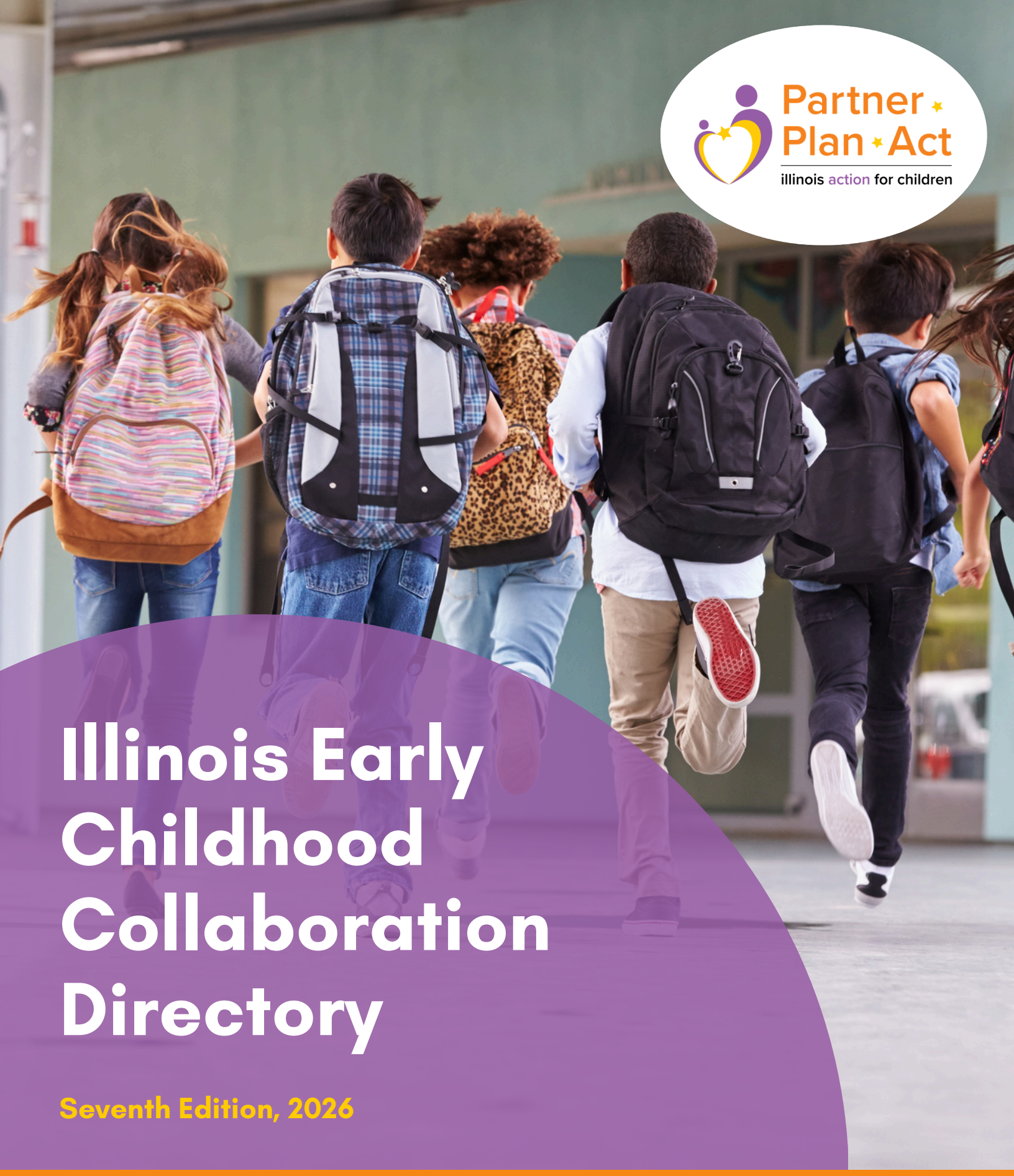


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Illinois Early Childhood Collaboration Directory

Seventh Edition, 2026

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

Director's Remarks

Early childhood community collaborations exist for a simple reason: people noticed that children and families in their local communities needed something they weren't getting, and they decided to gather and figure it out. It's really that simple.

How they do it is anything but simple. Collaborations bring together everyone who cares about children and has a stake in their future (which is all of us). They unite organizations, agencies, and individuals around a shared goal: improving some part of the early childhood sector. Often, these collaborations start organically, unpaid and under-resourced, before growing into community infrastructure that families and providers come to rely on.

Collaborations vary in what they do. Their geographic boundaries can span multiple counties or small urban neighborhoods. The sectors involved differ, and so do their resources. But 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 a 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 CS3 team at Illinois Action for Children believes that local communities know their needs best. Sometimes they just need coaching, resources, and tools to get there. Our goal is to meet collaborations where they are, connect them with each other and with our team, and connect them to the state – so that state leadership can learn from local communities actually doing the work and navigating real challenges. This has implications for policy, funding, and more.

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**.

Thank you for your commitment to children and families.

Kindly,
Kristina Rogers
Director of Community Systems Statewide Supports

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Collaboration Name	County
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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 highlight this collaborative work and serve 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 six other editions, and it is our goal that the seventh 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 the 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** or send an email to **partnerplanact@actforchildren.org**.

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Team

Adams County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 1999

Overview

Areas Served
Adams County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families, Prenatal

Collaboration Address
330 Vermont St.
Quincy, IL 62301

Collaboration Contact
Jasmine Thompson Blum
(217) 222.8440 Ext. 1107; Ext. 1128
jblum@adamscountyil.gov

Communications
https://aoknetworks.org/local-networks/adams-county/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

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.

