

Illinois
BLACK ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

State of Illinois FY2026

Black Budget Agenda

A Roadmap to Invest in Our Black Communities



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Table of Contents

- Executive Summary..... 2
- Part 1: Equity in Budgeting: Addressing Systemic Racism in Illinois 3
 - Race Equity in Budget Analysis 3
 - Addressing Disparity in Local Government Funding..... 4
- Part 2: Budget Priorities..... 5
 - Pillar 1: Criminal Justice Reform 5
 - Community Violence Intervention Funding..... 5
 - Justice Diversion Programs Funding 6
 - Non-SDOH Recommended Programs 7
 - Funded Advocacy & Independent Representation (FAIR) Act 7
 - Reentry Housing and Services..... 7
 - Pillar 2: Education and Workforce Development..... 9
 - Early Childhood Funding..... 9
 - K-12 Evidence-based Funding..... 10
 - Adequate and Equitable University Funding Act..... 11
 - Workforce Development and Youth Jobs Funding..... 12
 - Pillar 3: Economic Access, Equity and Opportunity..... 13
 - Housing Funding..... 13
 - Food Access Funding..... 13
 - Mass Transit Funding 14
 - Pillar 4: Health Care and Human Services..... 15
 - Healthcare Funding 15
 - HIV/AIDS Prevention Funding..... 16
 - Maternal and Reproductive Health Funding 17
 - Mental Health Services Funding..... 18

Executive Summary

The Illinois Black Advocacy Initiative (IBAI) is dedicated to building and harnessing power to create equitable opportunities and outcomes for Black Illinoisans. Founded in 2021 in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, IBAI believes in the power and self-determination of Black Illinois residents and in community power in politics. Black people deserve what all communities deserve – safety, prosperity and investment. We build power with Black communities by expanding the capacity of Black-community focused organizations and advancing budget and public policy.

We believe it is the responsibility of Illinois government to take the lead in creating conditions for prosperity to thrive. Yet, Illinois continues to face systemic racism, a legacy that has shaped communities all across America. Fortunately, the State has an opportunity to guide us toward a more equitable future by using an equity lens in budget decision-making.

In Part 1, our report provides some pathways to expand an equity analysis in decision making. IBAI has identified two elements to address systemic racism in the State of Illinois budget process. The first element involves **expanding State capacity to evaluate equity in investment and outcomes** during the budget and legislative process. The challenge to evaluate outcomes falls not only on Agencies and the Governor’s Office, but also the General Assembly and all State leaders.

The second element focuses on State analysis in **addressing investment and outcomes disparities across local governments**, from tax burden, infrastructure needs and financial condition of cities, towns and villages, as well as equity in funding services in school districts. Areas of the state struggling to provide adequate services undermine the potential of our state economy as a whole and leaves behind residents of greatest need.

During a challenging budget year, we find it necessary to learn from the investment impacts of COVID funding and the impact of investment to address community needs. We discussed budget priorities with community organizations, conducted research and selected budget priorities based on evidence-based practices identified by the US Department of Health and Humans Services. Their objectives are reflected in Healthy People 2030, which sets data-driven national objectives to improve health and well-being over the next decade called Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Part 2 of our report identifies budget priorities informed by SDOH objectives.

Part 1: Equity in Budgeting: Addressing Systemic Racism in Illinois

To build on research-informed priorities in Part 1, IBAI recognizes the State budget process can also use additional support to evaluate equity in budgeting and policymaking. IBAI has outlined two elements to address systemic racism. First, the State needs to continue developing a race equity lens in conducting budget analysis. IBAI has noted some approaches to developing a race equity lens through different Commissions, Departments, and legislation.

Second, the landscape across local units of government reflects a history of inequitable investment. Many areas of the state were subject to redlining and experienced white flight in the 1960s and 1970s, resulting in federal and state investment that created advantages for some areas and divestment in others. Additionally, local revenue challenges and regional income disparities continue to expand the gap in economic development and the ability to provide adequate services to all residents in Illinois. As a result, IBAI recognizes the need to mitigate inequity across local governments to expand economic opportunity for all communities in Illinois.

