



POLICY PRIORITY: HEALTHY PARENTS & BABIES

# Comprehensive Perinatal Supports



## Administration & Implementation

- Monitor full implementation by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) of the State Plan Amendments for Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), **ensuring 12-month continuous postpartum care for all newly eligible beneficiaries**
- Support HFS **implementation of Medicaid coverage for a second postpartum visit**, as required by Public Act 102-665 (SB 967), and ensure coverage regardless of whether pregnancy ends in childbirth, stillbirth, miscarriage or abortion
- Track full implementation by HFS of Medicaid **reimbursement for doula, home visiting and Universal Newborn Support Services (UNSS)**
- Provide **technical assistance on setting increased prenatal and postpartum reimbursement rates** for Medicaid coverage of Certified Professional Midwife services
- Expand **Family Connects Chicago community alignment boards** throughout four regions in the City of Chicago, strengthening the reach of UNSS
- Continue administering the statewide **Early Childhood Comprehensive Services (ECCS) grant**



## Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Identify and advocate for **new funding through grants and budget appropriations** to continue scaling UNSS model to more communities statewide



## Public Awareness & Engagement

- Increase public education and respond to misinformation about the **expansion of 12-month continuous postpartum coverage** for Medicaid beneficiaries
- Continue awareness campaign regarding the end of the federal Public Health Emergency and Medicaid redetermination process to **prevent lapses in health coverage**
- Support **marketing efforts of Family Connects** in the City of Chicago, Stephenson County and Peoria County





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# Strengthened Home Visiting System



## Administration & Implementation

- Ensure **home visiting and doula workforce considerations** are included in Illinois' application for the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)
- Inform the Health and Home Visiting Committee of the Early Learning Council on:
  - **Aligning key funding streams**, including Notice of Funding Opportunities/Requests for Proposals
  - Recommending equitable strategies for **increasing compensation**
  - Recommending strategies for **doula expansion**
  - Linkages and referrals/communication with **Early Intervention, child welfare and other parts of the early childhood system**
  - Implementation of **Medicaid coverage**
- Support distribution of the **Gateways/ Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) workforce data collection and staffing survey** and **encourage home visitor registration** in Gateways registry
- Support improved **statewide data collection** across early childhood systems
- Continue to monitor **implementation of Medicaid financing** and **inform and collaborate** with HFS
- Support **alignment of Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 2023) and FY 2024 funding opportunities** across the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)
- Implementation of Title IV-E claim for **home visiting for intact families involved in the child welfare system** through the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)



## Legislation

- Reauthorize the federal **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program** with doubling of funding, as well as:
  - Increased set-aside for **tribal populations**
  - Equitable **compensation adjustments**
  - Expanded **professional development** opportunities
  - Additional **family and provider consultation** for program design, evaluation and policy decisions
  - Wider criteria for **program evaluation and funding eligibility** of community-led models
  - Codifying a **funding formula** that Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) must use when distributing funding to states, creating more stability and transparency
  - Reduction of the **administrative burden** on grantees and programs
  - Continued **virtual service delivery**
- Explore legislation codifying the state's provision of **evidence-based home visiting programs**
- Amend language in the Illinois Public Aid Code to ensure the state uses federal Medicaid funding to supplement, and not supplant, **state funding for home visiting and doula services**



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# Strengthened Home Visiting System (continued)



## Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Advocate for a **20% increase (\$119.6 million)** in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) state funding for the Early Childhood Block Grant through ISBE, with **\$29.9 million specifically set aside for prenatal-to-age 3 services**, including home visiting services provided by the Prevention Initiative program
- Advocate for a **20% increase (\$3.6 million)** in FY 2024 state funding to the two budget lines that fund the **evidence-based home visiting programs** administered by IDHS



## Public Awareness & Engagement

- Increase **public awareness of doula and home visiting services** by auditing existing outreach resources, amplifying content and developing new storytelling materials
- Utilize caregiver and provider survey results to **inform strategies and contribute to future survey design**
- Focus on staff wellness by **distributing relevant resources** to the field and programs

