



THE CHILDREN'S PLACE ASSOCIATION
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HIV/AIDS-Affected Children to Lose Specialized Pre-school and Medical Care

Proposed State Budget Cuts Force Closing of Humboldt Park Center

CHICAGO – HIV-positive mothers and children today appeared at a press conference to appeal to Governor Pat Quinn to restore funding for early childhood education, medical care and mental-health counseling for HIV/AIDS-infected and affected children.

The Children's Place Association—based in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood—has been notified by the state that its \$729,000 state grant has been slashed by more than 70%. The organization has received funding from the state for this program for the last eleven years, through three different administrations. A cut of this size will force this specialized center to close.

“The magnitude of Governor Quinn's cut will force us to close our specialized pre-school program for 60 HIV/AIDS-affected infants and toddlers,” said Cathy Krieger, President and CEO of The Children's Place Association. “These children will be stripped of nursing care, early childhood education, mental health counseling services, and turned out of their pre-school.”

“HIV/AIDS-infected children require ongoing monitoring and their medication must be dispensed with the kind of specialized care that only a nurse can provide,” said Krieger. “Their health will be at risk without the nursing care they currently receive while they are in our care.”

The pre-school program currently cares and educates HIV/AIDS-infected children who require medication and monitoring, children of sick mothers who are too ill to care for them full-time, and children of other HIV/AIDS-infected guardians.

“We trust that Governor Quinn will recognize the importance of the services we provide to these vulnerable children and families, and restore our funding in full,” said Krieger.

Helping The Children’s Place Association to reverse the budget elimination are: State Senators William Delgado (D-Chicago) and Iris Martinez (D-Chicago), State Representatives Cynthia Soto (D-Chicago), and Antonia “Toni” Berrios (D-Chicago).

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About The Children's Place Association

The mission of The Children's Place Association is to improve the present and secure the future for children, youth and families confronted by HIV/AIDS or other life-changing health conditions. Founded in 1991, The Children’s Place Association serves as a safe haven for children whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS through the Residential Center and Early Learning Center as well as Family & Community Services and Foster Care & Adoption programs. For more information on programs and services, visit www.childrens-place.org or call 312-733-9954.