Race Equity in Budget Analysis

Budgeting for results, or results-based budgeting, focuses on aligning resources with desired outcomes, prioritizing what matters most to citizens and stakeholders, and ensuring that spending leads to measurable and impactful results. What has been missing in the current BFR process? Evaluating outcomes using a racial equity lens. Explicitly evaluating performance across racial lines will inform how governments design and deliver services. Identifying those that benefit from services or using racially informed geographic boundaries to see where governments distribute benefits holds the budget accountable for its results. The State could take several approaches to address the lack of racial equity in budget analysis:

- **Budgeting for Results Commission.** The Commission, with support from the BFR Unit of the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (GOMB), can develop performance metrics to guide funding to services that address disparate racial outcomes. A roadmap for technical assistance to disaggregate outcomes by race can guide the Commission and the Governor’s Office to build this analysis for agencies.
- **Governor’s Office of Equity.** The Office of Equity can co-create performance indicators with all departments using the learnings from the Illinois Towards Equity Framework. These indicators could guide investment choices and program design at the department level with rationale for the General Assembly to consider during the budget process.
- **Commission on Equity & Inclusion (CEI):** Capacity issues plague a lot of high-demand services impacting the state generally, and Black communities specifically. The Commission can create performance indicators to address existing service gaps facing Black communities, future service needs, and create capacity building initiatives to address service disparities.

- **Racial Equity Note.** Evaluating racial equity impacts is often done in the political process without a nonpartisan analysis. HB 1223 would allow for the development of a racial equity impact note on legislation at the request of a member. This allows the state to formally evaluate potential racial impacts of pending bills. Just like a fiscal note estimates costs, savings, revenue gain, or revenue loss that may result from implementation of a bill or joint resolution, a racial equity note would estimate impacts on different communities across the state for proposed bills.

Addressing Disparity in Local Government Funding

Many funding disparities persist due to local financial conditions. Lower income communities face a higher effective tax burden based on proportion of income than wealthier districts, restricting their ability to fund services at an adequate level. As we see progress with the evidence-based funding formula, the state can take a more active role in investing locally to address service gaps.

- **Illinois Comptroller Local Government Division.** The Local Government Division supports local governments in fulfilling their required fiscal responsibilities to taxpayers by providing transparency, efficiency, and accountability to the financial reporting process. One element of accountability is evaluating the effectiveness of public expenditures, and an equity lens can help the Division better support local governments in need.
- **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.** DCEO aims to create equitable economic opportunities across the state by attracting job creators, investing in communities, strengthening the workforce, fostering innovation, and promoting a clean energy economy, ultimately aiming to make Illinois a global economic powerhouse. DCEO is charged with addressing the needs of local governments at a competitive disadvantage, and a framework to evaluate need can assist in realizing an equity lens in evaluating local needs across the state.
- **Illinois State Board of Education.** ISBE's mission is to provide each child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders. With the FY2027 deadline approaching to reach adequacy in school district spending by statute, the lessons learned by ISBE in distributing funding locally based on evidence-based criteria could help guide the rest of the state in the process of accountable investment to all Illinois residents.
- **Property Tax System Study.** In 2024, SB3455 passed and the General Assembly directed the Department of Revenue, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, to conduct a historical study of the property tax system. The study provides an opportunity to demonstrate structural inequity in taxation as well as disparate revenue at the local level. Disaggregating local impacts by race can demonstrate the need for equity-based state investment in local communities in need. Some analysis on low visibility financial risks like depreciating infrastructure/capital assets and financial condition in general can help illustrate the full picture of need and the available local resources to address those needs.

Part 2: Budget Priorities

In difficult budget years, it is important to protect and even expand funding in areas that have the greatest impact and scale back on less effective spending. Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. They are informed by evidence-based practices that produce desired outcomes in their target area. Part 2 seeks to help identify evidence-based priorities to assist the General Assembly in highlighting public service areas that have research-informed effects that disproportionately impact Black Illinois residents. The priorities are grounded in the Illinois Black Caucus (ILBC) Policy Pillars released in 2021. IBAI added corresponding SDOH objectives to priority areas with impacts on Black communities from reports and partner resources.



Pillar 1: Criminal Justice Reform

Community Violence Intervention Funding

The State of Illinois administers Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention (CBVIP) services, including Street Intervention/Interruption-Active Outreach and Engagement, Counseling and Therapy, case management and youth development¹. In FY2025, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority budgeted \$200 million of Cannabis Revenues to the Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3) program to provide flexibility with the disbursement of additional grants. The Department of Human Services budgeted \$60 million in General Revenue funds for the fourth year of the multi-year Reimagine Public Safety grant program to build upon initial federal investments. Future federal investment could be in jeopardy with the continuation of investment established during the Biden administration in doubt².

