Our Winning Story
2022 Victories

Illinois Workers & Families Deserve a Tax Break

Create a Child Tax Credit for Illinois Families

Expand the Earned Income Credit

¡Expanda EIC Ahora!

Need Me Now!
Who is Economic Security for Illinois?

Economic Security for Illinois builds collective power to advance policy solutions that make Illinois’ economy the most equitable and inclusive in the country.

We convene the Illinois Cost-of-Living Refund coalition to fight for cash policy solutions at the local- and state-levels.

We facilitated the State of Illinois’ Future of Work Task Force, which issued a report in May 2022.
Our Origins


Our organization is young—we were formed in February 2019 in light of a City of Chicago task force which aimed to tackle the economic insecurity many families were feeling.

Our first policy recommendations?
- EITC expansion & modernization
- A Chicago guaranteed income pilot
- Policies beyond cash transfers to bolster the social safety net

In our 3 years, we have grown to win over $200 million in direct cash relief with the partnership of 40+ nonprofit + labor partners & passed policies at the City, County, and State.
Our Roots

When we started our work in 2019, we were told our ideas were too bold to be adopted.
Our (Small, But Mighty) Team

Harish I. Patel
Director

Jenna Severson
Communications Manager

Hannah Gregor
Program Manager, Operations & Future of Work

Gabriela Bosquez
Program Manager, Cash Portfolio & Narrative Change
The Problem: Poverty

1.5 million

Illinoisans live in poverty (as of 2018)

16.2%

of Illinois children live in poverty

Black children are 4x more likely to live in poverty
Poverty is only one part of the problem. Inequality is the other.
Inequality drives disparities

- HOUSING
- EDUCATION
- MEDICAL CARE
- LIFE EXPECTANCY
- CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
- MENTAL HEALTH
- ACCESS TO JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY
The Problem: **Inequality**

42 out of 50

Illinois' rank for income equality (& tax equality)
8th worst in the nation

In Cook County...
The top 1% makes **33.2x** more than the bottom 99%.
It's getting worse, not better.

INEQUALITY HAS RISEN EXPONENTIALLY BECAUSE OF POLICY CHOICES

The richest Americans have seen their incomes soar since 1980...

...but the incomes of most Americans have trailed G.D.P. growth.

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<td>Expand existing credit to more people &amp; give more money.</td>
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<td>Like the federal CTC, a state CTC would give parents a monthly check to support their families.</td>
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<td>Adopt a guaranteed income</td>
<td>Give direct cash transfers</td>
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<td>Take private or public funds and give them back directly to the people in monthly recurring checks.</td>
<td>Like a guaranteed income, but only once. Think stimulus checks.</td>
<td>Preparing policies that meet needs of workers + employers alike for years to come.</td>
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Economic Security for IL
@EconsecureIL

We focus too much on the cost of policy change, & not enough on its impact in people's lives.
Our Tools

Policy Advocacy
Narrative Change
Coalition & Community Building
Meet Chicagoans who plan to apply for the city's guaranteed income pilot

By Emily Ekins

April 28, 11:51 a.m. CT

Listen to

"Preparing Illinois' Workforce for the Economy of Tomorrow"

Read the report at http://FPWReport
One-time cash wins

(Public/Private) #GiveTogetherNow fund for restaurant workers
Our first victory was an immediate response to the start of the pandemic: in early 2020, we worked with UpTogether & Chicago Independent Restaurants to a fund for workers impacted by COVID-19. Supported by the City of Chicago, we raised over $3.3 million dollars to provide cash payments to 6,000 Chicago families.

City of Chicago housing 'Resiliency Fund'
City of Chicago + Chicago Department of Housing pandemic-related direct cash assistance for individuals struggling to make rent, mortgage payments.
Over $33 million in cash assistance was distributed by The Resurrection Project

Cook County’s one-time $600 direct cash transfer
President Preckwinkle used CARES funding to establish the Resident Cash Assistance Program, a $600 one-time cash transfer for Suburban Cook County families impacted by COVID at 250% FPL. The program gave $11M in assistance.

