

# 2015 Policy Priorities

Heartland Alliance advocates for policies and programs that help end poverty and create opportunity. A strong and sustainable state budget is central to that effort. We support revenue solutions to advance a sustainable state budget, as well as policies that:

## Value Work

### **Increase Minimum Wage:**

Raises the minimum wage to improve the lives of Illinois workers.

### **Earned Income Tax Credit (SB676 /HB2458):**

Allows low- and middle-income working families to keep more of their earnings to help support and improve their lives.

### **Domestic Workers' Rights (HB3696):**

Ensures basic labor protections and improves working conditions and wages for domestic workers.

## Enable Illinoisans to Care for their Families

### **Reduce Hunger (SB1847/ HB3551):**

Increases access to SNAP for individuals and families struggling with hunger.

### **Protect Wages & Emergency Savings (SB1248/ HB2584):**

Enables individuals in the debt collection process to responsibly pay down their debt while meeting the basic needs of their families.

### **Improve Access to Health Care (HB3696):**

Continues the Navigator/ In-Person Counselor Program, funding impartial health insurance enrollment assistance after federal funds run out.

## Expand Justice and Opportunity

### **Stop Criminalizing Trafficking Victims (SB 1558):**

Protects victims of trafficking from prostitution convictions.

### **Expand Job Opportunities for People with Criminal Records (HB494/HB3931):**

Reduces barriers to employment for people with criminal records working in schools, park districts.

### **Improve Access to Health Care Jobs for People with Criminal Records (HB3212):**

Reduces barriers to employment for people with criminal records working in health care facilities.