Impact on Black communities

Across the country, a Black American is shot and wounded every 11 minutes. In Illinois, Black individuals are 38 times more likely than White individuals to die by gun homicide, which is triple the

¹<https://icjia.illinois.gov/grants/programs/community-based-violence-intervention-and-prevention-cbvip-services-programs-1/>

²<https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/07/fact-sheet-more-details-on-the-biden-harris-administrations-investments-in-community-violence-interventions/>

national average³. This vastly elevated rate of violence imparts multiple levels of trauma on individuals and Black communities across the state, in addition to structural violence, police violence, and other forms of harm disproportionately experienced by Black communities throughout our state, such as school closures and unemployed youth⁴.

SDOH Impacts - Violence Prevention

Direct	Reduce physical fighting among adolescents — IVP-11
Direct	Reduce gun carrying among adolescents — IVP-12
Direct	Reduce the rate of minors and young adults committing violent crimes — AH-10
Direct	Reduce the rate of adolescent and young adult victimization from violent crimes — AH-R11

Justice Diversion Programs Funding

Illinois justice diversion programs are alternatives to the criminal justice system that can help people avoid incarceration. The goal of these programs is to address the causes of criminal behavior and help people rehabilitate themselves. Several examples of justice diversion programs include: The Supporting Education and Employment Development (SEED) program is a 13-month pre-plea deferred-prosecution program, which aims to serve emerging adults, aged 18-26, charged with Delivery or Intent to Deliver in Cook County, Illinois⁵, the Impact Incarceration program (boot camp) for eligible offenders sentenced to prison, Domestic Violence Diversion Program for people charged with domestic battery or related offenses⁶, Felony Diversion Programs, and Adult Diversion/Deferral Programs⁷.

Impact on Black communities

There are several potential positive impacts for justice diversion, such as reduced recidivism, reduced justice system involvement, and improved health and social outcomes. Yet these programs do not stop the disproportionate targeting of Black youth by the justice system. In Cook County, Black people are disproportionately denied access to diversion programs as compared to White defendants for the 100 most commonly diverted charges. From 2011 to 2020, Black people represented 66% of people charged with offenses, but only 54% of the people diverted from those charges while White people only comprised 15% of the total people charged with those offenses, but 28% of the diverted population⁸.

³<https://oneaimil.org/the-issue/impact-of-gun-violence/#:~:text=Across%20the%20country%2C%20a%20Black,Black%20communities%20throughout%20our%20state>

⁴<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/why-did-u-s-homicides-spike-in-2020-and-then-decline-rapidly-in-2023-and-2024/>

⁵<https://icjia.illinois.gov/researchhub/articles/seed-a-diversion-program-for-young-adults-an-alternative-to-incarceration/>

⁶https://www.grundycountyil.gov/services/states_attorney/dv_diversion_program.php#:~:text=The%20diversion%20program%20provides%20individuals,up%20and%20what%20will%20happen?

⁷<https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/cleanslate/states/illinois/policies/il-d-4#:~:text=Illinois:%20Adult%20Diversion/Deferral%20Program,4>

⁸<https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/22021-03-CCSAO-Diversion-Report-FINAL.pdf>

SDOH Impacts - Social and Community Context

Direct	Reduce the proportion of children with a parent or guardian who has served time in jail or prison — SDOH-05
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Non-SDOH Recommended Programs

A few budget requests in this pillar are not associated directly with the SDOH, but IBAI notes these budget requests can assist in improving fairness and healing in the effort to address criminal justice reform needs across the State of Illinois. These items are described below:

Funded Advocacy & Independent Representation (FAIR) Act

Illinois' chronic underfunding of public defense is a civil rights crisis that disproportionately impacts Black residents in Illinois. In jurisdictions across the state, public defenders do not have the resources required to address their large caseloads, restraining their ability to provide quality defense⁹. The FAIR Act aims to revolutionize public defense in Illinois by establishing a unified public defender office and providing counties with the necessary resources¹⁰. The FAIR Act builds on the momentum of the SAFE-T Act and the Pretrial Fairness Act, which made Illinois the first state to eliminate cash bail for all cases.

Impact on Black communities

The outsized impacts of the criminal legal system and family regulation system on Black people with low incomes is well documented. As such, Black people are routinely appointed public defenders. Well resourced, quality public defenders are integral to keeping Black people out of jails and prisons and children out of foster care. If passed, this legislation creates a process for the state to more adequately support public defender offices, many of whom provide legal representation to the majority of Black people charged with crimes or fighting allegations of abuse and neglect.

