



# Illinois Early Childhood Collaboration Directory

Community Systems Statewide Supports (CS3)  
An Initiative of Illinois Action for Children

Sixth Edition, July 2022



## Greetings,

Across Illinois, organizations, agencies and individuals that care about young children have come together to form early childhood community collaborations. From the geographically tiny urban neighborhood to the expansive, rural counties, early childhood community collaborations come in all shapes and sizes. They vary not only in their geography, but also in their scope of work, membership makeup, and capacity. Despite these differences, one common thread ties them all together: they all understand the importance of regularly convening a diverse group of stakeholders to improve outcomes for children and families.

Community collaborations have the unique role and opportunity to reimagine the early childhood system, asking questions like, “How can we better align services in our community?” and “Where are the inequities in our community?” Questions like these lead to creative solutions and innovative partnerships at the local level.

Our team at Illinois Action for Children believes that local communities know their needs best. We work with community collaborations to build their capacity to continuously improve early childhood systems. Thanks to the work at the community-level, our state leadership can understand what children and families need to thrive.

This directory acts as a reference guide to help you understand a bit about each early childhood community collaboration in our state. Use it to connect with a collaboration in your area or to connect with others doing similar work. While the directory is formally updated every two years, we welcome edits anytime. To provide feedback on your community collaboration’s profile, please contact [partnerplanact@actforchildren.org](mailto:partnerplanact@actforchildren.org).

Thank you for your commitment to children and families.

In Gratitude,

Grace Araya  
Director of Community Systems Statewide Supports

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# Background

Throughout the years, the early childhood field has increasingly taken a cross-sector approach to meeting the needs of families with young children. Early childhood program agencies (i.e. Early/Head Start, Preschool for All, Child Care, Maternal and Child Health, Mental Health, Prevention Initiatives and Home Visiting) are working together to develop collaborative strategies and activities to better serve these families. Many communities are developing local partnerships to help enhance the lives of young children and families, and to ensure the healthy growth and development of Illinois' youngest learners. The Illinois Early Childhood Community Collaboration Profiles highlights this collaborative work and serves as a resource for strengthening peer networks. The first edition of the profiles was created by the Ounce of Prevention Fund (in conjunction with the Community Systems Development (CSD) subcommittee) in 2008. Since then, there have been five other editions, and it is our goal that the sixth edition will continue to serve as a resource to strengthen peer networks and learn about collaborative work done around the state.

## About Community Systems Statewide Supports (CS3)

In February 2018, Illinois Action For Children (IAFC) was awarded a grant through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to develop a statewide training and technical assistance system, building the capacity of community collaborations to improve early childhood education systems.

IAFC will support communities as they work to develop and implement community-wide, collaborative strategies to ensure more children, ages birth-to-five, enroll in and regularly attend high-quality early learning programs.

The CS3 project has four goals:

1. Provide foundational supports (training, access to planning, and collaboration tools) to early childhood professionals, at no cost, in support of their goal to form and/or strengthen community collaborations that are focused on improving local early childhood systems.
2. Provide targeted supports (including individualized coaching) to select communities that wish to receive in-depth support, at no cost, that is focused on increasing the number of children ages birth-to-five who are enrolled in high-quality early learning services.
3. Collaborate and coordinate with existing statewide providers of early childhood training to align training opportunities across systems.
4. Implement a data and evaluation process to support continued system improvement at the community and state levels.

## Purpose and Scope of Directory

The 2022 community directory was updated and revised based on the guiding principles and criteria of early childhood collaborations. The directory also serves as a way for early childhood advocates and collaboration leaders to connect with and learn from each other.

Early Childhood Collaboration Criteria:

1. Has an early childhood focus (i.e. Birth to 5 or Birth to 8) or part of a larger early childhood initiative
2. Cross-sector approach and includes representatives from across the broad early childhood system
3. Serves a defined geographic area (neighborhood, city/town, county, region)

The development of survey questions and identification of collaborations for the 2022 Directory was informed by members of the CSD Subcommittee. Survey responses were collected through online survey submissions, emails, and/or telephone interviews.

For questions, updates or additions: Please visit [www.partnerplanact.org](http://www.partnerplanact.org) or send an email to [partnerplanact@actforchildren.org](mailto:partnerplanact@actforchildren.org)

# Adams County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 1998



## Areas Served

Adams County

## Target Population

Adams County

## Collaboration Address

330 Vermont  
Quincy, IL

## Collaboration Contact

Anita Hanke  
217.222.8440 Ext. 1107  
ahanke@co.adams.il.us

## Communications

www.co.adams.il.us  
Facebook: Adams County All Our Kids - AOK Network

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members  
Media

## Mission

**State Mission:** All Our Kids Early Childhood Networks are community-based collaborations that promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children birth to five and their parents/caregivers by assuring a well-coordinated, easily-accessible, equitable and just system of services and supports that engages parents as partners in making the system work for them.

**Local Mission:** Adams County Community Collaboration promoting and strengthening the health and well-being of families and caregivers with children prenatal to 5.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The AOK Network is staffed by one full time coordinator and volunteer co-chairs for Network work groups. All Network partners have an equal voice in decision-making. The All Our Kids Early Childhood Networks initiative is funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Early Childhood and the Adams County Health

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. The Adams County AOK Network has cross sector representation, including early learning, family support, healthcare, faith-based and human services.
2. Network members have increased their awareness and understanding of community services and resources to better support families needs.
3. The Network conducts bimonthly meetings and workgroups are formed for identified work.
4. Lunch and Learn opportunities are provided by and offered to Network partners and community stakeholders increasing their knowledge on identified priority issues.
5. The IRIS system of information and referral is being adapted in the community with partners. The Network partners have collaborated to start Covered Bottoms Diaper Bank.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Health and well-being

# Addison Early Childhood Collaboration

Established in 2012



## Areas Served

Addison, IL

## Target Population

Birth to age 5

## Collaboration Address

222 N. Kennedy Drive  
Addison, IL 60601

## Collaboration Contact

Mary Haley  
630.392.9353  
haleym@metrofamily.org

## Communications

[www.asd4.org/AECC](http://www.asd4.org/AECC)  
[www.facebook.com/Addison-Early-Childhood-Collaborative-1103201969714672](https://www.facebook.com/Addison-Early-Childhood-Collaborative-1103201969714672)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members  
Parents

## Vision

The Addison Early Childhood Collaborative's vision is to ensure all children from birth in the Addison community are safe, healthy, and equipped to learn.

## Mission

The Addison Early Childhood Collaborative's mission is to partner with Addison families so that children and families learn, grow, and succeed.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

- Part-time Project Director
- Steering Committee
- Work groups: Parent & Family Engagement Committee, Professional Development Committee, and Data Committee
- Funding is provided by Metropolitan Family Services, Addison School District 4, and the DuPage Foundation.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Kindergarten Camp - parent relationship-building and education; providing Kindergarten Transition materials for 175 children
2. Integrating data tracking, analysis and decision making for Preschool for All, Preschool for All Expansion, Special Ed, and Head Start programs
3. Coordinating partners to conduct developmental screenings for children ages birth to 5; involving partners at screenings to provide information to families about childhood development and social services.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increasing quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Professional development for early childhood workforce



# Ready to Learn Movement (Alignment Rockford)

Established in 2018



## Areas Served

Rockford Region – Winegago County: Rockford, Loves Park, Machesney Park, Cherry Valley, Rockton, Roscoe, Winnebago.

## Target Population

Children zero to five years old and their parents and caregivers

## Collaboration Address

612 N Main St. Rockford, IL 61103

## Collaboration Contact

Esther Lodge  
Read to Learn Project Manager  
815-990-6324  
esther@alignmentrockford.com

## Communications

alignmentrockford.com  
Facebook: Alignment Rockford

## Partners & Participants

Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

Our mission is to inspire, align, and collaborate with families, children, partner organizations, neighbors, and employers so that every child in every family is ready to learn.

## Vision

When we succeed, our whole community will align, transform, and work so that every child in every family is ready to learn, grow, and thrive when they begin Kindergarten.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Ready to Learn Movement is to identify, create, and implement equitable strategies into our region to close developmental gaps in young children, increase kindergarten readiness, and create a community-supported robust early childhood ecosystem where everyone knows about and has access to what they need to help young children develop, grow, and thrive.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Governance: Alignment Rockford is led by a Governing Board made up of community and school district leaders. An Operating Board supervises the work of teams, which are co-chaired by a community leader and a school district official.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Launch the Ready to Learn Movement and the sustained action teams.
2. Coordinated and implemented first wave of the EDI.
3. Obtaining the the Community Support Saturation Grant and beginning the pilots.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake
- Identify and close developmental gaps in children 0 to 5 years old



# The Alliance for Early Childhood

Established in 1989



## Areas Served

The North Shore of Chicago

## Target Population

Parents, families, and educators

## Collaboration Address

1235 Oak Street  
Winnetka, IL 60203

## Collaboration Contact

Stefanie Maiuri, Executive Director  
847.780.7442  
stefanie@theallianceforec.org

## Communications

Website: [theallianceforec.org](http://theallianceforec.org)  
Instagram: @theallianceforec  
Facebook: @theallianceforec  
Twitter: @allianceforec

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Faith-based  
Businesses

## Mission

The Alliance for Early Childhood is a collaborative community organization that supports and guides families and educators to nurture the healthy well-rounded development of children from birth to eight years old.

## Vision

As a community, we can “put the child back in childhood” and build a strong developmental foundation for our children’s lifelong learning, accomplishment, and joy.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Alliance for Early Childhood Executive Board has responsibility for setting the strategy of the organization, hiring and evaluating an Executive Director, overseeing Human Resources matters, and ensuring financial soundness through annual and long-term budgeting. The desired size of the Executive Board is twelve members that are elected annually. Funding comes from a variety of sources including the Annual Appeal in the spring, private foundations, grants, sponsorship, educator program revenue, and Member School Dues.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Let’s Play! Ongoing Community Program
2. Preschool-Kindergarten Summit
3. Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increasing quality of early learning programs
- Experiential learning with families

# Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition

Established in 2012



## Areas Served

Riverdale (Chicago Community Area 54)

## Target Population

Pre-birth to age 8

## Collaboration Address

c/o BPI  
25 E. Washington St., Suite 1515  
Chicago, IL 60602

## Collaboration Contact

Susannah Levine  
312-759-8260  
slevine@bpichicago.org

## Communications

[www.thecommunitybeat.org](http://www.thecommunitybeat.org)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Government  
Families/Community Members  
Chicago Police Department  
Chicago Public Library  
Chicago Park District

## Mission

The mission of the Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition is to assure that all children are healthy and on track to succeed (academically, cognitively, social-emotionally) by third grade. By working collaboratively to establish a comprehensive support system for children (prenatally to age 8) and their parents, the Coalition builds partnerships among residents, parents, community organizations, and key institutions which maximize their collective resources and position it to develop new initiatives for/with families. This includes the Altgeld-Riverdale Parenting Program (a doula/home visiting program); Pre-K to Kindergarten Transitions Project; Early Language Development Program; supporting Pre-K enrollment efforts; trauma support programming; out-of school science enrichment programming and a community website ([www.thecommunitybeat.org](http://www.thecommunitybeat.org)).

