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Fact Sheet for Illinois Legislators

A Legislative Call to Action

Illinois stands as a national leader in reproductive and sexual justice, but our progress is at risk. As more states eliminate or restrict reproductive healthcare, Illinois must continue strengthening protections, expanding access, and investing in communities disproportionately impacted by structural inequities.

The RJ Champions Cohort: Trusted Community Leaders

The Reproductive Justice Champions Cohort, an initiative of Chicago Foundation for Women, brings together organizations advancing maternal health, survivor leadership, contraceptive equity, abortion access, culturally grounded care, youth education, and community safety. Their expertise and lived experience make them essential partners in policymaking.

Legislators are urged to consult the Cohort as primary subject-matter experts when drafting policies that affect reproductive and sexual healthcare access.







Priority Legislative Actions

1. Strengthen access to reproductive and sexual healthcare.
2. Protect against criminalization and coercion.
3. Invest in community infrastructure and workforce development.
4. Advance comprehensive sexual health education statewide.

The Bottom Line

Illinois cannot rely on past victories. Legislators must act boldly to protect bodily autonomy, reduce racial and economic disparities, and ensure Illinois remains a sanctuary for reproductive and sexual justice.

For full context and detailed policy recommendations, read the complete report: Power in Our Hands: A Collective Vision for Reproductive & Sexual Justice in Illinois. The Reproductive Justice Champions Cohort, an initiative supported by Chicago Foundation for Women, authored the report.

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Fact Sheet for Philanthropy

A Call to Action for Philanthropy

Illinois is a critical sanctuary for reproductive and sexual healthcare, but this role can only be sustained through bold, long-term philanthropic investment. This fact sheet summarizes key actions for funders, based on the full report: Power in Our Hands: A Collective Vision for Reproductive & Sexual Justice in Illinois. The Reproductive Justice Champions Cohort, an initiative supported by Chicago Foundation for Women, authored the report.

Why Philanthropy Matters

Reproductive justice (RJ) organizations—especially those led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQIA+ leaders—are addressing maternal health, abortion access, contraception, gender-based violence, immigrant rights, and youth education. These organizations operate with limited resources and need stable funding to continue protecting and expanding access to care.

Why Invest in the RJ Champions Cohort

The Cohort unites diverse organizations working across maternal health, abortion access, youth education, survivor leadership, and culturally grounded care. Their collaboration strengthens statewide advocacy and ensures resources reach those most affected.

What Philanthropy Can Do Right Now

- **Commit** multi-year unrestricted grants.
- **Support** leadership development and organizational sustainability.
- **Invest** in policy advocacy, data, and community education.
- **Fund** cross-movement collaboration and coalition-building.

The Bottom Line

Illinois has the opportunity to remain a national model for reproductive and sexual justice—but only if philanthropy steps in with courageous, long-term investment.

For full context and recommendations, refer to the complete report: Power in Our Hands: A Collective Vision for Reproductive & Sexual Justice in Illinois.

What RJ Organizations Need Most

1. **Multi-year, unrestricted funding that allows rapid response and long-term planning.**
2. **Prioritization of grassroots, community-rooted organizations central to advancing justice.**
3. **Investment in collaboration, shared advocacy, and movement building.**



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Fact Sheet for Community Members

A Community Call to Action

Reproductive and sexual justice means every person has the human right to have a child, not have a child, to parent children in safe and thriving communities, and to experience bodily autonomy and sexual pleasure. Illinois is leading the way in protecting these rights, but continued progress depends on informed, engaged, and empowered communities.

Who are the Reproductive Justice Champions?

The Reproductive Justice Champions are a collective of community-rooted organizations working together to ensure that everyone can make informed, empowered decisions about their bodies, families, and futures. These leaders provide culturally grounded care, education, advocacy, and support. Their work spans maternal health, abortion access, contraceptive equity, gender-based violence prevention, and overall community wellness, demonstrating that reproductive and sexual justice is possible when communities lead the way.

Why Your Voice Matters

Community power drives this movement. While Illinois remains a sanctuary for reproductive and sexual healthcare, rising political attacks across the country mean our communities must stay connected, informed, and ready to advocate. Grassroots organizations are making real change, but they cannot do this work alone.

Community Call to Action

- **Stay Informed:** Learn about your rights, available resources, and ongoing policy issues affecting reproductive and sexual health.
- **Speak Out:** Share information with family, friends, and neighbors to strengthen community awareness.
- **Get Involved:** Attend community meetings, trainings, or workshops offered by RJ organizations.
- **Support Local Organizations:** Volunteer, donate, or amplify the work of RJ Champions in your networks.
- **Advocate for Change:** Contact elected officials, participate in local advocacy efforts, and vote in every election.
- **Care for Your Community:** Practice community care by supporting individuals navigating reproductive and sexual health needs.

The Bottom Line

Reproductive and sexual justice is possible when communities come together. Your advocacy, your voice, and your care move this work forward. Together, we can build a future where every person in Illinois is supported, respected, and empowered.

For full context, refer to the report: Power in Our Hands: A Collective Vision for Reproductive & Sexual Justice in Illinois. The Reproductive Justice Champions Cohort, an initiative supported by Chicago Foundation for Women, authored the report.