Supported program - [Illinois Access to Justice](#)

Reentry Housing and Services

Previously incarcerated persons have difficulty finding stable housing. Several programs could assist in bridging this gap. Grants through IHDA to acquire, build, and rehab affordable permanent or transitional housing, Rental subsidies provided by IDHS, and resources through IDHS for wraparound support services all can reground these individuals in community¹¹.

Impact on Black communities

⁹ <https://endmoneybond.org/2024/06/25/there-is-a-public-defense-crisis-in-illinois-the-fair-act-can-end-it/>

¹⁰ <https://ilpublicdefenderstats.org/fairact/>

¹¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hsdpwF-BGQxDA86LmCjshbxpMNLI0_Js/view?usp=drive_link

Black people in Illinois are incarcerated at a rate 7.5 times higher than White people, posing a unique challenge when returning back to their community. In Illinois, the chances a formerly incarcerated person will return to prison within three years are high. A 2018 report found 43% of those released from prison in Illinois will be convicted of another crime and return to prison. The same analysis found the average cost associated with one recidivism event is about \$152,000 — costing the state more than \$13 billion over five years¹². Providing transitional and stable housing will aid in reducing recidivism and allow previously incarcerated individuals to rebuild their lives¹³.

Supported program - [Home for Good](#)

¹²https://spac.icjia-api.cloud/uploads/Illinois_Result_First-The_High_Cost_of_Recidivism_2018-20191106T18123262.pdf

¹³<https://metroplanning.org/projects/re-entry-housing/>

Pillar 2: Education and Workforce Development

Early Childhood Funding

In 2023, Illinois joined states like Colorado, Georgia, New Mexico, and Massachusetts in establishing a state agency fully dedicated to early childhood services while also expanding childcare funding, allowing an additional 20,000 children to qualify for care. This will enable approximately 80% of Illinois families to pay less for childcare—a significant achievement considering Black households in Illinois spend 61% of their earnings on childcare. As the Department of Early Childhood is organized, the needs of Black communities need to be centered as the state reorganizes state agencies and invests locally in early childhood providers and could provide funding for several programs centrally¹⁴. The Early Childhood Funding Commission findings report of 2021 finds that an adequately funded system will require an annual public investment of no less than \$12.4 billion (with an additional \$2.0 billion investment by families), compared to the current annual state and federal investment of \$1.9 billion today which represents only 14% of what is adequate¹⁵.

Impact on Black communities

The US Department of Health and Human Services defines the limit for child care affordability at 7% of total household earnings for parents who receive subsidies, and with disparities in income for Black families this presents a greater burden. In Illinois, a median-income family with an infant and child spends over 35% of household earnings on childcare. As a result of racialized income inequality, those same childcare costs would constitute over 60% of total earnings for Black families in Illinois¹⁶.

Race for Results Scores (2024)¹⁷

Location	American Indian	AAPI	Black	Latino	White	Two or more races
USA	418	771	386	452	697	612
Illinois	Suppressed	837	341	501	740	637

Higher scores mean there is a greater likelihood that children in those groups are meeting the milestones associated with success. **Illinois ranks 33rd for Black Student scores**, 3rd for AAPI students, 8th for White students, 13th for Latino students, and 14th for two or more races students.¹⁸

¹⁴ <https://www.startearly.org/app/uploads/2023/05/Early-Childhood-Funding-in-Illinois.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://idec.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idec/events/documents/early-childhood-funding-commission/2022-and-prior/early-childhood-funding-commission-full-report.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.center4racialjustice.org/childcare>

¹⁷ <https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-raceforresults-2024.pdf>

¹⁸ CTBA: Leveling the Playing Field: Using the General Fund Budget to Invest in Building an Equitable State and Eliminate Structural Racism

SDOH Impacts - Children

Direct	Increase the proportion of children who are developmentally ready for school — EMC-D01
Direct	Increase the proportion of children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs — EMC-D03
Direct	Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who get preventive mental health care in school — EMC-D06
Direct	Increase the proportion of children with developmental delays who get intervention services by age 4 years — EMC-R01

SDOH Impacts - Sensory or Communication Disorders

Direct	Increase the proportion of newborns who get screened for hearing loss by age 1 month — HOSCD-01
Direct	Increase the proportion of infants who didn't pass their hearing screening who get evaluated for hearing loss by age 3 months — HOSCD-02
Direct	Increase the proportion of infants with hearing loss who get intervention services by age 6 months — HOSCD-03
Direct	Increase access to vision services in community health centers — V-R01