Recent Accomplishments

- We distributed 2,314 pocket-sized Family Resource Guides to community members in FY24.
- We onboarded Blessing Health System as an IRIS (Integrated Referral and Intake System) partner in January. Adams County now has a total of 51 programs on IRIS.
- We planned Week of the Young Child 2024 in April and had 111 children attend.

DuPage Early Childhood Collaboration: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 2014

Overview

Areas Served
DuPage County

Target Population
0-8 Years

Collaboration Address
111 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Collaboration Contact
Andrea Gargani
(630) 221-7035
andrea.gargani@dupagehealth.org

Communications
https://www.dupagehealth.org/764/DuPage-AOK-Early-Childhood-Collaboration

Partners & Participants
Businesses
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The DuPage All Our Kids Early Childhood Collaboration (DAECC) brings together stakeholders to facilitate the development of strategic relationships and high-quality services that are responsive to change, and ultimately result in improved developmental outcomes for all young children, ages birth to 8 and their families.

Recent Accomplishments

The Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS) works to connect local agencies with one another to streamline online client referrals. IRIS supports warm hand-offs for families, closes the communication loop for referring organizations, tracks outcomes, and provides a clear data-driven picture of partner capacity to improve the process over time.

DAECC is in partnership with 60+ multi-sector organizations representing behavioral health, faith-based, concrete supports such as housing, food, and financial, early childhood education, family support, maternal and child health. **Since launching in 2021, partners connected 1,824 families to at least one organization through an IRIS referral.**

DAECC launched The Basics DuPage initiative in April 2024. The Basics raises awareness about early childhood development and builds capacity throughout the community. Partner organizations engage families who have children ages 0-5 with education and information on ways to embed the 5 Basics Principles into everyday routines.

It can be used with families regardless of race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status, it is adaptable for every population and is easily understood by caregivers of all education levels.

Not only is it adaptable to families but in the professional setting as well, it has broad applicability across sectors and has a user-friendly format for all to easily implement in the work they are currently doing.

The vision is to use a socio-ecological approach that recruits and equips partner organizations from multiple sectors, to reach families that may not be connected to resources.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Serve priority populations

Kane County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 1999

Overview

Areas Served
Kane County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
1240 N Highland Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506

Collaboration Contact
Lorena Nunez
(224) 454-2582
nunezlorena@kanecountyil.gov

Communications
https://kanehealth.com/aok

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

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 in making the system work for them.

Recent Accomplishments

- Successfully launched cross-sector IRIS Referral System in Kane County.
- Completed a System Assessment and identified targeted vision over the next five years (Social Emotional Development, Developmental Screenings, Insurance/Medical Home, Parent's Higher Ed.)
- Successfully and meaningfully engage 8+ Parent Ambassadors in the Network.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

McLean County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 1999

Overview

Areas Served
McLean County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families; Prenatal

Collaboration Address
200 W Front St, #500D,
Bloomington, IL 61701

Collaboration Contact
Maureen Sollars
(309) 888-5539
maureen.sollars@mcleancountyil.gov

Communications
health.mcleancountyil.gov

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Government
Health Providers
Other
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The McLean County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network envisions a community that provides the best health care and support for pregnant women and their family from conception through the healthy, full-term birth of their infant.

We must work with parents and caregivers of very young children to raise successful learners, confident adults, and responsible citizens. To help ensure that all our children have the same opportunities: pregnant women, partners, parents, and caregivers 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.

Recent Accomplishments

- **Hosted eight webinars** for We Are Parents, helping our kids after the pandemic. These mental health and social-emotional-focused webinars were held during the lunch hour so parents could listen and participate. Five webinars were presented by Dr Burgundy Johnson, DO, a child psychiatrist; the other three were presented by AOK Network professionals.

- **Coordinated the McLean County Mental Health First Aid Collaboration** and its instructors who trained 3,500+ in Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid over the last nine years.

- **Hired six Parent Ambassadors** who help with assessment processes, work on outreach to help connect eligible families with IL grant-funded programs, provide supportive programming for parents, support parental well-being.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Rock Island County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 2008

Overview

Areas Served
Rock Island County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
524 15th St, Rock Island, IL 61201

Collaboration Contact
Jessica Lovera-Matter
(309) 736-7170
jessical@foreverychild.org

Communications
https://www.facebook.com/aoknetworkri/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Parents
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

In the Rock Island County AOK Network, we envision a community and system where more young children are developing positively with access to the resources they need to promote their cognitive, social, and emotional growth. This means more children being equipped with the skills to navigate relationships, manage emotions, and make positive decisions. For this to happen, more infants and toddlers need to be enrolled in high-quality early learning centers that help lay a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success.

This also means creating comprehensive education, support services, and community initiatives that lead to less teen pregnancy. Children will develop more positively when they are not facing economic instability or food insecurity; therefore, we look to support families in financial education, workforce development, and creating more access to nutritious food and resources.

Recent Accomplishments

Over 800 Family Yellow Pages (community resource guides in pocket form) have been distributed already this fiscal year (since the beginning of July).

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

Southeast Chicago: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 2022

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families; Prenatal

Collaboration Address
3062 E. 91st St.
Chicago, IL. 60617

Collaboration Contact
Magnolia Rojas-Banda
(773) 914-3176
rojasbanda@metrofamily.org

Communications
https://aoknetworks.org/local-networks/southeast-chicago/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

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.

The Southeast AOK Network aims to:

- Build a strong community that shares information and resources.
- Connect families with young children to services they need and want.
- Improve access to quality services.
- Create a more coordinated and equitable system.
- Include parents as partners in making the system work for them.

By working together with many community collaborators representing different cross-sector services and resources, we can improve outcomes for families with young children.

