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, we have witnessed a devastating effect of the budget impasse in Illinois. Knowing that birth to age 8 time in a child's life is a very important time for physical, cognitive and social/emotional development and plays a vital foundation for children's success in school and later in work and life, LWVIL has supported the crucial allotment of dollars to the agencies in their daily work. Many providers of these services have had to cut down their workers and even shut their doors due to not receiving promised funding from the State. We look for the state funding for The Early Childhood Block Grant to help all children including for children who show signs of developmental delays for various therapy services according to the particular need.

In his 2018 Budget Proposal, the Governor has included +$50 M increase to the Early Childhood Block Grant; $151.3 M increased to the Child Care Assistance Program to restore eligibility to families earning up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level; Level funding for DHS-funded home visiting; $4 M increase to funding for Early Intervention; increased funding for English learners as part of an overall increase in support for education. This is information from The Ounce of Prevention Fund in their Action Alert on Feb. 15, 2017.