

Hardship Waiver Statistics

It is the intent of the Illinois General Assembly to ease the burden of estate recovery for correctly paid benefits to participants, applicants, and their families and heirs, and to make information about waivers more widely available. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) will waive estate recovery where recovery would work an undue hardship. Information and instructions for completing a request for a hardship waiver is available in six languages (English, Spanish, Polish, Chinese, Tagalog and Arabic) on this website. In determining the value of an estate, HFS will consider the gross assets in the estate, including, but not limited to, the net value of real estate less mortgages or liens with priority over HFS' claims. Information regarding the number of estate recovery cases that were pursued in the previous three fiscal years and the number and demographics of hardship waivers that were granted are presented below.

FISCAL YEAR 2026

Estate Recovery Cases Pursued	4,349
Hardship Waiver Applications Received	27
Hardship Waivers Granted	9

Hardship Waiver Demographic Information

County of Residence	Number of Hardship Waivers Granted	Gender			Race					
		Female	Male	Undisclosed	African-American	Caucasian	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Undisclosed
Cook	7	5	2	0	2	3	1	0	0	1
DeKalb	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sangamon	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Estate Recovery Cases Pursued	4,768
Hardship Waiver Applications Received	15
Hardship Waivers Granted	7

Hardship Waiver Demographic Information

County of Residence	Number of Hardship Waivers Granted	Gender			Race					
		Female	Male	Undisclosed	African-American	Caucasian	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Undisclosed
Cook	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Franklin	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jersey	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Woodford	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Total	7	6	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	1

FISCAL YEAR 2024

Estate Recovery Cases Pursued	5,972
Hardship Waiver Applications Received	17
Hardship Waivers Granted	8

Hardship Waiver Demographic Information

County of Residence	Number of Hardship Waivers Granted	Gender			Race					
		Female	Male	Undisclosed	African-American	Caucasian	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Undisclosed
Cook	4	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Effingham	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Knox	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Saline	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	8	7	1	0	4	4	0	0	0	0

FISCAL YEAR 2023

Estate Recovery Cases Pursued 7,123

Hardship Waiver Applications Received 16

Hardship Waivers Granted 12

Hardship Waiver Demographic Information

County of Residence	Number of Hardship Waivers Granted	Gender			Race					
		Female	Male	Undisclosed	African-American	Caucasian	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Undisclosed
Cook	4	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Henry	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Kendall	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Knox	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lake	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Island	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Union	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Will	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	12	7	5	0	1	8	0	0	0	3