Recent Accomplishments

- **Bilingual Pocket Resource Directory**: We developed a bilingual pocket resource directory tailored to our community. This guide brings essential information directly into the hands of families, covering a wide range of services, from disability services and breastfeeding resources to employment training and health insurance assistance. Its portable design ensures accessibility, helping families quickly connect with the help they need.

- **Parent Ambassador Program Launch**: We onboarded our very first Parent Ambassador, ensuring that the voices of parents are represented at the table. This milestone marks the foundation for future parent groups and cafés, creating spaces where families can share experiences, advocate for their needs, and strengthen community connections.

- **Monthly Family Newsletter**: We launched a monthly newsletter designed for families with young children (ages 0-5). The newsletter highlights upcoming events, spotlights community resources and leaders, and provides timely information families can use. This tool has become a trusted way to keep families informed, engaged, and connected.

Both the bilingual pocket resource directory and the monthly newsletter can be accessed on our webpage.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Stephenson, Carroll, and Jo Daviess Counties: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 1999

Overview

Areas Served
Stephenson, Carroll, Jo Daviess Counties

Target Population
0-8 Years; Prenatal

Collaboration Address
10 W Linden St.
Freeport, IL 61032

Collaboration Contact
Pamela Williams
(815) 599-8432
pamwilliams@stephensoncountyil.gov

Communications
www.aok-nwil.com

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

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.

This also means creating comprehensive education, support services, and community initiatives that lead to less teen pregnancy. Children will develop more positively when they are not facing economic instability or food insecurity; therefore, we look to support families in financial education, workforce development, and creating more access to nutritious food and resources.

Recent Accomplishments

- After discovering a gap in early literacy, AOK partnered with United Way and brought The Dolly Parton Imagination Library to our communities. This network also hosted multiple Book Bag Make-it-take-it events, where we distributed 1000 literacy kits to children in this community.
- Our AOK Network was the first to utilize The IRIS - Community Referral System in our state. Agencies are now able to connect families to needed services.
- After reviewing data, it was discovered that there was a significant need for mental health support for new mothers who were struggling with postpartum depression. AOK worked to secure funding and Moving Beyond Depression was launched.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Tri-County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 2000

Overview

Areas Served
Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford Counties

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
21306 Illinois Route 9
Tremont, IL 61568

Collaboration Contact
Samantha Marsh
(309) 929-0266
smarsh@tchd.net

Communications
https://aoknetworks.org/local-networks/tazewell-county/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

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.

Recent Accomplishments

The collaboration creates and updates annually a local resource guide for parents and caregivers to utilize for a variety of relevant needs for children under 5.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Wabash/Edwards Counties: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 1999

Overview

Areas Served
Wabash, Edwards Counties

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
130 W 7th St.
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863

Collaboration Contact
Steve Akins
(618) 263-3873 Ext. 121
sakins@wabashhealth.org

Communications
https://www.facebook.com/AOKWabashEdwards

Partners & Participants
Businesses
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Government
Health Providers
Social service providers

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.

Recent Accomplishments

- Identified our next 5-year target for the collaboration to work towards.
- Participated in various outreach events to support our network partners.
- Completed an extensive survey of communities to get data on our next 5-year goal.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

Will County: All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established in 2004

Overview

Areas Served
Will County

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
501 Ella Ave.
Joliet, IL 60433

Collaboration Contact
Rebecca Anderson
(815) 727-8864
randerson@willcountyhealth.org

Communications
https://willcountyhealth.org/aok-all-our-kids-early-childhood-network/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The AOK Network is committed to developing a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily accessible system of care to promote positive growth and development for children up to five years of age, as well as their families.

Recent Accomplishments

- We have had over 7,000 referrals in IRIS.
- We have had our 16th annual Early Childhood Mental Health Conference.
- Our network has been around since 2004—over 20 years.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Implement collaborative screenings
- Serve priority populations

Addison Partners for Play, Learning, and Education

Established in 2016

Overview

Areas Served
DuPage County

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
650 S. Ardmore Ave.
Addison, IL 60101

Collaboration Contact
Maureen Reedy
(773) 343-2706
reedym@metrofamily.org

Communications
https://addison.asd4.org/678033_1

Partners & Participants
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Foundations
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

Addison Partners for Play, Learning, and Education (APPLE) serves families as an early learning community resource hub and connector. We create a linked, unified system of supports for families with young children so that community resources for children are well-known, accessible and easy to use.

Recent Accomplishments

- Joined IRIS, Integrated Referral and Intake System, to provide streamlined and documented referrals to services for families.
- Collaborated with family child care providers and community programs to provide better early childhood services for families and better supports for providers.
- Worked with a consultant to develop 2 "Early Childhood Development" video trainings for library staff, parents, and community partners

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Alignment Rockford: Ready to Learn

Established in 2019

Overview

Areas Served
Winnebago County

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
612 N Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Collaboration Contact
Emily Klonicki
(779) 774-4389
eklonicki@alignmentrockford.com

Communications
www.alignmentrockford.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

Alignment Rockford is an organization that supports the improvement of academic and lifelong success for youth and students in Rockford by engaging partners across the community in programs and initiatives that respond to gaps and needs identified through data and needs identified by Rockford Public School District 203, home to 28,000 pre-K-12 students in our region.

Ready to Learn employs Community Parent Support Saturation (CPSS). CPSS is a concept that emphasizes the importance of providing comprehensive and accessible support services to primary caregivers of young children aged 0-5 within a community.

The concept of CPSS is based on the idea that in order to maximize the positive impact on children's development, it is necessary to create a dense network of support that surrounds caregivers and their families. The Ready to Learn network includes various community-based services, organizations, and institutions that work together to offer a range of resources such as parenting education, early childhood education, healthcare, mental health support, and financial assistance.

