

Our July recap: Illinois' first-ever child tax credit, we're hiring!



For economic and racial justice

First-ever state child tax credit levels the playing field for Illinois families



All families deserve to live in dignity and see their children thrive. A coalition that includes the Shriver Center on Poverty Law won a major victory for Illinois families this legislative session with passage of the state's [first-ever child tax credit](#). Come tax season, qualifying families will receive up to a \$300 credit to spend on school supplies, food, or whatever they see fit. The extra money will reach more than 800,000 Illinois kids in low- and middle-income households.

During the COVID-era, the expanded federal child tax credit [nearly cut child poverty in half](#). “The Illinois version is permanent and will help the state’s most vulnerable populations. I’m thinking specifically about communities of color and under-resourced rural counties,” said Jeremy Rosen, director of economic justice at the Shriver Center.

[Read more](#)

New Shriver Center coalition fights fines that fuel poverty, not progress



The Shriver Center is taking action against fines and fees that perpetuate poverty. Partnering with the Fines and Fees Justice Center (FFJC) and other key stakeholders, we are launching a new statewide coalition aimed at dismantling the harmful impact of fines and fees on marginalized communities, particularly Black and Latine populations. This collaborative effort recognizes that financial insecurity underpins systemic poverty.

By addressing this issue head-on, we aim to alleviate the burden of debt that traps families and individuals, jeopardizing their stability and futures. Through policy advocacy and community engagement, we strive for equitable redistribution of government revenues, ensuring these funds benefit, rather than further burden, people with low income.

[Learn more](#)

Staff about town



Audra Wilson (back row, third from left) and Jeremy Rosen (front row, far left) with IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel (back row, center).

This month, Shriver Center President and CEO [Audra Wilson](#) and [Jeremy Rosen](#), director of the economic justice at the Shriver Center, joined policy advocates for a conversation with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Commissioner Danny Werfel. To help the IRS build trust among all taxpayers, advocates shared on-the-ground insights and examined challenges that vulnerable communities face when filing their taxes.



Stephani Becker (center right) at the signing of the Healthcare Protection Act with Gov. J.B. Pritzker (center).

[Stephani Becker](#), associate director of health care justice, was among the many advocates celebrating Gov. J.B. Pritzker's signing of the sweeping [Healthcare Protection Act](#). To improve insurance for all Illinoisans, the law, among other reforms, bans prior authorization for mental health hospitalizations. It also prohibits step therapy, an industry practice that requires people to try cheaper medications before insurers cover doctor-prescribed drugs.

Upcoming trainings



We build the capacity and skills of advocates and activists to champion economic and racial justice in their fields. Learn more about our upcoming opportunity.

[Supervising for Quality & Impact](#)

Tuesdays from October 22 – November 19 (virtual)

Most advocacy organizations aim to nurture leadership; support diversity, equity, and inclusion; and reward innovation and hard work. With Supervising for Quality & Impact (SQI), a leadership course offered online by the Shriver Center, you can turn those aspirations into reality. Build your skills at giving constructive feedback, handling difficult conversations, addressing motivation and burnout, and navigating a hybrid work environment.

[**Register now**](#)

Shriver Center in the news

[Chicago relaunches guaranteed income program for low-income families](#)

NBC Chicago

Chicago is relaunching its guaranteed income program, which will give recipients \$500 a month for one year — no strings attached. In a report, NBC Chicago's Regina Waldroup talked to two people who said the program has changed their lives. Also interviewed was Shriver Center President and CEO Audra Wilson, who said that guaranteed income is an important tool to help people and families with low income.

[Illinois Playbook](#)

Politico

Joining Gov. J.B. Pritzker to celebrate the sweeping Healthcare Protection Act was House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Senate President Don Harmon, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, state Sens. Robert Peters and Laura Fine and the Shriver Center on Poverty Law's Stephani Becker.

Work with us

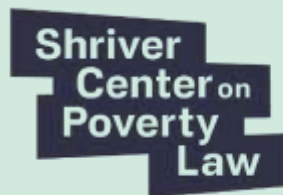
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