



Raising Illinois

A Collective Effort Driven
By Collective Voices

March 17, 2022





Who We Are

Our Vision

Every expecting family, infant and toddler in Illinois should have **affordable** and **equitable access** to the high-quality learning experiences, health services and economic supports that they need during their most formative years—creating the **strongest foundation** for their success in school and life.

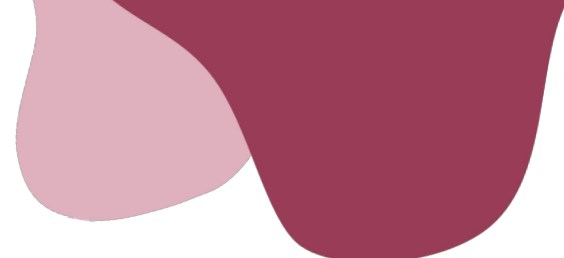





Impact Goal

100,000 more expecting families and infants and toddlers receive services and supports they need by 2025.





**The Illinois
that our
children
deserve
will take
every one of
us.**



Illinois' Prenatal-to-Age 3 (PN3) Policy Agenda

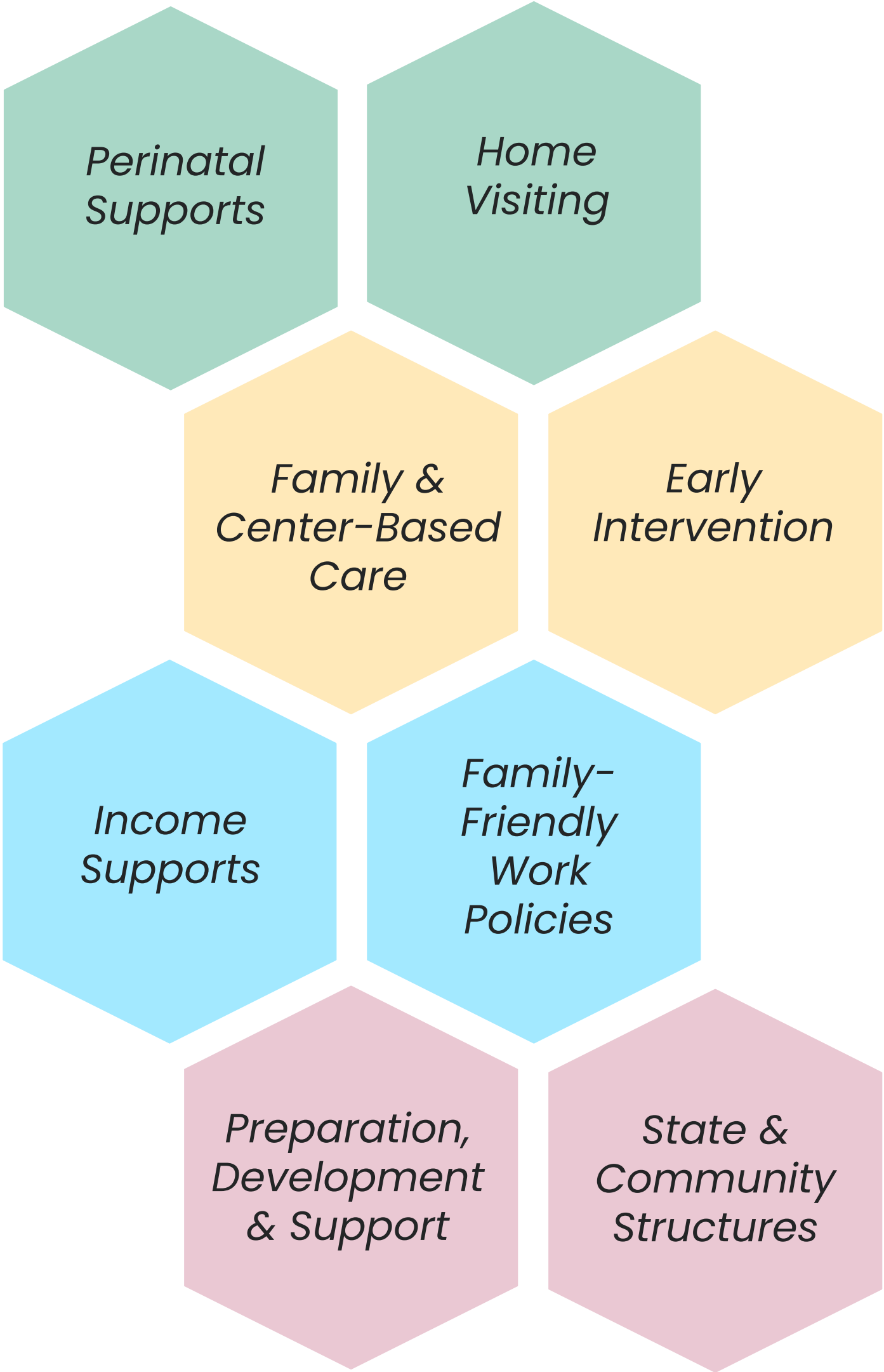
In order to reach more families, we have **four policy-specific goals**. We work to advance these goals through **eight interconnected and targeted strategies**.