The goal of Ready to Learn is to ensure that all caregivers have access to the resources, education, and assistance they need to promote healthy development and well-being for their children. Alignment Rockford recognizes the crucial role that caregivers play in the early years of a child's life and seeks to strengthen their

By saturating communities with these support systems, Ready to Learn works to ensure that primary caregivers of young children in the Rockford region have the necessary resources to nurture their children's development and well-being, ultimately contributing to stronger and healthier communities.

Recent Accomplishments

- **Universal Newborn Systems of Support (UNSS)**: Working toward launching Winning Start Winnebago, a universal newborn home visiting framework in Winnebago County. Received seed funding from IDPH to support the first 12 months of this initiative.
- **Ready to Learn Spaces**: We have now launched 11 Ready to Learn Spaces in community hubs like waiting rooms, barbershops, and laundromats to make parenting resources easily accessible.
- **Discovery Center First-Time Parents Program**: Our First-Time Parents Program has grown to over 250 enrolled families. This program includes free museum memberships, parenting classes, and expert presentations.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition

Established in 2012

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
0-8 Years; Prenatal

Collaboration Address
950 E. 132nd Place
Chicago IL 60827

Collaboration Contact
Takeyshia Watson
(773) 370-1635
Watsonta@metrofamily.org

Communications
www.metrofamily.org

Partners & Participants
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Other
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The mission of Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning is to build a community wide system to holistically support children's development and build equitable educational opportunities that will ensure all children in Altgeld-Riverdale are succeeding by 3rd grade. Our purpose and vision is that all children in Altgeld-Riverdale have high-quality, early learning experiences leading to success in school and life.

Recent Accomplishments

- A Pre-K to Kindergarten transition program focused on ensuring kids are prepared for kindergarten and experience a smooth transition during an important development turning point in their lives.
- Providing families with wraparound services through a trauma-infused lens to decrease or remove barriers in improving their quality of work, lifestyle and finances.
- Engaging the community in monthly events that promoted and increased enrollment into Chicago Early Learning programs.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Arcola Kids In Development Foundation

Established in 2023

Overview

Areas Served
Douglas County

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
617 E Main St.
Arcola, IL 61910

Collaboration Contact
Angie Gentry
(217) 246-7564
algentry8@gmail.com

Communications
www.a-kid-foundation.com

Partners & Participants
Businesses
Community Organizations
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Other

Mission

Arcola Kids in Development Foundation is dedicated to improving equitable opportunities for children from birth to age 5.

Recent Accomplishments

- We established the group as an official nonprofit organization.
- We publicly launched with a successful event for families with children 0-5 years old.
- We have implemented "KID Konnections," which is a learn-and-play program for parents/caregivers with children 0-3. Each month provides an educational component and resources.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Bensenville/Elmhurst Early Learning Collaboration (BELS)

Established in 2017

Overview

Areas Served
DuPage County

Target Population
At-Risk 0-5 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
212 W. Memorial Rd.
Bensenville, IL 60106

Collaboration Contact
Christy Poli
(630) 766-2602
cpoli@bsd2.org

Communications
https://www.bsd2.org/departments/student-services/early-childhood-programs

Partners & Participants
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Families/Community Members
Foundations
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The BELS Collaborative works to ensure awareness and access to quality early childhood services for all Bensenville and Elmhurst families.

Recent Accomplishments

- Attendance and participation in a monthly special education parent group.
- Increased outreach to families in the community.
- Participation in county-wide resource events.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Black Child Development Institute Chicago Metro

Established in 1969

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
Black Children; Families

Collaboration Address
415 N. Edgeworth Street, Suite 230
Greensboro, NC 27401

Collaboration Contact
Sharifa Walton
(817) 805-6181
president@bcdichi.org

Communications
www.nbcdi.org

Partners & Participants
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents

Mission

The mission of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) is to improve the quality of life for Black children and families.

Our purpose is to mobilize communities and ignite movements on the strengths of Black people boldly advocating for equity and a just future for Black children and families.

Our work as an institute includes the production of research and resource publications that are guided by our Eight Essential Outcomes to inform the early childhood, education, policy and social justice sectors:

- Health
- Representation
- Education
- Climate
- Nutrition
- Narratives
- Digital Safety
- Safe Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Legislative Forum
- Read to Succeed
- Chicago Mayoral Candidates Forum

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

Brown County Early Childhood Collaborative

Established in 2016

Overview

Areas Served
Brown County

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Contact
Angie Schlater
angie.schlater@tracyfoundation.org

Communications
https://www.facebook.com/BrownCountyEarlyChildhoodCollaboration

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Parents
Foundations
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The Brown County Early Childhood Collaborative is a community organization that supports the development of young children and families by engaging local organizations, early childhood educators, and health providers to ensure all children and families have access to interconnected systems of support.

Recent Accomplishments

- The Brown County Early Childhood Collaborative hosted a family screening event in 2018.
- The Tracy Family Foundation opened the Brown County Early Learning Center in 2021.
- The Brown County Early Childhood Collaborative played a role in helping to collect data and identify the need for this center.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Carbondale Community Cabinet for Children and Youth and Early Childhood Impact Table

Established in 2022

Overview

Areas Served
Jackson, Williamson Counties

Target Population
0-18 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
200 D Illinois Ave.
Carbondale, IL 62901

Collaboration Contact
Lori Dixon Longueville
(618) 924-0504
cdalechildrenscabinet@gmail.com

Communications
https://cdalechildrenscabinet.org/www.cdale

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The mission of the Cabinet is to build sustainable and efficient systems of support in the Carbondale community that support the health, education and well-being of children and their families.

