

EverThrive Illinois' 2017 policy priorities coincide with, but are not limited to, our organization's Initiative issue areas and are intended to help us meet our mission of improving the health of Illinois women, children, adolescents and families over the lifespan. EverThrive Illinois envisions an Illinois that works toward equity and social justice, fosters the development of healthy families and provides fair access to quality health care. EverThrive Illinois will work on policies at the federal and state level to ensure these basic rights are met.

Child and Adolescent Health:

- Advocate for and support school health centers (SHCs) as school and community assets by protecting the State grant program for school health centers and ensuring 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.
- In partnership with other advocacy and community-based organizations, advocate for and support efforts to address social determinants of health for children and adolescents, as well as, policy initiatives that promote safety and confidentiality.

Healthy Lifestyles:

- Support policies that protect and improve access to government food and nutrition programs including, but not limited to, Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR), SNAP, WIC, free and reduced meals for students, alternative school breakfast programs, and summer feeding programs.
- Support policies and programs that increase access to quality nutrition-education and physical activity programs for children and adolescents.
- Support policies and programs that improve food security, access, quality and affordability at the federal and state level.
- Support public health policy approaches aimed at reducing the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, including taxing these beverages as proposed in the Illinois Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) policy proposal.

Health Reform:

- Defend the systems by which consumers, regardless of immigration status, obtain health coverage and ensure this coverage leads to accessible, affordable, comprehensive and quality health care including, but not limited to, Affordable Care Act provisions, Medicaid, FamilyCare, All Kids, and CHIP.

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- Defend against efforts to reduce, limit, or weaken funding, eligibility, or services, for the Medicaid program, including but not limited to block granting and per capita limits.
- Advocate for the protection of funding, eligibility, and services for the ACA Medicaid Expansion population.
- Advocate for maximizing eligibility and the renewal rate within Medicaid, FamilyCare and AllKids and a reduction in administrative burdens on individuals and families utilizing these programs.
- Advocate for transparent, accurate, and up-to-date information on networks, coverage, and cost-sharing in Medicaid Managed Care Plans. This includes advocacy for the implementation of HB6213 - Empowering Meaningful Patient Choice in Medicaid Managed Care and HB2731 - Medicaid Managed Care Transparency Act.
- Monitor implementation of Medicaid managed care/care coordination models in Illinois and protect access to comprehensive, accessible, affordable, and quality services within these models.
- Protect, support, and advocate for a range of comprehensive benefits for women, including a full range of reproductive health services in all forms of health insurance coverage. This includes ensuring health plans have robust coverage for reproductive services and mitigate barriers to care through implementation of the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act, HB5576.

Immunization:

- Support policies and programs that will increase immunization rates and decrease vaccine preventable disease across the lifespan.
- Protect 317 federal funding which supplies vaccines to Federally Qualified Health Centers for children and adults who are underinsured and uninsured, funds vaccines during vaccine preventable disease outbreaks, and provides funding for community-based education.
- Support meaningful data sharing between the state immunization registry (I-CARE) and appropriate healthcare entities.
- Work to strengthen the role of pharmacists in the "immunization neighborhood".

Maternal and Infant Mortality:

- Address policies which impact maternal and infant mortality and morbidity with an emphasis on decreasing ethnic and racial disparities, including third trimester HIV testing for pregnant women.

2017 Policy Agenda

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- Support policies and programs that promote healthy pregnancies, infants, and children which include but are not limited to Title V, Healthy Start, Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), Early Intervention (EI), Head Start and breastfeeding promotion.
- Support policies and programs that reduce the economic disparities that exist for women, children, adolescents and families, including raising the minimum wage, passing a responsible budget with the necessary revenue to meet the needs of Illinois families and communities, and increasing affordability of diapers for low-income families.
- Provide medically underserved community members opportunities to become civically engaged, including advocacy for issues that impact themselves, their families and their communities.