



Office of the Governor

JB Pritzker

Governor Pritzker's Proposed Budget to Build on Fiscal Progress, Make Transformative Investments in Education, Workforce Development, and Fighting Poverty

Key Elements

- Governor Pritzker's proposed fiscal year 2024 budget will make transformative, generational investments in early childhood education and childcare, the teacher pipeline, higher education, and efforts to fight poverty.
- Through Smart Start Illinois, the Governor is proposing historic investments and a comprehensive approach to early learning to ensure every child has a seat in preschool and to strengthen the childcare system.
- This budget continues to fund K-12 schools at record levels and builds the teacher pipeline with new funding for schools to recruit and retain educators.
- With the largest increase in higher education funding in over two decades and new record-funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP), the Governor is keeping his commitment to ensuring students can afford to attend college in Illinois.
- This budget establishes the Governor's Home Illinois plan to fight homelessness. Home Illinois will ensure families have access to housing, healthcare, and food to help lift them out of poverty and build healthy lives.
- This budget builds on four years of historic fiscal progress with balanced budgets, six credit rating upgrades, a \$1.9 billion Rainy Day Fund, the elimination of the bill backlog, and \$1 trillion in GDP.
- With new funding for economic and workforce development, making an extra pension payment beyond what's required, and paying off legacy debts, this budget maintains the Governor's commitment to fiscal responsibility while lifting up the working families of Illinois.

Fiscal Responsibility and a Sound Economy

- 5th balanced budget after years of financial mismanagement from prior administrations
 - All COVID-19 borrowing was paid off in FY2023
- **\$20 million** in interest costs saved by December 2022 bipartisan Unemployment Insurance (UI) agreement
- **\$200 million** added beyond what is required for pension funding
- **\$2.7 billion** for local government in income and sales tax revenue this year—up a billion since 2019, and a historical record
- Over **\$1.15 billion** in additional revenue from new and expanded sources like internet sales taxes, cannabis, and motor fuel taxes
- Rainy Day Fund will reach **\$1.9 billion** this year and is on track to hit **\$2.3 billion**
- **\$455 million** to pay off legacy Rail Splitter bond debt, freeing up annual revenue and saving taxpayers up to \$60 million in interest costs
- **Bottom line:** We're on the right track, and this budget continues to prioritize fiscal responsibility. With a continued focus on timely payments, responsible saving, and cutting unnecessary costs, we're keeping Illinois headed towards an even brighter financial future.

Smart Start Illinois Early Childhood Education Plan

- Governor Pritzker is launching Smart State Illinois, a multi-year plan to ensure families raising our youngest Illinoisans have access to quality home-visiting, early intervention, childcare, and preschool before reaching kindergarten.
- Smart Start Illinois begins with a **\$250 million** investment this year:
 - **Additional \$75 million** towards the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) to create 5,000 new preschool seats this year and put Illinois on a path to a preschool spot for every child. The total FY24 proposed investment in the ECBG is \$637 million, 36% more than when Governor Pritzker took office in 2019.
 - **\$130 million** to begin funding first-in-the-nation Childcare Workforce Compensation Contracts to bring stability to the field by raising childcare worker wages and enhancing quality in programs. This investment builds on the 27% raises for childcare workers and \$1.75 billion in COVID-19 relief dollars provided since Governor Pritzker took office.
 - **\$40 million** for early intervention programs to increase rates by 10% and allow thousands of children and families to maintain access to these critical services

- **\$5 million** to expand the Department of Human Services (DHS) Home Visiting Program to reach up to 1,500 more families in need of support over the next four years
- Additional early childhood education investments include:
 - **\$100 million** to double the state's initial investment in the Early Childhood Construction Grant Program. This will allow early childhood providers to expand access to services in high-need areas of the state through the construction of new facilities or improvements to existing ones.
 - **\$70 million** to cover increased Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) participation
 - Governor Pritzker raised the CCAP income eligibility limit to include families with incomes below 225% of the federal poverty level, increasing the number of children served by up to 20,000
 - **\$1.6 million** to launch the Dolly Parton Imagination Library statewide. This early literacy program will send free books to children from birth-through age five when their parent or guardian signs them up, regardless of income.
- **Bottom line:** Every family deserves access to affordable, quality childcare and education to put their children on the path to success, and Governor Pritzker will ensure families and providers have the resources to make that goal a reality.

