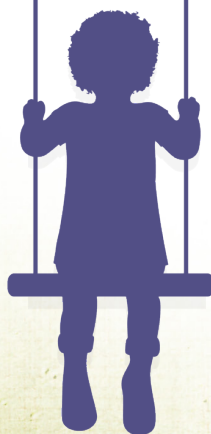




spring into action

April 9-10, 2018



State House Inn
Springfield, Illinois



illinois
action for
children

Welcome to Spring Into Action!

Illinois Action for Children's
Public Policy Conference and Day at the Capitol

April 9-10, 2018
State House Inn
Springfield, Illinois

Take action and share! @IAFC_Cares **#SIACConf18**



www.actforchildren.org



As we gather for the 2018 Spring Into Action Conference, we know that millions of parents across the country work in jobs where low wages, unpredictable schedules, and minimal benefits make it difficult to keep their heads above water. This can create tremendous stress for their families and make it especially hard for them to afford and access the high-quality child care that provides needed stability for their children and helps prepare them for school.

We are excited to welcome Julie Vogtman, Director of Job Quality and Senior Counsel for the National Women's Law Center as our Spring Into Action Keynote speaker. She will provide a portrait of the challenges that low-wage workers face trying to make ends meet – including caring for their children and families. She will also outline policy solutions that can support parents and children alike. Her presentation will be followed by a respondent panel that will offer their perspectives on the future challenges of child care for families working in low-wage jobs.

Building on this Keynote, Spring Into Action will delve into a range of issues involving job quality and supports for low-income women and their families, including minimum wage and overtime pay, fair scheduling policies; and child care assistance.

During a broad array of workshops and informational sessions offered throughout this conference, you will learn about the issues affecting children and families, participate in collaborative skill-building and thought-leading activities designed to help you think about your work in new and exciting ways, and finally take all you have learned to the State Capitol as you meet with your legislators in this most critical of times.

Over the next two days, embrace this opportunity to think innovatively about our field and how you can reach your legislators in new and impactful ways. These next two days are vitally-important as we all work to develop and support strong families and powerful communities where children matter most. Thank you for all that you do!



Maria Whelan
President and CEO
Illinois Action for Children



Monday, April 9, 2018

10 a.m. Registration opens
11 a.m. Keynote Address:
Julie Vogtman, Director of Job Quality and Senior Counsel,
National Women's Law Center
Moderator:
Dr. Marci A. Ybarra, Assistant Professor,
University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration
Response Panel:
David Alexander, Director of Research,
Illinois Action for Children
Felipe Tendick Matesanz, Chicago Director,
Restaurant Opportunities Center United (ROC)
Melissa Josephs, Director of Equal Opportunity Policy, Women
Employed

12 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Workshop Session I
2:30 p.m. Break
2:45 p.m. Workshop Session II
3:45 p.m. Break
4 p.m. Workshop Session III
5 p.m. Break
5:30 p.m. Networking Reception

Dinner on your own

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Breakfast on your own

10:30 a.m. Welcome
11 a.m. Legislative Session Overview and Early Childhood Priorities
11:35 a.m. Depart for the Capitol –OR- Advocacy Training and Q&A
2 p.m. End Capitol Activities – Buses leave from State House Inn

Working together for quality child care and early learning



The members of the Child Care and Early Learning Division of SEIU Healthcare Illinois are proud to partner with Illinois Action for Children to protect the child care that working families depend on.



Together, we will win a bright future for Illinois.



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11:00 a.m. Keynote Address Governors Ballroom

Making Ends Meet: Challenges of Low-Wage Working Families

Presented by: Julie Vogtman, Director of Job Quality and Senior Counsel for the National Women's Law Center

Millions of parents across the country work in jobs where low wages, unpredictable schedules, and minimal benefits make it difficult to meet both work and caregiving responsibilities. All too often, despite their best efforts, parents' low wages and work conditions create tremendous stress for their families and make it especially hard for them to afford and access the high-quality child care that would provide needed stability for their children and help prepare them for school.