Healthy Parents & Babies

High-Quality Early Learning

Economically Secure Families

Strong Infrastructure



Raising Illinois Structure

Lead Facilitating Organizations

- Guide our Policy Groups for a strategic area of our Agenda.
- Facilitate a unified effort among all Contributing members.
- Drive towards implementation of the objectives in our Agenda.
- Ensure that the group includes and honors family and beneficiary voice.

Contributors

- Regularly participate and commit significant effort in service of Raising Illinois.
- Act as the backbone of our Policy Groups, forwarding implementation of the objectives in our Agenda.

On-the-Ground Champions

- Provide assistance as able, sign-on to and vocalize support for Coalition and its call-to-action items.



What's At Stake

A conversation on
challenges facing
families and providers
in Illinois today



Cost of Care Calculator

The true cost of child care outweighs reimbursement.


CostofChildCare.org

About UsTake ActionLearn More

Illinois

You are on your way to designing an early educational experience. Select a child care setting, then toggle through the options to improve its quality. Next, watch the effects on monthly tuition without additional federal investments.

We don't need to accept the burden of these costs. Let your elected officials know: Congress **must** fund child care.



< SELECT NEW STATE

Infant Classroom

Toddler Classroom

Preschooler Classroom

or

Home Based Family Child Care

Monthly cost per child: \$1,182

RESET

Off On Fewer children per teacher

Off On Increase salaries

Off On Pay teachers the same as kindergarten teachers

Off On Provide retirement benefits

Off On Increase contribution to health insurance

Off On Provide more time for teachers to plan lessons

Off On Make the classroom bigger

Off On Increase resources for classroom materials

\$1,182 / month = **NOT** inclusive of options that improve programs quality, such as adequate salaries or classroom resources.



Child Care is Critical

In Illinois today:

- Capacity of licensed childcare gives **access to only 25%** of infants and toddlers across the state
- Many communities have access rates of **less than 10%**

Our Priority

- Provide professionals with **training, compensation, and support**
- **Increase investment** in family and center-based care



Infant & Toddler Child Care Roadmap

We connected with child care providers from across the State to listen to their perspective and develop concrete recommendations for a path forward in Illinois:

“You know, if you look at statistics, one of the lowest paying jobs in the state is a child care teacher or assistant ... **we’re asking them to do the greatest thing, which is take care of the children...**”

“Preschool teachers should have love, thought, practice and innovation. **They are intelligent teachers who are good at thinking**, which is also the requirement of the new era for preschool teachers.”

“Despite the challenges, many participants shared that they still believe the work of child care professionals is **important and rewarding**, and that **passion for children and families** is an important prerequisite for being a good teacher.”



Economic Insecurity

In Illinois today:

- **59%** of workers cannot even access *unpaid* leave
- Women are breadwinners in nearly **66%** of families
 - **84%** of Black families, **49%** of Latinx families, **48%** of White families
- Women are **96%** of workers in the childcare industry

Our Priority

- Increase awareness, enrollment and uptake of **WIC, SNAP & CCAP**
- Ensure **family-friendly** work policies like **paid leave**



Economic Insecurity

- **84,693** of Illinois' children aged two and under lived below the federal poverty line.
- This is nearly **1 in 5** children aged two and under.

Poverty is the single greatest risk factor to child development.

