


MAKING CHANGE

FY18 ANNUAL REPORT



Clockwise on cover from top right: (1) EverThrive IL's Interim Executive Director Kathy Waligora and Reproductive Justice Manager Aisha Chaudhri pose with featured presenters at the 2018 Contraceptive Justice Symposium - (center to right) Cindy Pearson, Executive Director of the National Women's Health Network, Monica Simpson, Executive Director of SisterSong, and Dr. Karen Scott, Professional Fellow and Visiting Instructor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Kenyon College. (2) Change maker Nada McMullen shares her experience with school-based health care at the 2017 EverThrive IL Annual Benefit (3) Medical students from Lutheran General Hospital in the Capitol rotunda on our 2018 Youth Advocacy Day, sharing why adolescent health matters to them.



Last year was one of incredible change. EverThrive Illinois had a whirlwind year celebrating three decades of improving health, moving our whole team into one office, and expanding partnerships and programmatic work. We ended the year more rooted than ever in our long history as change makers for women, children, and families, and we are energized for the future.

That history is rich with the stories – much like the ones you'll read here – that come from our resounding commitment to achieving health equity, being a reliable partner, and centering the voices of those most marginalized. It is how we have grown our reputation over the years as an organization that will do the work behind the curtain, ensuring those serving Illinoisans directly have the support they need to succeed. It is how we have built bridges between decision makers and those most impacted by their decisions. It is how we have established trusted relationships with communities so that their voices drive the advocacy that is creating smarter health policy in Illinois.

It is how EverThrive IL remains focused, determined, and committed to creating a state where everyone not only can live their healthiest life, but also thrive.

As we consider the change we want to continue making, we are energized by our successes in fiscal year 2018 that illustrate how we live our values of health equity, diverse voices, and strong partnerships:

- We shared information about the flu shot with 14,847 people in 41 communities across Chicago, providing information on free flu clinics hosted by the Chicago Department of Public Health.
- We led advocates and industry experts in passing the Short-Term, Limited Duration Health Insurance Coverage Act (HB 2624 SA3), making Illinois a leader in the effort to regulate junk insurance plans which deceive consumers and increase medical debt.
- We launched a second cohort of the Empowerment Institute, a professional development and peer support network for school-based health center (SBHC) staff. This new program effectively reduced the rate of high burn out among participants by 36 percentage points, supporting SBHC staff to continue to provide high quality care to young people.
- We launched the Contraceptive Justice Coalition, bringing together leaders in reproductive health, rights, and justice to address the persistent barriers faced by people across the state in accessing their preferred method of contraception.

We are proud to share a more in-depth look at the past year through the stories of three of our partners who represent the important collaborations that build a healthier, brighter future for Illinois. To you, our supporters, whether you've been following us for 30 years or 3 months, we thank you for your continued commitment to working alongside us. We can't wait to see what the next decade holds.



Kathy Waligora

Kathy Waligora, MSW
Interim Executive Director



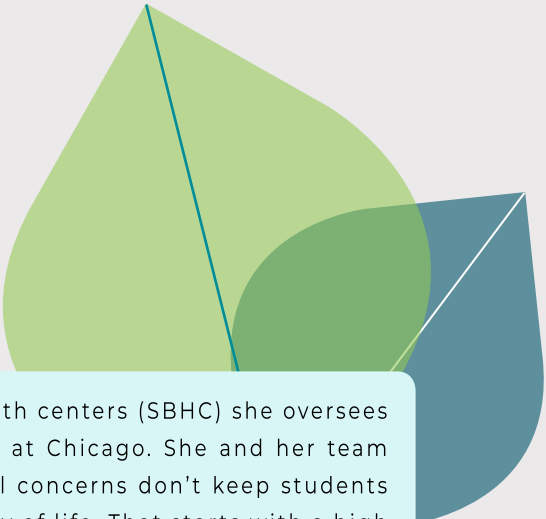
George R. Smith, Jr.

George R. Smith, Jr., EdD MPH
Chairperson of the Board of Directors



"I CAN TELL YOU THIS, IF YOU NEED SUPPORT, EVERTHRIVE IL IS THERE TO SUPPORT YOU. THEY'LL GO ABOVE AND BEYOND. AND IT'S REALLY WONDERFUL TO BE PART OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT DOES THAT."

SHEILA HARMON
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO



Sheila Harmon has no small goals for the eight school-based health centers (SBHC) she oversees as the Director of Provider Practice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She and her team support parents, keep kids healthy, and make sure that medical concerns don't keep students out of class. They're doing their part to give young people a high quality of life. That starts with a high quality of care -- for their patients, and for each other.

