



Press Release
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Contact:
Whitney Forrest
502-895-8167 x121
wforrest@kyyouth.org

Kentucky Youth Advocates Releases Video Series on Budget Impacts More than Just Numbers on a Page: State Programs Helping Kentuckians

Louisville, KY – In an effort to engage Kentuckians in a discussion on the need for fundamental reform of our tax and budget structure, Kentucky Youth Advocates is releasing four video interviews – one every Wednesday, over the next four weeks – with individuals across the state who are receiving or who have received help from state-funded programs or services. The individuals share their personal stories and what it would mean if budget cuts were to affect their programs.

Today marks the release of the first video, featuring Sharon Hays, a mother who turned to the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program (BDVP) in Lexington, Kentucky when she and her children were threatened by domestic violence. After trying to leave her abusive spouse numerous times, BDVP helped Sharon finally escape her situation and create and stabilize a new life through individualized counseling for herself and her children, financial literacy services, and much more. The services provided by BDVP are free and there is no alternative service for domestic violence victims who need shelter.

“If budget cuts continue, parents and children who need protection and shelter from domestic violence in the Commonwealth will be left in the cold with nowhere else to turn,” says Ann Perkins, President of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association.

After three consecutive years of budget cuts, and further decreases in revenue receipts, Kentucky’s financial problems are far from over. With the release of a new budget reduction order expected this fall, even deeper cuts than expected may be evident – further eroding

human service programs that provide relief and aid to Kentuckians such as Sharon and her family.

“It remains clear that the tax and budget system in Kentucky is in need of reform,” says Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates. “The state is not raising enough money to cover the basic cost of government programs much less the increased need brought on by the changes in today’s economy.”

“These video interviews really make the case that Kentucky cannot sustain round after round after round of budget cuts to our health and human services,” says Brooks. “Our Governor and legislative leaders must put politics aside and set out an agenda that will create sustained and adequate revenue. Failure to act will endanger the common vision of the safe, healthy and prosperous Kentucky in which we all want to live.”

View the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbanSzq5tM4>

View an accompanying fact sheet at:

http://www.kyyouth.org/documents/BudgetVideoBDVPFactSheet4_000.pdf

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Kentucky Youth Advocates is the home of Kentucky’s Tax and Budget Initiative, a member of the nationwide State Fiscal Analysis Initiative.