



## #DCFS18to21

Please join the IL Chapter of Foster Care Alumni of America (FCAA) and ICOY for a #twitterchat about IL DCFS independent living budget cuts:

**March 25th**

**4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. CST**

**Tweet with @IL\_FCAA and @ILCollabOnYouth #DCFS18to21**

This February, Governor Rauner proposed his FY16 budget for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) with devastating cuts including the elimination of ALL services for foster care youth ages 18 to 21. Eliminations include:

- DCFS scholarship program
- Transitional housing
- Employment training
- Youth in College Program
- Mentoring

Drastic cuts to Medicaid and child care will also impact foster care youth.

The Illinois House Human Services Appropriations Committee members will hear testimony regarding the DCFS budget next Thursday. In preparation, let's raise up our collective voice the night before to oppose these cuts!

Use #DCFS18to21 in your tweets so you can follow the discussion, reply, and interact.

Spread the word to join the #twitterchat re: IL DCFS independent living budget cuts with @IL\_FCAA and @ILCollabOnYouth #DCFS18to21 on March 25th!

### **New to Twitter Chat?**

It's easy. It allows a group of Twitter users to meet at a pre-determined time to discuss a certain topic, using a designated hashtag (#) for each tweet contributed. A moderator will pose questions (Q1 and Q2) to prompt responses from participants (A1 or A2) and encourage interaction among the group. For more info and participation tips, visit <http://bit.ly/ChatDCFS18to21> or see other page of this flyer.

# Twitter Chat Participation Tips

## Sign up for a free Twitter account

Setting up an account only takes a couple minutes. Take a look at some [Twitter etiquette](#) tips and tricks to get the hang of using Twitter. Be sure to follow the chat hosts to make it easier: [@ILCollabOnYouth](#) and [@IL\\_FCAA](#)

## How to “listen” to Twitter Chats

You can simply click on the hashtag on a tweet to see all of the recent tweets around that Hashtag. You can try to follow the chat from your own timeline on the Twitter, but it's MUCH EASIER to use a tool so you don't lose the thread of the conversation. These are some sites that allow you to follow the chat only and participate more easily:

[Tweetchat.com](#)      [Twitterfall.com](#)      [TweetGrid.com](#)      [Twubs.com](#)

EASIEST OPTION- You can also follow a hashtag in a Twitter client like [Tweetdeck](#) or [Hootsuite](#). Just set up a search for the hashtag and all of the tweets with that hashtag **should** show up in the search window. These apps range in difficulty and also in update speed. It's best if you pick one of these options, drop in a hashtag for an upcoming event and see if it works for you. Go to [tweetdeck.com](#) or [hootsuite.com](#)

## How to Participate

- The moderator will welcome participants, ask questions and generally keep the conversation on track. When you join the chat, spend a moment to scan the tweets around the tag. Who is talking? What questions have been posted?
- Twitter chats move quickly, and by the time you respond to someone it might not be clear who you were speaking to so always include the Twitter handle (not person/group's name) at the beginning of any response if possible. If you ask a question or respond to someone in the chat, use the hashtag so everyone can be in on the conversation.
- Remember, you only have 140 characters in a tweet including hashtags and links. Keep that in mind as you interact and get your message across.
- Share tweets with your network, but use the hashtag so people can follow along.
- Re-tweeting the posts of another user in the chat is a common way to support statements from other tweeters and share them with your own networks. If you don't have enough space in the tweet to share someone's post, you can re-tweet their comment intact and then [@mention](#) them with your feedback and be sure to use the hashtag.
- You might want to let people know you'll be participating in a chat in advance. This is a nice way to support the host and let your network know you may be a bit noisy during that time.