

LWVIL 2013 - 2015 Biennium Report: Income Assistance

Jan Kay, Issue Specialist

The Responsible Budget Coalition includes over 200 organizations working together to pressure Illinois' decision makers to honor their responsibilities and financial obligations by paying bills owed the many agencies who provide essential support and services and now face staffing cuts and high loan costs. The three guiding principles of RBC are:

1. Adequate revenue to support State priorities and make smart investments;
2. No more cuts to vital programs and services;
3. Fairness in raising revenue and making any cuts caused by failure to raise adequate revenue.

The Chicago Jobs Council is concerned that many are working and actively employed around the State but remain in poverty, struggling to make ends meet for their families. In the last several years the state has lost over two hundred thousand good paying manufacturing jobs, and now those are replaced by lower paying employment resulting in a 29.2% decrease in average pay, according to CJC. People who work, many times in multiple jobs, should not live in poverty. In addition, LWVIL, along with Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, believes we should work to ensure that poor people have access to "income supports such as cash assistance and food and nutrition benefits" for basic economic stability.