Julie Vogtman, Director of Job Quality and Senior Counsel for the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), will provide a portrait of the challenges that low-wage workers face trying to make ends meet including caring for their children and families. She will also outline policy solutions that can support parents and children alike. Her presentation will be followed by a respondent panel that will offer their perspectives on the future challenges of child care for families working in low-wage jobs.

Respondent Panelists:

David Alexander, Research Director, Illinois Action for Children

Felipe Tendick Matesanz, Chicago Director, Restaurant Opportunities Center United (ROC)

Melissa Josephs, Director of Equal Opportunity Policy, Women Employed

Moderator:

Dr. Marci A. Ybarra, Assistant Professor, University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration

About the Keynote Speaker: Julie Vogtman



Julie Vogtman is Director of Job Quality and Senior Counsel for the National Women's Law Center (NWLC). Since 1972, NWLC has worked to protect and promote equality and opportunity for women and families. NWLC champions policies and laws that help women and girls achieve their potential at every stage of their lives—at school, at work, at home, and in retirement.

At NWLC, Julie works to advance policies at the federal and state levels that benefit both women in low-wage jobs and their children, including higher wages, fair scheduling practices, child care assistance, and tax credits for working families. She also contributes to NWLC's work to achieve a federal budget that prioritizes investments in programs for women and families—not tax breaks for billionaires and corporations. Julie is a co-author of the Center's 2016 report, *Set Up to Fail: When Low-Wage Work Jeopardizes Parents' and Children's Success*, and recently authored *Undervalued: A Brief History of Women's Care Work and Child Care Policy in the United States*.

Prior to joining NWLC in 2010, Julie was an associate with Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, DC, where she advised state agency clients on issues involved in the administration of Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and other federal-state programs. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, where she served as an editor for the *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy* and authored *Beyond Balancing the Budget: Tax Reform to Increase Equity and Reduce Poverty in the Commonwealth of Virginia* (14 Geo. J. on Poverty L. & Pol'y, 2007). Julie holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Furman University.

Spring Into Action 2018 Keynote Presentation
and Luncheon are generously sponsored by:

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Energy Efficiency Program



★ Workshop Schedule

Illinois Early Childhood Policy & Budget Updates

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Gallery Room

Maria Estlund, Policy Associate,
Illinois Action for Children

Join us for timely updates on recent and proposed state policy changes impacting the early childhood field – including status updates on the implementation of policies, such as the new laws on early childhood expulsion and testing for lead in water. Participants will also learn about opportunities to engage in advocacy efforts related to early childhood policy issues.

Community Collaborations and Systems Development: The Whys and Hows

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Caucus Room

Julia Zhu, Community Systems Policy Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development.

Kassia Eide, SPARK Aurora Early Childhood Collaboration

What is the role of community collaborations in strengthening our early care and education system? Attendees will learn the state's vision for a strong system, explore why a systems approach is essential for success, and learn alongside their peers. Session will be participatory and interactive.

From Flat to Fair: Campaign for a Fair Tax for Illinois

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Session Room

Dan Lesser, Director of Illinois Policy & Economic Justice, Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law

Illinois' flat, regressive income tax structure is unfair and unsustainable. In this session, leaders from the Responsible Budget Coalition will provide an overview of the Fair Tax Campaign and how a progressive income tax structure would benefit the state. Come learn about ways you can engage in Fair Tax Campaign efforts to advocate for long-term, sustainable revenue sources.



ELEVATE ENERGY

Smarter energy use for all

There are more workshops on the next page



★ Workshop Schedule

**Accessing Higher Education:
Pathways & Models**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Assembly Room

Dan Harris, *Executive Director, Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies*

Cathy Main, *Senior Lecturer and Program Coordinator, College of Education, University of Illinois-Chicago*

How can Illinois build a pipeline of qualified early childhood teachers and practitioners? This workshop will discuss strategies to minimize obstacles for new and existing professionals to enter the early childhood system and move up the career ladder. Learn about the different efforts to create alternative pathways and models to support access to credential and degree programs.

