

## **LWVIL Issues Briefing 2016: Social Policy**

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### **Child Care – Children Services**

LWVIL follows many parts of services for our children and the families. Birth to age 8 time in a child's life is a very important time for physical, cognitive and social/emotional development and serve as a "vital foundation for children's success in school and later in work and life", according to research through Voices for IL Children.

Preschool for All studies show that children attending preschool have much higher results in their school years and studies show the adult years of employment result in higher wages.

Early Intervention for children who show signs of developmental delays has significantly improved the outcome for these children through various therapy services according to the particular need.

The Early Childhood Block Grant provides state funding for early childhood education programs much needed for success in the child's progress.

The LWVUS position which the LWVIL uses in our advocacy "supports programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality childcare for all who need it." The LWVIL position states that the "State should play the leading role in meeting the needs of children and their families". With these principles in mind, again the budget impasse in Illinois has had a devastating effect on the very principles and positions of the League of Women Voters of IL. Many servicing agencies have had to use their entire reserve savings and have used their credit available resources in order to meet the severe needs of families in their child care for families as well as the other much needed services for the families. In the year of 2016 some of the largest providers have had to cut down their workers and even shut their doors due to not receiving promised funding from the State. Since the Governor and the legislature have varied opinions re these services, we are awaiting the final action to see how our children are to be served.

In addition there has been a change to Child Care Assistance Program which is changing the qualification rules for this program through IDHS.