From the Prenatal to Three Risk and Reach Report developed by the Erikson Institute and the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)



OVERALL RISK:



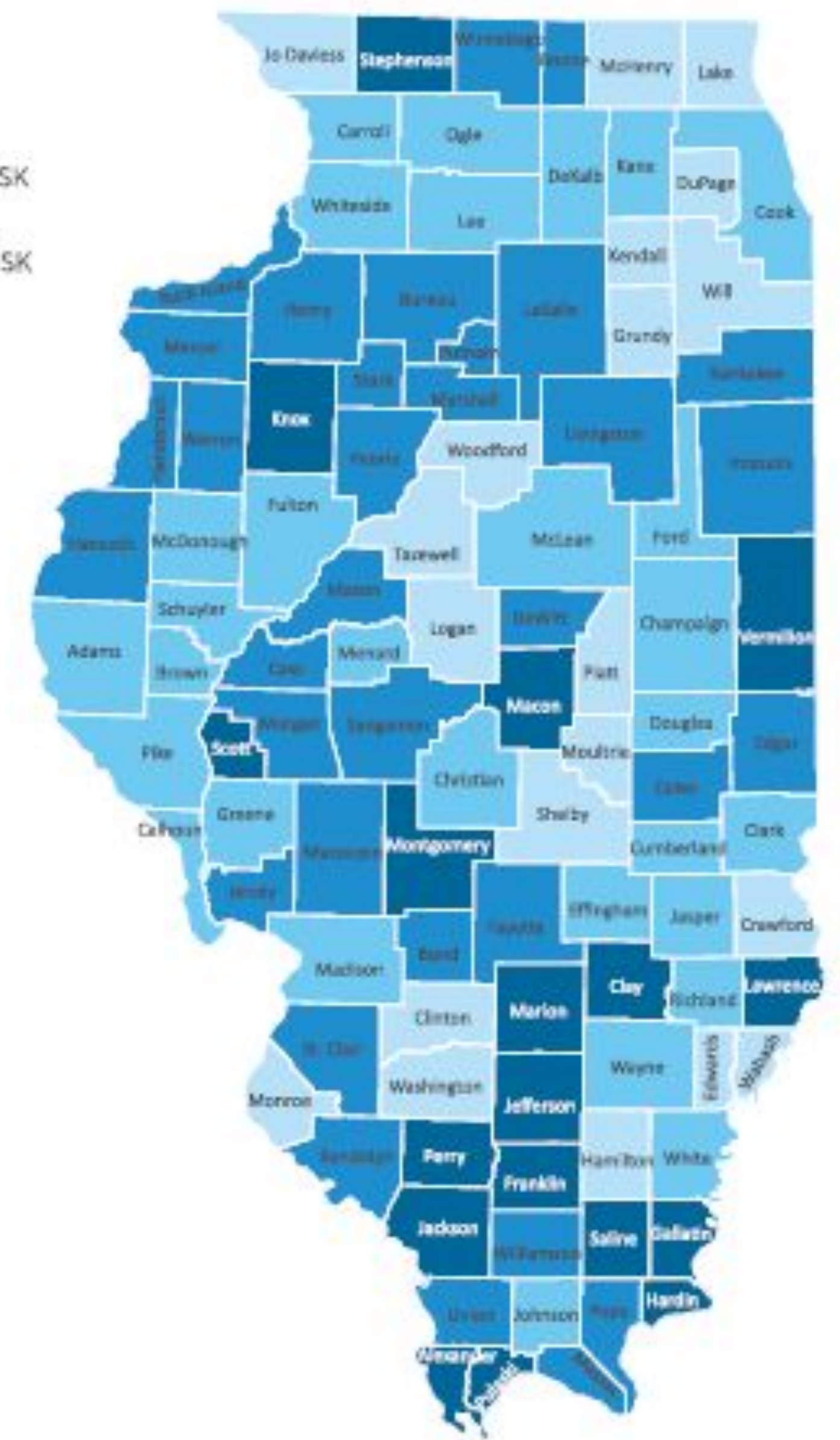
2019 STATE:

Number: 84,693

Rate: 18.79%

NATIONAL

RATE: 21.83%



Early Intervention

In Illinois today:

- Only **4%** of children under age 3 in Illinois *receive* Early Intervention services
- More than **3 times as many** *qualify* for Early Intervention services

Our Priority

- **Increase access** to Early Intervention for children with developmental delays



Birthing Inequities in Illinois Today

- Black women are **6 times** more likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition than White women
- Babies born to Black women die at **2 to 3 times** the rate of babies born to White women
- It is literally a matter of life and death.

