



## Program Background & Facts

Community-based organizations are the backbone of the child welfare system in Illinois, providing residential and foster care services to 12,400 children, or 85% of all children in the foster care system. These organizations are mission-driven and embedded in the communities they serve; often delivering care more efficiently than state agencies.

In addition, these organizations deliver services on behalf of the State of Illinois (a public/private partnership that is critical to our child welfare response system). Contracts with the state require liability insurance, but access to affordable insurance, if it is available at all, is increasingly unaffordable.

Without relief from the state, community-based organizations will be forced to cut back services, potentially causing agencies to close their doors.

- ⇒ **CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AT RISK:** Non-profits with multiple lines of service will be forced to consider ending foster care due to high costs and risks. Providers who cannot afford liability insurance will go out of business. For example, long-time provider, Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS) Chicago, is no longer offering foster care.
- ⇒ **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT RISK:** If providers are forced to go out of business, there will be less staff to manage reasonable caseloads, causing more children to be placed at-risk and longer lengths of stays in foster care.
- ⇒ **IMPACT TO POS PROVIDERS:** The insurance crisis is driven by extraordinary claims from only a few agencies. Many agencies have access to only one or two insurance companies and are seeing either a steep rise- up to 80% - in premiums, or a sharp decrease in available coverage.



## Solution

The General Assembly should **require the state to provide community-based organizations with a financial safety net for liabilities incurred in excess of \$2 million** for tort claims arising out of the foster care services they provide for vulnerable children of this state.



### CALL TO ACTION

Support **HB5152/SB3730** which would: Require the state to provide a risk pool for all insurance claims up to \$2 million.



ICOY promotes the safety, health, and success of Illinois' children, youth, and families by acting as a collective voice for policy and practice, and by connecting and strengthening the organizations that serve them. Visit [ICOYouth.org](http://ICOYouth.org).

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