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

BPI serves as the administrative home for the Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition and provides a portion of their annual budget to help support the work. The Education and Early Learning team at BPI manages the coalition and BPI helps coordinate meeting topics and speakers. Funding is provided through foundations and individual fundraising. The Coalition's membership meets monthly as a whole and makes decisions based on consensus. Metropolitan Family Services is the backbone agency for Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. A continuum of evidenced-based programming for ages PB-8 free to the community. (Doula/home visiting, early language development programming, Pre-K to K Transitions Program, trauma support programming, after-school STEM programming)
2. A trauma counseling program helping teachers and students address issues related to stress and trauma
3. A robust coalition that has been meeting monthly for seven years, providing a place for stakeholders to connect, collaborate, and problem-solve together

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs

# Carroll and Stephenson Counties: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 2000



## Areas Served

Stephenson and Carroll Counties

## Target Population

High-risk families with children birth to age 8

## Collaboration Address

10 W. Linden  
Freeport, IL 61032

## Collaboration Contact

Dana Keim  
815.599.8404

## Communications

[www.aok-nwil.com](http://www.aok-nwil.com)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

AOK Networks are community-based collaborations that promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children birth to five and their parents/caregivers by assuring a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of services and supports.

## Vision

Committed to a community system that assures positive growth and development of children 0-8 and their families by providing a framework to support initiatives embracing this goal.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The AOK Network's administrative home is within the Stephenson County Health Department. A full-time coordinator staffs the AOK grant. Network partners convene monthly with activities conducted at work group level. Decisions are made by consensus. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services. The AOK Network is a collaboration of service providers serving children pre-birth up to age 8 who participate as a Network to develop a community data driven strategic plan.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Implemented the use of online referral and follow-up system called IRIS.
2. Developed a pre-k system of all child care providers to use the same curriculum and assessment tools to track kindergarten readiness.
3. In 2016 the AOK Network worked with United Way of NW Illinois to fund and implement the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This program direct mails monthly books to ALL enrolled children from birth up to age 5. We currently have approximately 50% of the child population enrolled in this program.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs

# CCSD93 Birth to 5 Community Coalition

Established in 2014



## Areas Served

CCSD93 Communities of Carol Stream, Bloomingdale, and Hanover Park

## Target Population

Families with children, birth to age 5, within CCSD93 Boundaries

## Affiliation

DuPage Early Childhood Collaborative

## Collaboration Address

CCSD93 Early Childhood Center  
280 Old Gary Avenue  
Bloomingdale, IL 60108

## Collaboration Contact

Rosary Horne  
Co-Facilitator,  
Birth to 5 Community Coalition  
630-307-3750  
horner@ccsd93.com

Michelle Scharinger  
Co-Facilitator,  
Birth to 5 Community Coalition  
630-307-3848  
scharim@ccsd93.com

## Communications

[www.ccsd93.com/BirthTo5](http://www.ccsd93.com/BirthTo5)  
Facebook: @BirthTo5  
Twitter: @BirthTo5D93

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

Community Consolidated School District 93 partners with many local organizations that specialize in providing care & services for our community's families with children age birth to 5.

## Vision

Building a foundation of success for all children through community and family partnerships. It is through such partnerships that we work together to increase family access to services in our community and support the needs of the "whole child" and the family.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The CCSD93 Birth to 5 Community Coalition, originally a vision of the CCSD93 Board of Education, is fully supported by the district's senior leadership, including the Board of Education, Superintendent, Senior Leadership Team, and school administrative teams.

This is evident in the resources provided by CCSD93, including in-kind services of the Early Childhood Center (ECC) Principal and Birth to 3 Coordinator who serve as the facilitators of the Coalition, as well as the materials, equipment, and staff without which the events and resources available to children, families, and partners would not be possible.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Connecting families to community resources
2. Increasing services and access to underserved populations
3. Increasing coalition partnerships, including partners from the medical field and local businesses

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs

# Central Illinois Home Visiting Collaboration

Established in 2015



## Areas Served

Peoria and Tazewell Counties

## Target Population

Pregnant mothers and families with children birth to age 5

## Collaboration Address

3310 North Prospect Road  
Peoria, IL 61603

## Collaboration Contact

Christopher Heider  
309.687.7615  
cheider@chail.org  
igrow@chail.org

## Communications

Facebook page at IGrow Central IL

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care, home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

## Mission

The mission of Coordinated Intake is to conduct outreach to families who will most benefit from home visitation services, in an effort to promote family well-being and positive child outcomes. Additionally, Coordinated Intake's role is to reduce duplication of resources so that more families can be served.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The administrative home is within Children's Home Association of Illinois. Staffing includes a CI Specialist and a supervisor. The Coordinated Intake Home Visiting collaboration includes the accredited home visiting agencies in the area as well as the referring agencies. Decision making is done collaboratively at monthly meetings. Central Illinois Coordinated Intake home visiting collaboration receives grant funding to support the work and the administrative home is within Children's Home Association of Illinois.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. The CI-collaboration is proud of their continuing partnership and work done by the Home Visiting agencies in the collaborative which has increased public awareness of home visiting in the community as well as increasing referrals to these programs.
2. The collaborative is also proud of the current participation of collaborative partners being cohort #1 in the launch of database IRIS in the counties of Tazewell, Peoria, and Woodford, and that referrals would follow the same understanding/community standards as in the coordinated intake collaborative.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake

# Champaign County Home Visiting Consortium

Established in 2019



## Areas Served

Champaign County

## Target Population

Expectant families and at risk children (birth to 5) and their families

## Collaboration Address

2202 E Washington Ave  
Urbana, IL 61801

## Collaboration Contact

Kelly Russell  
217.384.3616  
krussell@usd116.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency, school districts  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

The mission statement of the Champaign County Home Visitor Task Force is to build a system of care that will support at risk children and their families through collaboration and coordination of services.

The Champaign County Home Visitor Task Force will work together to create seamless, unduplicated home visiting services in Champaign county that support the delivery of early care, developmental, and educational services for pregnant women and children from birth to age 5 through home visitation services.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Champaign County Home Visiting Consortium is made up of representatives from the 8 home visiting programs in Champaign County.

The consortium meets monthly to discuss openings, updates from programs, referrals, professional development and anything relevant to home visiting in our county.

The Champaign Home Visiting Consortium is not funded. We have worked together to create a coordinated system of referring families to programs that ensure best fit.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. The Home Visiting Consortium plans and provides professional development opportunities to home visitors in Champaign County at least 3 times a year.
2. The Consortium has implemented a coordinated referral system.
3. The Consortium has instituted a “no wrong door” policy to ensure families are placed into which ever home visiting program fits their needs best.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Implement collaborative screenings

# Cicero: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network/Early Childhood Committee

Established in 1999



## Areas Served

Cicero

## Target Population

Pregnant women and children birth to age 5

## Collaboration Address

5341 W Cermak  
Cicero, IL 60804

## Collaboration Contact

Linda Rios  
708-222-4503  
aok@childrenscenterciceroberwyn.org

## Communications

[www.aoknetworks.org/illinois](http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois)  
[www.facebook.com/aokcicero](https://www.facebook.com/aokcicero)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Faith-based  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

Statewide All Our Kids Early Childhood Networks (AOK Networks) Mission Statement – AOK Networks are community-based collaborations that promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children birth to five and their parents/caregivers by assuring a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of services and supports. The overall goal of this AOK/ECC Collaboration is to respond to the needs of Cicero children and their families to support the vision of every child entering kindergarten safe, healthy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Cicero AOK/ECC Network's backbone organization is the Children's Center of Cicero and Berwyn. A full-time coordinator and a volunteer co-chair host monthly Network meetings. Initiative approaches and strategies are developed within Network Meetings and further developed within work groups and presented to AOK Network partners during Network meetings. The Early Childhood Committee (ECC) of the Cicero Community Collaborative's (CCC) backbone organization is Youth Crossroads. A parent ambassador liaison supervises the all-parent ambassadors of the Cicero Community Collaborative. The CCC Coordinator provides additional supports to all CCC committees. Decisions are made by consensus. Implementation of efforts are promoted and supported by community stakeholders. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services. Funding for the Cicero Community Collaborative Coordinator and Parent Ambassador Liaison is provided through United Way of Metro Chicago.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Network partners collaborate to provide monthly community-wide developmental screenings for children birth to age three, serving families not currently enrolled in an early learning program.
2. Launched and implementing a web-based information and referral system engaging early childhood system providers and family support services to provide a clear referral path for families to receive services, streamline communications among referring partners, and track all referral activity to completion in one place, promoting data-informed decision making.
3. Increased community awareness on the importance of early education through an awareness campaign that included parent awareness and involvement opportunities such as: Parent Cafes, Trainings/Workshops, Events and Door to Door Canvassing.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs  
Implement collaborative screenings  
Comprehensive referrals



# Collaboration for Early Childhood

Established in 2002



## Areas Served

Oak Park and River Forest, IL

## Target Population

Families with children under age 5

## Collaboration Address

171 S. Oak Park Ave.  
Oak Park, IL 60302

## Collaboration Contact

TBD

## Communications

[www.collab4kids.org](http://www.collab4kids.org)  
Facebook: Collab4kids  
Instagram: @collab4kids  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/collaboration-for-early-childhood/>

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Community organizations  
Families/Community Members  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Government

## Mission

We champion high-quality early childhood care and learning experiences and support for families so all children develop their full potential.

## Vision

A community where every child thrives.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Collaboration for Early Childhood is a nonprofit organization managed by a Board of Directors. The Board sets policy for the Collaboration, with consent from the Collaboration Council on a) election of Board members and officers, b) adoption of the annual budget, c) changes to the mission and vision, d) changes to strategic direction, e) frameworks for public policy advocacy, and f) approval of changes to the Bylaws. Funding comes from foundations, individuals, and corporations. It also comes from the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Village of Oak Park, Elementary School District 97, and High School District 200. We also receive funds from the Park District of Oak Park and the Oak Park Public Library.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. The Collaboration for Early Childhood has spent the last decade designing and implementing a coordinated system of vision, hearing and developmental screening and referral for children 0-5 in our community. Since launching this program, we have partnered with local providers (24 currently) to deliver 1,500-2,000 screenings to children of families in our community each year.
2. In 2022, the Collaboration for Early Childhood will host their 19th annual Early Childhood Symposium. This is a space for early childhood educators, caregivers, and the early learning community to come together to learn about what's new in the field of early childhood education.
3. The Collaboration's Early Childhood Resource Directory is a one-stop resource for parents and caregivers to find local child care centers and preschools in the community, as well resources around developmental screenings, early intervention, and enrichment programs. The Collaboration prints a booklet every year and also maintains an online version of the directory.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Promoting equity in early learning

# Community Based Planning - Effingham County

Established in 2021



## Areas Served

Effingham County

## Target Population

Early Childhood - birth to age 5

## Collaboration Address

Effingham Public Library, 200 N.  
Third St. Effingham, IL 62401

## Collaboration Contact

Johnna Schultz

johnna@effinghamlibrary.org

217-342-2464 ext. 5

Courtney Hatcher, Provider  
Recruitment/Quality Specialist,  
Project CHILD: Child Care  
Resource and Referral  
Email: hatcher@rlc.edu  
Phone: 618-244-2210 ext.112

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers

Health providers

Social service providers

Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)

Child Care Resource and

Referral (CCR&R)

Other public services

(housing, police, libraries)

Foundations

Government

## Mission

TBD

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Collaborative members are passionate about the need for childcare and their employers have donated time toward the project.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Effingham County has established a Childcare Research Committee. Two County Board members will sit on the committee who will help us create a mission statement.
2. Community Based Planning group completed the goal of determining which organization would apply for additional publicly-funded preschool spaces.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Provide more licensed childcare opportunities

# ConnecTeen

Established in 2018



## Areas Served

Cook County

## Target Population

Pregnant people and families with young children

## Affiliation

Ann & Robert H. Lurie  
Children's Hospital of Chicago

## Collaboration Address

225 E. Chicago Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611

## Collaboration Contact

Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Office: 312-227-7065  
Mobile: 312-771-3028  
eagonzalez@luriechildrens.org

## Communications

<https://www.luriechildrens.org/connecteen>

Instagram: lurieconnecteen

## Partners & Participants

Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency, school districts)  
Community organizations

## Mission

ConnecTeen is a coordinated intake program designed to serve and support pregnant people and families with young children who attend Chicago Public Schools (CPS) or live in the City of Chicago, by connecting them with a network of home visiting providers in their community area. ConnecTeen allows a single point of contact to understand the person's needs and provide an appropriate referral to the home visiting program.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

ConnecTeen is staffed by a part time Medical Director, part time Director, one full time Program Coordinator, and one full time Parent Educator. The collaboration consists of 22 community based organizations providing home visiting services through 33 different programs. ConnecTeen also partners with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) as well as multiple medical systems in Chicago.

