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Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative

MISSION

To catalyze a cross-sector movement to prevent trauma and promote thriving across the lifespan and to place the impact of childhood experience on wellbeing at the forefront of the equity agenda in Illinois.

VISION

A thriving and equitable Illinois in which individuals, families, communities, and all systems and sectors work together to prevent trauma, heal, and flourish.

Capacity building

Policy and advocacy

Research translation and dissemination

Trauma-Informed Awareness Day 2019

...policy decisions enacted by the Illinois State Legislature should *acknowledge and take into account the principles of early childhood brain development and should, whenever possible, consider the concepts of toxic stress, early adversity, and buffering relationships,* and note the role of early intervention and investment in early childhood years as important strategies to achieve a lasting foundation for a more prosperous and sustainable State.

SR 099 and HR 0248

...we encourage all officers, agencies and employees of the State of Illinois whose responsibilities impact children and adults, including the Office of the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Corrections, *to become informed regarding well-documented short-term, long-term and generational impacts of adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress and structural violence on children, adults and communities and to become aware of evidence-based and evidence-informed trauma-informed care practices, tools, and interventions that promote healing and resiliency in children, adults and communities.*

Trauma-Informed Awareness Day 2021 Resolution

RESOLVED, That we encourage all officers, agencies and employees of the State of Illinois whose responsibilities include individuals throughout the life course and communities, including the Office of the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Corrections, *to become informed regarding well-documented short-term, long-term and multi-generational impacts of adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress, systemic racism and other potentially traumatic experiences for children, adults and communities, and to become aware of and implement evidence-based and racially-just, trauma-informed healing-centered care practices, tools, and interventions that promote positive experiences and racial justice to build resilience in individuals and communities so that they will be able to maximize their well-being and thrive.*

Working Group to Address Childhood Adversity in Illinois

What does it mean to be a trauma-informed state?

What strategic priorities should we emphasize?

How do we envision healing across Illinois today?

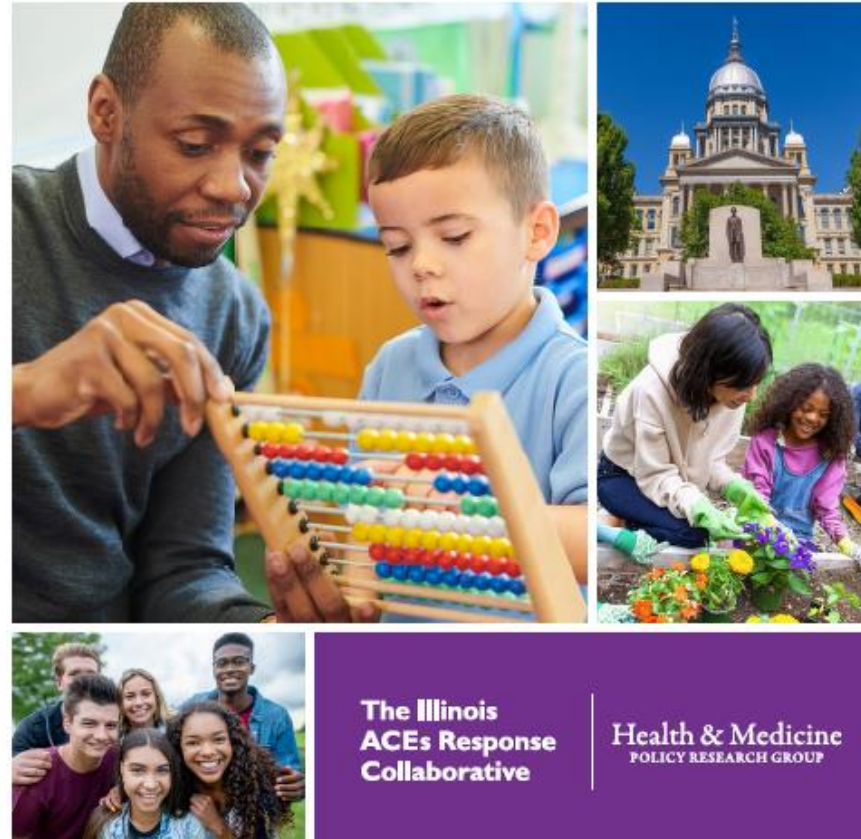
Action Plan Development Process



May 2021

Action Plan to Address Childhood Adversity in Illinois

May 25, 2021



The Illinois
ACEs Response
Collaborative

Health & Medicine
POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

Action Plan to Address Childhood Adversity in Illinois

May 25, 2021



Plank 1: Trauma-Informed Policymaking. Improve the design and implementation of public policies by applying trauma-informed principles to the policymaking process.

