EverThrive Illinois
Champions for Healthy Communities

Formerly Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition

Annual Report FY 2013
Dear Partners,

2013 was a transformative year for EverThrive Illinois, formerly the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition. After 25 years of progress in improving the health and well-being of women, children, and families, we embraced a new identity that better reflects our expanding collection of initiatives. While our name and logo have changed, our core goals and vision have remained the same. EverThrive Illinois continues to serve as a leader in improving positive health outcomes for women, children, and their families through advocacy, education, and community empowerment.

This year, we celebrated the opening of Get Covered Illinois and successfully advocated for Illinois to expand Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We have strengthened our capacity to share information concerning the health care law and educated thousands of individuals across the state. We continue to stay at the forefront of important health care policy discussions to bring Illinois closer to providing every individual with high quality health coverage.

EverThrive Illinois expanded our programming this year to include Cooking Matters®, part of the national Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry Campaign, which provides low-income families with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to make healthy and affordable meals. The program is quickly expanding to include classes for both children and adults across several Chicago neighborhoods.

As we look forward, we see a bright future, full of opportunities for EverThrive Illinois to continue enacting change and building healthier communities. Of course, our work relies heavily on your support. Thank you for your continued contributions to EverThrive Illinois. We are grateful for your financial donations, volunteer efforts, and powerful voices in our ongoing dialogues. We look forward to another year of success with you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen Mason
Board Chairperson

Janine Lewis
Executive Director
Mission

EverThrive Illinois works to improve the health of women, children, and families over the lifespan through community engagement, partnerships, policy analysis, education, and advocacy.

Vision

EverThrive Illinois envisions an Illinois that works towards equity and social justice, fosters the development of healthy families, and provides fair access to quality health care - the basic rights of all human beings.

Value to the Community

EverThrive Illinois bridges the gap between policymakers and those affected by their decisions. Through education and health promotion activities, we empower people to make healthy choices that strengthen families and communities.

Initiatives

- Child and Adolescent Health
- Health Disparities
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Health Reform
- Immunization
Our Initiatives

Over the past 25 years, EverThrive Illinois has championed the creation and sustaining of healthy communities in Illinois. Through the following initiatives, we have more opportunities to accomplish our mission.

The Child and Adolescent Health Initiative focuses on providing the state’s youth with high quality health care, comprehensive health education, and youth engagement activities. This includes convening a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals united to educate the general public and policy makers about the efficacy of the school health center (SHC) model and building the capacity of SHCs to serve students. We also advocate for policies that have an impact on school-aged children and organize programs to educate students on risk avoidance.

The Health Disparities Initiative seeks to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities in maternal and infant mortality through community development and health promotion. Our satellite office in Chicago’s Englewood neighborhood connects community members with partners in health, housing, education, economic development, public safety, and education. This initiative also promotes txt4baby, a free mobile information service for expectant and new parents. Additionally, the Health Disparities Initiative brings together a network of providers and advocates to improve access to quality health care for premature infants and their families and to reduce the incidence of preterm labor, which currently occurs in one of every eight births in Illinois.

The Healthy Lifestyles Initiative provides outreach, education, and programming to inspire individuals to be proactive in improving their health. This initiative stems from EverThrive Illinois becoming the lead state agency for Cooking Matters, a part of the national Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry Campaign. Cooking Matters teaches participants to cook delicious, affordable meals through nutrition and cooking instruction, and in our first year, we have already reached hundreds of community members through our classes.

The Health Reform Initiative is devoted to the promotion and implementation of positive health care reform policies and the strengthening of Medicaid and other safety net systems. EverThrive Illinois provides education for stakeholders and consumers on the impact of new health care laws, while advocating for policies that bring us closer to providing every individual with high quality, comprehensive health care.

The Immunization Initiative focuses on increasing immunization rates and decreasing the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases across the lifespan. By promoting the delivery of safe, effective, and timely immunizations and working closely with the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, we ensure that the public and providers have access to accurate, reliable information about the benefits and risks of vaccines.
Accomplishments

With your help, EverThrive Illinois achieved the following major objectives during the past year:

- Successfully advocated for the passage of Medicaid Expansion (SB26), which allows Illinois to expand Medicaid, per the Affordable Care Act, to anyone with an income below 138% of the federal poverty level. This will allow for 342,000 new adults to become eligible for Medicaid starting January 1, 2014.

- Educated more than 4,500 stakeholders on the Affordable Care Act by facilitating presentations, webinars, and events.

