

## **Asylum Seeker Assistance FY23 and FY24**

Since August 2022, Illinois has provided or committed over \$638 million in funding to address the humanitarian asylum seeker crisis presented by the arrival of over 24,000 asylees. This includes direct funding to the City of Chicago and other municipalities assisting asylum seekers as well as substantial State funding for shelter, food, medical care, rental assistance, and wraparound casework and services. The information below is mostly built from documents that were shared by the Pritzker Administration along with follow-up media reporting in relation to the recent announcement of additional state assistance for asylum seekers.

### **Direct Funding to the City of Chicago – Estimated \$115 million**

- \$51 million in direct funding from the State to the City of Chicago for general asylum seeker support services (FY23)
- \$19 million in passthrough funding from State to City in accessing federal Shelter & Services Program (FY24)
- \$15 million earmarked for Chicago from the Home Illinois Program (FY24)
- \$30 million awarded from dedicated funding to municipalities to support asylum seekers statewide (FY24)

### **Direct and Indirect State Asylum Seeker Support**

At the start of this crisis in 2022, the state took on shelter and case management for families and successfully resettled more than 2,000 people by the end of April 2023. The state's ongoing investments have focused on supporting wraparound services and resettlement. The funding has been provided through programs at the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) and the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA).

#### **Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)**

- \$90 million in IEMA emergency support services (\$3 million federal, \$87 million State funds) (FY23) including:
  - Shelter/Food/Laundry
  - Healthcare
  - Transportation
  - Site Management and Support

#### **Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA)**

- \$56 million in federally funded Emergency Rental Assistance (FY23 and FY24)

#### **Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)**

- \$20 million in Medical Assistance (FY23 and FY24)

#### **Department of Human Services (DHS)**

- \$74 million in assistance through Victims of Terrorism, Trafficking and other Crimes (VTTC) program (FY23 and FY24)
- \$53 million in DHS direct support to asylum seekers (FY23) including:
  - Hotel Supports
  - Transportation

- Medical
- Site Management and Support
- \$67 million in comprehensive State-supported services (FY24)
  - \$15 million earmarked for Chicago
  - \$10 million to stand-up Interim Congregate Housing facility on behalf of City of Chicago
  - Move-out Supports (through Catholic Charities, New Life)
  - Wrap-around services (through ICCR, Coalition of Immigrant Mental Health)
  - Food (Greater Chicago Food Depository)
  - Legal Services
- \$42.5 million in FY24 state grants to municipalities to support asylum seekers statewide
  - \$30.25 million earmarked for Chicago
- \$4 million in Emergency Food and Shelter federal funding (FY24)

### **New Additional State Investments**

In a recent press conference, Governor Pritzker announced the completion of an analysis on the last fourteen months to determine where the bottlenecks are in the City of Chicago’s current process for addressing the influx of asylum-seekers. These bottlenecks, according to the Administration, included delays in initial intake at landing sites, access to shelter, and the transition to independent living

Governor Pritzker announced that he is planning on bringing in resources to “flatten out the bottlenecks” and accelerate this process. To do this, the Administration announced new additional State investments, via the Illinois Department of Human Services, totaling \$160 million. Additionally, Chicago recently announced the implementation of a new 60-day limit on shelter stays in an effort to help asylum-seekers relocate to other parts of the country. Below is a breakdown of how the Governor envisions using the additional funds to streamline the asylee resettlement process.

### **Welcome - \$30 million**

- Stand up a large intake and welcome center to better assist those coming to Chicago who are seeking another final destination, or who have sponsors in Illinois and don’t require shelter. The Administration claims with this approach, arrivals requiring shelter can be reduced by 10%.

### **Shelter - \$65 million**

- Help the City of Chicago launch a winterized “soft shelter site” providing temporary housing for up to 2,000 people at any given time for six months. This site will prioritize families currently sleeping outdoors on police station floors, and at airports. This will operate as part of the existing City of Chicago shelter system.

### **Resettlement - \$65 million**

- Services needed for new arrivals to live independently as they await asylum hearings, including rental assistance, work permit processing assistance, and workforce development support. The State will continue to provide the rental assistance that allows asylum seekers to transition from shelters to independent living.

A recent report further broke down the \$160 million in new additional State investments into the following lines which include returned funds, redirection of existing appropriations/programs, and pending requests with the federal government.:

<b>Spending Item/Redirect of Funds</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>
Joliet returned award for Asylum Seekers	\$8,000,000
Home Illinois allocation for migrants	\$9,000,000
Childcare appropriation transfer and backfill CC with federal funds	\$30,000,000
Federal Social Services Block Grant excess funds	\$2,000,000
Freeze Welcoming Center NOFO & redirect	\$7,000,000
Flexible Non-profit Grant line in FY24 budget	\$3,000,000
Redirect a portion of TANF block grant cash	\$35,000,000
Application to FEMA for additional support (pending)	\$40,000,000
Home Modification Program	\$3,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$137,000,000</b>

IEMA Disaster Response Fund	\$30,000,000
Potential DCEO Employment seeking assistance \$	TBD

It is unclear how the proposed changes above will affect the current programs, or how much supplemental appropriations authority would be needed for the Governor to execute this plan. The FY24 BIMP bill granted the Governor increased authority to transfer funds between line-items – increasing the authority from 4% to 8%.