**Suspending Expulsions:
Supporting Early Childhood
Providers and Staff**

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. | Gallery Room

Alli-Lowe Fotos, *Policy Manager, Illinois Policy, The Ounce of Prevention Fund*

Deborah Chalmers, *Director, Consultation Programs, Illinois Action for Children*

As the field prepares for the implementation of Illinois' new law prohibiting early childhood expulsions, it is critical that early childhood professionals have access to resources that can build their capacity to understand and address challenging behaviors. This workshop will discuss available supports, such as mental health consultation services and the Pyramid Model, as well as program-specific best practices that providers can implement to support staff.

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★ Workshop Schedule

Family-Friendly Policies: How Labor and Tax Policies Can Support Working Families

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. | Session Room

Julie Vogtman, *Director of Job Quality and Senior Counsel, National Women's Law Center*

Marci Ybarra, *Assistant Professor, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago*

Join this workshop for a deeper conversation about how public policies can address the challenges faced by today's low-wage working families, both by improving the jobs they hold and by providing benefits through the tax code. Participants will learn about "family-friendly" policies, such as paid family and medical leave and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), that promote stability and economic security for families, as well as how they can advocate for implementing and expanding these policies.



Advocacy 201

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. | Caucus Room

Megan Donahue, *Community Engagement Associate, Illinois Action for Children*

Maria Estlund, *Policy Associate, Illinois Action for Children*

What does it mean to engage in administrative advocacy, and how does it differ from legislative advocacy?

What is a 'witness slip,' and why should I file one? This workshop is for more seasoned advocates to deepen their understanding of the different forms of public policy and what advocacy strategies are effective for each. Participants will learn about communication and messaging for different audiences and how they can put these skills to use during Early Childhood Advocacy Day and their future advocacy efforts.



CCDBG Implementation: Updates & Provider Strategies

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. | Assembly Room

Dan Harris, Executive Director,
Illinois Network of Child Care
Resource & Referral Agencies
Anita Rumage, Executive Director,
Circles of Learning

How is Illinois doing in implementing the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)? Join this session to for updates on Illinois' progress and hear from an early childhood provider about their experience and effective strategies to comply with new regulations and leverage opportunities to enhance program quality.

Save the Date!

Partner★Plan★Act



Illinois Action for Children's
Annual Partner Plan Act
Conference
June 12, 2018
in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois
www.partnerplanact.org

**Suspending Expulsions:
Engaging & Supporting Families**

4 – 5 p.m. | Gallery Room

Carie Bires, Senior Policy Manager,
Illinois Policy, The Ounce of
Prevention Fund
Elysia Aufmuth, Assistant Director,
Consultation Programs, Illinois
Action for Children

Engaging families is critical in preventing expulsions of young children, but it can be challenging or uncomfortable. This workshop will discuss strategies to engage and support families, including connecting with community resources, in order to prevent expulsions and help children thrive. Learn how and when to engage families to better understand the experiences and needs of children and their families.

Federal Policy & Budget Updates

4 – 5 p.m. | Assembly Room

Nadeen Israel, Policy Director,
EverThrive Illinois
Samir Tanna, Assistant Director of
Policy, Illinois Action for Children

Over the past year, there have been significant policy debates at the federal level on several critical issues – including healthcare, tax reform, and early care and education. This workshop will provide updates on policy proposals and changes, highlighting the impact on children, families, and the early childhood field in Illinois.

★ Spring Into Action Conference Schedule

Gearing Up for the 2018 Elections: Effective Engagement

4 – 5 p.m. | Caucus Room

Tommie Robinson, *Community Engagement Associate, Illinois Action for Children*

Sharihana Fulce, *Director, Under Carrey's Care #1*

The ultimate form of advocacy is voting for elected officials who support the issues that matter most to you. As we approach the 2018 midterm elections, come hear about how early childhood providers can engage children and families in the process, including getting others registered to vote.

