

## Human Services Professional Loan Repayment-Appropriations Tool Kit ICOY Policy Team – January 2023

The Human Services Professional Loan Repayment, [HB2379/SB1720](#) and [HB2380/SB1719](#), funds [Public Act 102-1089](#). This initiative is authored by Illinois Collaboration On Youth (ICOY) and Illinois Partners for Human Service. Please see below for the bill number for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Illinois General Assembly, talking points, funding points, and extra resources.

### Bill Numbers:

- [HB2379/SB1720](#) – Appropriations (Representative Lindsey LaPointe, Senator Laura Fine)
- [HB2380/SB1719](#) (Representative Lindsey LaPointe, Senator Laura Fine)
- **Talking points:**
- To address the increasing workforce crisis that is plaguing the human services sector, Public Act 102-1089 was signed by Governor Pritzker to help recruit and retain qualified human service professionals to work for community-based service providers. However, now the appropriations are needed to fund this vital law, Public Act 102-1089.
- According to a survey conducted by Illinois Partners for Human Service, most organizations stated that a lack of applicants and lower wages were the most common hiring barriers. Funding Public Act 102-1089 will help address the turnover issue assessed through the survey.
- This workforce crisis from turnover of employment is particularly disruptive to families and youth in foster care, being associated with increased risk to children and longer lengths of stay in the foster care system. Funding Public Act 102-1089 will help address the issue of turnover, then in turn helping families and youth in foster care.
- Many positions in the human services field require a bachelor's or higher education degree in specific fields of study. Higher education requirements often mean that many students graduate with high levels of debt for jobs that pay slightly above minimum wage. Funding Public Act 102-1089 will help alleviate some of the financial concerns of community-based services employees.

- The average child welfare caseworker salary is \$36,884, according to a survey conducted by Illinois Partners for Human Service. The average Master of Social Work Graduate debt is \$60,000. Funding Public Act 102-1089 would help alleviate some of the financial burden for educated, well-qualified employees of community-based human service providers.
- Funding Public Act 102-1089 will help recruit and retain human service professionals and help alleviate the workforce crisis.
- Funding Public Act 102-1089 will incentivize students to elect human services as a career choice, stabilizing the workforce and directly help individuals, families, and communities served by community-based human service providers.
- Funding Public Act 102-1089 would allow for funding, from qualified programs:
  - \$25,000 per year for a master's degree or higher from a qualified program
  - \$15,000 per year for a bachelor's degree from a qualified program
  - \$3,000 per year for an associate degree
  - \$5,000 per year add-on if applicant is independently further professional licensure

**Funding:**

- \$15 million is being requested for appropriations for a two-year period

**Resources:**

- [Public Act 102-1089](#)
- [Fact sheet](#)
- [ICOY's Legislative & Advocacy Agenda](#)
- [Illinois Partners for Human Service – Full Report](#)
- [Illinois Partners for Human Service – Research](#)