

Yesterday, the Governor announced he will call a Special Session of the House and Senate next week. It is urgent and imperative that funding for addiction treatment be restored. The Governor slashed \$55M of the DASA \$258M budget. An additional \$55M in matching federal block grant dollars will be lost. That is a \$110M cut to the \$258M DASA budget or 43% cut. That is not only grossly disproportionate to any other cut made by the Governor, it makes no financial sense whatsoever in that an equal amount of federal dollars will be lost. So there is no financial savings to this cut but instead there will be considerable costs added to criminal justice, healthcare, mental health, DCFS, etc. as a result of this senseless cut. All this will be occurring while a sophisticated and developed substance abuse treatment system is dismantled throughout Illinois.

**The South Suburban Council was notified on July 22, 2008 that \$879,911 of its \$4,273,054 grant has been cut. That is a reduction of 21% and only the first phase. Additional cuts will occur as a result of the loss of federal matching block grant dollars. Apparently, no other state in the country has been so stupid as to decline this kind of federal match for substance abuse treatment funding. So this is a first.**

The Council has been put in an extremely vulnerable financial situation in that our cuts are retroactive to July 1, 2008. We have been incurring expenses that we cannot financially support.

The Council has prepared a reduction and layoff of 30 employees effective September 2, 2008. We are closing 16 beds in our women's residential program, 12 beds in our men's residential program, and significantly reducing our adult and youth outpatient capacity. We estimate we will turn away 600 South Suburban residents during the next year. Your action and support in rectifying this incredible and devastating State funding situation is extremely important. We are simply running out of time. We cannot wait to have this addressed in November and that is why it must be resolved in next week's Special Session.

I know that our local legislators have been speaking up and intervening over the past few weeks on our behalf. We are extremely grateful to you for your supportive actions. We are now at a critical deadline for resolving this funding crisis.

Thank you for your anticipated support.