The ConnecTeen collaboration meets monthly to discuss updates from programs, referrals, open slots/availability, and offers professional development opportunities. ConnecTeen also works with an Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant to ensure programs within the collaboration feel supported and can effectively work together to service families.

ConnecTeen is funded through private philanthropy.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. ConnecTeen has served families in over 64 zip codes
2. ConnecTeen has engaged over 95 Chicago Public High Schools working directly with students to offer home visiting services
3. ConnecTeen has partnered with several birthing hospitals and prenatal clinics in Chicago to receive referrals

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning
- Coordinated intake

# Coordinated Intake for Home Visiting Programs

Established in 2018



## Areas Served

Kankakee County

## Target Population

Pregnant mothers or mothers with children 3 years and younger.

## Affiliation

Aunt Marthas

## Collaboration Address

1777 E. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901

## Collaboration Contact

Pia A. Green  
pgreen@auntmarthas.org  
815-937-5430

## Partners & Participants

Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

Coordinated Intake helps establish home visiting as a proven strategy for strengthening families by promoting family self-sufficiency. Home visiting has a positive effect on parenting by helping parents watch for developmental milestones and communicating effectively with healthcare providers. Home visiting facilitates activities that increase parent-child attachment by understanding and responding to their child's needs, while reducing child maltreatment, increases kindergarten readiness, and helps families connect with community services.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Coordinated Intake position is funded through MIECHV with Aunt Martha's as an employer.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Built a working relationship with Department of Human Services for Home Visiting programs to have a constant presence within office to build a referral system.
2. Planning a celebration in February with referral partners, enrolled families, and all home visiting agencies for the community to understand the successes and basis of home visiting.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated Intake
- Implement collaborative screenings

# DeKalb Coordinated Intake Collaborative

Established in 2017



## Areas Served

DeKalb County

## Target Population

DeKalb county families with children 0–3

## Collaboration Address

155 N 3rd St  
DeKalb, IL 60115

## Collaboration Contact

Fanya Mojica  
(815) 217-9995  
fmojica@childrenshomeandaid.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

## Mission

DeKalb County Coordinated Intake is a collaboration of community partners dedicated to serving families who have young children (including expecting moms and dads) by connecting them to home visiting programs and community resources – giving all families the tools they need to raise their children and reach their goals.

## Vision

All DeKalb County families have equitable access to what they need to build strong, successful families.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

DeKalb Coordinated Intake employs one CI Coordinator on a full-time basis. The Leadership Team of the Collaborative includes the CI Coordinator, a representative from each of the network home visiting programs, and a representative from the Regional Office of Education. Funding for DeKalb Coordinated Intake is through MIECHV – Illinois’s Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. Governance is shared among collaborative partners.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. DeKalb Coordinated Intake has established a community collaborative that meets monthly. The collaborative is currently composed of individuals from the EHS & Start Early Doula programs (CH&A), HFI HV program, (CH&A), The Family Enrichment HV program (4-C), CCAP (4-C), EHS HV Program (CH&A), DeKalb County Health Department, DCFS, and the NIU Child Development & Family Center PFAE.
2. DeKalb Coordinated Intake Collaborative is participating in its third year of CS3 coaching through the Partner Plan Act Collaboration Institute.
3. In 2021, the Collaborative facilitated three parent focus groups to increase parent voice in its outreach and recruitment practices.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs

# DeKalb County Collaborative for Young Children

Established in 2016



## Areas Served

DeKalb County

## Target Population

Birth- Age 5

## Collaboration Address

2500 N. Annie Glidden Rd., Suite C  
DeKalb, IL 60115

## Collaboration Contact

Amanda Christensen  
815.217.0460  
achristensen@dekalbcounty.org

## Communications

www.basicsdekalbcounty.org  
Facebook: basicsdekalbcounty  
www.dkroeedteam.com

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and  
Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Families/Community Members

## Vision

All DeKalb County children have equitable opportunities to be prepared for school and life success.

## Goal

To increase the number of DeKalb County children ready for kindergarten in the following impact areas:

- Access to early learning opportunities
- Parent and community partner education, support, and resources
- Health and wellness of children

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The DeKalb County Collaborative for Young Children Steering Committee consists of cross-sector county-wide representation with liaisons to partner committees. Members include the Health Department, the Mental Health Board, the Community Foundation, Community Coordinated Child Care, and community members. These partner committees focus on trauma-informed practices, home-visiting, Basics DeKalb County ambassadors, professional development and networking for Pre-K and K, alignment of services for transition of children from Birth into K, and a new Family Council. The Collaborative itself is volunteer from organizations. In the collective impact model, the DeKalb ROE serves as the backbone organization. The DeKalb County Community Foundation funds some of the objectives through the DeKalb ROE. Basics DeKalb County is funded by the McCormick Foundation, the DeKalb County Community Foundation, the DeKalb ROE, CME Group Foundation, and several local contributors.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

- A joint professional development committee was created to help inform decisions regarding what professional learning is most useful for both Pre-K and K-5 worlds.
- Significant progress made, including the installation of 3 Toddler Gardens with park districts, mailings to housing managements, and literature in new mother take-home folders. Basics DeKalb County is also leading Basics Illinois, a state-wide network for all Basics communities.
- The DeKalb County Collaborative for Young Children has drafted a strategic plan, worked on governance, family engagement, and racial equity.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Serve priority populations
- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)
- Increase public awareness of importance of early learning

# DuPage Home Visiting Network IRIS Community

Established in 2021



## Areas Served

DePage County

## Affiliation

DuPage Home Visiting Network

## Target Population

Families pregnant and/or with young children

## Collaboration Address

111 N County Farm Rd  
Wheaton, IL 60187

## Collaboration Contact

Catherine Soto  
Intensive Services Supervisor  
DuPage County Health Department  
Phone:  
630-221-7077  
Email:  
Catherine.Soto@dupagehealth.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Community organizations

## Mission

Coordinated Intake IRIS work is important because it will enhance community partner collaboration, facilitate equitable access to resources for families, streamline our approach to connecting families to the services they need and ultimately lead to increased positive outcomes for children and families.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Our IRIS Leadership Team is comprised of representatives from early childhood and home visiting programs across the county, including the DuPage County Health Department. The DuPage County Health Department is the fiscal agent of funding we receive to support Coordinated Intake efforts. Currently, the IRIS Leadership Team reports and coordinates with the DuPage Home Visiting Network to ensure CI efforts meet the collective needs of families across our communities. Our CI IRIS efforts are currently funded by the PDG B-5 grant from the GOECD. DuPage IRIS Leadership provide support within the roles of their home agencies.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. DuPage launched the IRIS system in September 2021.
2. As of December 2021 we have successfully enrolled 9 of 12 area HV programs, with one pending.
3. We have had 55 referrals with an 88% acceptance rate and an average response time of 1 day, 4 hours.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake



# Early Childhood Alliance

Established in 2018



## Areas Served

Niles Township

## Target Population

Children 0-5

## Collaboration Contact

Rosa Ines Mendez

773-255-8372

mendez@ntdse.org

## Communications

[www.nilestownshippeca.org](http://www.nilestownshippeca.org)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers

Social service providers

Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)

Health providers

Child Care Resource and

Referral (CCR&R)

Other public services

(housing, police, libraries)

Community organizations

Government

Families/Community Members

## Mission

To advocate for and coordinate comprehensive community-based supports for young children and their caregivers that promote equity and honor strengths and diversity.

## Vision

All young children and their caregivers have healthy relationships, safe environments, and high-quality learning experiences in order to reach their full potential.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The charter of the ECA identifies a Steering Committee, General Members, Parent Council, Fiscal Agent, Specialist/Director, and Subcommittees. The collaboration is funded through grants and the financial support of school districts and early childhood organizations and centers.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Hired Early Childhood Resource Specialist
2. Conducted parent survey to understand the experiences of family while seeking an early childhood program and provider survey to help understand factors that contribute to under enrollment in programs.
3. Formed a task force to address increasing enrollment in fully funded programs

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake

# Early Childhood Coalition of the Illinois Quad Cities Area

Established in 2000



## Areas Served

Rock Island County

## Target Population

Children prenatal through age 5

## Collaboration Address

4800 60th Street  
Moline, IL 61265

## Collaboration Contact

Marcy Mendenhall  
309-764-8110  
mmendenhall@salfcs.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

## Mission

The purposes of the Early Childhood Coalition shall be charitable and educational. The Early Childhood Coalition is a dynamic collaboration that identifies needs and cultivates resources to enhance services and supports to young children and families.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The principal governing body of ECC shall be called the Board of Directors who have the powers and duties to supervise, control, and direct the affairs of ECC, determine its policies and procedures or changes, actively promote its purposes, and have discretion in the disbursement of its funds. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as shall be deemed advisable, and may, in the execution of the powers granted, appoint such committees or agents as it may consider necessary. Membership of the Board of Directors: the Officers of ECC shall be President, Past President, President Elect, Treasurer and Secretary who shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their respective offices. The Board shall consist of Officers, Committee Chairs and At-Large Board Member(s), elected by the Membership of ECC via emailed ballot or in person by ballot at an ECC meeting. The size of the Board is subject to change at its discretions. This is a volunteer board and all services are donated.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Facilitated vital conversations with multiple stakeholders
2. Preschool for All collaboration
3. Grow Your Own Teacher collaborations"

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Increase children's attendance in early learning program

# Early Childhood Community Coalition of Lake County

Established in 1978



## Areas Served

Birth through 8 years

## Target Population

Lake County

## Collaboration Address

P.O. Box 61  
Gurnee, IL 60031

## Collaboration Contact

Lynn Allison  
Co-President  
847-990-5824  
lynn.allison@aah.org

Pat O'Keefe  
Co-President  
847-721-7868  
okpatok@gmail.com

## Communications

[www.EarlyChildhoodLC.org](http://www.EarlyChildhoodLC.org)  
[info@EarlychildhoodLC.org](mailto:info@EarlychildhoodLC.org)  
Facebook – Early Childhood  
Community Coalition Lake  
County IL

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and  
Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Lake County Legislators

## Mission

The ECCC is a united voice of community partners and leaders who advocate, collaborate, and strategize to support healthy early childhood growth, development, and school readiness. Our work is a community-wide effort. Our vision and passion is a community where children develop to their highest potential in a healthy, safe, and stimulating environment.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