We envision a Carbondale community that is the best place possible for children/students to grow, learn and succeed.

Working together, community members can better address the well-being, development, and education of children and youth living in the greater Carbondale community.

Recent Accomplishments

- Focused community conversations on early childhood education, youth voice and afterschool time to identify needs and gaps.
- Annual distribution of kindergarten readiness bags/ materials to families whose children are entering kindergarten.
- Community asset mapping completed.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Champaign County Home Visiting Consortium

Established in 2017

Overview

Areas Served
Champaign County

Target Population
0-3 Years; 0-5 Years; At-Risk Expectant Parents

Collaboration Contact
Kelly Russell
(217) 384-3616
krussell@usd116.org

Communications
https://www.champaigncountyhomevisiting.com/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

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.

Recent Accomplishments

- Annual Connecting the Dots conference that provides professional development and networking for Champaign County home visitors.
- Planning and implementation of community wide screening event that occurs monthly at Soccer Planet.
- Collaboration and sharing of referrals between home visiting programs in Champaign County.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Champaign County Local Interagency Council for Early Intervention

Overview

Areas Served
Champaign County

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
201 West Springfield Ave.
Suite 508 & 509
Champaign, IL, 61820

Collaboration Contact
Kim Woolridge
1-(800) 877-1152
kwoolridge@cicfc.org

Communications
www.cicfc.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Parents
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The Champaign County Local Interagency Council for Early Intervention (LIC) is a collaboration of families, community agencies and providers supporting families with children birth to five years old.

The LIC provides: Child Find through free developmental screenings, child development information, and community resources; Public Awareness by hosting family events, support groups, and networking; Provider Recruitment efforts include awareness of provider necessity, workshops and trainings, and information on becoming a provider.

Recent Accomplishments

- 3rd Annual Connecting the Dots event for service providers.
- Collaborative screenings at Soccer Planet.
- Early Intervention Parent Support Group.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings

Clay County 0-5 Advisory Board

Established in 1999

Overview

Areas Served
Clay County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Prenatal

Collaboration Address
601 E 12th St.
Flora, IL, 62839

Collaboration Contact
Samantha Weidner
(618) 662-4406
sweidner@healthdept.org

Communications
www.healthdept.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The Clay County 0-5 Advisory Board champions equitable, high-quality early care, education, and support for families so that all children develop to their full potential and have a strong start in life.

We envision a time when all children thrive; where race, place and income are no longer predictors of early childhood outcomes. Every person has the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential and participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.

Support programs and families in Clay County with 0-5 year old children so all families are reaching their full potential.

Recent Accomplishments

- Centralized 0-5 intake for Clay County home visiting programs utilizing IRIS software.
- Ongoing case management across agencies and programs to better serve the family.
- Annual Christmas Dinner for 0-5 home-visiting clients.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)
- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

Coles County Child Care Collaboration

Established in 2024

Overview

Areas Served
Coles County

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
EIU 600 Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920

Collaboration Contact
Jill Bowers
(217) 581-6348
jbowers2@eiu.edu

Communications
https://www.eiu.edu/cflec/

Partners & Participants
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Health Providers
Other

Mission

The Coles County Child Care Collaboration seeks to increase enrollment of children in early learning programs by establishing more service sites and resources for children, families, and communities.

The collaboration was established based on the need to provide quality child care and early learning opportunities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers so that more children are in quality early care environments and adequately prepared for K-12 education.

The collaboration and sites established also provide research and experiential learning opportunities for high school and college students who need professional development and training that prepares them for careers in early childhood care and education.

Recent Accomplishments

- Developed and maintained a steering committee.
- Established University-Community partnerships with organizations that share the common goal of increasing opportunities for early care and learning for all children.
- Pursued grant and earmark funding opportunities for early child care and education and established a plan to pursue future funding

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Collaboration for Early Childhood

Established in 2002

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families; Early Childhood Providers

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

Collaboration Contact
Mary Reynolds
(708) 613-6122
info@collab4kids.org

Communications
www.collab4kids.org

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

Mission

The Collaboration for Early Childhood is a community-driven organization that cultivates the development of the whole child, birth to age five, by engaging families, local organizations, early childhood educators, caregivers, and health providers to create equitable, nurturing, and interconnected systems of support.

The Collaboration for Early Childhood envisions communities where every young child has the care, relationships, and resources needed to thrive and to begin school safe, healthy, and empowered to succeed.

Recent Accomplishments

- 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 to deliver 1,500-2,000 screenings to children of families in our community each year.

- In 2024, the Collaboration for Early Childhood hosted our 21st 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.

- 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 as resources around developmental screenings, early intervention, and enrichment programs. The Collaboration prints a booklet every other year and also maintains a continually updated online version of the directory.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase quality of early learning programs

Connect Home Visiting Chicago

Established in 2019

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
Prenatal; Families

Collaboration Address
225 E Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611

Collaboration Contact
Katelyn Kanwischer
(312) 227-2060
kkanwischer@luriechildrens.org

Communications
www.luriechildrens.org/connecthomevisiting

Partners & Participants
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

To raise the visibility of, and increase the access to, home visiting programs.

Recent Accomplishments

- We have served over 111 zip codes and 3 states

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Crawford County Kids Association

Established in 2022

Overview

Areas Served
Crawford County

Target Population
Rurally underserved; Experiencing poverty

Collaboration Address
PO Box 300
11220 Hwy 1 (Williams Hall)
Robinson, IL 62454

Collaboration Contact
Resa Shaner
rshaner@crawfordcountyil.com

Communications
http://www.crawfordkids.org/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The mission of the Crawford County Kids Association (CCKA) is to support better outcomes for childcare providers and the families they serve by ensuring all available resources are being leveraged to support the best outcomes for kids in Crawford County.