- Co-hosted the Illinois Enrollment Summit in October 2012 with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois and Enroll America which brought together more than 50 diverse stakeholders to address barriers and share best practices for reaching special populations, including immigrant communities.

- Piloted our ACA Ambassadors program and recruited and trained ten individuals from Cook and Lake Counties to serve as spokespeople for the ACA. EverThrive Illinois developed the curriculum and delivered the training, enabling Ambassadors to facilitate presentations in their own communities.

- Planned annual Youth Advocacy Day in April 2013 which brought 200 youth advocates and adult allies from around Illinois to Springfield to advocate for school health centers, mental health services, and comprehensive sex education.

- Advocated for the passage of Comprehensive Sex Education (HB2675) which requires schools that teach sex education to teach a comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically-accurate curriculum.

- Successfully advocated for HB3190 which will protect teens from meningitis by requiring that all Illinois sixth and twelfth graders show proof of having been appropriately vaccinated against meningococcal disease.

- Educated more than 100 youth in Chicago’s Englewood community on the link between public health and advocacy.

- Partnered with Illinois school nurses to host the statewide conference “Educate, Advocate, Collaborate: Promoting Health Across the Life Span” in May 2013. More than 200 attendees participated in 21 workshops.
- Organized and instructed eight Cooking Matters classes for more than 100 participants and six orientations/trainings for 27 new volunteers.

- Served on the Prematurity Task Force and co-authored a report for legislators that detailed the problem of premature birth in Illinois and provided recommendations for reducing preterm birth rates.

- Expanded to Southern Illinois, where advocates and an outreach worker are promoting the maternity care home model and text4baby.

- Increased statewide enrollment in text4baby by more than 28,000 users, making Illinois fifth in the nation for total unique users. Cook County has the most text4baby users (more than 6,000) of any county in the country.

- Hosted eight faith-based flu clinics and expanded flu outreach to DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Will, and Suburban Cook Counties with an estimated 1,800 flu vaccines administered. Our outreach staff connected with more than 21,000 individuals to educate them on the importance of vaccination.

**Picture Captions:**

1. Anne Filipic, President of Enroll America, joined our Annual Meeting in Chicago as the keynote speaker, informing our field about plans to enroll millions of un- and under-insured individuals into insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act.

2. A group of students at our annual Youth Advocacy Day worked alongside Anna Burnham to practice meeting with legislators at the Capitol.

3. Meeting attendees enjoyed an interactive panel discussion with leaders from several of our partner organizations focused on maternal and child health.

4. In March 2013, we welcomed community members and legislators to our Cooking Matters Launch Party.

5. EverThrive Illinois is committed to improving maternal and child health and achieved significant progress in Illinois through text4baby enrollees in 2013.

6. Janine Lewis, EverThrive Illinois Executive Director, received her flu shot alongside several staff and community partners.
Thank You to Our Donors & Members
Fiscal Year 2013

**Donors**

**Foundations/Non-Profits**
- Advocate Health Care
- Alphawood Foundation
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital
- The Chicago Community Trust
- Catalyst Fund of the Chicago Foundation for Women
- Crown Family
- Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County
- National Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
- The Irving Harris Foundation
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- March of Dimes, Illinois Chapter
- Mikva Challenge
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
- Share Our Strength
- VNA Foundation

**Corporations**
- Advocate Health Care
- AT&T
- Automated Health Systems
- BMO Harris Bank
- Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Illinois
- CVS
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP
- MedImmune
- Merck & Co.
- Merck Vaccines Communication
- Novartis
- Pfizer
- Sanofi Pasteur
- Wells Fargo

**Government**
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- US Department of Health and Human Services

**Organizational Members**
- Advocate Health Care
- Advocate Health Care Parish Nurse Ministry
- Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities
- Alternatives, Inc.
- Asian Health Coalition
- Automated Health Systems
- Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center
- Catholic Charities

**Individual Members**
- Meredith Anderson
- Keila Anderson
- Diana Arellano
- Darcey Bazemore
- Joye Bynum
- Mary Ellen Baker
- Victoria Ballard
- Ellyn Bank
- Laura Beavers
- McIntyre-Rat
- Martha Ranger
- William Blum
- Jessica Brown
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- Donna Woods

We apologize in advance for any omissions or errors.
Thanks to your support, we were able to make our annual Youth Advocacy Day and numerous other programs a success. Thank you.