



Illinois Public Health Institute

2026 Policy Agenda

About IPHI's Policy Agenda

Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) supports policies that advance health justice and support a more community-led, coordinated, and prevention-oriented public health system. Learn more about IPHI at www.iphionline.org

2026 Legislative Priorities Led by IPHI

- Advocate for a \$67 million appropriation (SB 1419/ HB 2365) in the FY 2027 State budget to fund Healthy School Meals for All (PA 103-0532).
- Advocate for a \$750,000 appropriation (HB 3319) in the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) budget to support implementation of the State Health Improvement Plan.
- Advocate for \$4.7 million appropriation (HB 2347) to the IDPH budget to support administration of the Healthy Illinois Survey (PA 102-0483).
- Develop a framework and support for the creation of a statewide Community Information Exchange.

Legislative/Advocacy Priorities Led by Partners

- Support establishing a program to provide short-term universal newborn home visiting services to all families with newborns residing in the State (HB 4606; led by EverThrive IL and StartEarly).
- Support paid family and medical leave to ensure the health of parents and babies in the first weeks/months of life (HB 3483/ SB 2413).
- Support advancement of the Good Food Purchasing Policy at the state level to influence the way public institutions source food to better support local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition (led by the Illinois Food Justice Alliance).
- Support the Local Regulation of Unsheltered Homelessness Act (HB 1429; led by Housing Action Illinois).
- Advocate for emergency assistance for those newly ineligible for SNAP due to federal policy changes (led by Greater Chicago Food Depository).

- Advocate for a task force that creates visibility and accountability in the general assembly on addressing the coming changes to SNAP (led by Greater Chicago Food Depository).
- Support the Transportation Choices Act to align state transportation spending with climate and safety goals (led by Active Transportation Alliance).
- Support clarification that distinguishes electric motor-driven cycles from E-bikes (led by Active Transportation Alliance).
- Support Community Partner Fair Contracting (led by Forefront, Illinois Partners for Human Services, and ICOY).
- Support Living Wages, Thriving Communities campaign, including Thriving Communities Resolution (HR 151/SR 123), support for the Human Service Loan Repayment Program (HB 1588/SB 1306), and support for the Human Service Equitable Pay Act (HB 2695).
- Support appropriations for existing Farm to Food Bank (PA 103-0412), Local Food Infrastructure (SB2386), and the Emerging and Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Grant Fund (HB 4922) programs.
- Support funding reform legislation to ensure local health departments have the resources they need to protect and promote health through increases to the Local Health Protection Grants (HB2341; led by Illinois Public Health Association).
- Support no prior authorization requirements for behavioral health services (SB1603/HB1448).
- Support HB 5238/ SB 3756 to create the Newborn Equity Support Transfers (NEST) program to ensure expectant and mothers on Medicaid receive cash transfers in the third trimester and first 6 months of life (led by StartEarly)

Policy Implementation Activities

- Support implementation of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Service's Medicaid 1115 waiver that supports coverage of health-related social needs for those most at risk, including access to food and nutrition benefits and medical respite and housing benefits.
- Support implementation of Medicaid coverage for lactation support, doula, and home visitor services.
- Support implementation of the American Medical Association's prediabetes quality measures in Illinois' Medicaid quality improvement programs.
- Support implementation of the mental health parity act passed in 2025.
- Support implementation of mental health screening in schools.
- Advocate for the creation of a state-wide Community Information Exchange (CIE) to support cross-system service collaboration.

Contact

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