



POLICY PRIORITY: HEALTHY PARENTS & BABIES

## Comprehensive Perinatal Supports



### Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Commitment of **\$5M in FY 2024 to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for obstetrics providers** to incentivize improved birth outcomes
- Commitment of **\$317M in FY 2024 to increase the Medicaid base rate by 10%** for hospitals, federally qualified health centers and community clinics
- Commitment of **\$18M in FY 2024 for the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to support and protect statewide reproductive health initiatives**
- Commitment of **\$38M in FY 2024 for IDPH to reduce health disparities** by improving access to equitable health care in safety-net hospitals



### Legislation

- Passage of the **Access to Public Health Data Act** (HB 2039; Pub. Act 103-423), directing various state departments and agencies to share public health data, including information on adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes, with local health departments
- Passage of HB 2450 (Pub. Act 103-531), establishing **cultural competency training as a prerequisite for health care provider licensure and renewal** beginning in 2025
- Passage of HB 2519 (Pub. Act 103-160), requiring all hospitals and birth centers to provide parents of newborns with **instructional materials about voluntarily donating milk to premature infants**
- Passage of HB 2820 (Pub. Act 103-169), requiring all birthing facilities to establish policies and continuing education on **addressing airway emergencies experienced during childbirth**
- Passage of the **Mental Health and Wellness Act** (HB 2847; Pub. Act 103-535), requiring state-regulated health insurance plans to cover **an annual mental health and wellness visit to all insured adults and children at no cost**, beginning in 2025



### Administration & Implementation

- Award of **\$4.58M in FY 2023 to expand doula services through the Prevention Initiative**, with the potential to serve an estimated 259 additional children once staffing needs are met
- Award of **\$400K in FY 2023 to expand doula services through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)**, with the potential to serve an estimated 60 additional children
- Federal approval of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) State Plan Amendment to **increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for a variety of maternal and child health services**
- Expansion of **Family Connects Chicago**, a Universal Newborn Support Services (UNSS) model, to **7 birthing hospitals** in the City of Chicago, reaching over **5,000 families**
- Continued implementation of **Family Connects in Peoria and Stephenson counties**, reaching **nearly 2,200 families** combined
- Completion of a **workforce analysis to assess the availability and key competencies of the various provider types necessary to scale UNSS statewide**, conducted under the federal Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant with oversight from the Illinois Maternal Health Task Force



### Public Awareness & Engagement

- Launch of **statewide HFS campaign on Medicaid coverage redetermination** upon the end of continuous eligibility, with high-volume multimedia outreach to beneficiaries
- Ongoing work by the ECCS grant's cross-sector advisory council, coordinated by the Illinois Maternal Health Task Force, to include **community engagement objectives as part of UNSS expansion**
- Development of a package of **public awareness materials on UNSS**, with different resources designed for families, providers, and policymakers
- Launch of **the Gathering campaign**, led by EverThrive Illinois, to address maternal morbidity and mortality in Chicago

# 2023 Accomplishments

## on Behalf of Expecting Families, Infants & Toddlers



### POLICY PRIORITY: HEALTHY PARENTS & BABIES

## Strengthened Home Visiting System



#### Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Federal **appropriation of \$500M in FY 2023 and \$550M in FY 2024** for the **Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program**
- Commitment of a **12.5% increase (\$18.75M) in FY 2024 to the Prevention Initiative set-aside in the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG)**, to fund and expand home visiting services
- Commitment of a **27.9% increase (\$5M) in FY 2024 for IDHS home visiting programs**, to serve an additional estimated **440 families**, as well as increase provider salaries



#### Legislation

- Federal **reauthorization and expansion of MIECHV**, investing a total of **\$3.1B over five years**, doubling the tribal set-aside, developing new data dashboards, and permitting the use of virtual home visits (within the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 117-328)
- Passage of SB 1794 (Pub. Act 103-0498), **codifying the IDHS home visiting program** and ensuring that future funds supplement, rather than supplant, current funds
- Passage of HR 86 and SR 36, requesting the **allocation of a portion of the state's opioid lawsuit settlement funds to home visiting programs**



#### Administration & Implementation

- Award of **\$2.45M in FY 2023 for Prevention Initiative home visiting programs**
- Implementation of IDHS **home visitor salary floors**, increasing average salaries of home visitors and supervisors by **15% and 17%** respectively
- Inclusion of the **home visiting workforce project** in Illinois' \$4M federal **Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) award**
- Submission of formal recommendations on behalf of the Coalition to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to **inform the development of the FY 2024 ECBG Request for Proposals and improve Prevention Initiative's home visiting model**



#### Public Awareness & Engagement

- Administration of **Gateways Staffing and Salary Survey** to inform advocacy on provider compensation and related workforce recommendations
- Development of **home visiting messaging materials** for both families and policymakers
- Distribution of **staff wellness resources** to the home visiting workforce