Illinois Early Childhood Policy & Budget Updates

4 – 5 p.m. | Session Room

Maria Estlund, *Policy Associate, Illinois Action for Children*

Join us for timely updates on recent and proposed state policy changes impacting the early childhood field – including status updates on the implementation of policies, such as the new laws on early childhood expulsion and testing for lead in water. Participants will also learn about opportunities to engage in advocacy efforts related to early childhood policy issues.



SAL Family and Community Services believes all children can reach their full potential if given a great start in high quality early care and education. We applaud Illinois Action

for Children's dedication to being the voice of children and families in our communities across the state.

SAL Family and Community Services

Partners Together... Improving Lives



Day at the Capitol

Every year at the Spring into Action Conference, participants make their way to the State Capitol to meet with their State Legislators. The advocates are encouraged to speak with their legislators about the importance of early care and education and what legislators can do to best serve the children and families of their districts and Illinois as a whole. While participants are experts in the early childhood field, navigating the Capitol may be the toughest part of the day. Below are some directions on how to find your legislator in the Capitol.

What you need for your day at the Capitol

- The name of your Legislators
- Map of the Stratton Building and Capitol
- Fact sheets on Legislative Issues to give to your legislators
- Business Cards
- Pen

Security

When entering to the Capitol, you will need to go through a security check that involves an x-ray machine and a metal detector. Be sure to remove any objects you may be wearing that could set off a metal detector and place on the x-ray conveyor belt. It helps to have a bag for your belongings.

How to find your legislator

Often times, the House and the Senate are in session, meaning they are in their respective chambers voting on legislation. Both chambers are located on the 3rd floor of the Capitol and it is quite easy to meet your legislator.

Finding your State Representative

When you reach the 3rd floor of the Capitol, you will notice 2 sets of large, wooden doors; one on the south side of the Capitol and one on the north. The doors on the south side are for the House of Representatives. There is often a crowd of people standing near the chambers doors – which can give you a clue that it's the State Representatives side of the floor.

To speak with your Representative, make your way towards the chamber doors. There will be a security guard outside of the chamber door. Hand the security guard your card with the name of your Representative on the back. The security guard will take the card into the Chamber to be given to your Representative. Your Representative will then come out to speak with you.

Finding your State Senator

When you reach the 3rd floor of the Capitol, you will notice 2 sets of large, wooden doors; one on the south side of the Capitol and one on the north. The doors on the north side are for the Senate.

To speak with your Senator, you must proceed to the aisles on either side of the senate chamber. If the Senator you would like to speak to is a Democrat, proceed to the aisle to the left of the chamber. If your Senator is a Republican, proceed to the aisle to the right of the senate chamber.

Once there, hand the security guard your card with the name of your Senator on the back. The security guard will take the card into the Chamber to be given to the Senator. Your Senator will then come out to speak with you.

Repeat this process for all the legislators you would like to speak with.

★ Spring Into Action Conference

What if I cannot speak to my legislators?

It is quite possible that your legislator does not come out to speak with you. Your legislator may be in a meeting, debating or voting on a bill or bills or not in attendance that day. In that case, you can go to their office and drop off your fact sheets.

While all Senate offices are located in the Capitol and most Representative offices are located in the Stratton Building, there are some exceptions. Please refer to your legislative offices list as a guide.

Ask Someone for Help!

Illinois Action for Children staff will be scattered throughout the Capitol and Stratton Building. We will have an information table on the first floor with more fact sheets, legislative visit reports and the ability to lookup your legislator. You can also ask the security guards and Capitol staff at the Information desks located on the 1st floor of the Capitol and the 2nd floor of the Stratton Building.



Proud to stand with Illinois Action for Children
in keeping Illinois children safe
www.kidsindanger.org





Illinois Action for Children's Public Policy and Advocacy Department

We are here for you! Please contact the Public Policy and Advocacy staff if we can help you in any way:

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"Illinois Action for Children is a catalyst for organizing, developing and supporting strong families and powerful communities where children matter most."

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