

United Way of Illinois 3rd Agency State Budget Survey: High Level Findings

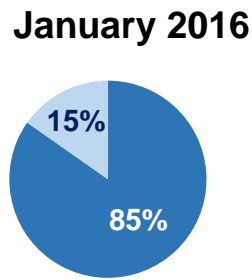
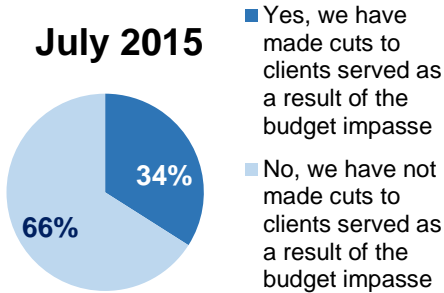
The findings below were drawn from 444 responses to a survey conducted January 6 –13, 2016 of human service agencies in every Illinois county that receive some amount of state funding. Nearly half of these agencies reported making service, program, and/or operational cuts due to the budget impasse. Of those agencies who report making cuts:

85% of agencies have cut the number of clients they serve

Agencies reporting they had made cuts to clients served increased from 34% in July 2015 to 85% in January 2016.

*“Clients, who often need counseling services immediately after an assault, **are triaged and on our waiting list for up to 12 weeks before an appointment is available.** Due to reductions in services by other agencies in our area, there is no place to refer them for quicker access to counseling.”*

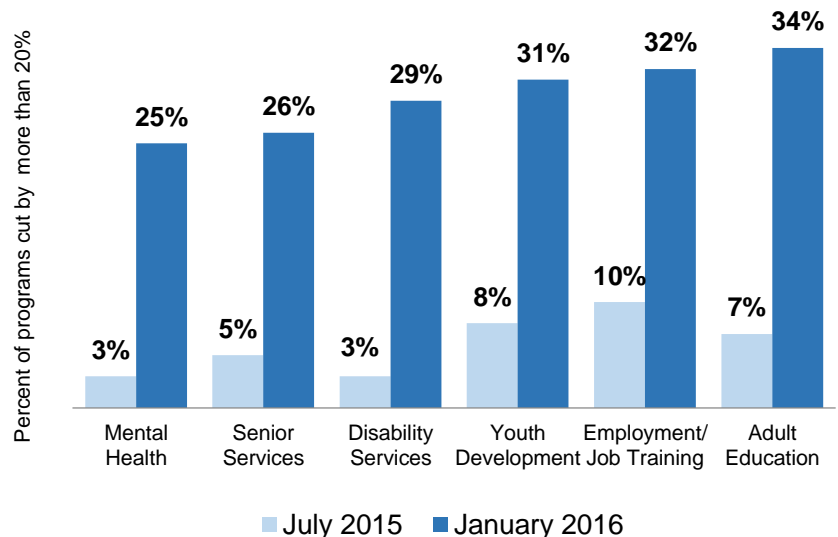
Rape Advocacy, Counseling, & Education Services, a domestic violence and sexual assault agency serving 500 clients in Urbana, Illinois



84% of respondents have cut programs; cuts to programs supporting the mentally ill and the disabled have increased dramatically and cuts to programming serving seniors, children and adults seeking education or jobs have more than tripled

*“Elimination of Teen Reach has **left many students without any after school programs.** Also, with the elimination of youth jobs programs, youth **have lost employment opportunities** in the community and have **lost an average of \$2,500 in income for their families.**”*

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, a Chicago, Illinois agency serving 4,000 clients



23% of agencies report they will struggle to operate at existing levels if the budget impasse continues through March

Of all agency respondents that report taking measures to maintain operations as of January 2016:

- 49% of agencies have **tapped into their cash reserves**
- 26% of agencies have **utilized lines of credit** and, of those:
 - Respondents have taken on **over \$35,000,000 in debt to stay open**
 - The average credit line utilized by these respondents was **\$300,000**
- 27% of agencies have **laid off staff** and 5% have had to **skip payroll**

*“We are now borrowing... **we will need to borrow a minimum of \$3.5 million** and I hope we make it. Meanwhile, seniors are **starving and being left in the cold.**”*

Senior Services Plus, a senior services agency serving 30,000 clients in Alton, Illinois