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June 26, 2017

Dear Friends,

The State of Illinois budget impasse that has impacted nonprofit organizations throughout Illinois and has created a severe cash flow crisis for Family Focus.

The state now owes Family Focus over \$2.7 million dollars for work already accomplished and approved. Our Board of Directors and staff have been working with national, state and local officials to assist with the release of these funds. We had adjusted our expectations to allow for longer gaps in payment, but in May the payments nearly stopped altogether, creating a cash flow crisis we could no longer manage with our reserve and endowment.

As a result of this cash flow situation, Family Focus is laying off all direct program staff on July 1st. This involves 100 employees (71% of our staff). Direct services at our centers are being severely reduced. Families who count us for critical services and help ensuring their children are ready for pre-school are being left behind. *They are our most vulnerable community members.* When state funding is restored, contracts are finalized, and funding is appropriated, we will rehire staff and resume critical programs, but the impact of this gap in services cannot be overstated, and time cannot be rolled back for children being impacted now.

Our board and key donors have made emergency loans to assist with this difficult situation, and we are working together to get through this temporary set-back by reaching out to those who support our work.

We are encouraging our community to find their government representatives online (<http://www.elections.il.gov/districtlocator/addressfinder.aspx>) to voice their support for Family Focus and the participants most at risk from programs being discontinued, as well as loss of jobs for our passionate and dedicated staff being impacted by the impasse.

Warm regards, and thank you for your support. Please keep us in your thoughts.

Merri Ex
President and CEO

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