



Afterschool for Children & Teens



CHICAGO ALLIANCE FOR COLLABORATIVE EFFORT



metropolitan family services



Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault



networking Against Domestic Violence



Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois



Engaging for impact



Illinois Collaboration on Youth



STRONG FAMILIES. BRIGHT FUTURES.



ILLINOIS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

Working Together. We Can Accomplish Anything



THE INSTITUTE



Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living



Chicago Coalition to end Homelessness



HEALTH & MEDICINE POLICY RESEARCH GROUP



THRESHOLDS



Jewish United Fund TOGETHER for GOOD



ILLINOIS PARTNERS for HUMAN SERVICE



Community Behavioral Healthcare Association



START EARLY Champions for Early Learning



Housing Action Illinois A stronger Illinois begins at home



the Y



COMMUNITY - ADVOCATE - POLICY iarf

We are The Health and Human Services Coalition of Illinois.

Community Partner Fair Contracting Package

Background:

The 2026 Community Partner Fair Contracting Legislative Package responds to chronic delays and uncertainty in state contracting and payments that force nonprofit providers to front costs while delivering essential services across Illinois. Following extensive engagement with state agencies, the original omnibus proposal has been refined into three focused bills to more effectively address contracting delays, late payments, and Court of Claims backlogs.

Legislative Priorities:

GATA

([HB4707](#) Avelar / [SB2844](#) Porfirio)

Strengthens state grant administration by requiring GOMB to train agency staff on Prompt Payment Act requirements, advance payment eligibility, and the Court of Claims process. Requires agencies to issue grant agreements within 60 days of grant's effective date, include clear billing timelines, payment methodology, and Prompt Payment eligibility in all agreement; prohibits agencies from capping indirect costs below 20% or the federally negotiated rate, whichever is higher.

Contact: Lauren Wright, Illinois Partners for Human Service, lauren@illinoispartners.org

Prompt Payment Act

([HB4288](#) LaPointe/[SB2845](#) Halpin)

Establishes clear, enforceable payment timelines by requiring agencies to confirm receipt of invoices within 15 days, review and transmit approved payments to the Comptroller within 30 days, and electronically provide voucher numbers, dates, and amounts within 15 days of submission. The bill also allows agencies to use any appropriated fund to pay interest on late payments.

Contact: Holly Ambuehl, Forefront, hambuehl@myforefront.org, 480.321.7466 (mobile)

Court of Claims

([HB4340](#) Jimenez/[SB2843](#) Halpin):

Improves resolution of small, uncontested claims resulting from lapsed appropriations by requiring agencies to confirm or reject claims under \$2,500 within 30 days of notification and allowing the Court to administratively determine those claims. The bill also requires timely communication to vendors about receipt and defects and directs the Comptroller to issue payment within 30 days once an award is entered.

Contact: Andrea Durbin, ICOY, adurbin@icoyouth.org or Allison Richard, Contract Lobbyist, allison.f.richard@gmail.com

Community Impacts:

Equity Note

Organizations with the smallest budgets serving Communities of Color are the most likely to face challenges with the State's contracting and payment systems per a [2023 statewide survey](#).

A small Southern Illinois grantee of the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship program through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity experienced delays in payment resulting in delayed and abbreviated programming, adverse program outcomes, and financial hardship. While awaiting payment, the grantee organization depleted a \$65,000 line of credit and the President accumulated \$30,000 in personal loans to pay for necessary program expenses. Despite successfully graduating two cohorts of students, the grantee has still been paid less than half of the awarded program expenses and the President's credit rating has been damaged.

Legislators recognize the value of 211 Illinois as a 24/7/365 human services helpline, and the program has received legislative funding for the past four years to connect residents statewide to critical supports. Yet each year, severely delayed contracts - ranging from five to seven months and up to eighteen months - have undermined network stability and put statewide coverage and access at risk.

As a small community-based agency in Chicago that serves under-resourced and forgotten communities who depend on workforce exploration, connection to stable employment and economic resources through the Department of Human Services - Illinois Youth Investment Program - IYIP are struggling to meet these needs. Contract delays have not only stifled the ability to provide needed services at 100%, but they have also discouraged and disabled engagement of hundreds of young adults for new economic opportunities across communities of color.

Statewide Contracting Survey Results

The Health and Human Services Coalition of Illinois conducted a statewide survey to assess government contracting challenges for our sector and inform an appropriate policy response.

Key Findings



Contract Delays

The State issued late contracts more than 50% of the time, which disproportionately and negatively impacted services in Cook County, services in rural areas, and organizations with the smallest budgets.



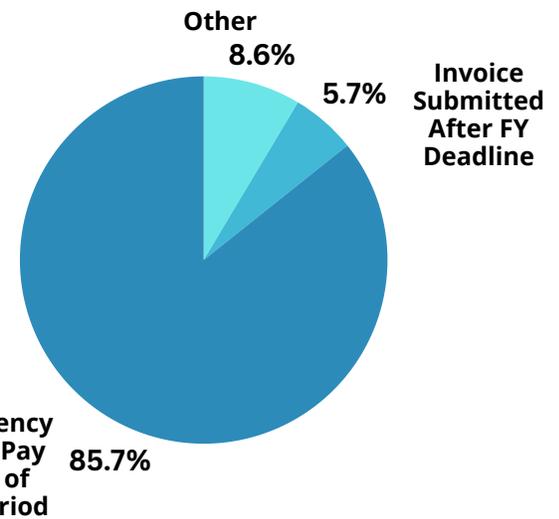
Prompt Payment Act

Almost half of all respondents were unclear how the Prompt Payment Act applies to their contracts. Services for rural populations, people living with disabilities, and led by BIPOC leaders were less likely to be eligible.



Court of Claims

Over 85% of the pending Court of Claims reported resulted from the State not paying invoice(s) before the end of the lapse period. Claims ranged from ~\$1,000 to ~\$600,000 and the oldest claim is almost seven years old.



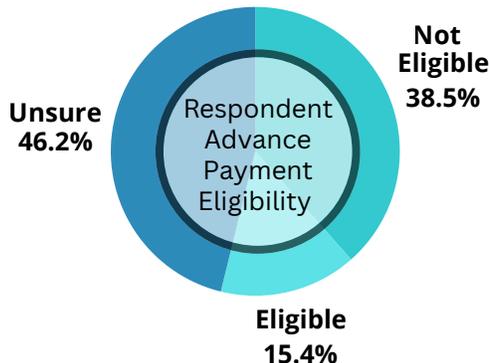
Timely Payments

At least 25% of state contracts are not paid on a timely ongoing basis. Organizations with the smallest budgets and those serving BIPOC communities are more likely to be paid late.



Advance Payments

Fewer than half of surveyed contractors are eligible for advance payments. Those with the smallest budgets and those with BIPOC leadership are the least likely to receive them.



Accruing Receivables

At any given time, the State owes millions of dollars to HHS contractors; the average receivable is almost \$350,000 and over 6 months old and more than half of receivables reported are owed to BIPOC-led/serving organizations.

Community-based providers cannot continue to bankroll essential services for the state of Illinois.



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