State of Illinois direct cash to immigrant families
At the state-level, we won $65 million to support immigrants, who were left out of the CARES Act stimulus payments, with $20 million intended to fund direct cash payments, distributed by Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

TOTAL: $112 million in direct cash
Cash Advocacy

Together with our partners, we have been urging cash programs since before the pandemic. We made Chicago a center of the cash policy world.

Richard Wallace, Equity & Transformation
Guaranteed income wins

TOTAL: $75 M

City of Evanston
Public partnership with Northwestern University

$1 Million
1 year of $500 monthly payments
150 residents in 3 groups:
  Youth (18-24)
  Senior citizens (over 62)
  Undocumented residents

Lottery system.
Payments start in Nov 2022.

Chicago Resilient Communities Pilot
City of Chicago

$31.5 Million
5,000 residents 1 year of $500 monthly payments

Lottery system.
First payments went out in June 2022.

Chicago Futures Fund
Equity and Transformation

Program designed by & for system people in West Garfield Park.

18 months, $500/month, 30 recipients.
Second year expected to start distribution of another $1M.

Cook County Promise
Nation’s largest public pilot

$42 Million
3,250 residents
2 years of $500 monthly payments.

Lottery system.
This pilot will become a permanent policy.
Applications open Oct. 6, 2022; payments in December
Our **Tax Equity Vision**

Comprehensive proposal developed before January 2022

- **Expand the Earned Income Credit (EIC)** that makes the following excluded groups eligible:
  - Young adults 18–24
  - Older adults 65+
  - Immigrants who file taxes with an ITIN number

- **Double the amount of EIC credit**: increase the existing match of the federal EITC from 18% to 36% over three years for all filers

- Create a $600 annual **Child Tax Credit** for all caregivers

- Expand the net to include people with low- or no- earnings who do not file taxes

- Provide a **simple portal to file taxes** for low and zero income individuals
EIC History

2014
A campaign increased the credit to 14% of a match to the federal EITC (they fought for 20%). Together with some of our same coalition partners, they helped create a foundation so legislators knew how important this was.

2000
A tax credit matching the popular, bipartisan EITC is introduced, and passed, in the Illinois General Assembly.

2018
EIC is increased to 18%.

2020 & 2021
We form and grow our coalition to over 40 members from across the state, and run bills with bipartisan majorities in both House and Senate, but don’t expand EIC.

2022
Our coalition runs, and WINS, a campaign to expand the EIC to 20% and include ITIN filers, 18-24 & 65+ year olds without children.
Our '22 State EIC Win

EXPAND EIC ELIGIBILITY.
Extend the credit to 950,000+ more Illinoisans who are currently excluded.
1. Young adults ages 18–24 without children
2. Older adults over 65 years of age
3. ITIN filers (immigrants who file their taxes with a individual taxpayer identification number)

INCREASE EIC CREDIT AMOUNT.
Move from 18% to a 20% match of EITC.

ONE-TIME CASH TO FAMILIES.
Most Illinois families will get $50 per individual plus $100 each for up to three child dependents.
Our Impact

4.5 million Illinoisans will benefit

Together, relief measures will direct hundreds of dollars to each low- and middle-income Illinois family.
Our Coalition
43 members strong
Our Voices

We engaged community leaders throughout our campaign, from design to promotion.

- Listening sessions
- Town halls
- Op-eds
- Rally
- Legislator meetings
- Build coalition
- Foster relationships/trust
- Pay partners & leaders
- Let them lead
- Celebrate!
EIC Press Hits

- 49 media hits
- 3 op-eds
- 500+ social media posts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, & beyond
  - 4 TikTok videos
- 8 Press releases
- 4+ Press conferences
- 8 TV appearances
- 5 ESIL Newsletters
State of Illinois Future of Work Task Force

Economic Security for Illinois facilitates the Future of Work task force by coordinating monthly task force meetings, developing meeting agendas, overseeing the production of the task force report, and convening stakeholders toward solutions-based ideas that can benefit Illinois' employers and workers for years to come.
Good jobs are good business.

Read our standard of what makes a quality job and our 58 policy recommendations at bit.ly/ILFLOWReport.
Thank you for fighting alongside us.