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Illinois Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



ICAAP Encouraged by Investments in Illinois Children included in Governor Pritzker's Proposed Budget

Yesterday, our governor's office released their proposed 2024 budget and we are celebrating these proposed investments in Illinois' children!

Governor Pritzker's ambitious plan makes critical investments in our next generation and we are especially glad that two of the programs led by ICAAP are generously funded in this proposed budget. In addition to investments to expanding access to pre-k to all 3 & 4 year olds, the [draft budget](#) includes \$11M for implementation of the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation and an additional \$2M for specifically for pediatric mental health training. These are key areas of concern for pediatricians and something that ICAAP has been working on advancing for the past several years. There is also a significant investment for [Reach Out & Read, a program of ICAAP](#) that reaches more than 150,000 children annually and provides pediatricians across the state with books and tools to improve children's literacy.

"ICAAP is thrilled to lead these programs for our most vulnerable children and engage the thousands of pediatricians in our effort to improve healthcare and mental health supports for families across our state," stated Margaret Scotellaro, MD, FAAP, current ICAAP President. "These proposed investments are key to building and supporting the next generation of leaders and learners in Illinois."

We hope you will [contact your local legislator](#) and urge them to approve this budget that recognizes and provides funding to address the critical issues facing pediatricians and children across our state.

Feel free to contact us with any questions about the budget, these specific programs, or to receive information on how your clinic can participate in the Reach Out & Read program.

Sincerely,

Jennie Pinkwater, MNM
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