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HIV and Breast and Cervical Cancer Programs Press State For Money

Produced by [Susie An](#) on Friday, January 22, 2010

Link to Audio: http://audio.wbez.org/cityroom/2010/01/cityroom_20100122_san_1531373_hiv_.mp3

Programs treating people for AIDS and breast and cervical cancer in Illinois are making an appeal to the state for more money.

Many health service programs are at risk of turning sick people away because of continued cuts. The state has to decide how to provide funding with a \$13 billion budget deficit. Representative Sarah Feigenholtz of Chicago chairs a committee that doles out money to human service agencies. She says the state might have to choose between funding HIV prevention or treatment.

FEIGENHOLTZ: The critical progressive that we've made to diminish the HIV population in general it's at a tipping point now. And we're struggling now with how to be able to maintain the balance that we've been able to arrive at.

Feigenholtz says to get through the 2010 fiscal year, the HIV drug assistance program needs \$9.5 million. Prevention programs needs more than \$2 million, and breast and cervical cancer treatments need about \$4 million. The committee hopes to have recommendations to the Governor, soon.