Our Priority

- Ensure **comprehensive perinatal supports for all** – with help before, during, and after birth.



Potential for Impact

A conversation on what the realization of our Agenda would mean for providers and families



Key Wins in Illinois

- Children exposed to lead are now **automatically eligible** for Early Intervention
- **No more gaps** in Early Intervention for children born in summer

Our Priority

- Increase focus on **Infant Mental Health**
- Invest in professional development like **bilingual certification** and **mental health credentialling**
- Anchor on addressing **historical injustices**



Home Visiting, Doula Programs, & Universal Newborn Supports

These services provide physical and socioemotional help to new families, supporting the **health and well-being** of parents and children

Our Priority

- Invest in **home visiting, doula and universal newborn supports**
- **Increase funding** for home visits
- Increase **compensation, training** and **supports for providers**
- Ensure **family awareness** and incorporation of **family voice**



Where We Are & Where We're Going

A conversation on recent progress, current priorities, and the road ahead



Policy & Advocacy Work Underway

Critical efforts are underway to bolster the well-being of our youngest:

Our Priority

- Call for a **10% increase in funding** for key early childhood services
- Work towards the **systemic changes** put forth by the **Early Childhood Funding Commission**
- Create the **strong drumbeat of support** for the changes that our youngest learners need



“

I was proud to lead efforts to make pregnancy and childbirth safer for Black families by making it more possible for them to have supports like doulas and home visitors.

If we truly want to ensure that all Illinois families can thrive, we have to take on the disparities we see across the state. I'm proud to share Raising Illinois' belief and passion that we need to do more for our children – starting at the earliest possible moments!

”

**REPRESENTATIVE
LATOYA GREENWOOD
114TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS HOUSE**



Key Wins in Illinois

- **Reduced gaps** for children with developmental delays
- Families will continue to receive services via **telehealth**
- **Medicaid funding** for home visiting and doula services
- Increased access to **socioemotional support** via Infant Mental Health Consultation
- Increased efforts to develop and **support the pipeline** of early childhood providers



“

As a father, health care professional, and now state lawmaker, I applaud Raising Illinois for its efforts to ensure families with very young children have the best chance for a fair start in life.

I look forward to working with the coalition as we advance a shared agenda aimed at supporting the hopes, dreams, and well-being of infants and toddlers across Illinois.

”

REPRESENTATIVE

RYAN SPAIN

73RD DISTRICT, ILLINOIS HOUSE



raisingillinois.org

#ILPN3

Our Hopes

Shared dreams for
the children of the
state of Illinois



What do you most hope to see for Illinois' children?

"My hope is that **no child ever feels unimportant, unloved or forgotten about.**"

"Equity."

"Increased equitable **funding**, increased **access** to care options that is **inclusive** to all regardless of immigration status."

"That our children and families are supported by their community and that at a macro level, we create a **caring society that lifts up ALL our kids and families.**"

"All children entering school **ready to learn!**"

"Supports for child care providers and **resources** for tending to challenging behavior."

"Feel a **sense of connection** with parents, family, and within community."



What do you most hope to see for Illinois' children?

"Children who are in a **stable, nurturing and academically challenging learning environment** regardless of income."

"Dedicated **funding** to ensure childcare for all, an **adequate Early Intervention** system, and **expanded Earned Income Credit** for working families."

"**Thriving communities** that lift up our children and give them the opportunities they need and deserve."

"**Joy, learning, safety.**"