We have an elected board of directors as well as committee chairs. Board of Directors consists of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Presidents of Advocacy, Communications, Education, and Membership committees. Our Board of Directors includes professionals from Child Care Centers and Homes, Regional Office of Education, Kohl's Children's Museum, Head Start, State's Attorney Office, United Way, YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, and the Lake County Health Department. We are a 501c3 funded by donations and dues.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Redesigned survey and sent to over 575 Lake County providers to gain information to better serve early childhood providers and systems in Lake County.
2. Production of our video - "A Day in the Life" to showcase what quality care and education should look like.
3. Completed a community assessment and system scan of Lake County's early childhood landscape - providing snapshots of county-wide and town-specific needs of young children and their families.
4. Continued with providing professional development opportunities for providers.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Advocate for the needs of providers; work towards better relationships with DCFS representatives and providers

# Early Childhood Forum of Central Illinois

Established in 1998



## Areas Served

Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties

## Target Population

Early Childhood - birth to age 5

## Collaboration Address

233 Leadley Avenue  
East Peoria, IL 61611

## Collaboration Contact

Kelsey Sepich  
(309) 674-0105  
kelseys@crittentoncenters.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Families/Community Members  
Higher Education and Mental Health

## Mission

The Early Childhood Forum of Central Illinois is a network of community service providers who share a vision of promoting quality programming for families with children age birth to eight. The partnership advocates for children and families, provides opportunities for professional growth and development, and increases public awareness of the benefits of early childhood education.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

This collaboration is overseen by a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Birth to 3 Chairperson and Birth to 3 Secretary. There is no funding or paid staff.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. The Early Childhood Forum of Central Illinois works together to provide trainings, collaborates in hosting a Legislative "Happening Hour," and collaborates with referrals to best serve families in the community.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs

# East St. Louis, MIECHV Collaboration

Established in 2019



## Areas Served

St. Clair County

## Target Population

Pregnant and Parenting mothers

## Affiliation

Comprehensive Behavioral  
Health Center

## Collaboration Address

505 South 8th Street  
East St. Louis, IL 62201

## Collaboration Contact

Rachel Linzy  
618.482.7654  
rlinzy@cbhc1.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care,  
home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

To become the single point of entry for the community and its partners in the St. Clair Region.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

MIECHV, Gia Moore, Coordinator, Rachel Linzy, Coordinated Intake Worker, and funded by MIECHV.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Partnership with the local DCFS
2. Partnership with the Local TANF Office

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs

# Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

Established in 2012



## Areas Served

Elgin and 10 Surrounding Communities that feed into School District U-46

## Target Population

Prenatal-5

## Collaboration Address

220 E. Chicago Street  
Elgin, IL 60120

## Collaboration Contact

Amber Peters  
847.452.2457  
amberpeters@elginpartnership.org

## Communications

www.elginpartnership.org  
Facebook: Elgin Partnership for Early Learning  
Twitter: @epel844kidinfo  
Instagram: @elginpartnership

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning is building a connected community dedicated to helping young children thrive.

## Vision

Our children are happy, healthy, and ready for Kindergarten.

## Purpose

- Ensure a shared vision for young children in the Elgin, Illinois community is clearly held, broadly disseminated, and acted upon.
- Support awareness and access for families to high-quality child development and early learning experiences.
- Coordinate efforts across all birth to five programs to increase impact and efficiency.
- Support quality improvement and capacity building of birth to five professionals and organizations.
- Respond to community data about strengths, needs, and gaps.
- Through a collaboration of community partners (childcare centers, library, healthcare, etc...) our work brings together the pieces of the early learning puzzle with the aim of improving Kindergarten success.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Executive Director only employee and a working board of 11 that meet monthly. We meet as a full collaboration with all partners three times a year. EPFL has four committees that meet monthly. The YWCA Elgin is our fiscal sponsor. A home visiting pipeline that meets quarterly. An early care director's meeting, family care provider round table meeting, and home visiting pipeline that meets quarterly. We are funded by Grand Victoria Foundation, United Way, School District, and a few other small grants and donations.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Named 2020 organization of the year from Elgin Hispanic Network
2. Received one of three OMG First book grants in Illinois and the only fully funded at \$70,000 to add 20,000 books into children's hands.
3. Language in the Laundromat early learning sites to offer resources and pop up preschool where bilingual teachers visit a couple of times a week to read and engage with children for school readiness.
4. Served over 3,000 children, parents, grandparents and caregivers in 5 Learning On The Go neighborhood sites with Talk, Play, Read, Do and Write activities for school readiness with bilingual teachers.
5. Early Learning Park Site in downtown Elgin offering math readiness skills on bilingual interactive signs
6. StoryWalks offering literacy opportunities in unexpected ways to build children's brains and engagement in nature.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Meeting families where they are by finding non-traditional locations to offer early learning opportunities
- Implement collaborative screenings

# Evanston Cradle to Career

Established in 2015



## Areas Served

City of Evanston

## Target Population

Youth 0-23

## Affiliation

United Way Neighborhood Network

## Collaboration Address

2010 Dewey Ave.  
Evanston, IL 60201

## Collaboration Contact

Maricar Ramos  
847-920-7605  
mramos@evanstonc2c.org

## Communications

www.evanstonc2c.org  
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn: @evanstonc2c  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ0Kup6Efq47hQDQ2\\_5QWdQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ0Kup6Efq47hQDQ2_5QWdQ)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Government  
Families/Community Members  
Social service providers

## Mission

Evanston Cradle to Career (EC2C) is a community-wide collective impact initiative. We are committed to the vision that by age 23, all Evanston young adults will be leading productive lives, building on the resources, education, and support that they and their families have had to help them grow into resilient, educated, self-sufficient, healthy, and socially responsible adults.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

An Operations Team of representatives of our partner organizations guides routine operations and strategic direction. All organizational partners sign off on strategic direction. An HR Team made up of representatives of the Operations Team supervises the Executive Director. Two teams of community members, Advocates for Action Alumni and Advocates for Action 2.0, serve as the arm of the organization into the community and manage a Community Building Grants program. A team of Student Advocates works on community building projects with youth. Six Action Teams made up of representatives of partner organizations work on implementing EC2C's collective impact mission. Staff includes an Executive Director, Assistant Director/Director of Research and Evaluation, Director of Community Engagement, Communications Manager, and part-time AmeriCorps Member. EC2C is funded by United Way of Metro Chicago as the Evanston Neighborhood Network. All EC2C partners also financially contribute annual dues on a sliding scale.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Partnerships were developed for the first time across early childhood and kindergarten teachers to reach consensus on standards for preparing children for kindergarten and guides developed for both teachers and parents on promoting those skills.
2. Extensive training and coaching has developed skills among early childhood providers to ensure trauma-informed early childhood programming.
3. A process was developed to share information between early childhood and kindergarten teachers to smooth the transition for a strong start to kindergarten.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Create systems change solutions for social and educational systems impacting youth
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs



# Evanston Early Childhood Council

Established in 2018



## Areas Served

City of Evanston

## Target Population

Birth to 5 years old

## Collaboration Address

1335 Dodge Ave  
Evanston, IL 60201

## Collaboration Contact

Tina Vanderwarker  
(847) 858-7916  
tinavanderwarker@gmail.com

## Communications

[www.evanstonearlychildhood.org](http://www.evanstonearlychildhood.org)

## Partners & Participants

Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)  
Social service providers  
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency, school districts)  
Community organizations  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

The Evanston Early Childhood Council (EECC) helps to provide resources and promote policies that strengthen families, children and communities. Our mission is to promote high quality services in early childhood education, share resources, disseminate best practices, support families and children and advocate for equity, inclusion, access and the highest quality care for all of the children in Evanston and our surrounding community.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The EECC has one paid part time director for 8 hours a week, a Council chair, and a Council co-chair. Both the chair and co-chair are one year terms and are elected by all partner organizations. A steering committee of 8-10 members is composed each year from the partner organizations and helps to guide the direction of the director and chairs. The EECC has one paid staff member. The EECC is funded by nominal annual dues paid by partner organizations as well as any grant money we are able to procure.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Co-hosted Lifting Up Early Childhood Education Series in 2019-2020: (No Small Matter screening, Geoff Nagle "The first 1100 days last forever", and Jane Elliott "The intersectionality of Race, Social Justice, and Early Childhood Education")
2. Shared resources, policies, and documents throughout the pandemic to ensure smooth operation of facilities and high quality of care for all ECE programs.
3. As a coalition, advocated for priority vaccination for early childhood teachers and dedicated funding to ECE programs from the City's ARPA allocation.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

# Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative

Established in 2017



## Areas Served

Marquardt D15, Queen Bee 16, Glen Ellyn D41, CCSD 89, Lombard SD 44

## Target Population

Families with children prenatal through 5 years

## Collaboration Address

22W600 Butterfield Rd  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

## Collaboration Contact

Jeanine Woltman  
224.588.4012  
jwoltman@casedupage.org

## Communications

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/Glenbard-Early-Childhood-Collaborative-1960456107575114/>  
Twitter: @GlenbardECC  
Webpage: [www.casedupage.com/glenbard-early-childhood-collaborative/](http://www.casedupage.com/glenbard-early-childhood-collaborative/)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Families/Communities

## Mission

Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative\* is a group of community-based partners who work with families and young children to develop and support an environment where all are safe, happy, healthy, and eager to learn. (\*The Glenbard Community includes Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Lombard, and parts of Addison, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream and Wheaton.)

## Vision

Working together as a community to create a society that empowers young children and their families.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

We are comprised of our Full Collaborative (community partners), Core Team (including Core Team Officers) and Parent Advisory Council. Our Fiscal agent is the Cooperative Association for Special Education (CASE). Our private funding comes from Bright and Early Grant (DuPage Foundation), state funding comes from the ISBE PI Grant, and additional funding comes from donations.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Established a living Glenbard ECC Charter
2. Established an interactive Parent Advisory Council
3. Working with the DuPage Home Visiting Network to implement the IRIS coordinated intake system county wide

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Coordinated intake

# Greater East St. Louis Early Learning Partnership

Established in 2009



## Areas Served

ELP is the anchoring early learning collaborative of the emerging cradle-to-career collective impact effort known as East Side Aligned. ELP includes the footprint of East St. Louis School District which includes the communities of East St. Louis, Washington Park and parts of Alorton, Centreville and Fairmont City. These communities encompass zip codes: 62201, 62203, 62204, 62205 and 62207, all within St. Clair County.

## Target Population

Families with children ages prenatal to five

## Affiliation

East Side Aligned

## Collaboration Contact

Kaelin Richardson, they/them  
ELP Network Manager  
kaelin.richardson@stl.unitedway.org  
404-694-3196

## Communications

[www.facebook.com/GESLELP/](https://www.facebook.com/GESLELP/)  
[www.eastsidealigned.org/elp](http://www.eastsidealigned.org/elp)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

To strengthen and sustain a high-quality prenatal to five early childhood system of programs, services, and supports.

