

NEW MOMS

STRONG FAMILIES. BRIGHT FUTURES.

For over 40 years, New Moms has invested in the beauty and power of being a mother. For moms ages 24 or younger, our comprehensive approach provides housing, paid job training, and family support to those impacted by systemic barriers.

We strengthen families by partnering with young moms as they progress towards **housing stability**, **economic mobility**, and **family well-being**.

We **advocate** for policies that create opportunities and bright futures for young families and keep our sector strong. By leading initiatives, partnering with others, and amplifying voices, we are creating a future where every mother and child can thrive.

2026 State Policy Agenda

Economic Mobility

New Moms endeavors to make sure every young family has what they need to thrive. Whether that is basic essentials for a healthy start, job training while earning a paycheck, or financial and educational coaching that opens a door to opportunity, young families build connections and confidence to capture bright futures for generations.

Diaper Allowance SB228 *Collins, Guzman*

Basic needs like diapers account for a large part of a young family's budget. Support families with children 3 years old or younger and income at or below the poverty level to receive \$70 per eligible child per month for diapers that does not affect other public benefits.

NEST (Newborn Equity Support Transfer Program) HB5238, *Cassidy*

For many families, income plunges and expenses spike right before a child is born and remain high throughout the first year. Provide life-changing financial security to moms across Illinois who are eligible for Medicaid to receive \$1500/month during the third trimester of pregnancy. Continue supporting babies to receive \$500/month for the first 6 to 12 months of life, thereby improving both maternal and child health outcomes.

Defining Employment Social Enterprise HB3751 *Villanueva*

It's hard to support something if you don't know what it is. Include Employment Social Enterprises (ESEs), such as Bright Endeavors, within the scope of the Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment (OE3) in the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to create an inclusive and strong business ecosystem for communities and individuals facing systemic employment barriers.

Housing Stability

Young moms and children need stability to take the next steps forward. With a secure place to live, moms have the time and space to focus on their goals, grow their skills, and plan for their family's future. New Moms provides both transitional and permanent housing where residents can choose to engage with a family coach and set personal goals for their family's well-being.

Ban Rental Junk Fees HB5234/SB3763 *Syed, Simmons*

It is more costly to secure rental housing due to move-in fees and nonoptional junk fees renters face. Fees that were typically included in rent are now being tacked on, making price shopping for leases difficult and leading to surprise fees for renters. Require landlords to place all non-optional fees on the first page of the rental agreement and prohibit junk fees that are simply unnecessary. Ensure that fees are fair and transparent.

Decriminalizing Homelessness HB1429 *Olickal*

People need rest to fuel daily activities. Prohibit the creation or enforcement of policies that impose fines or criminal penalties against people experiencing unsheltered homelessness for occupying or engaging in life-sustaining activities on public property.

Family Wellbeing

Parenting is tough, but young moms don't have to do it alone. New Moms offers a full range of support, including prenatal education, birth coaches, home visits, peer support groups, mental health counseling, spiritual guidance, and other parenting resources to help young moms thrive on their journey.

Eliminating Prior Authorizations for Behavioral Healthcare

HB1448/SB1603 *Syed, Fine*

Healthy lives include mental well-being. Ban prior authorizations for behavioral health services, including preventative services, enforced across the entire life span, regardless of payment type (commercial insurance or Medicaid) or setting (inpatient or outpatient).

Coverage for Cribs and Car Seats SB1687 *Belt*

Safe and healthy starts lead to bright futures. Require health insurance coverage for one crib and one car seat for each new parent covered by the policy.

New Moms envisions a future where every young family thrives. Join us in making this a reality!



Strong Sector & Workforce

Bold futures are empowered with community support. A strong human services sector partners with young families to build connections, access supports, and achieve their goals.

Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Act HB4362/SB2901

LaPointe/Fine

Professional degrees and education are expensive. Appropriate \$5 million to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for the Human Services Loan Repayment Act, which provides for student loan repayment for human services professionals.

Human Service Workforce Sustainability Act HB4450/SB2883

Morris/Guzman

Funding for human services routinely falls short of the costs required to provide the service. The Human Service Workforce Sustainability Act (HSWS Act) closes the funding gap that human service organizations in Illinois have faced since 2020. As reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the inflation rate of the Consumer Price Index between July 2020 and July 2025 is 24.7%, situating community-based providers in an environment where their funding today needs to be at least 25% more than what it was in 2020 to grow and sustain the human services workforce.

Improving Human Services Contracting in Illinois

HB4288/SB2845 *LaPointe/Halpin*

HB4340/SB2843 *Avelar, LaPointe/Halpin*

SB2844 *Jimenez/Porfirio*

Providers like New Moms need to rely on timely contracting and payment to avoid cash-flow disruptions that endanger service provision. Address the undue administrative burden that health and human services providers face when contracting with the state of Illinois, including timely contract and payment processes, full cost coverage for service delivery, and expediting and simplifying the Court of Claims process.



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