

POLICY INITIATIVES



INCREASE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL CHILDREN

Availability of health services in child's community: Primary and specialty care, dental, vision, school-based and in-home supports

Quality of care: statewide quality measures tied to national standards; properly resourced medical homes, linguistic/culturally appropriate care

Affordability: Public and private insurance coverage and adequate reimbursement rates for care and medications

Navigation: Child- and family-centered strategies to coordinate care, especially for medically complex

BARRIERS

Coverage/Reimbursement

Inadequate reimbursement rates and/or coverage for necessary care in private and public insurance exacerbate access challenges.

Use of Telehealth Technology

Insufficient use of technology to ease access challenges for populations that are geographically or otherwise isolated from health services.

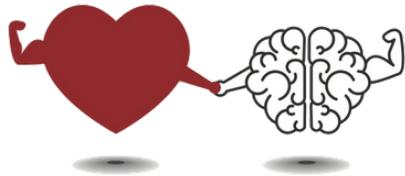
Healthcare Professional Shortages

Healthcare workforce is inadequate to address needs of populations in rural and some urban areas, including health specialties as well as racial, cultural, and linguistic competencies.

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- Address the legal barriers to implementation, such as the requirement that physicians must be in the room with a child to provide care
- Address quality, consistency of care
- Expand types of providers who can be reimbursed and the variety of settings where they can work (e.g. community health workers, CADCs, case managers, etc.)
- Address the legal barriers to implementation, such as the requirement that physicians must be in the room with a child to provide care
- Build infrastructure in areas of state to allow for telehealth service provision
- Increase coverage/reimbursement for telehealth services
- Make sure healthcare providers are trained in telehealth and have the tools to successfully meet the needs of children and their families
- Grow interest through incentives/tuition support for child health fields, such as: Advance Practice Nurse certification and behavioral health specialists
- More training/certification for community health workers, mid-level providers
- Increase urban/rural funding in shortage areas for FQHCs

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IMPROVE ACCESS TO CHILD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Building **local systems of care** for child mental health that improve all access points

Increase mental health consultation and socio-emotional **supports in schools and early childhood settings**

Statewide **child mental health outcome tracking**: establish baseline and tracking key indicators across systems

Increase the use of **trauma-informed practices** in a range of settings including schools to support children exposed to adverse childhood experiences

Identify and build upon **protective factors within families**

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Lack of School-based Mental Health Services

Insufficient socio-emotional and mental health supports for children and youth in schools and early childhood settings.

Disincentives to Provide Child Mental Health Care

Mental health coverage lags far behind in public and private health insurance plans

Inadequate Coordination of Care

Need for more child- and family-focused alignment and coordination of care for better results

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- Increase capacity of schools and early childhood settings to identify, assess, treat, support children with socioemotional or mental health concerns
- Address payment barriers for school-based care within Medicaid (coverage/rates)
- Create supportive schools- community schools, wellness training, trauma-informed
- Advocacy to increase reimbursement (with quality indicators) for mental health care, including MCO payment in Medicaid, crisis services
- Reduce filing/administrative burdens for mental health provider billing
- Increase flexibility of payment for team-based treatment, family-oriented payment, etc.
- Move toward local systems of care with all child-serving systems involving in planning, gaps analysis, and mental health system improvements
- Better use of technology to improve I & R, create shared health records, track outcomes across systems
- Create standardized mental health indicators and tools across systems (medical, community-based, schools)
- Integration of mental health in primary care services, including improving communication/coordination across providers

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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

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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