Historic Education Investments (K-12 and Higher Ed)

- **\$350 million** investment in evidence-based funding on top of already record levels of education funding
- **\$70 million** in year 1 of a new three-year program to tackle teacher shortages and build a pipeline of educators
 - Funding will be directed towards 170 school districts, both urban and rural, with the greatest need for teachers
 - District leaders will be empowered to creatively fill and retain positions through methods including signing bonuses, tuition assistance, and student loan or licensure relief
- **\$2.8 million** additional dollars for the Minority Teacher Scholarship program, which will nearly triple the number of eligible applicants able to receive the maximum award
- Affordable college for all:
 - **\$100 million** in additional funding for MAP grants, a 75% increase since 2019. It is estimated that this will raise the maximum grant to \$8,508 and increase the average grant to \$4,826

- With MAP and Pell funding, virtually all community college students at or below the median income level and more than 40% of public university students will have their tuition and fees fully covered
- **\$80.5 million** increase in funding for public universities, a 7% increase, to assist them in closing gaps in enrollment, persistence, and completion. This is the highest increase in more than two decades
- **\$19.4 million** increase in funding for community colleges, a 7% increase, to assist them in serving students of all ages on their path to job training, degree completion, and economic empowerment
- **\$25 million** of continued funding for the Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare (PATH) Workforce Program, to train new nurses and other high-demand healthcare positions
- **\$3 million** investment in computer science education, giving young people the skills they need to thrive in our changing economy
- **Bottom line:** Students of every age deserve a high-quality education right here in Illinois and this budget invests in education and access at every level.

Fighting Poverty and Ending Homelessness

- Governor Pritzker is launching Home Illinois, a multi-year initiative designed to prevent homelessness and help all Illinoisans lead healthy lives. The initiative begins with a new investment of **\$50 million** this year, bringing total funding to **\$350 million** in state and federal funds including:
 - **\$26 million** to provide homelessness prevention services to 5,000 more families
 - **\$30 million** to maintain court-based rental assistance
 - More than **\$155 million** to support unhoused populations seeking shelter and services
 - **\$25 million** in Rapid ReHousing services to 1,000 households, including short-term rental assistance and targeted support services
 - **\$40 million** for more than 90 new permanent supportive housing units and wraparound supports and **\$37 million** to create more than 460 non-congregate shelter units
 - **\$12.5 million** to create 500 new scattered site permanent supportive housing units
 - More than **\$30 million** to provide street outreach, medical respite, re-entry services, access to counsel, and other shelter diversion supports
 - **\$5 million** for a new workforce development pilot to help homeless adults attain and retain employment
 - **\$20 million** investment in a new Illinois Grocery Initiative to expand grocery access to underserved rural towns and urban neighborhoods

- **\$2 million** towards purchasing healthy, nutritious food from Illinois growers to make sure no child goes hungry
- **\$50 million** increase for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to help families cover basic necessities like transportation, electricity, and food
- **Bottom Line:** We're taking nation-leading action to lift families out of poverty and help them build health, thriving lives.

Rebuilding our Social Services

- Over the past four years, we've enhanced our human services agencies to ensure we can meet the needs of our most vulnerable Illinoisans. This budget builds on that progress.
- Additional **\$56 million** to increase the Department on Aging's funding to serve seniors
- Nearly **\$200 million** to the Department of Human Services to better serve Illinoisans with developmental disabilities by raising provider wages and creating more capacity
- **\$10.6 million** in new funding to onboard staff and welcome new residents at the 200-bed Chicago Veterans' Home and new funding to assess the mental health needs of Illinois' Veterans
- Protecting and ensuring the safety of our most vulnerable youth through additional funding for social services including:
 - **\$41 million** increase for the main rollout of the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) — a modernized system to replace the previous case management system for efficiency and to provide a unified central repository of all DCFS child welfare data
 - **\$10 million** to train and protect DCFS workers and **\$30 million** for Level of Care Support Services grants that will expand and improve facilities
 - **\$2 million** for an additional 130 scholarships to help DCFS youth or former DCFS youth attend universities
 - Funding to hire an additional 192 staff to support DCFS caseload
- **Bottom line:** Our state agencies and social services provide a crucial safety net for vulnerable Illinoisans. This budget will further strengthen and expand services to aid families and ensure all Illinoisans – from the youngest to the oldest – are adequately cared for.