K-12 Evidence-based Funding

Governor Bruce Rauner signed into law Public Act 100-0465 or, the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act, on August 31, 2017. The Manar/Davis guides the State to provide evidence-based funding (EBF) and comprehensively changes the way that school districts receive the bulk of state funds. EBF sends more resources to Illinois' most under-resourced students. EBF takes the necessary first steps toward ensuring all schools have the resources they need to provide a safe, rigorous, and well-rounded learning environment for all students.

EBF demonstrates new mindsets for understanding the relationship between equity, adequacy, and student outcomes. To meet the statutory deadline of fully funding the EBF by FY 2027, starting in FY 2026 and continuing in FY 2027, Illinois would have to increase K-12 funding by \$1.1 billion each year—or more than triple the current Minimum Target Level¹⁹.

Impact on Black communities

¹⁹<https://ctbaonline.org/reports/fully-funding-evidence-based-formula-fy-2025-proposed-general-fund-budget>

While EBF was a step in the right direction²⁰ the legislation ‘holds harmless’ over-resourced communities by protecting their property tax base at those school districts, relying on new state funding to address inadequacy in school districts in need of investment. Every year, additional money is added to the budget, but it can still take many more years to ensure adequacy across the state. All districts would not be adequately funded until 2034 if the state continues to only add \$350 million to the evidence-based funding formula²¹.

SDOH Impacts - Schools

Direct	Increase the proportion of 4th-graders with reading skills at or above the proficient level — AH-05
Direct	Increase the proportion of 4th-graders with math skills at or above the proficient level — AH-06

SDOH Impacts - Adolescents

Direct	Increase the proportion of high school students who graduate in 4 years — AH-08
Direct	Increase the proportion of high school graduates in college the October after graduating — SDOH-06
Direct	Increase the proportion of 8th-graders with reading skills at or above the proficient level — AH-R04
Direct	Increase the proportion of 8th-graders with math skills at or above the proficient level — AH-R05

SDOH Impacts - People with Disabilities

Direct	Increase the proportion of students with disabilities who are usually in regular education programs — DH-05
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Adequate and Equitable University Funding Act

State University funding faces inadequate funding based on the needs of each institution. This legislation seeks to expand and distribute funds based on a student-focused university funding formula that considers what each university needs to meet its unique mission and serve its unique student population²². All general operating expenses for public universities shall be distributed by the Board of Higher Education through a funding formula for eligible public institutions and shall be administered by

²⁰ <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/EvidenceBasedFunding.aspx>

²¹ <https://www.chalkbeat.org/chicago/2024/05/15/illinois-needs-to-add-more-funding-for-schools-report-says/>

²² <https://transformhigheredil.org/resources/illinois-lawmakers-file-sb3965-equitable-funding-formula-legislation-putting-students-first/>

the Board. The bill sets forth provisions concerning the adequacy targets and resource profiles of eligible public institutions and provides for the distribution of State appropriations and the calculation of the base funding minimum for each eligible public institution²³.

Impact on Black communities

This legislation would ensure that institutions that operate regionally and that serve minority populations have funding levels that could expand learning opportunities and services closer to existing communities. As stated by the Impacts linked below- investment encourages greater access and success for historically underrepresented students²⁴.

SDOH Impacts - Adolescents

Direct	Increase the proportion of high school graduates in college the October after graduating — SDOH-06
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SDOH Impacts - Economic Stability

Direct	Increase the proportion of 4th-graders with reading skills at or above the proficient level — AH-05
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Workforce Development and Youth Jobs Funding

Illinois invested at least \$54 million in FY2025 in workforce development programs and youth job programs targeted primarily to disproportionately impacted areas and majority Black communities:

1. \$1.5 million to job training programs for chronically unemployed individuals
2. \$3.2 million to the Black Contractors, Owners, and Executives program to cover costs associated with the development and execution of job training and other operational expenses
3. \$500,000 to organizations focused on employment and job training

SDOH Impacts - Adolescents

Direct	Increase the proportion of high school graduates in college the October after graduating — SDOH-06
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SDOH Impacts - Economic Stability

Direct	Increase the proportion of 4th-graders with reading skills at or above the proficient level — AH-05
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²³<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/state-policy/2024/07/31/illinois-bill-introduces-novel-higher-ed-funding-model>

²⁴<https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.29682.html#:~:text=The%20Commission%20was%20established%20by,higher%20education%2C%20A%20Thriving%20Illinois>

Pillar 3: Economic Access, Equity and Opportunity

Housing Funding

Housing costs are a challenge for many low- and moderate-income Americans. By the 30% income standard, 31.3% of American households were cost burdened in 2023, including 27.1% of households with a mortgage and 49.7% of households that rent, according to 1-year estimates from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS)²⁵. There are many populations with specific housing needs in addition to overall affordability challenges.

