

# Responsible Budget Coalition

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The **Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC)** is a large and diverse coalition of approximately 200 organizations statewide that are concerned about state budget and tax issues. It includes organizations that serve children, families, veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, immigrants and refugees; education groups concerned about early learning, K-12 and higher education; labor unions; faith-based and civic organizations; and many others.

The individual organizations that belong to the RBC represent a diverse range of interests but are united by these three common principles:

- **Adequate revenue** to support state priorities and make smart investments
- **No more cuts** to vital programs and services
- **Fairness** in raising revenue

The RBC supports legislative proposals that are consistent with these principles because we all do better when we all do better.

The RBC is organized into four working groups:

1. **Policy:** generates fact sheets, talking points and other materials that support the RBC principles as well as the needs of the other working groups
2. **Legislative:** Springfield-based lobbyist group that creates and executes our under the dome strategy
3. **Field:** coordinates targeted in-district grassroots organizing, including identifying stories and leaders regionally
4. **Communications:** crafts our messages and coordinates media placements

The productivity of each working group relies greatly on member participation; recently the RBC has been able to hire only two staff for the first time and consequentially depends heavily on sweat equity. When we do the work, however, we have proven to be an extremely productive and effective group.

To join the RBC, join one of its committees, and/or to receive our emails without joining the RBC, please contact Nat Schwartz at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, [natschwartz@povertylaw.org](mailto:natschwartz@povertylaw.org).

For media related inquiries please contact Neal Waltmire, Senior Communications Manager, Responsible Budget Coalition, [nwaltmire@voices4kids.org](mailto:nwaltmire@voices4kids.org)

For field related inquiries, please contact Jennifer Cushman, Field Coordinator and Policy Specialist, Responsible Budget Coalition, [jennifercushman@povertylaw.org](mailto:jennifercushman@povertylaw.org)

For more information about the RBC, please contact one of its coordinators, Emily Miller of Voices for Illinois Children, [emiller@voices4kids.org](mailto:emiller@voices4kids.org), or Dan Lesser at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, [danlesser@povertylaw.org](mailto:danlesser@povertylaw.org)