

Subject: **September recap: good health or medical debt**



For economic and racial justice

With rising medical debt, good health comes at the expense  
of financial ruin



According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, \$88 billion in unpaid medical bills are in the hands of debt collectors. That's [more than any other type](#) of personal debt. One unexpected procedure or a sudden loss of employment can have devastating financial consequences for families and individuals in need of health care. The fear of medical debt has others avoid the health system until a once-manageable condition snowballs into a trip to the emergency room or worse.

Colorado and Arizona are among a number of states to begin to tackle this problem. In July, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed two laws to ease the pressure of medical debt on Illinoisans. One will wipe away up to \$1 billion in debt in the first year alone. The other prevents medical debt from affecting people's credit scores.

[Read more](#)

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**ALICE: how America's workforce is falling through the cracks**



ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) workers are individuals who earn just above the federal poverty line. Despite working multiple jobs, they still struggle to meet basic needs due to high living costs. **Their reality challenges inaccurate views that equate poverty with a lack of effort, revealing the gap between rising corporate profits and stagnant pay.** To address this, we need updated poverty measures and policy reforms to ensure fair wages and financial stability for all individuals.

[Meet ALICE](#)

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## Staff about town



On September 17, Jeremy Rosen, Shriver Center director of economic justice, spoke at a meeting of the Transportation Equity Network (TEN). His presentation focused on ensuring that efforts to improve traffic safety in Chicago do not disproportionately burden low-income communities of color with excessive fines and fees.

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Community members, legislators, and advocates convened in Chicago for the [Citizen Action Illinois](#) Town Hall on the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. Stephani Becker, the Shriver Center's associate director of healthcare justice, joined the group as they held discussions on accessibility to life-saving medications for Illinoisans who need it. We remain committed to supporting the passage of HB 4472 which ensures access to affordable medications for all.

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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. 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\*\*](#)

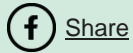
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**Our mailing address is:**

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

67 East Madison Street, Suite 2000

Chicago, IL 60603-3014