

## Positive change for Illinois workers in 2024



At a July press conference, Shriver Center staff (front row, second from right: Jeremy Rosen, director of economic justice and back row, second from right: Wendy Pollack, director of the Women's Law and Policy Initiative) joined a coalition of workers, alderpeople, and advocacy groups to support an expansion of paid leave in Chicago.

**With the help of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law and our partners, this year workers in Chicago, Cook County, and across Illinois will benefit from new paid leave laws.** Paid leave allows employees to use time off as they see fit, whether to see their doctor, attend their kid's soccer game, or simply relax. Read how these three laws will improve the lives and families of workers with low wages, who are disproportionately Black, brown, and female.

[Read more](#)

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**The impact of ending source of income discrimination in housing**



**Everyone deserves to have a roof over their head, regardless of income or identity.** For too long, potential tenants have been denied housing based on their source of income, such as vouchers and other government supports. Growing up, [Joerika Stitt](#)'s family relied on the voucher program for safe, stable housing. Stitt, a staff attorney on the housing justice team at the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, looks at the impact of an Illinois law that makes source of income discrimination a civil rights violation.

[Read more](#)

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## Lessons from the 2024 Poverty Summit



Matthew Desmond kicked off the day with an engaging keynote message at the January 18 event.

The 2024 Poverty Summit marked the 60th anniversary of the War on Poverty and featured special guest Matthew Desmond, author of *Poverty, By America*. Read our [insights about Desmond's speech](#) and the [importance of narrative change](#). We also outline [key takeaways](#) from the daylong event's interactive panels about housing, the child welfare system, and entrepreneurship.

President and CEO Audra Wilson rounds out our summit coverage with her [latest blog](#) about Shriver's Center's connection to the War on Poverty and how our legacy informs our future.

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Mark your calendars



Join us for the 2024 Annual Gala: Changing Rules. Changing Lives.

Our annual gala is happening Thursday, April 11, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. [Sponsorship opportunities are available](#). To join us as a sponsor, please fill out [our web form](#) or reach out to Vice President of Development Erin Dowland Kabwe at [erinkabwe@povertylaw.org](mailto:erinkabwe@povertylaw.org). Tickets will be available soon.

[Learn more](#)

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## Staff about town

Check out the most recent happenings from our Shriver Center stars!



Governor J.B. Pritzker has appointed [Stephani Becker](#), Shriver Center's associate director of health care justice, to the [Illinois Health Benefits Exchange Advisory Committee](#). The committee will give recommendations about the exchange's operations to the director of the Illinois marketplace.

Additionally, [Families USA](#) awarded Stephanie the [2024 Health Justice Advocate of the Year for Health Care Value](#).

"Stephani has unwavering commitment to advancing improvements for Illinois's health insurance rate review process that helps keep costs down for families," said Yael Lehmann, Families USA's interim executive director.

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**Audra Wilson, president and CEO of the Shriver Center, is set to be honored by Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza for Black History Month, joining a distinguished group of Chicago leaders recognized for their impactful contributions to their communities.**

Mendoza's recognition underscores Wilson's dedication to advocating for social justice and advancing opportunities for marginalized communities, furthering the legacy of Black excellence and innovation.

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**LaTanya Jackson Wilson, vice president of advocacy at the Shriver Center, spoke at the national summit of United for [ALICE](#) (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) in January. The speakers examined the impact of artificial intelligence and other workplace trends on low-wage workers.**

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## Upcoming trainings



**We build the capacity and skills of advocates and activists to champion economic and racial justice in their fields. See some upcoming opportunities.**

### [Foundations for Racial Justice](#)

February 21 – March 6 (virtual)

Delivered over three weekly sessions, Foundations for Racial Justice is designed to strengthen advocates' ability to champion racial equity, both in their organizations and the communities they serve. [Register now!](#)

### [Community Lawyering](#)

March 26 – May 2 (virtual)

The Shriver Center's Community Lawyering training brings a new mindset to equal justice advocacy and provides concrete steps to build and sustain strong relationships among community members. Discounted pricing ends February 26, so [register now!](#)

### [Racial Justice Institute](#)

April 17 – October 16 (virtual)

Calling all legal aid and public interest advocates! Don't miss the chance to apply to the Shriver Center's flagship program, the Racial Justice Institute (RJI). During the seven-month course, participants build the leadership skills and capacity to engage in racial justice advocacy within their daily practices, organizations, and communities. The deadline to apply is February 28.

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## Shriver Center in the news

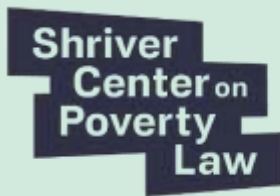
[The arguments for and against eliminating the 'subminimum wage' for tipped workers in Illinois](#), WBEZ, Reset, February 15

[For Chicago renters, added fees mean people end up paying more for apartments](#), Chicago Sun-Times, January 14

[How is the US Faring 60 Years After President Lyndon Johnson Declared War on Poverty?](#), WTTW, January 3

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**Our mailing address is:**

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

67 E Madison St Ste 2000

Chicago, IL 60603-3014