



ILEPI'S SPRINGFIELD SEMINAR & FUNDRAISER

In October, ILEPI hosted a seminar and fundraiser in Springfield. The seminar featured discussions on transit reform, recent ILEPI research, and Tier 2 pensions.

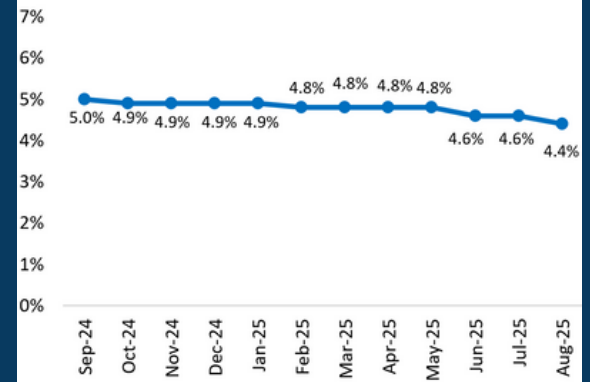


Later that evening, we were honored to welcome Speaker of the House Emanuel "Chris" Welch as our special guest at the fundraiser. Both events had a great turnout, and we are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed in support of ILEPI and the vital research we do.



ILLINOIS ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Illinois Unemployment Rate, Past 12 Months



Jobs added (rank), Aug-24 to Aug-25 = **+5,900 jobs (36)**

State unemployment rate (rank), Aug-25 = **4.4% (39)**

Average private sector wage (rank), Aug-25 = **\$35.24 (17)**

Private sector wage growth from Aug-24 to Aug-25 (rank) = **+4.3% (14)**

Illinois Flash Index (as of Nov-25) = **101.7**

**Release of economic data was delayed by federal government shutdown in Fall 2025*

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CUTS WILL SHRINK ILLINOIS' ECONOMY

Illinois may be **better prepared for a recession** than at any point in the last 20 years, but sweeping federal funding cuts and freezes since early 2025 now pose serious risks to the state's \$1.2 trillion economy. Changes enacted through the Trump administration's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," targeted funding freezes during the October–November 2025 federal shutdown, and additional recissions under the banner of "government efficiency" will make health care less affordable, reduce food assistance, halt infrastructure projects, weaken public health research, and drive unemployment higher in Illinois.

A new report, ***Federal Funding Cuts and Freezes: Consequences for Illinois***, from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI) and the Project for Middle Class Renewal (PMCR) finds these recent cuts will cost Illinois nearly \$8 billion a year, shrink the state's economy by \$10 billion, and eliminate 86,000 jobs by the end of the President's term.

The report warns that federal cuts will strip health care and nutrition assistance from hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans. Approximately 270,000 will lose Medicaid, 216,000 will lose food stamps, and more than 100,000 will lose Affordable Care Act (ACA) health care coverage.

As a "donor state" that already sends more to Washington than it gets back, Illinois will feel these cuts more sharply, facing over \$1 billion in lost revenue and new financial burdens on schools, public health care systems, and transit systems.



ILEPI AT RECENT EVENTS

EARNCON

ILEPI Economist Frank Manzo IV presented at EARNCon in New Orleans on the "Community and Worker Power in Infrastructure and Beyond" panel, highlighting ILEPI's findings on the impact of pre-apprenticeship programs in Illinois. He spoke alongside Tracy Landry of the Louisiana Green Corps and Katelyn Walker-Mooney of LiUNA.



NAFC CONFERENCE

ILEPI staff attended the 27th annual National Alliance for Fair Contracting Conference in Chicago in October. Frank Manzo IV presented research on good construction jobs and Jacob Hager highlighted ILEPI's reports over the last year.



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