

POLICY PRIORITY: HEALTHY PARENTS & BABIES

Comprehensive Perinatal Supports



Budget

- Appropriation of **\$155M in FY 2025 for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to increase funding for safety-net hospitals** to improve inpatient outcomes in the most under-resourced communities
- Appropriation of **\$4M in FY 2025 for the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to develop a reproductive health action plan**, with an emphasis on community-based and full-spectrum peripartum care

Legislation



- Passage of SB 3130 (Pub. Act 103-777), **establishing pregnancy as a qualifying life event** for special enrollment in a health insurance plan once the state-based exchange is operational
- Passage of the **Family Recovery Plans Implementation Task Force Act** (SB 3136; Pub. Act 103-941), creating an inter-agency task force to develop recommendations for Illinois to implement a model for serving infants with prenatal substance exposure that is less punitive for families
- Passage of **Liam's Law** (SB 3182; Pub. Act 103-948), requiring hospitals to notify the gestational parent of a stillborn fetus of the **parent's right to receive a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth**
- Passage of HB 5142 (Pub. Act 103-720), **requiring commercial health insurance to cover services** for pregnancy, postpartum and newborn care **provided by doulas, midwives and lactation consultants**, as well as related medical supplies, starting in 2026
- Passage of HB 5493 (Pub. Act 103-718), **prohibiting prior authorization** by health insurers for **obstetric or gynecologic care**

Administration and Implementation



- Expansion of **Family Connects Chicago**, a Universal Newborn Support Services (UNSS) model, to **10 birthing hospitals** in the City of Chicago, reaching over **7,800 families**
- Continued implementation of **Family Connects in Peoria and Stephenson counties**, reaching nearly **2,250 families** combined
- Ongoing implementation of **Medicaid coverage for doula services and lactation support services**, as directed under the Improving Health Care for Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals Act (SB 967; Pub. Act 102-665)
- Development of recommendations to the Early Learning Council for **cross-system standards for doula services** as an enhancement to existing state-funded home visiting services
- Advancement of key strategies within the **Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Action Plan**, administered by IDPH

Public Awareness, Engagement and Mobilization



- Engagement of over **400 parents, providers and other advocates across two public all-Coalition events** highlighting the maternal care experiences of birthing people and their providers
- Continued operation of **The Gathering**, a campaign developed by EverThrive Illinois to address maternal morbidity and mortality in the City of Chicago, reaching more than **20,000 Black birthing people and their families**
- Socialization of key findings from the third release of the **Illinois Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Report**, published by IDPH

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Strengthened Home Visiting System



Budget

- Appropriation of an **11.1% increase (\$75M) in FY 2025 for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to expand the Early Childhood Block Grant**, with at least 25% of new funding set aside for Prevention Initiative prenatal-to-age-three programs, including home visiting
- Appropriation of a **21.8% increase (\$5M) in FY 2025 for the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to expand the Healthy Families Illinois and Maternal Child Home Visiting programs**, stabilizing the workforce and increasing access for families



Administration and Implementation

- Administration of **\$22.9M in general revenue funds for IDHS Healthy Families Illinois and Maternal Child Home Visiting programs**, serving over **5,500 parents and children** combined
- Federal award of **nearly \$12M for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program** in Illinois, serving nearly **2,400 parents and children**
- Grants totaling **\$2.7M (10% increase) for ISBE Prevention Initiative Home Visiting programs**, serving an estimated **428 additional infants and toddlers**
- Inclusion of **Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation** in the IDHS Home Visiting Expansion Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY 2025
- Ongoing coordination to **align home visiting program requirements, standards and salary floors** across funding streams



Public Awareness, Engagement and Mobilization

- Administration and analysis of the **Gateways Staffing and Salary Survey and MIECHV Survey** to inform workforce recommendations
- Publication of findings from the **Illinois Home Visiting Caregiver and Provider Feedback Project**, led by Start Early, with recommendations for strengthening supports for caregivers and providers