## Vision

Every child has the knowledge, skills, and disposition for kindergarten success.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

ELP is governed by an executive committee, family council, and service coordination team with guidance from co-chairs. Currently, it is staffed by volunteers with one full-time employee and three contracted family engagement consultants. ELP is funded by private foundations and government grants.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Annual "Ready, Set, Enroll!" effort that directly increases enrollment of children in early learning programs and implements collaborative screenings
2. Week of the Young Child events build community support and contribute to literacy
3. Kindergarten Transitions pilot in partnership with ISBE in order to improve stakeholder experiences with transitions and boost readiness.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)

# Grundy Partnership for Children

Established in 2009



## Areas Served

Grundy County

## Target Population

General children, but primarily birth to age 3

## Collaboration Address

520 W. Illinois Ave.  
Morris, IL 60450

## Collaboration Contact

Devan Gagliardo  
815.941.0852  
devan@cfgrundycounty.com

## Communications

[www.facebook.com/GrundyPartnershipForChildren/](http://www.facebook.com/GrundyPartnershipForChildren/)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations

## Mission

The Grundy Partnership for Children (GPC) collaborates with organizations, stakeholders, and community members to prepare young children in Grundy County for lifelong learning by identifying and addressing early childhood care and education issues.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

GPC falls under the Community Foundation of Grundy County's (CFGCC) Programs.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. GPC has created a county wide screening calendar.
2. GPC has increased our membership to include diverse partners.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Implement collaborative screenings

# iGrow – Coordinated Intake Cicero

Established in 2016



## Areas Served

Cicero

## Target Population

Pregnant, Children 0-5

## Affiliation

Family Focus

## Collaboration Address

1500 s 59th Ct.  
Cicero, IL 60804

## Collaboration Contact

Jennifer Jimenez  
773-441-8234  
ci@family-focus.org

## Communications

www.igrowillinois.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care, home visiting)

## Mission

Coordinated Intake (CI) is a collaborative process that provides families with a single point of entry for home visiting programs within a community.

Trained Coordinated Intake workers serve as a hub for home visiting, assessing families' needs, referring them to an appropriate home visiting program, and tracking what happens to the referrals.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

In terms of governance, collaboration is key in creating a consensus between MIECHV, ISBE, AOK, CFC, Ounce of Prevention and Coordinated Intake. This collaboration is funded by MIECHV.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. We have collaborations with the following Community agencies through the AOK network: Claudia Aly (ISAC), Sandra Barajas (Morton College), Liz Bethell (CFC #7), Laura Castro (EC PA), Roxanna Chavez (Cicero Family Services), Ana Cordova (EC PA), Concepcion Cortez (EC PA), Ana Luis Garcia (CCC PA), Sofia Gutierrez (EC PA), Darrin Johnson (Family Focus), Amy Kalas (District 99 and AOK/ECC Co-Chair), Ana Patricia Lopez (EC PA), Silvia Perez (Parent Liaison CCC), Rosie Macias, Felicitas Miranda, Silvia Moran, Susana Olivares (EC PA), Alejandra Ortiz (Family Focus), Elida Ortiz (Youth Crossroads and Interpreter), Silvia Palmerin, Tracy Patton (CCCB MIECHV), Jonathan Peralta (SGA), Sonia Romo (CCC Support Staff), Linda Rios (AOK Co-ordinator and AOK/ECC Co-Chair), Emma Roldan, Teresa Ruiz, Olivia Sanchez (ISAC), Ericka Saucedo (EC PA).

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake

# iGrow Vermilion County Early Childhood Network

Established in 2012



## Areas Served

Vermilion County

## Target Population

Teen, first and second time parent, homeless, DCFS involved, lives in rural area, mental health, receiving TANF or WIC

## Collaboration Address

516 N. Jackson St.  
Danville IL 61832

## Collaboration Contact

Niah Hamilton or Katie Gibson  
217.483.BABY (2229) or  
217.260.5006  
hamiltonn@danville118.org or  
gibsona@danville118.org

## Communications

iGrow Vermilion County-FB  
@iGrowVercounty-Twitter  
igrowillinois.org

## Partners & Participants

Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Childcare Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Faith-based  
Families/Community Members  
Early childhood education providers

## Mission

The purpose of iGrow is to provide an opportunity for collaboration and partnership at the federal, state, and community levels to respond to the diverse needs of Vermilion County children and families and to improve their health and developmental outcomes through evidence-based home visiting programs.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

All HV agencies contribute through their Home Visiting supervisors' participation as voluntary members of the collaborative, and Coordinated Intake staff assist with organizing and leading collective efforts for community services. When making decisions, each agency is given a vote and decisions are made by majority agreement. Funding comes from MIECHV & ISBE.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Successful Coordinated Intake process since 2012
2. Working dual coordinated team
3. Program expansions.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake

# The Jewish Early Childhood Collaborative

Established in 2018



## Areas Served

The Collaborative serves greater Chicago, encompassing centers and communities as far south as Hyde Park, as far west as Naperville, and as far north as Vernon Hills.

## Affiliation

Jewish United Fund

## Target Population

Birth to age 5

## Collaboration Address

30 S Wells  
Chicago, IL 60606

## Collaboration Contact

Kate Warach  
katewarach@juf.org  
312-357-4513  
www.juf.org

## Communications

[juf.org/preschoolfinder](http://juf.org/preschoolfinder)

## Partners & Participants

Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)  
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency, school districts)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

The Collaborative is a broad-based coalition of early childhood directors, teachers, researchers, and community members committed to increasing access to and enrollment in high quality Jewish early care and education in the Chicago Metropolitan area. Its core goals include strengthening the pipeline of teachers and leaders; advancing a culture of excellence in the centers so that all children can maximize their potential; and expanding access to early care and education by lowering financial and geographic barriers that families may face.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Jewish United Fund serves as the administrative home of the Jewish Early Childhood Collaborative. A full-time project director convenes meetings, collects data, and identifies areas of focus. The Jewish Early Childhood Collaborative is made up of 36 non-profit Jewish early childhood centers in Greater Chicago that reach 600 educators, more than 2,600 families, and more than 3,000 young children. The collaborative is funded through the support of family foundations, private donations, and the annual campaign of the Jewish United Fund.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Developed and implement an annual parent satisfaction survey
2. Engage in an annual shared process of measuring staff satisfaction and targeting grants to support teachers
3. Created a financial benchmarking rubric for non-profit early childhood centers

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations



# Kane County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 1999



## Areas Served

Kane County

## Target Population

Children Birth-5 and their families

## Affiliation

Kane County Health Department

## Collaboration Address

1240 N. Highland  
Aurora, IL 60506

## Collaboration Contact

Kim Peterson  
630.232.5829  
petersonkim@co.kane.il.us

## Communications

[kanehealth.com/Pages/All-Our-Kids.aspx](http://kanehealth.com/Pages/All-Our-Kids.aspx)  
[www.facebook.com/KaneAOK/](http://www.facebook.com/KaneAOK/)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Government  
Families/Community Members  
Businesses

## Mission

AOK Networks are community-based collaborations that promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children birth to five and their parents / caregivers by assuring a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of services and supports.

Local Kane County AOK Network Purpose Statement: The AOK Network is a county-wide network where partners collaborate together to ensure all children enter kindergarten safe, healthy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Collaboration housed at the Kane County Health Department.

Coordinator: Kim Peterson

Supervisor: Michael Isaacson

The Kane County AOK Network is supported by 1 full time coordinator and volunteer co-chairs that lead work groups and committees. All AOK Network partners have an equal vote in decision making and development of approaches toward identified outcomes. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Successfully implemented a cross-sector, county wide community referral system to improve the way in which we connect individuals, children and families to services. This system improvement initiative launched in March of 2021 and has continued to grow and thrive, now including over 100 participating organizations and 1,000 referrals.
2. Distributed 10,000 comprehensive AOK Family Resource Guides throughout Kane County to be utilized by community members, providers, and staff (over a period of 6 months from 7/21-12/21).
3. Played a critical role in forming the Kane County Hunger Relief Network (collaboration of food pantries) and getting them to participate in IRIS as a central hub for food and nutrition connections throughout the county.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Mitigating the impact of ACES through social determinants of health

# Kindergarten Readiness Goal Team – CUC2C

Established in 2014



## Areas Served

Champaign County

## Affiliation

Champaign Urbana Cradle to Career (CUC2C)

## Target Population

Birth-to-five

## Collaboration Address

5 Dunlap Court  
Savoy, IL 61874

## Collaboration Contact

Beverley Baker  
217.352.5151  
beverley@unitedwaychampaign.org

## Communications

[www.uwayhelps.org/CUC2C](http://www.uwayhelps.org/CUC2C)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations

## Mission

Every child will be ready when entering kindergarten.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Volunteer structure with 10 hours per month of dedicated United Way staff time.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Shared parent education opportunity calendar
2. Developed coordinated intake for early childhood home visiting programs
3. Implemented collaborative screenings

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase parent education
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs

# Little Village Education Collaborative

Established in 2014



## Areas Served

Little Village Community

## Target Population

Low income and working class

Mexican immigrants

## Affiliation

Enlace Chicago

## Collaboration Address

2759 South Harding Ave

Chicago, IL 60623

## Collaboration Contact

Valerie E. Coffman

312-566-7121

[vcoffman@enlacechicago.org](mailto:vcoffman@enlacechicago.org)

## Communications

[www.enlacechicago.org/lvec](http://www.enlacechicago.org/lvec)

Facebook: Little Village Education Collaborative

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers

Health providers

Social service providers

Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)

Child Care Resource and

Referral (CCR&R)

Other public services

(housing, police, libraries)

Community organizations

Foundations

Faith-based

Government

Families/Community Members

Policy makers

## Mission

The Little Village Education Collaborative (LVEC) was established in 2014 to focus on implementation of the educational strategies of the 2013 Little Village Quality of Life Plan. LVEC works to connect the key players impacting the education system in the community in order to evaluate the current state of this system, plan strategic improvements for the future, and support legislative changes that expand educational access and opportunity from birth to old age. Central to LVEC's approach is a community "cultural wealth" framework that is based on the recognition of parents' and students' cultural wealth, and that challenges the current "cultural deficit" framework that our educational system has adopted to explain and respond to issues related to educational attainment in low-income communities of color like Little Village.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

### Governance/Staffing:

Organized: LVEC is intentionally structured to empower its members and move its mission forward. Its subcommittees implement and revise strategies that are outlined in the 2013 Little Village Quality of Life Plan. All members convene quarterly in order to align the work of subcommittees and reinforce broader goals.

Innovative: LVEC convenes a diverse range of stakeholders and promotes unique methods of collaboration. This encourages the development of innovative and comprehensive ways to address educational issues in Little Village.

Participatory: LVEC seeks to be inclusive of all stakeholders. It uses a participatory approach that embodies respect, trust, transparency, "human goodness" and social justice.