Public Safety and Violence Prevention

- When our communities are safe, our state succeeds. Governor Pritzker has made public safety and violence prevention a key focus for his administration and has made substantial progress through investments that target the root causes of violence and passing gun safety legislation.
- Continues funding for the Reimagine Public Safety Act, a multi-year **\$250 million** investment to prevent gun violence and keep communities safe
- The Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program continues to provide historic grant awards from Cannabis revenue to organizations in communities most impacted by economic disinvestment, violence, and the damage caused by the war on drugs
- **\$30 million** for law enforcement in-car cameras, body cameras, and data storage
- **\$5 million** in multi-year funding to implement the recommendations issued by the Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes to prevent and address bias, hate incidents, and crimes
- **\$300,000** for the Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes to improve the bias and victim's hotline, partnerships with PERIL, and to build a data collection resource that supports nonprofits and data collection at the state level
- **Bottom line:** We're making every community safer through strategic public safety investments that target the root causes of violence.

Strengthening Healthcare

- Quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare is a right, not a privilege. This budget builds on the Governor's commitment to providing quality healthcare to all of our communities.
- **\$22.8 million** to begin funding the recommendations made by the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative to build a coordinated, inter-agency approach to ensure young people with significant behavioral health needs receive the community and residential services they need to thrive while providing parents, guardians and family members with transparency and clarity. This includes:
 - o **\$10 million** expansion of the Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services program
 - o **\$1.5 million** investment in a Care Portal to make it easier for caregivers to navigate the system
 - o **\$2 million for** pediatric mental health training.

- As we learned during the pandemic, preparation and public health infrastructure are key to saving lives
 - **\$45 million** to support critical IT replacement for Illinois' National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (INEDSS) and Long-Term Care systems
 - **\$8.5 million** to respond to unexpected public health threats and emergencies
- **\$18 million** to support reproductive health initiatives, including a new navigation hotline to streamline appointments and new training for doctors and other providers
- We cannot have quality healthcare services without expanding and supporting our workforce:
 - **\$450 million** investment by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services over multiple years to preserve and grow the healthcare workforce, with a focus on Medicaid providers and providers in underserved areas of the state, including rural areas
 - **\$3 million** investment towards the Healthcare Workforce Loan Repayment and Scholarship programs
 - **\$25 million** for targeted rate increases for healthcare practitioners
- **Bottom Line:** Every individual deserves access to quality healthcare. We're expanding every facet of Illinois' healthcare system – from increasing mental health services, expanding our medical workforce, ensuring that insurance is fair, and supporting all healthcare services.

Economic Growth

- After surpassing the **\$1 trillion** dollar mark in annualized GDP this year, the Governor is increasing funding for business attraction and development, workforce training, energy transformation, economic assistance programs, trade, and tourism.
- **\$40 million** to support the Direct Forgivable Loan Program for Social Equity Cannabis licensees to reduce barriers to access for dispensaries and craft growers
- **\$10 million** to support minority-owned businesses for retention and expansion in Illinois
- **\$400 million** for efforts to close major economic development deals and bring new companies and jobs to the state
- **\$20 million** to continue the widely popular Rebuild Illinois Downtowns and Main Streets Capital Program
- **\$10 million** to fund a “one-stop business portal” to foster entrepreneurship

- #1 state in the region for workforce development - we're maintaining that by investing:
 - **\$25 million** into Illinois Works to further support apprenticeship programs
 - **\$10 million** for Electric Vehicle (EV) workforce curriculum development to prepare our workers for the jobs of the future and barrier reduction services
 - **\$1 million** for data center workforce curriculum development to continue growing as an international data center hub
 - **\$20 million** to develop a Fast-Track workforce program for employers to help upskill employees
 - **\$10 million** for a vocational Clean Energy Career and Technical Education pilot
- **Bottom line:** We're making Illinois a great place for businesses of all sizes to operate, and we're ensuring the people of this state have the training necessary to participate in the jobs of the future.

Investments in Infrastructure and the Environment

- With more than 4,400 miles of highway, 412 bridges, and 621 safety improvements already completed, this budget continues the historic progress of Rebuild Illinois — the Governor's bipartisan, **\$45 billion** capital plan.
- Illinois continues to make progress on the path toward 100% clean energy by 2050 with the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) that contains funding for wind and solar energy expansion, incentives for companies to install energy storage facilities at the sites of former coal plants, and funding for workforce programs to prepare Illinois' workers for the clean energy economy
- **\$263.8 million** to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for cost-saving energy efficiency improvements
- **\$10 million** increase for Electric Vehicle (EV) rebates, encouraging the use of EVs to improve air quality in the state
- **Bottom Line:** We're continuing to create opportunities in every community across the state by building on the historic success of Rebuild Illinois, prioritizing clean energy, and supporting business growth.