The purpose of our Association is to represent and advocate for all interests that benefit from childcare in Crawford County.

Recent Accomplishments

- CCKA has provided a grant totaling 18,000 to 6 licensed providers in Crawford County, representing over one-half of the licensed capacity, to make facility and quality ECE improvements.
- Assisted local providers in achieving bronze certification.
- Provided staff training at no cost for providers meeting ECE required qualifications.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)
- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

DeKalb County Collaborative for Young Children (DCCYC)

Established in 2016

Overview

Areas Served
DeKalb County

Target Population
0-8 Years

Collaboration Address
2500 N Annie Glidden Rd.
DeKalb, IL 60115

Collaboration Contact
Samantha McDavid
(815) 217-0469
smcdavid@dekalbcounty.org

Communications
https://dekalbcounty.org/departments/regional-office-of-education/

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

Mission

Support an equitable early learning system through a county-wide collaboration of organizations that partner with families and communities to impact the optimal development of children.

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

Recent Accomplishments

- The DCCYC is working with two school districts to pilot Early Childhood Community Support Plans that support birth to 3rd-grade alignment.
- The DCCYC established a Memorandum of Understanding with Birth to Five Illinois and actively engages in the Action Council.
- Since the implementation of the Birth to Five Illinois Implementation Grants, the DCCYC has a dedicated part-time Coordinator and Administrative Assistant.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Early Childhood Alliance of Niles Township

Established in 2018

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
4504 Oakton St.
Skokie, IL 60076

Collaboration Contact
Tina Vanderwarker
(847) 676-8463
info@nilestownshipeca.org

Communications
www.nilestownshipeca.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The Early Childhood Alliance of Niles Township's (ECA) mission is to advocate for and coordinate comprehensive, community-based supports for young children birth to 5 years old and their caregivers that promote equity and honor strengths and diversity. In our area, this includes creating language access with multiple family liaisons who speak 7 different languages.

Our vision is that all children and their caregivers in Niles Township have healthy relationships, safe environments, and high-quality learning experiences in order to reach their full potential. We have 48 different partner organizations including 9 school districts, early childhood programs, village libraries and governments and social service organizations. Our goal is to be a connector and help provide support to ALL families in Niles Township with children birth to five years old. We know raising young children is hard!

Recent Accomplishments

- The ECA achieved its 501(c)3 non-profit status in 2024 and moved away from our fiscal sponsorship relationship to become an independent non-profit organization!

- The ECA moved into its first physical space located in Skokie in Summer 2024. The space serves as an early childhood hub where families can: meet with Family Liaisons to receive support completing applications for CCAP, publicly funded programs and childcare/ preschool enrollment; attend a Parent Support Group with on-site childcare; and drop in for Open Play with their child in our Early Childhood classroom.

- The ECA hosted its first annual Early Childhood Symposium on April 6, 2024, in partnership with the Evanston Early Childhood Council. Due to generous funding, we were able to provide this 4-hour professional development opportunity for free to all staff from member organizations. It was hosted at Northwestern University and had over 200 area early childhood staff attend.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Early Childhood Coalition

Established in 2003

Overview

Areas Served
Rock Island County

Target Population
Families; Early Childhood Providers

Collaboration Address
736 43rd St.
Rock Island, IL 61201

Collaboration Contact
Georgia M. Stear
(309) 255-5994
georgiastear@gmail.com

Communications
www.eccqca.org

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

Mission

The Early Childhood Coalition of the Illinois Quad City Area (ECC) is a dynamic collaboration of educators, service providers, parents, and community members working as one to create a comprehensive system of services for young children and their families.

- Identify and fill gaps in services to young children and their families
- Facilitate communication regarding issues and initiatives impacting young children, families, and service providers
- Secure funding sources to expand services to young children and families
- Promote parent education and professional development opportunities
- Provide networking opportunities for those working on behalf of young children and families

Recent Accomplishments

- Mentor/Mentee program; Cohort training series; Connect & Reflect events:
  - During FY24, the ECC Cohort Conscious Discipline training reached 150 local educators and parents. This training provided valuable strategies for creating safe, connected, and problem-solving environments in classrooms and at home.
  - The Mentor/Mentee program continues to foster growth and development among participants, offering personalized guidance and support. The positive feedback we've received demonstrates the profound impact of these relationships, as mentors share their expertise and mentees gain confidence and skills.
  - Our Cohort training sessions have consistently empowered educators and parents with practical tools and knowledge. The most recent Conscious Discipline training was no exception, equipping attendees to transform challenging behaviors and cultivate a more positive, nurturing atmosphere for children. We are proud of these accomplishments and look forward to continuing our mission of education and empowerment in our community.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Early Childhood Community Coalition of Lake County

Established in 1989

Overview

Areas Served
Lake County

Target Population
Lake County Childcare Agencies

Collaboration Address
P.O. Box 61
Gurnee, IL 60031

Collaboration Contact
James Menzer
(847) 924-7075
james.menzer@gmail.com

Communications
www.eccclc.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The Early Childhood Community Coalition of Lake County is a united voice of community leaders who advocate, collaborate, and strategize to support healthy early childhood growth, development and school readiness.

Recent Accomplishments

We have built a positive relationship with local legislators and childcare providers, and most recently, fostered collaboration between area childcare entities and schools.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Early Childhood Consortium

Established in 2002

Overview

Areas Served
Stephenson County

Target Population
Children; Families

Collaboration Address
511 S Liberty Ave.
Freeport, IL 61032

Collaboration Contact
Ashley Harms
(815) 233-0015
ashley@amitysocietyoffreeport.org

Partners & Participants
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Social service providers

Mission

The Early Childhood Consortium is a collaboration of early childhood providers and agencies that share resources and support in order to provide a system of care for young children and their families in our communities.

