



Press Release

Date: May 23, 2012

To: Local newspapers and media outlets; Village website

Re: **Village of Willowbrook Opposes the State's Plan to Freeze LGDF Revenue Shared with Local Municipalities**

The Village of Willowbrook is contacting legislators in Springfield this week to advise them that freezing Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenue would be devastating to our community's ability to continue current levels of service to residents and businesses. This action follows a state FY 2013 budget proposal from the Senate Democratic Caucus that includes a freeze on LGDF distributions to local governments, capping the amount at what was distributed last year. The LGDF is the tool by which the state distributes to local governments their portion of the income tax collected by the state, since local governments have been prohibited from collecting income tax directly.

This new proposal ignores the fact that LGDF revenue has been shrinking in recent years. Distributions to municipalities are artificially low already, and gains in revenue are needed to return our budget to a sustainable level. Willowbrook, being a non home-rule community, has limited resources and relies partly on LGDF revenue to provide essential services and programs to residents. DuPage municipalities are already operating on bare bones budgets and have had to make significant cuts in the past few years. Without this revenue, Willowbrook, and the residents it serves, will not be allowed to benefit from improvements to our struggling economy. Our community has been forced to make difficult financial decisions because of the current economic situation, and has balanced the budget through cost savings measures including staffing reductions and other work efficiencies. This new proposal would exacerbate this situation and push local governments closer to insolvency. Willowbrook needs every dollar that LGDF is intended to provide.

Freezing the LGDF is touted as a “savings to the state budget,” but in fact it merely shifts the state’s financial obligations onto local taxpayers. The state must address its own budgetary issues, and not covertly shift its burdens onto others via municipal budgets. We urge our residents to contact their legislators (listed below) and demand that the Local Government Distributive Fund be left alone.

State Senator Christine Radogno
309A Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: (217) 782-9407

State Representative Jim Durkin
220-N Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: (217) 782-0494

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Local Contact:

**Village Administrator Tim Halik
630-920-2261**