Plank 2: Improve State-Level Coordination. Improve state-level coordination and collaboration, including in strategic planning, policy and program design, and information and data sharing, to build a more comprehensive, multigenerational approach to addressing childhood adversity in Illinois.

Plank 3: Educate, Build Awareness, and Advocate. Promote and support a commitment to shared responsibility and collective action to address childhood adversity and its impacts throughout life.

Plank 4: Improve Data Collection and Accessibility. Ensure that data collection efforts are coordinated, contribute to a cohesive and holistic understanding about the status of childhood adversity and resilience in Illinois, and are trauma-informed in their development and administration.

Plank 5: Identify Trauma-Informed Practice Metrics. Establish criteria for identifying an organization as trauma-informed and healing-centered.

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TI Policymaking Tool

- Applies SAMHSA's principles of a TI approach to the policy realm
- Released TI Awareness Day 2019

PRINCIPLES OF TRAUMA-INFORMED POLICYMAKING

In this section, we will define each trauma-informed principle and describe its application to both the process of policymaking and its outcome (the resulting policy, benefit, and/or program). Prompts are provided to help stakeholders understand if and how their policymaking embodies each principle. Policymakers should hold themselves accountable for answering these and other related questions.

SAFETY

Ensure the physical and emotional safety of vulnerable populations.

- *Process:* All stakeholders feel safe participating in the policymaking process.
- *Outcome:* Physical and emotional safety of vulnerable populations is prioritized.
- *Ask:* Whose safety is being prioritized?

TRUSTWORTHINESS AND TRANSPARENCY

Make decisions with transparency, with the goal of building and maintaining trust.

- *Process:* There is transparency about who is involved, how decisions are made, and the intended goals of the policy.
- *Outcome:* Policies and the resulting programs and benefits are clearly defined, including the breadth of services offered, eligibility criteria for participation, and timelines. There are accountability measures in place for agencies, providers, and contractors.
- *Ask:* What information about the policy is available, and how is it made accessible to the community?

PEER SUPPORT

Individuals with shared experiences are collectively working to advance policy. Working towards policy change together is a healing experience.

- *Process:* Promote sharing of lived experiences among peers and the development of healing relationships.
- *Outcome:* Sustained relationships are prioritized, particularly among individuals with shared experiences of trauma.
- *Ask:* Which relationships are being prioritized?

COLLABORATION AND MUTUALITY

Level power differences for shared decision-making.

- *Process:* Individuals who will be impacted by policy outcomes—including benefit recipients, frontline workers, and policymakers—have an equal voice in the policymaking process. Lived experience and firsthand knowledge are prioritized as much as, or more than, outside professional experience.
- *Outcome:* Policies work to dismantle the root causes of power differences and reflect the needs of the community.
- *Ask:* What measures are in place to ensure that every group that is impacted by the policy has equal representation in decision-making?

STRENGTHS-BASED APPROACH

Recognize, build on, and validate individual and community strengths and experiences and integrate a belief in resilience and the ability to heal from trauma.

- *Process:* Individuals and communities are empowered to build on their strengths to identify the strategies that will help them heal from trauma and become more resilient.
- *Outcome:* Policies are more effective at promoting healing because they recognize individual and community strengths and experiences.
- *Ask:* How does the policy build on community strengths to address trauma caused by past policies?

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Acknowledge the ongoing impact of historical trauma for individuals and communities and challenge the systemic and institutional oppression that continues to create trauma.

- *Process:* Use a root cause approach to understand the origins of issues, challenges, and outcomes.
- *Outcome:* Policies narrow disparities in the experiences and impacts of trauma and also promote equity.
- *Ask:* How does this policy address root causes? Which populations will benefit from this policy?

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Action Plan Next Steps

- Shared responsibility
- Convening subgroups for each plank
- Partnering with IDPH on data pieces
- Mapping and tracking aligned activities and initiatives
- Communicating on progress, opportunities, barriers

Thank You!

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