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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Statement

**ILLINOIS COURT ORDER TO PAY FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT PROVIDERS
AND PROTECT HEALTH CARE ACCESS IS A WIN FOR FAMILIES – BUT
FURTHER REINFORCES THE NEED TO GOVERN AND PASS A BUDGET**

A federal judge has ordered Illinois to make payments to continue health care access for hundreds of thousands of families and support for the providers who offer it. This week's court-ordered mandate will ensure Family Case Management providers – who have not been paid since June 2015 – are duly paid millions of dollars by the State of Illinois for the important Medicaid-funded services they provide to pregnant women, infants, and children. The Shriver Center and Legal Council for Health Justice and the Chicago firm Goldberg Kohn won a court order to compel these payments to hundreds of valued, hard-working providers, including local health departments and clinics, many of whom were on the brink of closure or had already shut-down because of non-payments.

This is a valuable victory for preserving health care access in Illinois, but it shouldn't take a court order to force our government to keep its commitment to the communities it is meant to serve.

The Family Case Management program affects the state's infant mortality rate and health care expenditures. It is smart preventative medicine. It saves millions of dollars in long-term health costs. We hope that these court-ordered payments will allow this critical program to continue during the budget impasse. Such a needed and cost-effective program should not languish or dissolve as a result of failure to do the basic work of governing.

Illinois needs to keep its promises and implement its policies. Illinois needs to pass a budget.

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The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. We specialize in practical solutions. We advocate for and serve clients directly, while also building the capacity of the nation's legal aid providers to advance justice and opportunity for their clients. www.povertylaw.org