### Funding:

Supported by different private foundations.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Responsive to the LV QLP ECE strategies and priorities
2. Strong participation of diverse ECE stakeholders
3. Increased the number of children enrolled using ECE services in LVC

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)

# Macon County Early Childhood Collaboration

Established in 2013



## Areas Served

Macon County and surrounding counties

## Target Population

Prenatal and at risk parenting families of children birth to age 5

## Collaboration Address

1221 E Condit St,  
Decatur, IL 62521

## Collaboration Contact

Karen Shiflett RN, BSN  
217-423-6988  
kshiflett@maconchd.org

## Communications

igrowmaconcounty.org  
facebook.com/igrowmaconcounty  
email: igrowmaconchd.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care, home visiting)  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Faith-based

## Purpose

To work collaboratively to maximize the impact of Early Childhood Home Visiting in our community.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

We have no formal governance however we are current working toward a charter agreement to establish governance. Staff from partnering home visiting agencies attend monthly as well as multiple community agencies on a quarterly level. The meetings are facilitated in large part by the MIECHV CI pers. We are not funded.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Creation of Charter Agreement that includes mission statement, defines roles and decision making.
2. Creation of referral flow chart and decision tree which has increased transparency between home visiting providers regarding differences in each program's criteria and services.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated Intake

# Madison County Coordinated Intake

Established in 2021



## Areas Served

Madison County

## Target Population

Families with children ages prenatal to five

## Collaboration Address

2133 Johnson Road  
Granite City, IL 62040

## Collaboration Contact

Heidi Elliott  
2133 Johnson Road  
Granite City, IL 62040  
800-467-9200, Ext 119

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

## Vision

Through a single point of entry, Madison County Coordinated Intake connects expectant parents and families with children (prenatal to age five) to Home Visiting and community resources. Valuing family choice, the IRIS Coordinated Intake System offers programs information, options, and referrals that are responsive and respectful of each family's needs within their community.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The partnership is steered by a leadership team and is funded by PDG B5 grant funding.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Established in 2021 with committed collaborative home visiting partners valuing family choice
2. Using a web based referral system (IRIS) providing quick and seamless referrals between partners with referrals happening on day one.
3. With continued success since initial launch, this coordinated intake group is expanding recruiting efforts to community resource agencies and services in Madison County.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intakes

# McLean County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 1999



## Areas Served

McLean County Illinois

## Target Population

Pregnant people & their partners, families with children age 5 and under

## Affiliation

Illinois AOK Networks

## Collaboration Address

200 W Front St, #304,  
Bloomington, IL 61701

## Collaboration Contact

Maureen Sollars  
309.888.5539  
maureen.sollars@mcleancountyil.gov

## Communications

[www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/health.mcleancountyil.gov/](http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/health.mcleancountyil.gov/)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Government  
Families/Community Members  
Mental Health Providers  
State and Local Government program partners (IDCFs, County Mental Health, and more)

## Purpose Statement

The McLean County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network envisions a community that provides the best health care and support for pregnant women from conception through the healthy, full-term birth of their infant. We must work with parents and caregivers of young children to raise successful learners, confident adults, and responsible citizens. To help ensure that all our children have the same opportunities: pregnant women need appropriate health care and supports; and children need to be safe, nurtured, healthy (physically and mentally), active, included, and respected. We further picture a mental health system that is abundant, affordable, and easy to access and navigate; that supports pregnant women, their partners, and families with very young children; and recognizes that mentally-healthy families are the key to life-long success and wellness.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The McLean County Health Department is the administrative home of this AOK Network. The Network is led by one full-time Coordinator; responsibilities include: establishing and maintaining a community collaboration representing health & human service providers; building strategies on coordination of care, workforce staffing, information and referral, and developing and updating the Network's local webpage, to name a few. We have work groups meeting bi-monthly to move the work forward. The AOK Network strives for consensus through decision and cooperation. The McLean County AOK Early Childhood Network is a grant funded program through the Illinois Department of Human Services and local tax dollars.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Launched IRIS in May 2021, an online information & referral program. Local health and human service providers will use IRIS to support referrals through warm hand-offs and improve communication among partners, to enhance coordination of referrals by:
  - Increasing partner awareness of community resources,
  - Enhancing following-up and tracking procedures,
  - Closing the referral loop; and
  - Utilizing current referral data and trends to ensure all families receive the most beneficial services to meet their needs in a timely manner.
2. Hosted many community forums to raise awareness of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders.
3. Coordinates the McLean County Mental Health First Aid Collaboration and its instructors who trained 2,600+ in Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid over the last seven years.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Implement collaborative screenings
- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)
- Promote and increase access to Parental Mental Health Care

# McLean County Coordinated Intake Collaboration

Established in 2014



## Areas Served

McLean County

## Target Population

McLean County Families with children 0-5

## Collaboration Address

403 S. State Street  
Bloomington, IL 61701

## Collaboration Contact

Fanya Mojica  
Children's Home & Aid  
(815) 217-9995  
fmojica@childrenshomeandaid.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The McLean Coordinated Intake Collaboration employs one CI Coordinator on a full-time basis. The collaboration is made up of representatives from each of the network home visiting programs, the doula program, and other community partners. Funding for McLean Coordinated Intake is through MIECHV - Illinois's Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. Governance is shared among collaborative partners.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Decision Tree for home visiting referral distribution
2. Updated outreach messaging through the creation of a new parent flyer

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake



# North Lawndale Early Learning Collaborative

Established in 2013



## Areas Served

North Lawndale

## Target Population

Priority Families with children  
0-8 years old

## Affiliation

Illinois Action for Children

## Collaboration Contact

Rarzail Jones  
Community Connections  
Program Manager  
312.823.1108  
Rarzail.jones@actforchildren.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and  
Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

North Lawndale Early Learning Collaborative ambition is to ensure that priority families with children 0-8 years old have the resources needed to engage, enroll and sustain in quality early learning programs.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Illinois Action for Children serves as the administrative home for the collaborative. The collaborative has a team dedicated to this work and leaders range from various agencies. Decision making is done through a consensus and made as a collective.

There is currently no funding for this initiative.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Partnered with community health center to message early learning programs and enrollment process on patients visit summary
2. Collaborative shared consensus with getting outdoor playful learning installed across the community
3. Partnered with Carole Robertson Center for Learning to share input on the Community Parenting Saturation project

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning
- Serve priority populations
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs

# PELA—Palatine Early Learning Alliance

Established in 2019



## Areas Served

Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights, Mt Prospect, Prospect Heights, and parts of Wheeling

## Target Population

Underserved families in our communities

## Collaboration Address

2626 S. Clearbrook Dr  
Arlington Heights IL

## Collaboration Contact

Kristen Ford  
224-366-8629  
Kford@cntrmail.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Community organizations  
Families/community members  
Community College  
Homelessness agency

## Mission

To create system level change that increases enrollment in our early learning programs and the quality of the programs serving underserved young children and their families.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

We arrange a monthly meeting (usually a doodle poll) and share out the information with partners. The slides, notes, and related materials are sent out to all members after the completion of the meeting. Depending on how we have decided to move forward the partners connect with those who are interested in the strategies we are working on at that time. We all work for other agencies but come together to collaborate on early childhood issues.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. We are currently working on locating a space, obtaining the space, and opening a quality childcare facility to offer care to our underserved families.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning
- Serve priority populations

# Plano Area Alliance Supporting Student Success

Established in 2018



## Areas Served

Plano area including parts of Kendall and DuPage County, Lisbon, Newark, Sandwich, Somonauk and surrounding areas

## Target Population

Birth to 3rd grade

## Affiliation

Plano CUSD 88/P.H. Miller Elementary School

## Collaboration Address

904 N. Lew Street  
Plano, IL 60545

## Collaboration Contact

Laurel Mateyka  
630.552.8504  
lmateyka@plano88.org

## Communications

[www.facebook.com/PAASSS](https://www.facebook.com/PAASSS)  
[paasssinfo@gmail.com](mailto:paasssinfo@gmail.com)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

PAASSS (Plano Area Alliance Supporting Student Success) will strengthen the community by ensuring that all families in the Plano area are aware of and have equitable access to services and supports that empower them to raise children that are safe, healthy, eager to learn, and ready to succeed.

## Vision

A community where all children and families are empowered to succeed in learning and in life.

## Values

Partnering for Awareness and Access to Services Supporting Success.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

P.H. Miller Elementary School serves as the administrative home for PAASSS and provides a portion of their budget to support the work. The preschool support team, volunteer members from the Fox Valley YMCA, Mutual Ground, Family Focus, DayOne PACT, Kendall County Health Department, and United Way plan and facilitate meetings and guide the collaborative regarding strategic planning. The collaboration's membership meets quarterly as a whole and makes decisions based on consensus.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Opened the Plano Family Resource Center where we offer FREE services and supports to family members with children ages birth-5.
2. Partnered with Fox Valley YMCA to provide before/after school care for preschool students.
3. Community-wide screening of 'No Small Matter' in April 2022.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increased enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Implement collaborative screenings

# Rock Island County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 2012



## Areas Served

Rock Island County

## Target Population

Early childhood – children aged 0-5

## Collaboration Address

524 15th Street  
Moline, IL 61265

## Collaboration Contact

Georgia Stear  
309-736-7170 ext. 103  
georgias@childabuseqc.org

## Communications

[www.rockislandaok.org/](http://www.rockislandaok.org/)  
[www.childabuseqc.org](http://www.childabuseqc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/rock-islandaok](https://www.facebook.com/groups/rock-islandaok)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

The Rock Island County All Our Kids (AOK) Network is a community-based collaboration established to promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children birth to five by assuring a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of services and supports.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Rock Island County AOK Network exists under an umbrella organization (Child Abuse Council). The Child Abuse Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency governed by a Board of Directors. AOK Network programming is ran by the AOK Network Coordinator who is overseen by the Community Education Program Manager. Local community early childhood agencies, professionals and invested parties are encouraged to join as Network Members and inform the direction of network activities, share information, gain resources and more. The Rock Island County All Our Kids Network is funded through a combination of local grants, fundraising and a contract through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Implemented the Learning Through Play Initiative within our community
2. Active ongoing collaboration on an Integrated Referral and Information System for our community
3. Collaborated toward the implementation of a Food Resource Guide specific to our community outlining where to access fresh food, food pantries, markets, and other options besides grocery stores

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings

# Sauk Valley STARS Early Childhood Education Coalition

Established in 2004



## Areas Served

Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties  
(ROE #47 service area)

## Target Population

Early Childhood Providers

## Collaboration Address

c/o ROE #47  
1001 W. 23rd St.  
Sterling, IL 61081

## Collaboration Contact

Lois Meisenheimer @  
Regional Office of Education  
#47 815-625-1495  
lmeisenheimer@roe47.org

## Communications

[www.roe47.org/page/sauk-valley-stars](http://www.roe47.org/page/sauk-valley-stars)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA,  
school districts)  
Childcare Resource and  
Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Families/community members

## Mission

The mission of the Coalition is to plan, provide, and promote a comprehensive and collaborative system that identifies, coordinates, and facilitates equitable access to early education and community services designed to help all children, prenatal through age five, and their families reach their full potential.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The coalition is governed by a Board of Directors. The regular work of the coalition is directed by the general member leadership team. Recommendations approved by consensus of the general members are presented to the Board of Directors for final approval and adoption. There is no dedicated funding for the collaboration.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Development of community-based referral system (IRIS) to increase outreach and recruitment of priority and diverse populations.
2. Coordination and expansion of shared professional development opportunities.
3. Increasing messaging about the importance of home visiting and early childhood programs through targeted marketing and public education campaigns.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake

# Southern Illinois Coalition for Children and Families

Established in 2008,/Inc. 2016



## Areas Served

Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pulaski, Pope, Saline, Union, White and Williamson Counties

## Target Population

Families/ Children ages birth to five

## Collaboration Address

700 Logan College Dr.  
Carterville, IL 62918

## Collaboration Contact

Lori Longueville  
618-924-0504  
southernillinoiscoalition@gmail.com

## Communications

[www.southernillinoiscoalition.org](http://www.southernillinoiscoalition.org)  
[www.sifamilies.org](http://www.sifamilies.org)  
[www.facebook.com/sifamilies.org](https://www.facebook.com/sifamilies.org)  
[www.facebook.com/sicoalitionchildrenandfamilies](https://www.facebook.com/sicoalitionchildrenandfamilies)  
[www.facebook.com/SIReadyFreddy/](https://www.facebook.com/SIReadyFreddy/)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Businesses  
Families/Community Members  
Higher education  
Partnership for Resilience

