



Ahlquist Center 2020 Legislative Agenda

Illinois Policy Agenda

Legislative Lead

1. Ensuring correct implementation of CCAP for Intact Bill (P.A. 100-0860)

In 2018, Children's Home and Aid worked with legislators to provide families in Intact Family Services with access to low cost child care. We plan to continue working with lawmakers and agency staff to ensure the law is being enacted as it was intended.

2. DCFS rate increase and indexing to cost of living expenses (HB 2524/ SB 1730)

As costs rise, DCFS payments to providers have mostly remained flat, and have decreased when factoring inflation. This legislation would increase DCFS rates to account for inflation, and then automatically increase that rate based on inflation every year going forward.

3. Creation of advisory council on increasing access to quality early education for welfare-involved children (SR 1024)

Despite systems in place at state agencies to identify and enroll children and families with DCFS involvement into high-quality early care and education programs, data show that not enough Youth in Care under the age of six are enrolled. The advisory council would be charged with producing a report with recommendations on how to better connect the child welfare system to early childhood education.

Legislative Actively Support

1. Increased funding for home visiting programs (HB 3984/SB2317)

This legislation would increase funding for the Healthy Families and Parents Too Soon home visiting programs by \$2 million each for a total of \$20.4 million.

2. Medicaid reimbursement for doula services and evidence-based home visiting (HB4 (HA1))

This legislation would expand the Illinois Medicaid program to include coverage for doula services and evidence-based home-visiting services.

3. Indemnity for child welfare lawsuits (Bill Number in Formation)

This legislation would address the lack of parity among the State of Illinois and its other contractors and vendors, and the child welfare providers, in the State's Indemnification Act.

Budget

1. \$150,000 for the Youth Budget Commission

Start to Finish supports a continued appropriation of \$150,000 to support the Youth Budget Commission. The commission is tasked with creating a yearly analysis of the State budget across six developmental goals (*stable, safe, healthy, educated, employable* and *connected*) and advises the Governor, General Assembly and State agencies on ways to improve and expand existing policies, services, programs and opportunities for youth and young adults ages 8-25.

2. \$19.3 million appropriation for the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act

Children's Home & Aid, through our work with the Start to Finish Coalition, was supportive of the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act, which strengthens access to mental health supports at public 2- and 4-year universities and community colleges. The \$19.3 million would fully fund the first stage of implementation.

3. \$30 million to provide healthcare coverage to undocumented immigrants for one year after the birth of a child

While the governor recently requested a 1115 Medicaid waiver from the federal government in order to cover women for a full year after they give birth, undocumented immigrants were not included. The \$30 million would ensure that undocumented have the same access to care after giving birth as everyone else.

4. MAP Grants

In 2002, state need based financial aid, called MAP grants, covered 100% of tuition and fees at Illinois public universities and community colleges. By 2016, MAP awards covered less than half the costs of a community college and less than one third the cost of public 4-year universities. An increase in funding will provide students more opportunities to continue their higher education.