Impact on Black communities

In Illinois, Black Americans face significant housing affordability challenges, including lower homeownership rates, higher rates of rent burden, and a disproportionate representation in homelessness, stemming from historical and systemic factors. Statewide, 63% of Black renters were rent burdened in 2022 compared to 51% of White renters. In 2022, Black Illinois residents’ homelessness rate was 299/100,000 as compared to 72/100,000 overall²⁶. Formerly incarcerated people make up a significant percentage of this rate, creating other challenges to addressing homelessness for Black Illinois residents.

SDOH Impacts - Housing and Homes

Direct	Reduce the proportion of families that spend more than 30 percent of income on housing — SDOH-04
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Food Access Funding

The Illinois Grocery Initiative program created last year provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall study food insecurity in urban and rural food deserts and establish a Grocery Initiative to expand access to healthy foods in food deserts in Illinois by providing assistance to independently owned for-profit grocery stores, as well as grocery stores owned and operated by local governmental units²⁷.

Impact on Black communities

Many low-income communities face food insecurity, and many Black communities specifically are at risk of food insecurity due to housing discrimination that has created wealth disparity, economic disinvestment, and marginalization of Black communities. In the first round, many grants were awarded in central Illinois²⁸, and we need to ensure food deserts in Black communities see future investment in other areas, in particular the Chicagoland region²⁹.

²⁵ <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/10/25/a-look-at-the-state-of-affordable-housing-in-the-us/>

²⁶ <https://cuppa.uic.edu/news-stories/irrpss-report-on-black-homelessness-released-at-press-conference-with-jb-pritzker/>

²⁷ <https://dceo.illinois.gov/illinois-grocery-initiative.html>

²⁸ <https://www.wcia.com/news/state-news/illinois-grocery-initiative-awards-8m-to-stores-in-food-deserts/>

²⁹ <https://chicagocrusader.com/black-food-insecurity-thrives-but-communities-fight-back/>

SDOH Impacts - Nutrition and Healthy Eating

Direct	Reduce household food insecurity and hunger — NWS-01
Direct	Eliminate very low food security in children — NWS-02

Mass Transit Funding

Mass transit consistently has relied on state funding to operate in addition to fares. COVID-19 impacted the utilization of mass transit and as riders return, there are significant funding challenges for the mass transit agencies. The state will likely need to step in to address the financial challenges. While the public supports consolidation³⁰ and transit agencies oppose³¹, as budget dollars are earmarked to address this financial challenge, Black communities need to ensure this investment meets their needs. Safety on public transit, reliability of service, and access need to meet the needs of Black communities across the region.

Impact on Black communities

The average Black resident can access 236,641 potential jobs in 45 minutes using transit, and the average Latinx resident can access 241,622 jobs, compared to 344,182 for the average White resident³². With the financial condition of these agencies in jeopardy, the state likely will have to step in to assist with financial resources, and would likely consolidate the agencies as a part of the effort. While the agencies resist the effort³³ stating increased funding is what is really needed, consolidation will improve coordination of the agencies could result in infrastructure investment for Black communities in northeast Illinois and ensure more reliable service into the future.

SDOH Impacts - Transportation

Direct	Increase trips to work made by mass transit — EH-02
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SDOH Impacts - Injury Prevention

Indirect	Reduce deaths from motor vehicle crashes — IVP-06
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SDOH Impacts - Physical Activity

Indirect	Increase the proportion of adults who walk or bike to get places — PA-10
Indirect	Increase the proportion of adolescents who walk or bike to get places — PA-11

³⁰ <https://abc7chicago.com/post/illinois-supports-merging-cta-metra-pace-poll/15459295/>

³¹ <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/crains-forum-regional-transportation/fragmented-transit-system-hinders-economic-mobility-opinion>

³² <https://transitcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ChicagoFactSheet.pdf>

