2019 Policy Priorities

EverThrive IL works to improve the health of women, children, and families across the lifespan. The organization is guided by the following core values: health equity, diverse voices, and strong partnerships.

Our goal is to achieve healthy equity for women, children, and families by:

- Advancing access to quality, comprehensive health care and support services;
- Improving health outcomes of entire communities and populations; and
- Engaging communities to cultivate relationships, build power, and advance shared priorities.

**State Legislative and Administrative Priorities**

**Maternal and Child Health**
Advocate for policy and systems changes that positively impact health outcomes and birth outcomes for women and children

1. Support policies, programs, and funding that actively **address the root causes of maternal mortality** which include but are not limited to the following:
   a. Support the expansion of Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum
   b. Address racism and implicit bias in service provision in provider education through mandated training and continuing education on implicit bias and historic and systemic racism
   c. Support efforts to legitimize paraprofessionals, including doulas, midwives, lactation consultants and others

2. Support policies that promote health pregnancies and healthy infants, which include but are not limited to infant mortality reduction and breastfeeding promotion

3. Advocate for WIC administrative policy and system changes that reduce barriers, increase participation, and ensure the program meets consumers’ needs

4. Support policies that aim to reduce health disparities—including racial, ethnic, and geographic disparities in health outcomes for women and children

5. Support policies and programs that address the mental health needs of pregnant women, including maternal and postpartum depression

6. Protect, support, and advocate for a range of comprehensive benefits for women, including the full range of reproductive health services in all forms of insurance coverage. This includes ensuring health plans have robust coverage for contraceptive care and mitigate barriers to care through implementation of **P.A. 99-0672 (HB5576 – the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act)**

7. Support policies, programs, and funding that increase access to abortion for all people

**High Quality, Comprehensive Health Insurance**

1. Advocate for an effective and consumer focused system for managing enrollment and redetermination/renewal in Medicaid and other public benefits
   a. Support efforts to fully implement the Integrated Eligibility System Phase II and problem solve consumer issues related to the set-up and use of the Manage My Case consumer information portal
   b. Support efforts that result in timely enrollment and redetermination for all Medicaid enrollees and reduce the existing backlog of applications and renewals

2. Advocate for transparent, accurate, and up-to-date information on networks, coverage, and cost-sharing in Medicaid Managed Care Plans
   a. Support the implementation of **P.A. 99-0725 (HB6213 – Empowering Meaningful Patient Choice in Medicaid Managed Care)**.
b. Support the implementation of P.A. 99-0086 (HB2731 – Medicaid Managed Care Transparency Act).

3. Improve and expand access to high quality, affordable health insurance for all Illinoisans
   a. Support efforts to stabilize the Illinois health insurance marketplace, including but not limited to, proposals that protect or increase consumer eligibility and benefits as well as strengthen consumer protections in Illinois’ statutes
   b. Implement language regulating short-term, limited duration health plans included in P.A. 100-1118 (SB1737 – the Short-Term, Limited Duration Health Insurance Act)
   c. Advocate for adequate funding and support of a robust network of enrollment assisters, including Navigators and Certified Application Counselors, to support enrollment into Affordable Care Act plans and Medicaid, and promote health literacy

Adolescent Health
Support policies that promote, protect, and advance access to comprehensive, quality, affordable, and confidential health services for adolescents, including school-based health centers.
   1. Advocate for the full integration of school-based health centers (SBHCs) into all financial models, including Medicaid Managed Care
   2. Advocate for policy solutions that enable the sustainable integration of behavioral health services in SBHCs, including through careful implementation of the Integrated Health Homes
   3. Update the School Based/Linked Fee Schedule so that Type 56 School Based Health Centers may be reimbursed for behavioral health services

Public Health
   1. Improve access to vaccines for children and adolescents by addressing barriers to service provision, especially for safety net health care providers
   2. Support efforts to raise the minimum legal sales age of tobacco products from 18 to 21

State Budget
Advocate for a state budget that adequately funds policies that foster vibrant communities and promotes the health of children, adolescents, women, and families
   1. Advocate for a fully-funded, balanced, and responsible state budget with the appropriate revenue needed to meet the needs of Illinois women, children, and families.
      a. Support the restoration of funding to, at minimum, fiscal year 2015 (FY15) levels for the Illinois school-based health centers (SBHCs) grant program
      b. Support the restoration of funding to, at minimum, FY15 levels for Infant Mortality Reduction programs
   2. Support a fair tax structure for Illinois to require those who earn more income to pay a higher rate and those who have a lower income to pay a lower rate
   3. Support efforts to restore the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance levels to, at minimum, 1996 levels when adjusted for inflation. TANF provides financial assistance to needy children and their families
   4. Monitor implementation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program’s (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) Program and Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver to ensure that it does not add barriers and works to meet the needs of Illinois SNAP recipients
Federal Legislative and Administrative Priorities

Women, Infant, and Children’s Health
1. Support the MOMMA Act (HR 5977) which will help to reduce the maternal mortality rate by offering better maternal and postpartum care
2. Support the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act (S 3029) which would renew the authorization of federal research activities and workforce education programs focused on prematurity prevention
3. Support the Maternal Health Accountability Act (S1112) which would establish a new grant program to be administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide funding to states to establish or sustain statewide maternal mortality review committees
4. Support policies, programs, and funding that promote healthy pregnancies and infants, which include but are not limited to Title V (Maternal and Child Health Block Grant); Healthy Start; Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV); and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Access to High Quality, Comprehensive Health Insurance
1. Defend access to high quality, affordable health care, especially by protecting the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid
2. Support policies to stabilize the health insurance marketplaces and promote enrollment into high quality, affordable health insurance
3. Advocate for adequate funding for a robust network of enrollment assisters, including Navigators and Certified Application Counselors, to conduct outreach and enrollment for Affordable Care Act plans and Medicaid, as well as promote health literacy
4. Reject any measure to restrict and eliminate access to vital health programs and social supports based on immigration status, especially proposed changes to the public charge rule

Reproductive Justice
1. Ensure affordable, timely access to the full range of contraceptive methods, especially through protecting Title X and the Affordable Care Act’s contraception coverage requirement
2. Preserve an inclusive definition of sex discrimination, especially protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including by preserving and strongly enforcing Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act
3. Prevent the further erosion of access to care through expanding rights of religious refusal
4. Reject programs, policies, or funding that promote or mandate abstinence only education
5. Defend access to abortion and reject any policies that would restrict or delay access to abortion care

Public Health
Support efforts to protect 317 federal funding which supplies vaccines to Federally Qualified Health Centers and local public health departments for children and adults who are under and uninsured and provides funding for community based education