

FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

Illinois Prenatal to Three Initiative

OVERVIEW

Economic Family Security

Children 0-3 do not exist in a vacuum. If the family is entirely focused on surviving that family does not have the ability to focus on something like getting kids ready for kindergarten. By making families more stable, Illinois will have better outcomes overall for children.

RELATED DATA

Family Economic Security

Related data regarding:

- How many families are enrolled in public programs like TANF, SNAP, WIC, Housing assistance, etc.?
- What are the barriers to accessing these services?
- What does employment look like for families?
- How do we get more families employed in jobs that pay a living wage?

BUILDING FROM STRENGTHS

Family Economic Security

Recommendations are focused on issues that will give families more opportunities for financial stability.

- Recommendations made based on coalition and work group discussions
- Reports consulted: Big Shoulders, Bold Solutions: Economic Security for Chicagoans; Implementing a Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty; Ensuring a Great Start: What Illinois Families say is Needed to Thrive; Making WIC Work

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Family Economic Security

Goals: (1) Increase the number of families and children prenatal to age three who are connected to essential and high-quality healthy, development, and social-emotional support services and (2) increase the availability of affordable, high-quality child care for infants and toddlers across diverse settings. The goals are already set.

Topic Area:

Increase Family Income and Income security

Strategy and Rationale	Objective	Projected Impact	Tactics
<p>Select from the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand an existing service• Create new or different services/supports <p>Putting more money in families' pockets is considered the best way to provide families more economic stability. More money means more flexibility for how families use the dollars they have to get what they need (shoes, diapers, rent, etc.). Whatever the issue is more money in families' pockets equals better outcomes.</p>	<p>Lower the number of families living in deep poverty and increase supports for working families.</p>	<p>Number of families living in deep poverty is lowered by 10%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase pilots for universal basic income.• Pass Paid Family Leave Act.• Increase Earned Income Tax Credit for families with small children.• Introduce specific tax credits or child allowances for families with small children.

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Topic Area:

Increase access to public benefits programs

Strategy and Rationale	Objective	Projected Impact	Tactics
<p>Select from the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand existing services Improve access to existing services so more families are served Create new or different services/supports <p>Provide a brief rationale that describes the problem to be solved and reason for selecting the strategy.</p> <p>Increase options in public benefits programs so that more families can access them but also so that more families know they exist and use them as needed. There is currently not a cross-program application process so that at any touch point they are offered access to all of the programs they qualify for. This requires that families know much more than they do.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase usage of WIC/SNAP/CCAP/TANF from current levels. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a cross-system application process. Allow parents that are looking for work access to the Child Care Assistance Program. Advocate for increase to TANF benefits. Ensure that the public charge rule does not lower enrollment in programs unaffected by the rule. Ensure everyone is counted in the 2020 census. Advocate for increased funding for TANF and CCAP.

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Topic Area:

Create more workforce development opportunities

Strategy and Rationale	Objective	Projected Impact	Tactics
<p>Select from the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand existing services• Improve access to existing services so more families are served• Create new or different services/supports <p>Family economic security is bigger than public benefits programs. Families get most of their income from work and there is a need for more opportunities for job training and job placement so that families can access well-paying jobs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get more adults employed in well-paying jobs.	<p>The percentage of adults living with small children working full-time increases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the work program for TANF so that real job opportunities can come of them.• Offer job training with job placement support at all public benefits offices.• Consolidate workforce development funding to program that has proven good outcomes.• Pass the License to Work Act and work to end driver’s license suspension for issues of poverty.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Family Economic Security

All groups will lead with the following discussion questions:

- Are there other populations or communities we should prioritize as we increase access in this area?
- Will this policy help to reduce racial disparities and advance racial equity? Does it ensure inclusion?
- Is there infrastructure to support the intended change? Will systems building be needed?
- Do we have the necessary stakeholder buy-in to support the change?
- What is missing? What needs revisiting?

Working groups may add desired discussion questions as well:

- Question 1
- Question 2