



JB Pritzker, Governor

Dulce M. Quintero, Secretary

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January 8, 2026

Dear Valued Partner,

On Tuesday, January 6, the Trump Administration announced their decision to freeze \$10 billion in federal funds for five Democratic-led states. Late Tuesday evening, the administration notified Illinois that this includes temporarily halting the State's ability to draw down more than \$1 billion in social service funding for Illinois. This includes over \$900 million in combined annual support from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG), which provide most of the funding for Illinois' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

The news of this funding freeze is creating needless and harmful confusion. The State has been monitoring the situation carefully and exploring all available options to protect our state's employers, workforce, and the families who count on all of us to keep CCAP strong.

Despite this cruel attack on children and families, **as of January 7, 2026, we do not anticipate that funding will be impacted immediately.** We recognize that the Trump Administration's freeze has already imposed tremendous uncertainty on organizations, and it will have immediate effects on efforts to plan for the future, including planning future staffing and program operations.

We urge you to use your voices to advocate against the Trump Administration's actions, which not only destabilizes Illinois' child care ecosystem, but has a devastating impact on jobs and the economy.

We realize there are many unanswered questions about this alarming federal action against the people of our state and we will provide more updates as soon as they are available.

Sincerely,

Lesley Schwartz

Director, IDHS Division of Early Childhood