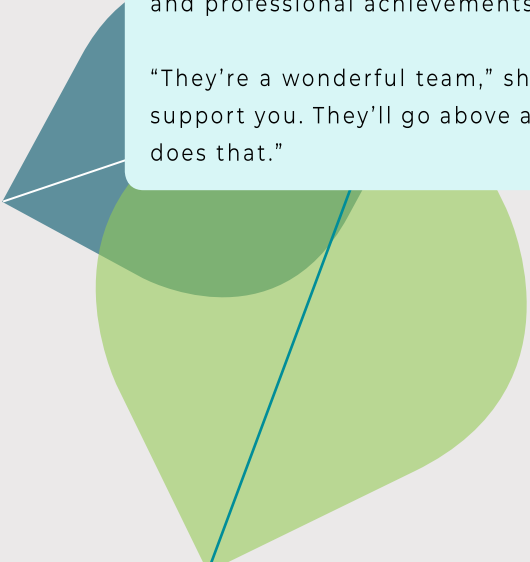
"We're striving for excellence in patient care, and in order to have excellent patient care, we have to be able to work together. If we aren't okay, something is going to be missed, and we can't have that," Sheila says.


She and her team members at the Auburn Gresham SBHC joined the second cohort of EverThrive Illinois' Empowerment Institute -- a nine-month program piloted in 2017 as a response to SBHC staff expressing feelings of isolation in the field. Given the nature of both the work and the model, SBHC providers often work alone or in very small teams that are not fully integrated into the school they serve or their larger sponsoring medical agency. This issue is uniquely urgent, as SBHC staff often work with youth that have experienced trauma. Through professional development and small group meetings, the Empowerment Institute strives to lift morale, provide support, and bring best practices to those who are diligently helping others every day.

Sheila saw positive effects immediately, as her team participated in a session about communication styles during the kickoff event. The group knew they struggled with positive communication -- sometimes intentions were misunderstood, and colleagues felt they weren't respected. They were starting to understand why. Their individual ways of communicating led them to experience interactions very differently, and as they reviewed the description of each person's style they began to laugh at how accurate they were.

The training was so effective that a communications training has been rolled out to the entire UI Health Mile Square OCEAN-HP Division. The school-based health center program sends out a weekly blast to staff which includes updates and deadlines, but also kudos to specific colleagues on personal and professional achievements. She has kudos for EverThrive IL, as well.

"They're a wonderful team," she says. "I can tell you this, if you need support, EverThrive IL is there to support you. They'll go above and beyond. And it's really wonderful to be a part of an organization that does that."





As the United States faces a growing crisis in pregnancy-related deaths, health coalitions in Illinois are taking steps to confront the problem head on. Shannon Lightner, Deputy Director of Women's Health and Family Services at the Illinois Department of Public Health, says creating real movement on this issue means going beyond what happens when a woman enters the hospital, to taking a holistic look at the lives of families throughout the state. She's trying to change the perception of "preventable" pregnancy-related deaths, by broadening it to include a larger understanding of Reproductive Justice and women's health and looking toward issues in housing, the work place, and child care to understand barriers.

"In many cases, there's something that someone or some system could have done to prevent a death from happening," Shannon says. "We have to think outside of the box. It isn't always one more medical intervention. It isn't always one more test or one more prescription. It's things like, eliminating the barrier that prevented her from getting to her appointment in the first place."

In the fall of 2018, IDPH released its first ever report on maternal morbidity and mortality based on the findings of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee, on which EverThrive IL serves. With over 30 years of work in the space, and grassroots coalitions, like the Maternal and Child Health Family Councils, Shannon says EverThrive IL is integral to understanding how systems create barriers to care in communities.


"Having EverThrive IL on the committee has been amazing," she says. "They have their fingers on the pulse of grassroots issues and the impacts of social services on the ground. That allows them to speak about maternal mortality not only from what the data tell us, but also from the perspective of women's lives -- and from a very informed place."

EverThrive IL understands the importance of fostering collaboration and bringing together a range of stakeholders around action. It's through dedication to really understanding how people are experiencing the services and programs intended to meet their needs that EverThrive IL powers long-term change.



"WE HAVE TO THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX. IT ISN'T ALWAYS ONE MORE MEDICAL INTERVENTION. IT ISN'T ALWAYS ONE MORE TEST OR ONE MORE PRESCRIPTION. IT'S THINGS LIKE ELIMINATING THE BARRIER THAT PREVENTED HER FROM GETTING TO HER APPOINTMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE."

SHANNON LIGHTNER
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



The barriers to basic health care can be endless. There's the cost, of course, and getting to where you need to go, especially if that requires a long commute. If you're working multiple jobs, trying to keep a household in order, and shuffling kids to and from school and extracurricular activities -- time is not on your side. Add in a little misinformation about what's necessary or not, harmful or not, and the situation becomes almost impossible to navigate.

This is why every flu season, EverThrive Illinois partners with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) to break down these barriers. CDPH brings no-cost clinics into Chicago communities, and EverThrive IL brings communities into the process and through the doors of clinics. EverThrive IL contracts outreach workers annually, including Concepción Escobar, who in FY18 spoke to more than 14,000 people about the flu in just three months.

Concepción has been an integral part of the flu vaccine clinic outreach program for over eight years. She distributes flyers about upcoming clinics, guides community members to the correct location, interprets for community members in Spanish, helps fill out paperwork, and teams up with EverThrive IL to provide immunization education, particularly around childhood vaccinations. These efforts are essential to ensuring that families are protected from dangerous, sometimes deadly, diseases and keeping communities healthy by preventing the spread of illness.

