



New Procurement & Medicaid Contracting Opportunities for BIPOC Community-Based Organizations

## **Support HB721/SB228: MINORITY, DISABLED, AND WOMEN-LED NOT-FOR-PROFIT CERTIFICATION & HB1950/SB341: MEDICAID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER ACT**

Many BIPOC community-based organizations are left behind in procurement and Medicaid contracting opportunities because of their not-for-profit status and a lack of capacity to work through the complexities of Medicaid billing.

### **Background & Need**

59% of health-care providers in Illinois don't have the resources they need to bill Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs). Smaller providers and providers serving communities of color are the least prepared to bill MCOs.<sup>1</sup> As a result, many Illinoisans struggle to access healthcare services in their communities from providers they trust. The Medicaid Technical Assistance Center is a recognized model that can leverage federal Medicaid match to create a long-term resource for healthcare providers within Illinois' Medicaid program.

Not-for-profit organizations with diverse leadership are currently unable to receive certification that would give them credit for their status in state contracting and in public utility diversity initiatives. Certification for minority, disabled, and/or women-led not-for-profits would create a level playing field for nonprofit organizations such as health care providers, affordable housing organizations, and workforce and clean energy program administrators.

### **Solutions**

Two pieces of legislation would address these problems by providing technical assistance for healthcare providers who want to work with MCOs and providing more opportunity for minority, women-, and disabled-led organizations to be counted by the MCOs and in state contracting and utility diversity initiatives to achieve the goals and investment in Black and Brown communities that the BEP program seeks.

HB721/SB228 would establish a stand-alone certification in Illinois state law for not-for-profit organizations that are minority, disabled, and/or women-led, allowing eligible organizations to receive preferences in state contracting, similar to the preference established in the Illinois Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575). One other state, Massachusetts, has enacted a similar policy, which certifies certain tax-exempt organizations whose board of directors or membership are comprised by a majority of eligible women and minorities.

HB1950/SB341 would establish a Medicaid Technical Assistance Center to help community-based providers deliver high quality behavioral health and related services in the Medicaid managed care environment by providing targeted trainings, learning collaboratives, and support for providers who are facing similar challenges, and identifying problems that need systemic solutions. If done right, Illinois could receive Medicaid matching funds from the Federal government to partially offset the costs of operating such a center.

### **Information Contacts**

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<sup>1</sup> Illinois Collaboration on Youth. (2019). [Bridging the Gap to Medicaid Managed Behavioral Health Care in Illinois](#).