Recent Accomplishments

- We provide a college scholarship to an early childhood student annually, and have donated over $2000 in the past 10 years.
- We are part of a kindergarten readiness grant that tracks data for over 600 children annually.
- We have logged over 6300 Ages and Stages Developmental Screenings in the last 5-7 years.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Early Childhood Forum of Central Illinois

Established in 1998

Overview

Areas Served
Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Mason Counties

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
324 Main Street, Rm 401
Peoria, IL 61602

Collaboration Contact
Jacqui Jones
(309) 724-4675
jjones@peoriaroe.org

Partners & Participants
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

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

Recent Accomplishments

- The Early Childhood Forum of Central Illinois has recently added a paid staff member to create Help Me Grow Central Illinois, a coordinated resource for all families prenatal to age five. With the addition of this work, we have increased developmental screenings in the tri-county area as well as begun to support families in gaining access to early childhood programs and services.

- In April, the ECF held an Early Intervention Rally to spread awareness on the lack of funding and services in the area for our youngest learners. Information about EI and other Central Illinois early childhood priorities was provided to legislators through the planning of a traveling Legislative Traveling Happening Hour.

- As a collaboration, we attended Early Childhood Advocacy Day in Springfield and were able to meet with political representatives from our area, in order to voice our needs and concerns.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Effingham County Early Childhood Coalition

Established in 2018

Overview

Areas Served
Effingham County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Prenatal

Collaboration Address
901 W Virginia Ave.
Effingham, IL 62401

Collaboration Contact
Samantha Weidner; Beth Wise
(217) 342-1150; (217) 342-1151
sweidner@healthdept.org;
bethw@effcohealth.org

Communications
www.effcohealth.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Government
Health Providers
Social service providers

Mission

The mission of the Effingham County Early Childhood Coalition is to provide a space for collaboration and coordination of area services to support high-quality early care, education, and support for families so that all children develop to their full potential.

Create opportunities for relationships between early childhood service providers that engage learning and coordination of resources/services for young children.

Support programs and families in Effingham County with 0-5-year-old children so they are reaching their full potential. This coalition also serves as the advisory board for the ISBE-PI Effingham County Connections Advisory Board.

Recent Accomplishments

Collaborate on referrals in Effingham County programs, when appropriate, utilizing IRIS software or other methods.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning

Established in 2012

Overview

Areas Served
Cook, Kane Counties

Target Population
0-8 Years

Collaboration Address
PO Box 431
Elgin, IL 60121-0431

Collaboration Contact
Amber Peters
(847) 452-2457
amberpeters@elginpartnership.org

Communications
www.enrichingpartnerships.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

Young children and their families in the Greater Elgin Area have equitable opportunities to thrive.

Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning (EPEL) engages families, organizations, the early childhood workforce, and healthcare providers dedicated to creating a collaborative community-wide system of support for every young child to succeed in school and life.

Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning (EPEL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit early childhood community collaboration that unites cross-sector organizations to amplify the impact of local initiatives preparing children for school and life. By integrating the expertise and resources of our partners, EPEL facilitates the development of a unified community plan to support young children and their families.

As the backbone organization for The Basics Greater Elgin Initiative, EPEL leads efforts to ensure all families have access to simple, powerful strategies that support early brain development and school readiness.

As the central hub for early childhood resources, EPEL engages, informs, equips, and supports caregivers by providing essential information on early learning, high-quality childcare options, and community services for families with children aged five and under. We connect families to vital resources, including early childhood programs, child care assistance funding, developmental screenings, and additional support services to ensure a smooth and successful journey for every child.

EPEL works collaboratively to build strong, accessible systems for families, raise awareness about the importance of early learning, and expand access to early childhood opportunities. By narrowing the school readiness gap, we help ensure that every child has the foundation they need to succeed.

Recent Accomplishments

- **Launch of The Basics Greater Elgin Initiative** – EPEL, as the backbone organization, has successfully mobilized community partners to implement The Basics, a research-based framework that supports early brain development and school readiness. The initiative aligns with state early learning guidelines and is now integrated into EPEL's Getting Ready for Kindergarten Family Engagement Guide to reach thousands of families.
- **Expanded staff** by hiring a full-time Basics Coordinator.
- **Partnering with the largest pediatrician's office** to help launch The Basics.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Evanston Early Childhood Council

Established in 2019

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
1335 Dodge Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201

Collaboration Contact
Jesse Rojo
Jesser@evanstonearlychildhood.org

Communications
https://www.evanstonearlychildhood.org/

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

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.

Recent Accomplishments

- Hosted an Early Childhood Legislative forum in 2024 to advocate for funding for Early Intervention and the ECACE scholarship program, as well as the creation of a Department of Early Childhood.
- Hosted frequent Family Fun events to promote the importance of early childhood education.
- Hosted, along with the Early Childhood Alliance, an Early Childhood Symposium in 2024.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative

Established in 2017

Overview

Areas Served
DuPage County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Prenatal; Families

Collaboration Address
22W600 Butterfield Rd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Collaboration Contact
Jeanine Woltman
(630) 588-4012
jwoltman@casedupage.com

Communications
http://bit.ly/glenbardecc

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Parents
Foundations
Health Providers
Other
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

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

Recent Accomplishments

- We are implementing Basics DuPage and Basics Insights in our community.

