, Press Release, 3/12/01]

- **Illinois Would Lose \$16,787,000 in CDBG Funding, CDBG Aimed to Provide "Decent Affordable Housing for All" and Generate Economic Growth.** The Bush FY2003 budget would slash Community Development Block Grant Program funds in Illinois by \$16,787,000. "The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program works largely without fanfare or recognition to ensure decent affordable housing for all, and to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, to create jobs and expand business opportunities," according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. [National Priorities Project, <http://www.nationalpriorities.org>; Department of Housing and Urban Development, "Community Development Block Grant," <http://www.hud.gov>]

Illinois Would Lose Almost One Fifth of Funding Due to Bush LIHEAP Cut. In Bush's FY2003 budget proposal, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding was reduced by \$300 million, from \$1.7 billion in FY2002 to \$1.4 billion, a decrease of 21.4 percent. Illinois received \$97,006 in 2002 and would lose \$17,408 in LIHEAP funds if the Bush cut is enacted in FY2003. According to the Bush administration, LIHEAP provides heating and cooling services to 4.3 million households each year, one-third of which include elderly people and one-half of which include children under age 18 [HHS, FY2003 Budget in Brief, <http://www.hhs.gov>; National Energy Assistance Directors' Association Press Release, 2/4/02, <http://www.neada.org>; <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/liheap>]

- **\$300 Million Cut Broke Bush Promise To "Fully Fund" LIHEAP.** Bush's \$300 million LIHEAP cut came despite a promise he made during the presidential debates to "fully fund" LIHEAP. "First and foremost, we got to make sure we fully fund LIHEAP, which is a way to help low-income folks, particularly here in the East, to pay for their high fuel bills," Bush said. [HHS, FY2003 Budget in Brief, <http://www.hhs.gov>; Presidential Debate in Boston, MA, 10/3/00]