

2025 Policy and Advocacy Agenda



CORE PILLARS

Speak with a Collective Voice for the Health and Human Service Sector.

We start by listening to our community-based partners. We then amplify and strengthen the collective voice of human services so we can break down silos, compel investment in a stronger sector, and create thriving communities.

COLLABORATION

Advocate for Robust Public Investment in Health and Human Services.

Our state budget is a moral document; it represents the belief our government must invest in the well-being of all Illinoisans. We press decision-makers to boldly and equitably fund all human services, with the knowledge that a well-supported sector is essential to community health and well-being.

Promote the essential value of Human Services in our society.

Human services matter to everyone in every community. We strive to be a leader in developing key resources that advance equity, increase awareness of the issues facing the human services sector, and reframe public perception of the impact of these essential services in our communities.

ADVOCACY

Address the root causes of inequity in our sector.

Structural inequities built into society and our sector must be addressed to achieve meaningful systems change. Our advocacy must acknowledge the role of systemic racism within state government, within health and human service workforce and delivery systems, and in the communities our coalition partners serve.

CONNECTION

EQUITY

CORE VALUES

Long Term Commitment: We will advocate for continual, increased state funding of human services, year over year and push for equitable policies that address the needs of the sector and promote community well-being.

Short Term Targets:

- Work in partnership with ISAC to successfully launch and distribute the totality of the Human Service Professional Loan Repayment Program appropriation (\$5.25M).
- Secure renewed appropriations to sustain the Human Services Professional Loan repayment program.
- Reintroduce the Equitable Pay Act with a focus on positions within IDHS.
- Build additional partnerships within the Health & Human Services Coalition to ensure the full human services sector and their priorities are represented.
- Release a report that builds on previous research and provides foundational data to promote the need for a higher state de minimis rate for indirect costs and more funding overall.
- Launch a campaign that raises awareness of the chronic underfunding and low wages facing health and human service workers in Illinois.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

COMMUNITY PARTNER FAIR CONTRACTING ACT (Bill Number TBD)

Reduce Administrative Burden and Improve Timely Payments to Human Service Providers.

In partnership with the [Health and Human Service Coalition of Illinois](#), The Community Partner Fair Contracting Act will address the undue administrative burden health and human service providers face when contracting with the state of Illinois. An abridged version of this bill was passed and added to HB817 as Senate Amendment 3 during lame duck session, however this omnibus bill will more expansively include provisions to improve the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA). This includes addressing timely contracts and payments to providers, expanding and clarifying advanced payment eligibility, covering the full cost of delivering services, as well as expediting and simplifying the Court of Claims process.

[Fact Sheet](#)

HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (HB1588)

Secure renewed appropriations for [PA 102-1089](#) to address the Human Service Workforce Crisis.

The Illinois General Assembly passed SB3925 (PA 102-1089) unanimously, to address the human service workforce crisis that directly impacts communities across Illinois. In FY25, the program received \$5.25 M in appropriations that will support more than 500 human service workers at community-based organizations. Without continued and increased appropriations, however, many who apply may not be able to receive repayment. Human service can providers use the HSPLRP to attract and sustain their workforces, and without it they are often unable to effectively reduce the debt burdens of their workforce enough to keep people in the sector. In partnership with [ICOY](#), we are asking for \$7.5 M in appropriations to fund at least an additional 1,500 repayments for community-based human service professionals.

[Fact Sheet](#)

HUMAN SERVICES EQUITABLE PAY ACT (Bill Number TBD)

Advance pay equity for the Human Service Sector in Illinois.

State contracts with community-based human service providers often reflect vastly lower rates of pay when compared to state employees performing similar work. The Human Services Equitable Pay Act (HSEPA) will commission a study that analyses wage and benefit provisions across different educational levels that compares compensation for Illinois Department of Human Services employees, community-based human service providers, and for-profit private sector employees with similar roles and titles. The study will also disaggregate wage and benefit levels based on the race/ethnicity of the executive director of the institution to examine the role that systemic racial inequity has in state funding. It is time for the state to be transparent about the inequities that it has exacerbated so that ALL human service workers can have a thriving wage, regardless of where they work.

[Fact Sheet](#)



Living Wages, Thriving Communities: *Fair Pay for Human Services Now!*

Illinois Partners is excited to launch a statewide campaign that calls for increased state funding for human services contracts and advocates for wage increases for workers in the sector. Our campaign will engage frontline workers, human services organizations, coalition partners, legislators, and the public to push the State to responsibly invest in the well-being of all Illinoisans by fairly funding the health and human services workforce.

While the campaign will be a long-term initiative that work towards better pay for workers at community-based human service organizations, this year's focus will be on ensuring that the Illinois State Legislature is committed to prioritizing the human services sector by making no cuts, passing our bills as previously described, and co-sponsoring the Living Wages, Thriving Communities Resolution.

Endorse the campaign [here](https://livingwageil.org) and learn more at livingwageil.org

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

Illinois Partners for Human Service works with associations and coalitions across the state to address systemic issues addressing the long term, equitable funding for the Human Service sector and our workforce. Illinois Partners represents the sector in the following coalitions:

The Health and Human Service Coalition of Illinois
The Responsible Budget Coalition
Illinois Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security
Illinois Family Caregiver Coalition
State of Illinois Health Improvement Plan Committee (SHIP)
The Chicago Alliance for Collaborative Effort (CACE)
Illinois Skills for Good Jobs Agenda