

Overview: The Child and Adolescent Health Initiative focuses on providing the state's youth with access to high-quality health care, comprehensive health education, and civic engagement opportunities. We advocate for policies that improve the health and well-being of school-aged children and defend against those that threaten them. This initiative also sponsors the Illinois School-Based Health Alliance, which brings together a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals to advocate for and support school health centers (SHCs) as school and community assets.

Priority 1: Advocate for and support SHCs as school and community assets.

- Protect State grant program for SHCs.
- Ensure that SHCs are integrated fully into emerging financial models, such as Medicaid Managed Care.
- Advocate for policy solutions that enable the sustainable integration of behavioral health services in SHCs.
- Provide youth opportunities to become civically engaged and advocate for SHCs.
- Collaborate with national partners, including the national School-Based Health Alliance, on federal legislation that impacts SHCs.

Priority 2: In partnership with other advocacy and community-based organizations, advocate for and support efforts to address social determinants of health for children and adolescents.

- Participate in policy discussions and initiatives focused on social determinants of health for children and adolescents.
- Defend against policies that threaten the social supports necessary for positive health outcomes.
- Support policy initiatives that promote the safety of children and adolescents.