

POLICY INITIATIVES



ADDRESS KEY SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND INFLUENCERS OF CHILD HEALTH

Reframe role poverty plays in health and well-being, as well as impact of health on social and economic position (2-way relationship), using clear, accessible evidence base

Build 2-generation strategies that focus on helping children and caregivers simultaneously, such as:

- Policies that increase parental employment/income
- Grow funding and quality of early childhood education, home visiting
- Measures that improve community infrastructure, including quality education, affordable housing and safe public spaces
- Protect and expand funding for essential public benefits

BARRIERS

Missed Opportunities

We have not yet made the case for the general public about the interconnectedness of poverty, racism, inequality, health and well-being and the importance of ensuring that our children have what they need to thrive.

Lack of Housing Security in Community of Choice

Families do not have access to safe, healthy, affordable housing in communities of their choice.

Inequitable Access to Quality Education

There are inequities in access to quality educational opportunities, disproportionately impacting communities of color and low-income communities.

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- Engage communities and families to understand and capture their perspectives, stories
- Awareness & messaging campaigns: storytelling, messaging, framing about assets, not maximizing potential
- Make an economic or business case for investing in children's health (like Illinois Business Immigration Coalition)—why should Illinois invest in children?
- Increase the supply of affordable rental housing by advocating for legislation and policy such flexible housing pools.
- Advocate to change state/local housing legislation to make all housing healthy (quality, safety code compliance, lead remediation, mold, etc.)
- Increase housing options for homeless and the highest need families, transitioning youth, homeless youth
- Advocate for preventive strategies around homelessness
- Improve quality and equity in education
- Increase after school and summer programming for students
- Ensure parent/child access to educational, employment and training opportunities