

House Bill 4, House Amendment 2

Medicaid Reimbursement for Doula and Home Visiting Programs

Sponsored by Representative LaToya Greenwood

Parents deserve access to quality services that keep them and their children healthy. Too many families in Illinois, particularly families of color, do not receive the types of early care and education interventions proven to support successful births and proper child development. **Black birthing parents are six times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than their white peers, and nearly three-quarters of pregnancy-related deaths were deemed preventable.**¹

The risk is not only that of the parent. **The infant mortality rate in Illinois is 6.6 deaths per 1,000 live birth, higher than the national average.** The racial disparities also persist in child outcomes - the Illinois infant mortality rate for black infants is more than double the rate for white infants.²

Medicaid covers almost half of all births in Illinois, but families enrolled in the state Medicaid program are at a higher risk of both severe maternal and infant mortality compared to those with private insurance.³

Across the U.S., 24 states already finance home visiting and two states finance doula services through Medicaid. General Revenue Funds are utilized for some doula and evidence-based home visiting programs, but these services are currently only available to a portion of eligible families. Medicaid is key to maximizing our state's ability to serve more families and address this ongoing crisis.

DOULAS are trained providers who offer regular support to pregnant and birthing parents before, during, and after labor and delivery. The visits start prenatally and continue until at least eight weeks postpartum.

HOME VISITING is a voluntary, evidence-based strategy used to support pregnant people and new parents as their children's first teachers. The intervention produces positive health outcomes that are linked to significant health care savings for states and the federal government, primarily through reduced health care costs.

The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends increasing access to doula services and evidence-based home visiting programs to address the maternal mortality crisis in our state.

HB4, HA2 expands the Illinois Medicaid program to include coverage for doula services and evidence-based home visiting services for individuals who qualify for medical assistance, effective July 1, 2021.

For more information, contact:

Kelsie Landers, EverThrive Illinois, klanders@everthriveil.org, (630) 408-2948

Jonathan Doster, Ounce of Prevention Fund, jdoster@ounceofprevention.org, (708) 220-4049



INSPIRE MINDS.
CHANGE LIVES.™



¹Illinois Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Report. Illinois Department of Public Health. (October 2018). Retrieved from <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/publicationsowhmaternalmorbiditymortalityreport112018.pdf>

² Illinois Infant Mortality Data Report. Illinois Department of Public Health. (January 2018). Retrieved from <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/owhfs-infant-mortality-data-report-update-030618.pdf>

³ Births financed by Medicaid. Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/births-financed-by-medicicaid/?currentTimeframe=0&sortMod-el=%7B%22colld%22:%22Location%22:%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Advance Illinois

Children's Home and Aid

Fox Valley United Way - SPARK Early Childhood Collaboration

Illinois Action for Children

Illinois AEYC

Metropolitan Family Services

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

Planned Parenthood of Illinois

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago