

Mission: The Child and Adolescent Health Initiative of EverThrive Illinois strives to improve the physical and mental health of children and adolescents in Illinois by fostering the development, stabilization, and expansion of school health centers (SHCs).

Priority 1: Sustainability – State and federal funds have not kept pace with the continued need for operational funding for SHCs, or the need to expand services in existing school health centers. Additionally, with the state’s finances in crisis, SHCs, along with other social service providers, are under constant threat. To address this, EverThrive Illinois’ School Based Health Alliance plans to ensure the stabilization and strategic expansion of school health centers in order to ensure access to children and adolescents. We will:

- Explore a new source of state funding to replace diminishing tobacco settlement funds to cover risk assessment screenings, prevention activities, and the promotion of healthy behaviors in schools to reduce health care costs
- Monitor the RFP process for the allotted \$3 million in the state budget capital plan to support new and existing centers and participate on review committee when money is issued
- Coordinate with School-Based Health Alliance on federal SHC legislation strategy to ensure that operational funds for school health centers, authorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or otherwise, are appropriated and released
- Ensure that the SHC budget allocation remains at its current level
- Identify new delivery and payment models in health care reform that provide an opportunity to diversify the funding streams available to SHCs
- Bring youth to Springfield to advocate on behalf of SHCs

Priority 2: Managed Care – As the Illinois Medicaid program moves to mandatory managed care, SHCs must remain a viable health care model. We will:

- Ensure that SHCs retain open (formerly ‘direct’) access through contract negotiations with Healthcare and Family Services and managed care entities to meet the needs of a mobile and transient student population
- Educate managed care entities about the value of SHCs and how they can help them achieve the Institute for Healthcare Improvements “triple aim,” as appropriate
- Support SHCs through the process of full capitation, over the next 19-36 months for Accountable Care Entities and in the future for all Managed Care Entities.

Priority 3: Adolescent Health Initiatives - SHCs, as a public health model, focus on preventive services and cater their health care delivery specifically towards adolescents. To that end, legislation that supports children and adolescents’ rights must be monitored and supported in an overarching public health strategy, along with other EverThrive IL initiatives. We will:

- Ensure that Licensed Clinical Social Workers receive reimbursement for services provided, through Medicaid, as a result of legislation passed in 2007, or through managed care plans
- Work with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the School Based Health Alliance to collect, analyze, and report on SHC and adolescent health data measures to demonstrate positive health outcomes and high quality care
- Support partner agencies that advocate on behalf of adolescent rights and reproductive justice