

Aging and Long-Term Care

- Advance legislation to establish a commission to develop a strategic action plan for aging equity in Illinois
- Promote home and community-based services to support people remaining in their own homes and communities
- Support strategies, such as appropriate staffing and quality improvement, to support older adults living in congregate settings and to respond to COVID-19 health inequities in such settings

Health Reform

- Establish proactive regional health system planning for health facilities, the provision of uncompensated care, and sufficient health safety net funding, especially Cook County Health
- Advance toward universal health insurance coverage for all, including undocumented immigrants

Health Workforce

- Develop an Illinois iteration of the Joint Admission Medical Program, which supports highly qualified and economically disadvantaged students in pursuit of medical education
- Establish an Illinois commission to identify policy solutions to address health worker burnout, with a purpose of reducing and eliminating causes of burnout and mitigating its effects
- Advance rules and regulations in support of community health worker certification and reimbursement

Public Health Equity

- Seek to attain and sustain sufficient and flexible public funding for public health departments in local and state budgets to grow and maintain a robust public health workforce and system
- Support both police abolition and robust non-police responses to crime, violence, and social problems, as well as the use of harm reduction, such as safe consumption sites and drug decriminalization
- Promote healthy, safe, affordable, equitable, and accessible housing policy, including proactive rental inspections, lifting the ban on rent control, and just-cause eviction policies
- Support a cumulative impact ordinance, and support use of health equity impact assessments and environmental impact assessments to advance health equity and environmental justice

Trauma-Informed Care and Systems

- Develop policy change to require that both policymakers and state agencies use trauma-informed standards for policy development and state agencies to implement trauma-informed training, policies, and practices
- Advance statewide funding and support for health organizations, human services, community-based organizations, and schools to become trauma-informed

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group (Health & Medicine) works to improve the health of all people in Illinois by advancing health equity.

The Health & Medicine mission is to promote social justice and challenge inequities in health and health care. We are an independent policy center that conducts research, educates, and collaborates with other groups to advocate policies and impact health systems to improve the health status of all people.

The Health & Medicine vision is a society free of social inequities, with a healthy population accessing high quality health care, delivered in trauma-informed, comprehensive health systems by culturally competent providers.

For more information or questions about our policy priorities, please contact Margie Schaps, Executive Director: mschaps@hmprg.org and Wesley Epplin, Policy Director: wepplin@hmprg.org.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of the many priorities Health & Medicine seeks to move forward. This list doesn't include many policy implementation, research, narrative change, capacity building, collaboration, and other reform and health planning efforts worked on by Health & Medicine.