## Mission

The Southern Illinois Coalition for Children and Families is dedicated to providing leadership and support that builds strong communities, strengthens families, and promotes children's success in school and life. The Coalition's primary goal is to develop a strong & effective infrastructure that promotes positive outcomes for children and families in southern Illinois. This is accomplished by: The Coalition's approach is communicating, coordinating, and connecting programs and services to those who need them. Working together in a coordinated manner and with a unified voice and mission, the Coalition plays a critical role in improving the lives of young children and their families. The Coalition helps fill gaps and provides the resources and support needed to keep families strong, children healthy and learning as they travel down the path to success.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Oversight and guidance of the Coalition's is the responsibility of a Governance Council whose members include 10 lead agencies and 7 at large members, who willingly dedicate their time and resources to assist in meeting the Coalition goals. Lead Agencies are identified as those who oversee multiple programs and/or those with the capacity serve as a fiscal agent for any of the Coalition's special projects. Members of Governance Council meet on a regular basis, acting as guides for the Coalition's work through benefit of their knowledge of their community and the sector they represent. The Governance Council provides all fiscal oversight of the Coalition's activities. Program coordination and implementation is carried out by Action Teams.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Over 11,000 children ages birth through five years of age documented as screened for developmental delays.
2. Improved KG transitions in five schools districts.
3. Consultation and training initiative with Tamarack Institute to deepen community knowledge about collective impact, readying region for new Regional and Community Systems Infrastructure including the launching of "Children's Cabinets" in two communities in region.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Serve priority populations
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)

# Southside Early Learning Network

Established in 2013



## Areas Served

Cook County, Chicago, and surrounding suburbs: Englewood, West Englewood, and Greater Grand Crossing Communities

## Target Population

Prenatal and Birth – 5 years

## Collaboration Address

1701 W. 63rd St.  
Chicago, IL 60636

## Collaboration Contact

Sintia I. Morales  
773-546-8494  
smorales@childrenshomeandaid.org

## Communications

[www.childrenshomeandaid.org/](http://www.childrenshomeandaid.org/)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Community organizations  
Families/Community Members  
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency, school districts)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Faith Based  
Government

## Mission

Children's Home & Aid partners with children, youth and families whose potential is at risk to create hope, opportunity and bright futures.

## Vision

All children, youth and families thrive in strong communities.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Southside Early Learning Network (SELN) is 100% MIECHV funded. There is one full time SELN Coordinator and a part time SELN Coordinator assistant. There is a Supervisor where a percentage of the salary is supported with MIECHV dollars.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Increase in participation for Collaboration Meetings.
2. Increased community awareness of Home Visiting Programs.
3. Developed relationships across the state with Home Visiting programs and have increased referrals sent to partners.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake



# SPARK Early Childhood Collaboration

Established in 2012



## Areas Served

Aurora

## Target Population

Prenatal-5

## Affiliation

Fox Valley United Way

## Collaboration Address

44 E. Galena Blvd  
Aurora, IL 60505

## Collaboration Contact

Trish Rooney  
630.896.4636 ext. 108  
trish.rooney@foxvalleyunitedway.org

## Communications

www.sparkaurora.org  
FB: Fox Valley United Way

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

The mission of SPARK Aurora Early Childhood Collaboration is to empower our diverse families and children to attain full success in learning and life by ensuring all Aurora's young children have equal access to exemplary Early Childhood Care and Education.

## Purpose

SPARK is a collaborative approach in which Aurora Early Childhood Stakeholders will work jointly to improve and strengthen the early childhood system in Aurora by ensuring that:

1. Parents and the community are educated and informed about the importance and value of an early childhood education for all of our young children and the impact it has on children's success in school and life.
2. The on-going improvement of the early childhood programs in the Aurora community are sustained through continued professional development of its teachers.
3. Early childhood coordinated system are created in which the school districts, community-based early childhood programs, and community agencies serving families and children.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Governed by an Executive Committee. 3 full-time staff. The collaboration is funded through philanthropic, school district, City of Aurora Funding, and Fox Valley United Way Corporate Sponsorship.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Increase capacity through Preschool Expansion
2. Gateway to Early Childhood - single point of entry for families to connect to EC services
3. Play.Learn.Connect. - community-wide family outreach and engagement

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase quality of early learning programs

# St. Charles Early Learning Partnership

Established in 2019



## Areas Served

St. Charles CUSD 303 boundaries, including the City of St. Charles and portions of West Chicago, South Elgin, Elburn, Wayne, Campton Whills, Wascoe, and unincorporated Kane County

## Target Population

Birth to age 8

## Collaboration Address

Fox Ridge Early Childhood Center  
1905 E. Tyler Rd.  
St. Charles, IL 60174

## Collaboration Contact

Tricia Sabathne  
tricia.sabathne@d303.org  
331.228.5727

## Partners & Participants

ECE Providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

Bringing together people, resources and services to create a community-wide system of support so that every child from birth to age eight in the St. Charles' area is healthy, safe, eager to learn, and ready to succeed.

## Vision

A community connected together to prepare every child from birth to age eight for success.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Partnership is in a formative, collaboration-building period. Governance currently consists of a 7 member Leadership Team which meets monthly. Members are from key community agencies as well as a parent representative. A charter and operating procedures were adopted in December 2020. Consensus decision-making is utilized, with complete procedures outlined in the charter and operating procedures. Funding is minimal at this time. Leadership team members engage on a volunteer basis, with permission from their organizations to participate. In-kind supports from the St. Charles Public Library, Family Focus-DuPage, St Charles Community School District #303, and All Our Kids-Kane County are provided. Additionally we have been funded \$8000 through the Fox Valley United Way and receive as supports through participation in the PPA Collaboration Institute's coach guided track as a participant of cohort 4.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Collected over 800 parent surveys from across the service area (St Charles Community Unit School District 303 geographical area) as part of a comprehensive listening campaign plan.
2. Our group adapted to the resurgence of COVID-19 and new policies by adjusting the work plan and timeline to reflect new realities. This included a shift in our workflow, making equity and the engagement of diverse stakeholders the focal point of the year. Next steps include designing and holding Data Walks throughout the community, using data collected from parent surveys, along with public sources. This will allow the public the opportunity to engage with, process, and gain meaning from this data. This will be followed by a community stakeholder survey about perceptions, interests, and potential support of the Partnership's vision and mission
3. The first emerging collaboration to be funded as part of Fox Valley United Way's strategy to build an early childhood coordinated system in Fox Valley. Funding is to support collaboration-building, with the CUSD 303 school board agreeing to the district serving as the Partnership fiscal sponsor.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

TBD.

# Stephenson County Health Dept- Coordinated Intake

Established in 2014



## Areas Served

Stephenson County

## Target Population

Pregnant/parenting families

## Affiliation

Stephenson County Health  
Department

## Collaboration Address

10 W Linden Street  
Freeport, IL 61032

## Collaboration Contact

Barbara Davis  
815-235-8356  
bdavis@stephensoncountyil.gov

Dana Keim  
815-599-8404  
dkeim@stephensoncountyil.gov

## Communications

Healthy Families  
America Community  
www.AOK-NWIL.com  
www.stephensonhealth.com  
iGrow

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care,  
home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Government  
Families/Community Members  
Mental Health  
Education (Regional Office of  
Education, Local Education Agency,  
school districts)  
Childcare Resource and  
Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith based  
Businesses

## Mission

Building community health throughout Stephenson County and Northwest Illinois by:

- Preventing disease and injury
- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Assuring environmental quality
- Encouraging individual and family self-sufficiency
- Providing Public Health Emergency Response

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Advisory Board – All Our Kids Network Stephenson County

Board of Directors – Stephenson County Board of Health

Funding streams include: IDHS, MIECHV

Staffing is part-time team leader and full time outreach worker

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Assist in linking families to Family Connects Illinois Program, that offers nurse home visits to every newborn resident/family
2. Coordinated Intake program serving Stephenson County
3. Completing referrals HFI, Family Ties, and Parent Enrichment Program

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Serve priority populations
- Coordinated intake
- Nurse visit to every newborn's home
- Increase quality of early learning programs
- increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Implement collaborative screenings

# Success by 6

Established in 2008



## Areas Served

Kankakee and Iroquois Counties

## Target Population

Birth to age 6

## Affiliation

United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties

## Collaboration Address

P.O. Box 1286

## Collaboration Contact

Fiana Comer

815.932.7476

fiana@myunitedway.org

## Communications

myunitedway.org

facebook.com/successby6

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers

Health providers

Social service providers

Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)

Child Care Resource and

Referral (CCR&R)

Other public services

(housing, police, libraries)

Community organizations

Foundations

Faith-based

Businesses

Government

Families/Community Members

## Mission

Success By 6 works to ensure all Kankakee County children ages 0-6 have the positive and enriching experiences and positive parent-child relationships necessary to begin school ready to succeed. Success by 6 envisions a community where all children and families are happy, healthy, and well-adjusted. We are dedicated to supporting our community through family and parent engagement, early mental health services, and raising awareness about resources available to parents, caregivers, and early childhood providers.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Success By 6 is a community collaborative, funded by the United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties and the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Success by 6 partners with the Erikson Institute to use their Early Development Instrument to prioritize impacted communities based on neighborhood-level data from their Early Development Instrument.
2. Kankakee County is gaining national attention for grassroots efforts towards health equity and cultivating a trauma-informed community.
3. Success by 6 is helping with the realignment of Kankakee County's system of care to better serve the impacted population and cross-systems collaboration.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

# Tazewell County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 2000



## Areas Served

Tazewell County

## Target Population

Birth to age five

## Affiliation

All Our Kids Early Childhood Networks

## Collaboration Address

21306 IL Route 9  
Tremont, IL 61568

## Collaboration Contact

Julie Herzog (AOK Coordinator)  
309.929.0266  
jherzog@tchd.net

## Communications

[www.tazewellhealth.org](http://www.tazewellhealth.org)  
[www.aoknetworks.org](http://www.aoknetworks.org)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care, home visiting)

Health providers

Social service providers

Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

Other public services (housing, police, libraries)

Community organizations

Faith-based

Families/Community Members

Mental Health

## Mission

AOK Networks are community-based collaborations that promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children birth to five and their parents / caregivers by assuring a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of services and supports.