Concepción's presence in communities is integral beyond the flu season, however. "Many people thank us for bringing the vaccine clinics into communities," she says. "They ask if clinics will bring other vaccines for children. Seniors ask for meningitis, shingles, and for pneumonia vaccines. Vaccines are expensive [for people without insurance] - they know they can get them at a CVS or Walgreens, but paying \$15 or \$20 for each one adds up, especially if they have a family. When the city brings the vaccines to local clinics, they save money."

Concepción has a special and important skill set that helps people feel more comfortable, especially with something like immunizations that can often leave people with more questions. When someone says they're not sure if the vaccine is safe or effective, she shares accurate resources from CDPH and the CDC, and helps dispel myths about the flu shot. When people are afraid of getting the shot, Concepción walks them through the process, sharing her years of experience to calm their nerves. It's through this patience and trust-building that communities begin seeing Concepción herself as a resource, and she becomes a vital connection between EverThrive IL and those needing more support to access essential health care.

"I feel great working with EverThrive Illinois. I feel like we try to work as a team and many people walk away happy."



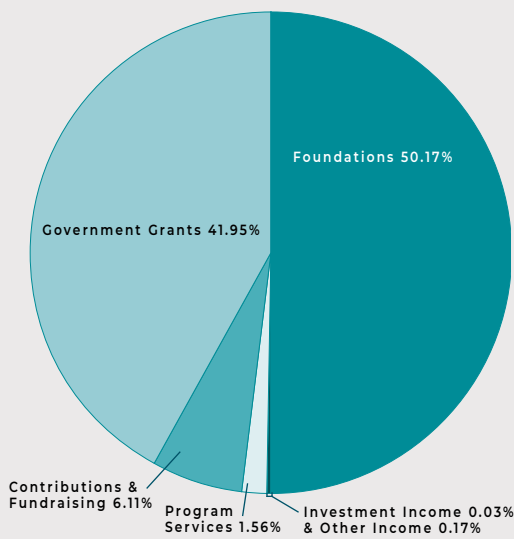
“MANY PEOPLE THANK US FOR BRINGING THE VACCINE CLINICS INTO COMMUNITIES. THEY ASK IF CLINICS WILL BRING OTHER VACCINES FOR CHILDREN [AND SENIORS].”

CONCEPCIÓN ESCOBAR
EVERTHRIVE ILLINOIS

FINANCIALS

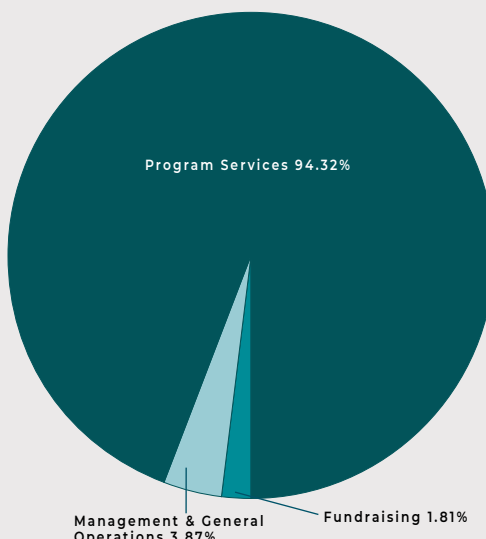
FY18 Revenue Sources

Total \$1,869,882



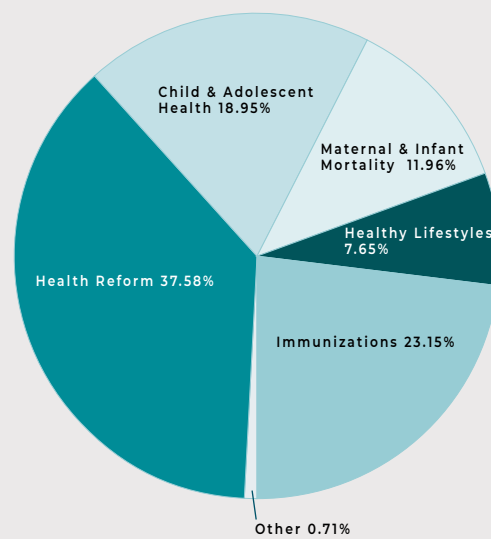
FY18 Expenditures

Total \$1,897,761



FY18 Expenditures by Focus Area

Total \$1,789,962



FY18 Funders

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Community Memorial Foundation
Community Catalyst
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Health Care Foundation of Northern Lake County
Illinois Action for Children

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Counter clockwise from top left: (1) EverThrive IL staff present at our maternal mortality policy symposium (2) Policy Analyst Kelsie Landers gives the thumbs up after receiving her annual flu shot (3) EverThrive IL visits the SIU Care-a-Van (4) A partner presents the latest vaccine news at EverThrive IL's Fall Immunization Seminar (5) SBHC and EverThrive IL staff pose while attending the 2017 National School-Based Health Care Conference (6) Interim Executive Director Kathy Waligora leads a breakout group during the EverThrive IL Contraceptive Justice Symposium.

