

# **BUDGET DOOMSDAY: 65,000 WILL LOSE ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES**

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The Illinois legislature's 'doomsday' budget – a spending plan without the Governor's proposed income tax increase – guts the Illinois Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) budget for community addiction treatment providers. These cuts will destroy the statewide substance abuse treatment system that serves the most vulnerable Illinoisans, and they will result in exponentially increased costs associated with crime, criminal justice processing and incarceration, healthcare, and other social problems.

## **HUMAN TOLL**

- 65,000 people seeking help for their addictions will hit a dead end.
- For every person affected by addiction, at least 10 people are directly or indirectly affected. This means that a minimum of 650,000 will be impacted by the cuts to State treatment funding. (*Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association*)

## **FINANCIAL TOLL**

- For every dollar spent on treatment, \$7 to \$12 are saved in social costs. (*CASA Columbia, 2009*)
- Therefore, a 50% cut to addiction treatment funding (\$82 million) will result in an additional **\$574 million – \$984 million in new costs** including emergency care, child welfare, criminal justice, and lost employment and productivity.

***“As governments continue to cope with budget shortfalls, addiction prevention and treatment programs often are sacrificed as expendable. This approach is dangerous and shortsighted and will serve only to increase the costs of addiction to government.”***

- May 2009 Columbia University report: *Shoveling Up II: The Impact of Substance Abuse on Federal, State and Local Budgets*

## **\$200 MILLION IN ADDED CRIMINAL JUSTICE COSTS ALONE**

### *Need for Treatment Overwhelming Among Arrestees and Offenders*

- **85%** of arrestees in Chicago test positive for illicit drug use.
- The criminal justice system makes more referrals to publicly funded substance abuse treatment than any other entity, *totaling 39% of all referrals to treatment.*

### *Without Treatment, County Jail Costs Soar*

- With a 50% cut to treatment, an estimated 25,000 offenders (39% of 65,000) will likely wait longer in jail for disposition. **For every additional 30 days the 25,000 addicted offenders spend in jail, it will cost Illinois counties an estimated \$74 million.** (Jail costs approximately \$125/day in Cook County and \$70/day outside of Cook County.)

### *Without Treatment, State Prison Costs Skyrocket*

- With a 50% cut to treatment, judges will have few options to mandate drug-involved defendants to supervised community-based treatment. At least 4,540 (based on 2007 TASC figures) will instead be sent to prison, and **the State will pay an additional \$127 million in prison costs.**