



Board of Directors Advocacy Day – Talking Points February 2018

The following are talking points that will guide your discussion with legislators. As background, below is an explanation of human services set in the reframe. The goal of this narrative is to change the way we talk about the sector in order to change the perception of human services.

WHAT IS HUMAN SERVICE?

- Human services play an intrinsic part in fostering the potential that we all have to offer by providing an infrastructure of well-being that supports **all** members of society.
- This includes ensuring that we have the essential elements needed to build and maintain our physical, emotional, and economic well-being at every phase of life.

HUMAN SERVICE IN ILLINOIS

- Well-being is built. It needs a sturdy foundation at the start to keep it standing through all kinds of weather.
- Just as poor construction can make a house unstable, the well-being of people who haven't received enough support in life can be threatened when they don't have the resources to weather life's storms.
- Human service professionals design and implement services that create the sturdy foundation for well-being, maintain it over time, and repair the foundation if it breaks down.

Human services in Illinois include:

- Early childhood services that foster healthy growth and development, including child care and home visiting programs.
- After school programs that provide mentoring, safe spaces and social resources for young children and teens.
- Job training and workforce development initiatives that help adults acquire the skills they need to find and keep good jobs.
- Support that helps older adults remain healthy and connected to their communities.
- Services to ensure people with physical and mental disabilities have the support they need to do well in life.
- Providing and advocating for the resources everyone needs to thrive, such as safe and stable homes, good nutrition, and health and mental health services.



Board of Directors Advocacy Day: Talking Points for **NONPROFIT** Leaders

- Hello, my name is _____ and I'm the [position/title] of [name of organization].
- My organization helps individuals and families reach their full potential by **[describe how your organization impacts individuals and families in your neighborhood]**
- I'm also a board member of Illinois Partners for Human Service, a coalition of human service organizations with partners in every county and legislative district.
- Human service professionals, like my staff and colleagues with Illinois Partners, are committed to helping our communities reach their full potential.
- In fact, our sector provides services that are essential in every phase of life: from early childhood/child care, after school programs and elder care to homeless and housing support, and job training and workforce development.

Other messaging that you can use regarding human service:

- Well-being is built. The human services sector needs a strong foundation to help people and communities weather life's storms.
 - Just like a house needs a strong foundation to keep it standing through all kinds of weather, the human services sector needs a sturdy foundation so that all Illinois residents can reach their potential and fully engage in our communities.
 - Well-being requires community resources, social relationships and opportunities to thrive.
 - When these materials aren't available, people and communities may have difficulty weathering life's storms.
 - Our state and society are stronger when we support well-being.

Specific Messaging:

BUDGET

- The budget crisis has meant that over one million Illinoisans lost services that could help them reach their potential.
- The budget crisis has eroded the human service sector.
- Our communities cannot withstand another budget impasse, a partial or stopgap budget or more cuts. You must pass a full-year, comprehensive FY19 budget and fully fund human services.



Board of Directors Advocacy Day: Talking Points for **BUSINESS** Leaders

- Hello, my name is _____ and I'm the [position/title] of [name of company].
- I'm also a board member of Illinois Partners for Human Service, the **largest shared voice of human service organizations across the state** with coalition partners in every county and legislative district.

EXPLAIN WHY HUMAN SERVICES MATTERS TO YOU:

- Human service organizations provide value to business because they improve the well-being of our communities.
- Thriving businesses depend on thriving communities.
- A business doesn't operate on an island—our success is linked to community well-being.
- And building well-being is the mission of human service professionals.
- The human services sector provides services that are essential in every phase of life: from early childhood/child care, after school programs and elder care to homeless and housing support, and job training and workforce development.

Other messaging that you can use regarding human service:

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FAIR TAX (OR FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ROLLING BACK THE INCOME TAX)

- Illinois Partners supports a fully funded, responsible budget that invests in families and communities, supports human services, and is fairly funded.

- To that end, Illinois Partners supports the effort to put fair tax on the ballot.
- A fair tax – where higher incomes pay higher rates and lower incomes pay lower rates – which would help Illinois modernize the way it raises revenue so that we can support community well-being.