³³ <https://news.wttw.com/2024/10/23/chicago-area-transit-leaders-urge-more-funding-see-consolidation-wrong-move>

Pillar 4: Health Care and Human Services

Healthcare Funding

Congressional budget plans have proposed reducing the federal matching rate for Medicaid expansion. This could reduce federal spending by \$561 billion over nine years³⁴. Since March 2024, states have been unwinding the continuous enrollment provision. This has led to more than 21 million people losing Medicaid coverage as of August 2024³⁵. To protect Medicaid funding, we must eliminate trigger laws that automatically cut programs from the state budget if federal funding is cut³⁶ and continue meaningful programmatic investments currently funded under Medicaid regardless of federal funding. Medicaid funding in Illinois has also extended Medicaid eligibility to non-medical services, and those programs focused on prevention are at risk of being cut³⁷.

Impact on Black communities

Medicaid can impact Black communities by increasing access to health care and narrowing health disparities. However, some Black Americans are still left uninsured due to Medicaid program challenges. In 2022, 10% of Black Americans were uninsured, compared with 6.6% of White Americans. On a percentage basis, Black Americans made up 13.6% of the US population, but 20% of Medicaid enrollees.

SDOH Impacts - Health Care Access and Quality

Direct	Reduce the proportion of emergency department visits with a longer wait time than recommended — AHS-09
Direct	Increase the proportion of adults who get recommended evidence-based preventive health care — AHS-08

SDOH Impacts - Health Care Access and Quality

Direct	Increase the proportion of people with health insurance — AHS-01
Direct	Increase the proportion of people with prescription drug insurance — AHS-03
Direct	Reduce the proportion of people under 65 years who are underinsured — AHS-R03

SDOH Impacts - Health Care

Direct	Reduce the proportion of people who can't get medical care when they need it — AHS-04
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³⁴ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-threats-in-the-upcoming-congress>

³⁵ <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/explainer/2024/sep/whats-stake-2024-election-medicare>

³⁶ <https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/medicaid-expansion-funding-trigger-laws-9-states-trump-administration/>

³⁷ <https://capitolnewsillinois.com/news/with-new-federal-waiver-illinois-expanding-medicare-to-nonmedical-services/>

Direct	Reduce the proportion of people who can't get prescription medicines when they need them — AHS-06
Direct	Increase the proportion of people with a usual primary care provider — AHS-07
Direct	Increase the ability of primary care and behavioral health professionals to provide more high-quality care to patients who need it — AHS-R01

SDOH Impacts - Community

Direct	Increase the number of community organizations that provide prevention services — ECBP-D07
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HIV/AIDS Prevention Funding

Access to health care has many impacts, including the spread of STIs generally, and HIV infections specifically. Many different sexually transmitted infections have a much higher prevalence for Black people, creating not only inequitable impacts but increased public health risk. Specifically, SB2637 seeks to direct funding to those most impacted by HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment³⁸, particularly \$4M from the general revenue fund to address Black American HIV Infection and AIDS cases and \$15M from the African-American HIV/AIDS Response Fund for grants and administrative expense to reduce HIV infection and AIDS cases for Black residents.

Impact on Black communities

Black Americans experience disproportionately higher rates of STIs, including HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, leading to health disparities and potential complications like infertility, PID, and increased HIV risk, often exacerbated by factors like limited access to healthcare and stigma. Black people in Illinois make up 15% of the state population (12,587,530) but comprise more than 46% of people living with HIV infections (35,841) and 51% of people newly diagnosed infections (1,361).

Supported program - [Increased funding for the African American HIV/AIDS Response Act](#)³⁹

SDOH - Sexually Transmitted Infections^{40,41,42}

Direct	Reduce the number of new HIV infections — HIV-01
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³⁸ <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/104/SB/10400SB2637.htm>

³⁹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9930521/>

⁴⁰ <https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/files/publications/1-19-16-ohp-hiv-factsheet-blacks.pdf>

⁴¹ <https://www.wcbu.org/local-news/2023-04-21/racial-disparity-access-to-care-are-among-the-factors-keeping-sti-rates-elevated-in-greater-peoria>

⁴² <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8227416/>

Direct	Increase knowledge of HIV status — HIV-02
Direct	Increase linkage to HIV medical care — HIV-04
Direct	Reduce the rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission — HIV-06
Direct	Reduce the number of new HIV diagnoses — HIV-03
Direct	Increase viral suppression — HIV-05
Direct	Increase the proportion of sexually active female adolescents and young women who get screened for chlamydia — STI-01

Maternal and Reproductive Health Funding⁴³

To address disparities in maternal and reproductive health, several new initiatives were passed in 2025, including Birth Equity Resource Building Grants to support new community-based care centers, the Illinois Child Tax Credit that helps reduce child poverty in working families with children under the age of three, and improved access with improved state standards⁴⁴.