## Vision

The Tazewell County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network works collaboratively with a comprehensive network of community resources to promote the overall well-being of children birth to five and their families.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Network's administrative home is within the Tazewell County Health Department. A full-time coordinator staffs the AOK grant. The large group meets bi-monthly as a network with activities conducted at work group level. Decisions are made by consensus. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. The Tazewell County AOK Network is proud to be the leading implementation of the Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS) AOK pilot in Tazewell, Peoria & Woodford (TPW) Counties. IRIS is a web-based community referral system that helps organizations connect the families they serve to the right resources in their community. The TPW IRIS community engaged partners to understand the current referral practices, how's and why's of IRIS, configured IRIS to meet the specific needs of the community, and established community standards for using the integrated referral system. IRIS helps families thrive through connected communication. The TPW 1st cohort launched January 2020 consisting of Coordinated Intake, home visiting, early intervention, and supportive early childhood services.
2. AOK TPW IRIS has expanded from 14 programs to 41 since launch and continues to grow. Engaging partners from across the sectors. Despite the pandemic, over 1900 IRIS referrals have been made since launch in January 2020. Ensuring that families are connected to the services that they want and need. TPW IRIS community has accomplished a 46% enrollment rate ensuring referral communication loops are fully closed increasing communication among partners.
3. Tazewell AOK conducted a root cause analysis to understand Perinatal Depression and Anxiety in our community. AOK is engaging mothers experiencing perinatal mental health, home visiting programs, maternal mental health and medical providers so that we can understand barriers and gaps in services and increase access to perinatal mental health services in our community.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Streamline intake, referral, and service acceptance among partners

# The Village Early Childhood Collaboration

Established in 2020



## Areas Served

Knox, Warren, Henderson, and Mercer Counties

## Target Population

Prenatal – Age 8

## Collaboration Addresses

### Monmouth Office

105 North E Street  
Monmouth, IL 61462  
PH: 309-734-6822  
FX: 309-734-2452

### Galesburg Office

121 South Prairie Street  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
PH: 309-345-3828  
FX: 309-345-6735

## Collaboration Contact

Rhonda Hillyer  
Early Childhood Community  
Systems Coordinator /  
Prenatal to Age 3 Behavioral  
Health Consultant  
rhillyer@roe33.net  
309-354-3828 Ext. 1037

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care,  
home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education  
Child Care Resource and  
Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Foundations  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

To take action. Diverse stakeholders coming together and collaboratively working to better the system for families.

## Vision

To create an easily accessible, seamless, quality early childhood system that will support the success of families.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Regional Office of Education #33 employs an Early Childhood Community Systems Coordinator works with a core team of stakeholders to ensure collaboration best practices. The core team works together in the coordination and facilitation of collaboration meetings, engaging community stakeholders, and supporting members in the development and implementation of work plans. Regional Office of Education #33 serves as the VECC's administrative home, backbone agency, and fiscal agent.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. New collaboration building this area

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Serve priority populations
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs

# Wabash/Edwards Counties: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 1999



## Areas Served

Wabash/Edwards Counties

## Target Population

Wabash/Edwards Counties

## Collaboration Address

130 W 7th St  
Mount Carmel, IL 62863

## Collaboration Contact

Steve Akins  
618-263-3873 ext 118  
sakins@wabashhealth.org

## Communications

www.wabashhealth.org  
www.facebook.com/  
AOKWabashEdwards  
www.instagram.com/  
aokwabashedwards/

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care, home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

AOK Networks are community-based collaborations that promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children birth to five and their parents/caregivers by assuring a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of services and supports.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The AOK Network is staffed by one full time coordinator and volunteer co-chairs for Network work groups. All Network partners have an equal voice in decision-making. The All Our Kids Early Childhood Networks initiative is funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Early Childhood and the Wabash County Health Department.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Through Network partner collaboration we have increased access to dental health services for children in our communities, especially those with IL Medicaid.
2. Network members have increased their knowledge of early childhood issues and community resources to better support families needs through quarterly Lunch and Learn workshops.
3. The Community has an increased awareness of local event information and understanding of how to access community services and resources through the development and implementation of the Wabash/Edward AOK Network Resource App. that may be downloaded through Apple Store and/or Google Play.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations
- Oral health



# WeGo Together for Kids

Established in 2005



## Areas Served

West Chicago

## Target Population

Families with children birth to age 18

## Affiliation

WeGo Together for Kids

## Collaboration Address

312 E. Forest Ave.  
West Chicago, IL 60185

## Collaboration Contact

Josephina Frankovich  
630-293-6000 ext. 1229  
frankovichj@wego33.org

## Communications

Facebook: WeGo Together for Kids  
Twitter: @WeGoTogetherWC

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care, home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Faith-based  
Fire and Police Department

## Mission

The mission of WeGo Together for Kids is to support and enhance the health, safety, learning, and social-emotional well-being of children and families through a collaborative, coordinated, and comprehensive approach for the West Chicago community.

WeGo Together focuses on six result areas to work towards the mission statement, which includes, stable families, academic achievement, youth and family health, community engagement, emergency preparedness, and early childhood.

The result statement that the early childhood workgroup is focused on is West Chicago community partnerships help families and children, 0-8 years old, build strong relationships through access to play and learning opportunities. This is currently in redevelopment as we work with our PPA coach.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

WeGo Together for Kids is a community collaborative in West Chicago that has a focus on six result areas with the recent addition of early childhood in September 2019. WeGo Together has a steering committee that provides oversight and guidance to WeGo Together while the community partners of the early childhood group do the direct planning and decision making of the group. There is no staff whose sole responsibility is the early childhood workgroup; rather, the Birth to Five Community School Coordinator dedicates time to the work and facilitate the meetings. There is no direct funding for the early childhood workgroup, but there is funding that may be utilized through WeGo Together's blended funding stream.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Currently, the early childhood work group is focused on drafting a community needs assessment to better understand West Chicago's perceptions of early childhood and opportunities for families with children 0-8 years old.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)

# Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative

Established in 2013



## Areas Served

Community Unit School District  
200; Wheaton and Warrenville

## Target Population

Children birth to age 5

## Affiliation

DuPage Foundation's Bright and  
Early Grant

## Collaboration Address

222 E Willow Ave.  
Wheaton, IL 60187

## Collaboration Contact

Annie Behrns  
(630) 272-2226  
behrnsa@metrofamily.org

## Communications

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wheatonwarrenvilleecc/>  
Website: <https://www.cusd200.org/wwecc>

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care,  
home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and  
Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services  
(housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Businesses  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

The Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative (WWECC) is a group of community agencies, early childhood providers and supporters of early childhood in DuPage County working together to improve kindergarten and school readiness for children in Community Unit School District 200 with a focus on increasing access to services for those in under-resourced areas of the community.

The mission of the Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative is to effectively coordinate services focused on providing opportunities for learning success and improved Kindergarten readiness for all Community Unit School District 200 children birth to five, especially those most vulnerable.

## Goals

1. Improve communication among early childhood service providers.
2. Increase parent education about childhood development needs.
3. Increase professional development for early childhood service providers.
4. Increase children's Kindergarten/school readiness.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage acts as the lead agent and the administrative "home" for the Collaborative. The Director for the WWECC oversees the overall operational day-to-day responsibilities of the Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative. The WWECC Executive Committee adopts a consensus decision making process that is guided by the following principles: Inclusive and Participatory, Agreement Seeking, Process Oriented, Collaborative, Relationship Building, and Whole Group Thinking. The Executive Committee will have the ultimate decision making power over the Collaboration Program Director and collaboration. Current funding for the WWECC was made possible by a grant from the DuPage Foundation (DF), through the Bright and Early DuPage Initiative. The collaboration is also funded in part by Community Unit School District 200.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. The WWECC provides Play to Learn events that focus on the importance of play in the health of the developing brain.
2. We also have a large scale provider training that focuses on increasing quality and providing professional development among early childhood service providers called the Early Childhood Symposium.
3. We also increased enrollment of high need priority populations through our PEG and PI grants.
4. Lastly, the WWECC increased the local messaging of the importance of universal developmental screenings through the developmental screening marketing campaign. This campaign promoted the importance of screening and asked families in the CUSD 200 area with children birth to give to complete the ASQ-3 online at <http://asq.cusd200.org> or call 630-682-2109 to set up a time to take the screening in person. The flyers and posters were printed and placed in 10 locations across the Wheaton and Warrenville areas.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs

# Will County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 2004



## Areas Served

Will County

## Target Population

Families pregnant or parenting children birth to age 5

## Collaboration Address

501 Ella Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60433

## Collaboration Contact

Rebecca Deang  
rdeang@willcountyhealth.org  
(815) 727-8864

## Communications

[www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/willcountyhealth.org/aok-all-our-kids-early-childhood-network/](http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/willcountyhealth.org/aok-all-our-kids-early-childhood-network/)

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care, home visiting)  
Health providers  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Community organizations  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

AOK Networks are community-based collaborations that promote healthy pregnancies and the positive growth and development of all children birth to five and their parents / caregivers by assuring a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of services and supports.

## Vision

The Will County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network is a community based collaboration which works to create and support long lasting partnerships which empower families with knowledge and community resources promoting healthy development and lifelong success.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The Will County AOK Networks' lead agency is the Will County Health Department. A full-time coordinator hosts monthly Network meetings. Decisions are made by consensus. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Piloting and launching IRIS in January 2020, a web-based information and referral system engaging early childhood system providers and family support services to provide a clear referral path for families to receive services, streamline communications among referring partners and track all referral activity to completion in one place, promoting data-informed decision making.
2. An annual Early Childhood Mental Health Conference is hosted in May for service providers, families and community stakeholders, averaging 100 participants annually which has led to community awareness, increased knowledge and practice changes that support families with young children.
3. Increasing awareness of the importance of developmental screenings through the development and dissemination of a Community Screenings Video created in August of 2019. This video will be promoted by AOK Network partners and primary care providers in Will County on their websites and viewed in waiting rooms.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs
- Information and Referral Initiative

# Willowbrook Corner Early Childhood Collaboration

Established in 2018



## Areas Served

Unincorporated South East corner of DuPage County serving CCSD #180

## Target Population

Prenatal to age 5

## Affiliation

DuPage Regional Early Childhood Collaboration

## Collaboration Address

16W631 91st.  
Willowbrook, IL 60527

## Collaboration Contact

Marianne Pokorny  
630-542-4196  
marianne.pokorny@ywcachicago.org

## Partners & Participants

ECE providers (child care, home visiting)  
Social service providers  
Education (ROE, LEA, school districts)  
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)  
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)  
Foundations  
Faith-based  
Government  
Families/Community Members

## Mission

To ensure that coordinated and high quality services are accessible and meet the needs of Willowbrook Corner families, so all children from birth to five are safe, healthy, and ready to learn when they start school.

## Vision

Ensure that each and every child enters kindergarten safe, healthy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

## Governance, Staffing, and Funding

The YWCA Metropolitan Chicago serves as the lead agency and administrative home of the collaboration. The collaboration is staffed by a Community Outreach Specialist who is responsible for engaging key stakeholders with an emphasis on community leadership under the supervision of the YWCA's Senior Manager of Strategic Engagement. The Collaborative is been funded through generosity of the DuPage Foundation's Bright & Early Initiative.

## Collaboration Accomplishments

1. Collaboration worked to continue to support include but not limited to supplying parents with personal protective equipment (PPE), wellbeing calls, and monetary stipends to cover rent, utilities, and clothing needs.
2. We together with community partners to hold two outdoor activities that included resource fairs in order to assist families with additional resources.
3. We were able to employ eight parents with census outreach work calls.
4. With the assistance of a DuPage County Board Member, we were able to receive a grant in order to begin a transportation study of this unincorporated and isolated area.

## Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

**While the majority of collaborations submitted profiles, a few collaborations were unable to do so. In consideration of the work that they are doing, the Partner Plan Act team wanted to ensure that they were listed.**

**Champaign County Local Interagency Council for Early Intervention**

Kim Woolridge  
kwoolridge@cifc.org

**South Suburban B-5 Forum**

Kathy Chvostal  
kchvostal@speed802.org



**Illinois**  
State Board of  
Education



Governor's Office of  
Early Childhood Development



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY  
Illinois Professional Development System

Illinois Action For Children  
4753 N. Broadway  
Suite 100  
Chicago, Illinois 60640  
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www.partnerplanact.org



@IAFC\_Cares