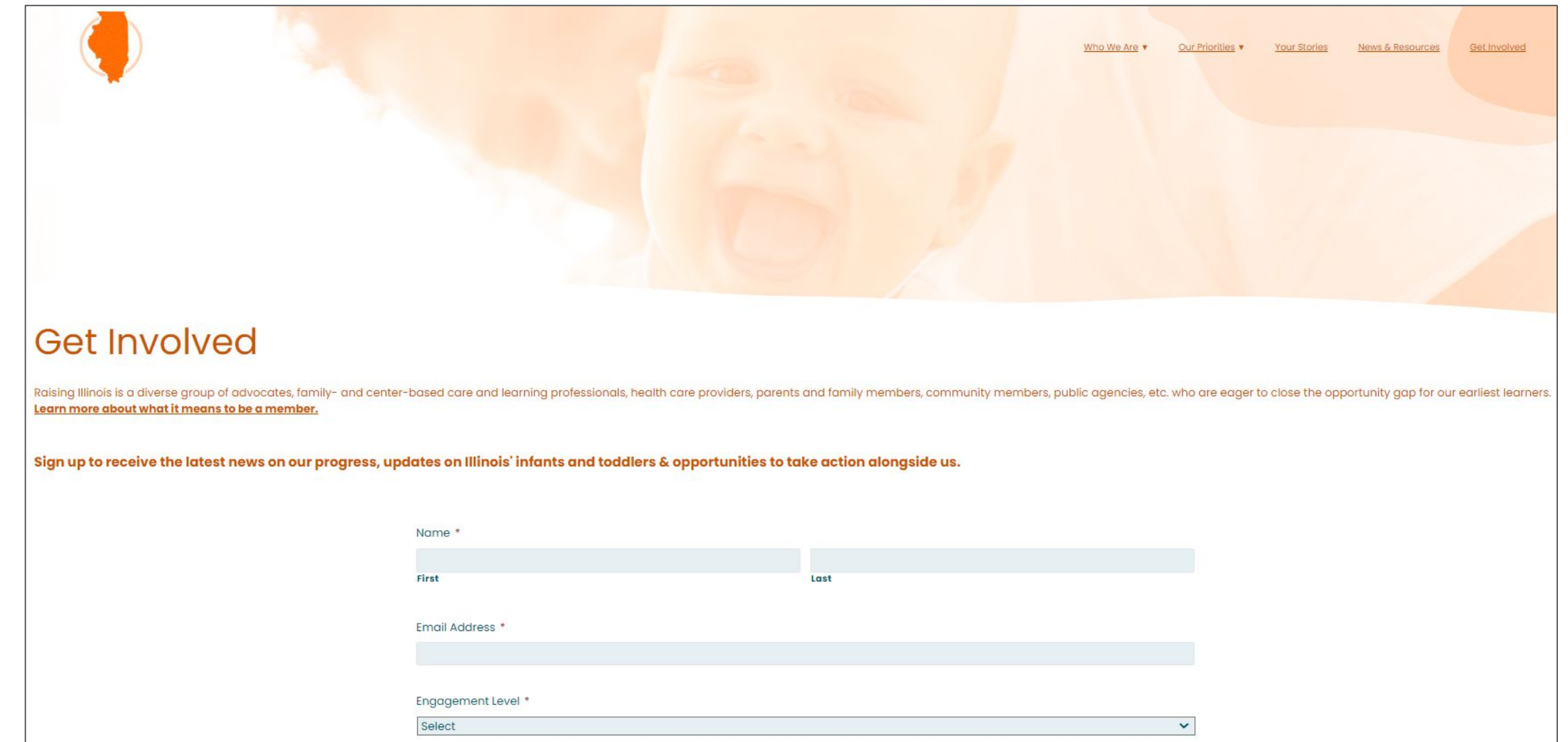
"Increased access to **crisis and mental health services.**"


"Access to a **diverse, equitable learning environment** that centers on child brain development and play."



What Can You Do Today?

1. Learn more about the challenges in front of infants, toddlers and families at www.RaisingIllinois.org
2. Join Raising Illinois and drive change for our youngest learners at www.RaisingIllinois.org/Get-Involved.org
3. Share your hopes and dreams for Illinois' infants and toddlers by filming a quick video!



 [Who We Are](#) [Our Priorities](#) [Your Stories](#) [News & Resources](#) [Get Involved](#)

Get Involved

Raising Illinois is a diverse group of advocates, family- and center-based care and learning professionals, health care providers, parents and family members, community members, public agencies, etc. who are eager to close the opportunity gap for our earliest learners. [Learn more about what it means to be a member.](#)

Sign up to receive the latest news on our progress, updates on Illinois' infants and toddlers & opportunities to take action alongside us.

Name *

First Last

Email Address *

Engagement Level *
Select





Thank You!

Learn more and sign up to get involved
at www.RaisingIllinois.org

Contact our team at
RaisingIllinois@StartEarly.org

#ILPN3