Impact on Black communities

Black women are 3x more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes compared to white women nationwide⁴⁵, and infant mortality is highest among Black Illinoisians at 12/1000 compared to 6/1000 of the full population⁴⁶. These disparities exist in part due to healthcare access for new mothers, but also an inclusion and empathy gap for women of color generally and Black women specifically across the nation⁴⁷

SDOH Impacts - Family Planning

Direct	Increase the proportion of women who get needed publicly funded birth control services and support — FP-09
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SDOH Impacts - Pregnancy and Childbirth

⁴³ <https://dph.illinois.gov/data-statistics/vital-statistics/infant-mortality-statistics.html>

⁴⁴ https://www2.illinois.gov/HISNews/29651-Healthcare_One-Pager.pdf

⁴⁵ <https://stateline.org/2024/04/05/to-close-racial-gap-in-maternal-health-some-states-take-aim-at-implicit-bias/#:~:text=A%20CDC%20study%20published%20last,with%20the%20withholding%20of%20treatment.>

⁴⁶ <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/racial-disparities-in-maternal-and-infant-health-current-status-and-efforts-to-address-them/>

⁴⁷ <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/jwh.2020.8874>

Direct	Increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care — MICH-08
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Mental Health Services Funding

The State of Illinois has invested in mental health in several ways, including grants, legislation, and workforce expansion. The state has awarded grants to support mental health services for children and adolescents, as well as to improve capacity for mental health treatment. The state has passed legislation to make it easier for behavioral health workers to become licensed in Illinois, and to reinstate lapsed licenses. The state has invested in programs to expand the behavioral health workforce, including training for parents, families, mental health professionals, and teachers. There are multiple social determinants of health in this area demonstrating the impact of spending in this area.

Impact on Black communities

As stated in the Health Outcomes Disparities Report recommendations, the state must reduce disparities across five key health outcomes areas, including maternal health, mental health, trauma, chronic diseases and disability⁴⁸. In particular, only one-in-three Black Americans who need mental health care receives it⁴⁹, and compared with non-Hispanic White people, Black Americans with any mental illness have lower rates of any mental health service use including prescriptions medications and outpatient services, but higher use of inpatient services⁵⁰. The state allocated funds for mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse services previously unavailable in many communities. Black people often face several barriers to care, including: the stigma associated with mental illness, distrust of the healthcare system, lack of providers with cultural competence and similar racial/ethnic background, and lack of insurance or underinsurance.

SDOH Impacts - Mental Health and Mental Disorders

Direct	Increase the proportion of people with substance use and mental health disorders who get treatment for both — MHMD-07
Direct	Increase the proportion of primary care visits where adolescents and adults are screened for depression — MHMD-08

SDOH Impacts - Health Care

Direct	Increase the proportion of adults with depression who get treatment — MHMD-05
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⁴⁸https://www.ilga.gov/reports/ReportsSubmitted/4867RSGAEmail10314RSGAAttachDHS_ILHealthDisparitiesReport_Memo%2020240328.pdf

⁴⁹<https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Identity-and-Cultural-Dimensions/Black-African-American/>

⁵⁰<https://www.psychiatry.org/getmedia/bc6ae47f-b0aa-4418-b045-952ede06757f/Mental-Health-Facts-for-African-Americans.pdf>

Direct	Increase the proportion of adults with serious mental illness who get treatment — MHMD-04
Direct	Increase the proportion of homeless adults with mental health problems who get mental health services — MHMD-R01

SDOH Impacts - Hospital and Emergency Services

Direct	Reduce emergency department visits related to nonmedical use of prescription opioids — MPS-02
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SDOH Impacts - Injury Prevention

Direct	Reduce the suicide rate — MHMD-01
Direct	Reduce suicide attempts by adolescents — MHMD-02

SDOH Impacts - LGBT

Direct	Reduce suicidal thoughts in lesbian, gay, or bisexual high school students — LGBT-06
Direct	Reduce suicidal thoughts in transgender students — LGBT-D02