



Raising Illinois

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2022 Accomplishments & 2023 Priorities on Behalf of Expecting Families, Infants & Toddlers

This document provides a summary of Raising Illinois' top accomplishments from Fiscal Year 2022 and its key priorities for Fiscal Year 2023, across four policy-specific goals and seven interconnected strategies within the **Illinois Prenatal-to-Age 3 Agenda**. Together with partners and state leaders, the coalition advances policy change through federal, state and local budget advocacy, legislative advocacy, administrative and implementation advocacy and public awareness and engagement.

We encourage you to join us in advancing new and refreshed priorities, amplifying efforts and sharing information about our collective work. Visit www.raisingillinois.org/get-involved to join the Raising Illinois coalition and be a part of our robust and diverse advocacy efforts.

2022 Accomplishments

2023 Priorities

HEALTHY PARENTS & BABIES

Comprehensive Perinatal Supports

- \$25M expansion of Chicago-based nurse home visiting program, serving 5,500+ families
- Implementation of 12-month continuous postpartum care through Medicaid & Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), serving 12,100+ previously ineligible beneficiaries
- \$1.3M federal grant to scale Universal Newborn Support Services (UNSS) over five years
- 107 Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants across all 102 counties
- Permanent Medicaid & CHIP plan changes to ensure 12-month continuous postpartum care for eligible beneficiaries
- Medicaid coverage for 2nd postpartum visit, even if pregnancy does not end in childbirth
- Medicaid coverage for doula services and UNSS
- Public awareness to prevent health coverage lapses when Public Health Emergency ends

Strengthened Home Visiting System

- \$13.6M increase in prenatal-to-age 3 services funded through Early Childhood Block Grant
- \$1M increase in services funded through Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)
- Approval of expanded home visiting for intact families in child welfare system
- Federal reauthorization of Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting program
- Medicaid coverage for home visiting
- Improved data collection and integration
- Cross-agency funding alignment

HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

Accessible Family- & Center-based Early Learning & Care

- Increased provider rates, reduced family copayments & increased income eligibility for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- CCAP eligibility for parenting youth in foster care
- \$100M allocation for capital improvements
- \$12.7M statewide enrollment campaign
- \$2M for Off-Hours Child Care Program Fund
- \$82.1M increase to CCAP
- Leveraging IDHS contracting model for dedicated infant/toddler child care slots
- Adoption of child care workforce salary scale
- Support for non-capital facilities improvements for family child care providers

Optimized Early Intervention

- Restoration of \$7M cut from the Early Intervention program
- Extended Early Intervention services for children who age out over the summer, reaching ~2,300 children
- Enactment of 30-day timeline for initial service delivery
- Early Intervention eligibility for youth in child welfare system
- \$23.2M increase in Early Intervention services, including provider rates, travel mileage and cancellation payments
- Launch of Modified Service Delivery Pilot
- Reduction of service delivery disparities by race and age



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2022 Accomplishments

2023 Priorities

FINANCIALLY SECURE FAMILIES

Family-friendly Work Policies & Income Supports for Families

- Expansion of Earned Income Credit eligibility
- Expansion of Child Bereavement Leave Act
- \$73.5M combined investment in guaranteed income pilots in Cook County and City of Chicago, with total reach of 8,250 residents
- \$2.5M appropriation for child savings account seed deposits
- Rollout of 12-week paid parental leave for all City of Chicago employees
- Passage of statewide paid family and medical leave, and paid sick time without preemption
- Creation of a state child tax credit
- Reform of child support disbursement process
- Community outreach to improve uptake of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children

STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE

Cross-system Preparation, Professional Development & Support

- \$110M investment in the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE), leading to 1,000+ pipeline scholarships
- Implementation of English as a Second Language & Bilingual Credential for early childhood educators
- Approval of college credit equivalency for Child Development Associate Credential
- Prohibition on academic transcript withholding due to outstanding student debt
- Loan repayment assistance for eligible early childhood educators
- Funding for Infant Mental Health Certificate cohorts to improve consultant pipeline
- Expansion of ExceleRate pilot and Strengthen & Grow grants to fund child care workforce wage increases
- Set-aside funding for infant/toddler workforce pipeline supports through ECACE

Strong State & Community Structures

- Establishment of Birth to Five Illinois Action Councils & Family Councils
- Launch of the Chicago Early Childhood Integrated Data System
- Public engagement with Birth to Five Illinois
- Amplification of cost modeling for early childhood workforce compensation framework



Our Mission

Together, we must address the root causes of disparities and create an equitable and cohesive early childhood development support system for expecting families, infants and toddlers and the communities in which they live. We believe race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or ability should not determine the opportunities and, ultimately, the success a child experiences in life.

Our Vision

Every expecting family, infant and toddler in Illinois should have equitable access to affordable 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.



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