



POLICY PRIORITY: HEALTHY PARENTS & BABIES

## Comprehensive Perinatal Supports



### Administration & Implementation

- Implementation of **\$25 million expansion to Family Connects Chicago**, a nurse home visiting program, to 12 additional sites in three new communities – serving **5,500+ families** in every region of the City of Chicago
- Implementation of implicit bias training for **health care provider licensure renewal**, to begin in January 2023, as mandated by the Health Care and Human Service Reform Act (HB 158)
- Federal approval of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) State Plan Amendment to make the **extension of 12-month postpartum Medicaid coverage permanent**
- **Implementation of Medicaid coverage for 12 months of continuous postpartum care** to serve nearly **2,100 more people** who were previously ineligible due to income and nearly **10,000 more people** who were previously ineligible due to immigration status
- Implementation of **licensure and expansion of freestanding birth centers**, per the Birth Center Licensing Act (HB 3995) and Public Act 102-414 (HB 738)



### Legislation

- Passage of **Medicaid coverage for a second postpartum visit** under Public Act 102-665 (SB 967)



### Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Award of **\$255,600 annually for five-year funding period for federal Early Childhood Comprehensive Services (ECCS) grant** to scale Universal Newborn Support Services (UNSS) model to more communities statewide
- Application of federal COVID-19 relief funds to **grow the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Database** to include **107 consultants in all 102 counties**, increasing access statewide



### Public Awareness & Engagement

- Launch of the ECCS grant's cross-sector advisory council in collaboration with the Illinois Maternal Health Task Force, with **explicit community engagement deliverables** as part of UNSS expansion





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## Strengthened Home Visiting System



### Administration & Implementation

- Advancement of Home Visiting Task Force recommendations to Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) regarding the **implementation of Medicaid coverage for home visiting services**, established by the Health Care and Human Service Reform Act (HB 158)
- Approval of Illinois' state plan under the federal Family First Prevention Services Act through the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services Home Visiting Steering Committee, clearing the way for **expansion of home visiting services for intact families involved in the child welfare system**
- Hiring of **two new state-level positions dedicated to home visiting services** of the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Early Childhood (IDHS-DEC)
- Disbursement of nearly **\$11.3 million in state and federal dollars to 32 home visiting programs**, including five new applicants, through the IDHS-DEC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process



### Legislation

- Ongoing advocacy for **federal reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program**, introduced in Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 2023) as the Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization Act of 2022 (H.R. 8876) with bipartisan support



### Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Commitment of **\$54.4 million (10%) increase, including \$13.6 million specifically for prenatal-to-age 3 programs**, to the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), which funds preschool, evidence-based home visiting and center-based infant-toddler programs and services
- Approval of a **6% increase, or \$1 million**, to the Illinois Department of Human Services' **evidence-based home visiting services**, the first new investment in these programs in nearly two decades
- Allocation of federal COVID-19 relief funds to support **increased salaries for home visitors** with the Maternal Child Home Visiting program (formerly Parents Too Soon)



### Public Awareness & Engagement

- Continued **collaboration across stakeholder roundtables**, including the Home Visiting Task Force, the Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health and the Healthy Families Illinois Program Committee
- **Outreach and informational sessions** on MIECHV reauthorization and **advocacy to stakeholder groups**, including an early childhood collaborative in Peoria, *We, the Village* coalition and Healthy Families Illinois leadership
- Inclusion of **iGrow Illinois in the web and television content** for Illinois Cares for Kids, the statewide early learning and care enrollment campaign
- Completion of **statewide surveys of caregivers and providers** to better understand stakeholders' program needs, with over 260 responses