

Shriver
Center on
Poverty
Law

2023 Illinois Legislative Agenda



The fight for racial and economic justice takes commitment from everyone—no one can stand on the sidelines anymore.

The Shriver Center champions progressive policies that address long-standing inequities, strengthen families, and fuel opportunity in marginalized communities. Our 2023 Illinois legislative agenda supports and protects workers with low wages, expands access to health care, protects tenants and promotes inclusive housing, and keeps families strong and stable.

Ways that lawmakers can help ensure racial and economic justice in Illinois:

Support and protect workers with low wages

Everyone should be paid decently and have basic workplace protections so that they can sustain themselves financially, be healthy, and be able to take care of their family.



Mandate paid family and medical leave

HB 1530 / SB 1234 (*Sen. Villivalam / Rep. Harper*)

Only 13% of workers have access to paid maternity leave, and only 9% have access to paid paternity leave. This legislation would create a state-operated program to provide all workers with paid, job-guaranteed leave.



End the subminimum wage for tipped workers

HB 3898 / SB 293 (*Rep. Lilly / Sen. Pacione-Zayas*)

Tipped workers in Illinois lose millions of dollars every year because tips do not make up the difference between their \$7.80 hourly wage and the minimum wage. This legislation would gradually eliminate the tipped subminimum wage and allow workers to earn a full minimum wage with tips on top.

Provide a child tax credit

HB 3950 / SB 1444 (*Rep. Evans / Sen. Simmons*)



Child tax credits dramatically lower child poverty; temporary expansion of the federal child tax credit in 2021 lifted 2.1 million children out of poverty. This legislation would create a refundable per child credit in Illinois that is tied to tax filers' income.

Expand access to health care coverage

Everyone deserves access to affordable, comprehensive, culturally appropriate health care, no matter their income, race, gender, or where they are from.

Extend coverage to all low-income immigrant adults

HB 1570 / SB 122 (*Rep. L. Hernandez / Sen. Aquino*)



Immigrants who are undocumented have few options for affordable health coverage. This legislation would extend Medicaid look-alike coverage to Illinois residents aged 19-41 with household income up to 138% of the federal poverty level, regardless of their immigration status.

Ensure that health insurance costs are equitable and affordable

SB 1912 / SB 293 (*Sen. Fine / Rep. Morgan*)



Over half (58%) of Illinois adults have struggled to afford health insurance. This bill will protect consumers from excessive premium increases by requiring the state to review and approve health insurance rates, as well as ensuring that the process is transparent, accessible, and equitable.

Protect tenants and promote more inclusive housing

All people should have the right to safe, stable homes to build better futures for themselves and their families.

Improve access to safe, affordable housing by sealing past eviction records

HB 1569 / SB 242 (*Rep. Ford / Sen. Villa*)



Eviction screening policies deprive families of housing and perpetuate discrimination against people of color, in particular Black women. This legislation would ensure individuals and families have equitable access to housing through increased sealing of eviction records.

Ensure families have what they need to remain strong and stable

Strong families make strong communities.

Promote racial equity and justice in the child welfare system



Black children are represented in Illinois's child welfare system at about three times the percentage of the statewide child population that is Black. The Shriver Center leads the Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare Task Force, which is exploring resources, policies, and practices to prevent system entry for families and reduce racial disproportionality within the system.

Questions?

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