



IPHI 2024-2028 Breastfeeding Framework

The Illinois Public Health Institute collaborates with partners to advance health justice and has worked since 2019 to promote breastfeeding continuity of care and equity in Illinois. IPHI developed an initial guiding Framework for this work through a year-long process that engaged public health, healthcare, lactation support, and community leaders to assess the breastfeeding landscape and make recommendations for future goals and strategies. Throughout 2024, IPHI again worked with partners to update the Framework to guide our work for the next 4 years. With support from the State Physical Activity and Nutrition cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Women’s Health, IPHI will continue to collaborate with partners across the state to implement the following objectives and priority strategies.

Objectives:

1. Increase the **number of places** that are supportive of breastfeeding where low-income, rural, and/or people of color frequent in Illinois
2. Increase **equitable access** to sustainable lactation provider support
 - Increase lactation professionals with similar lived experience as our priority populations (focusing on language access)
 - Create linkages across providers in lactation support
 - Support sustainability of the field by increasing capacity to participate in payer arrangements that support CoC policies, systems, and practices (Medicaid, other insurers)
 - Increase provider education: engaging healthcare students, home visitors, doulas, and others working with families in lactation support education and training
3. Increased access to accurate and culturally relevant **information** to support breastfeeding including:
 - Increasing awareness and promotion of information for lactating parents who identify as LGBTQIA2+
 - Increase awareness of information to help increase different forms of partner support during lactation