



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **State budget threatens Health Department services**

Unless the Governor and Legislature can come to an agreement on a revised State Fiscal Year 2010 budget, the Kane County Health Department is being forced to prepare for severe cuts in the remainder of its 2009 budget, as well as its 2010 budget.

“The funding cuts to Kane County now planned by the state departments of Human Services and of Public Health are reckless and irresponsible,” Health Department Executive Director Paul Kuehnert said. “Quite simply put, the current state budget will put the health of our families at risk.”

“Unfortunately, as of right now, we do not know which of our grants will actually be cut, nor do we know the specific level to which they will be cut,” Kuehnert added. “We are rapidly developing plans to deal with a range of possible cuts, ranging from the so-called ‘doomsday’ scenario to lesser cuts of 10-15%.”

The Health Department relies on state funding for 40 percent of its overall budget. Potential cuts in the grants could cause hundreds of Kane County residents to lose or face a reduction in the services they have come to rely on. If programs are eliminated or severely reduced in funding, the effects could be:

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- 258 babies born too early or with medical problems will not receive visits at home by nurses, and their parents will not receive referral, support and education
- 2,277 children under 18 will not be fully immunized
- Family case managers will be providing medical care coordination services to 450 families each, 3 times the state standard for caseloads
- 400 foster children will not receive medical case management
- More than 7,500 children will not have hearing and vision screenings
- 853 residents with sexually transmitted infections will not be diagnosed and treated
- HIV testing and counseling will not be provided to more than 300 Kane County Jail inmates

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