

POLICY PRIORITY: FINANCIALLY SECURE FAMILIES
Family-friendly Work Policies



Legislation

- Establish a **statewide paid family and medical leave insurance program**, with substantial protections for low-wage workers and sufficient time off for new parents and infants to bond
- Require employers statewide to provide **time off for working parents with an infant in the neonatal intensive care unit**



Public Awareness, Engagement and Mobilization

- Mobilize families, employers and other stakeholders to advocate for **paid family and medical leave** through lawmaker outreach, storytelling and other activities
- Inform working parents of the **paid time off protections available** across the City of Chicago, Cook County and the rest of the state



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Income Supports for Families



Budget

- Increase state funding by \$50M in FY 2026 for the Illinois Department of Revenue to double the value of the state-level Child Tax Credit for eligible families beginning in tax year 2025
- Increase state funding beyond \$1M in FY 2026 for the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to expand the Diaper Distribution Pilot Program or another diaper benefit to serve more communities



Legislation

- Establish a **state-level guaranteed income or similar unconditional cash assistance program**, or a task force to inform the development of such a model for ensuring families with young children can meet their material needs



Administration and Implementation

- Adopt the **Internal Revenue Service's Direct File tool with state filing integration** so working families can file both their federal and state taxes more easily and at no cost
- Establish **coordination and alignment provisions in the next Medicaid Managed Care contracts to improve food assistance referrals, certification and participation** for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Increase **WIC outreach and referrals for families enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start programs**, through the multi-year collaboration between IDHS and the Illinois Head Start Association
- Implement the **IDHS Diaper Distribution Pilot Program** in two communities to mitigate diaper need for participating families and demonstrate potential for expansion



Public Awareness, Engagement and Mobilization

- Amplify **public awareness of the state-level Child Tax Credit** to promote family access and uptake
- Increase the **WIC coverage rate**, particularly for children ages 1-3, through **outreach and mobile enrollment campaigns** both statewide and in the City of Chicago