- We have hosted three public screening events, connecting children and families to both Early Intervention and School District-based preschool services, home visiting, and family groups.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Grundy Partnership for Children

Established in 2009

Overview

Areas Served
Grundy County

Target Population
Youth

Collaboration Contact
Devan Gagliardo
(815) 941-0852
devan@cfgrundycounty.com

Communications
www.facebook.com/GrundyPartnershipForChildren

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Foundations
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

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.

The goals of the GPC include: Increase parental awareness of healthy child development, Ensure children have access to developmental screenings, and Increase highly qualified and well prepared professionals.

Recent Accomplishments

- Worked with others to bring IRIS Referral System to Grundy County. We are still in the implementation stages.

- Have begun conversations with community stakeholders around increasing availability of daycare and preschool in the county.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase quality of early learning programs

iGrow Early Childhood Network

Established in 2012

Overview

Areas Served
Vermilion County

Target Population
Prenatal; First-Time Parents; Unhoused; Low-Income; Lack of Education

Collaboration Address
2300 N. Vermilion St.
Danville, IL 61832

Collaboration Contact
Niah Hamilton
(217) 483-2229
Hamiltonn@danville118.org

Communications
https://www.facebook.com/igrowvercounty

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Faith-based Organizations
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service 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.

Recent Accomplishments

- Coordinated Intake completes Newborn Encounters at the local hospital.
- Implemented a new home visiting agency with a program model that is new to our area.
- Successful engagement of community members through community events.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs

iGrow Lake County

Established in 2019

Overview

Areas Served
Lake County

Target Population
Parents/Caregivers of Children 0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
3010 Grand Avenue, 2nd Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085

Collaboration Contact
Jon Ashworth
(847) 377-8112
JAshworth@lakecountyil.gov

Communications
https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4362/igrow-Lake-County

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

iGrow Lake County is a home visiting service for expectant parents and families with new babies and young children up to 5 years old who live in Lake County.

Recent Accomplishments

- Expanded capacity of home visiting programs.
- Increased participation in home visiting programs.
- Widening and deepening multi-sector partnerships across our communities.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Johnson County Cabinet for Children and Youth

Established in 2022

Overview

Areas Served
Johnson County

Target Population
Early Childhood - Secondary Students

Collaboration Contact
Phillip Hosfeldt
phillipmhosfeldt@viennahighschool.com

Communications
https://www.viennahighschool.com/page/community-services-and-partnerships

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

Through collaboration, coordination and communication, members of Johnson County Cabinet for Children and Youth (JCCCY) will work together to maximize current and potential resources to improve the educational outcomes and well-being for all children, youth, and their families, leading to greater success in life.

Recent Accomplishments

- Did a coordinated community network of partnerships. We brought in a variety of community partners and introduced them to our cabinet members, allowing them to form further partnerships.

- Established a comprehensive after-school program through a local children's camp (Camp Ondessonk or Camp O). Students attend Camp O weekly after school from 3-4 PM, where they are able to ride horses, learn outdoor skills, and have a tutor if needed.

- In May of 2024, the Cabinet organized a night to help educate new parents and community members on CCAP & Early Childhood enrollment and to encourage enrollment in summer childcare options for families.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Kane County Home Visit Collaborative

Established in 2010

Overview

Areas Served
Kane County

Target Population
Prenatal Through Age 3

Collaboration Address
1240 North Highland Ave.
Aurora, IL, 60506

Collaboration Contact
Laura Barrett
(630) 444-3086
Barrettlaura@kanecountyil.gov

Communications
https://www.kanehealth.com/Pages/IGrow.aspx

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

Together, we help Kane County families with young children to thrive through high-quality home visitation services and a coordinated intake system.

Recent Accomplishments

- Developed Welcome Folder for providers to give to patients recommended for Home Visiting.
- Developed toolkit for agencies/organizations with resources (Perinatal Depression Resources, Breastfeeding Resources, Tips on discussing Home Visiting with clients/patients, etc.)
- Annual training with HV supervisors, staff, and doulas in Kane County.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

LEAD Chicago

Established in 2026

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
Early Childhood Education

Collaboration Address
3300 N. Whipple St.
Chicago, IL 60618

Collaboration Contact
Kiki Collias
(773) 463-1600
kcollias@concordiaplace.org

Communications
www.concordiaplace.org

Partners & Participants
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

LEAD Chicago partners across communities to create culturally responsive systems and innovative solutions that help young children and families thrive.

LEAD Chicago envisions a city where every young child and family thrives, supported by innovative, adaptive, and equitable early childhood systems.

Recent Accomplishments

- The LEAD Chicago Collaborative was just formalized in June 2026. Our biggest accomplishment during our planning year was developing Mission and Vision Statements, Core Values and a Charter.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

Little Village Education Collaboration

Established in 2014

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
Little Village/South Lawndale Residents

Collaboration Address
2759 S Harding Ave.
Chicago, IL 60623

Collaboration Contact
Valerie Coffman
(773) 943-7570
vcoffman@enlacechicago.org

Communications
https://www.enlacechicago.org/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

Enlace Chicago convenes, organizes, and builds the capacity of Little Village stakeholders to confront systemic inequities and barriers to economic and social access.

Enlace Chicago is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of Little Village residents by fostering a safe and healthy environment and by championing opportunities for educational advancement and economic development.

Enlace is committed to accountability and transparency to ensure integrity, believes in building community power through collaboration and grassroots leadership, promotes livable communities with access and opportunity for all, and values social justice and systems change.

Recent Accomplishments

- Hiring and onboarding for a new Early Childhood Education Specialist.
- Increased number of CEL applications and enrollment in Little Village.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Macon County Early Childhood Collaboration

Overview

Areas Served
Macon County

Target Population
0-5 years; Prenatal; Families

Collaboration Address
1221 E Condit St.
Decatur, IL 62521

Collaboration Contact
Tiffany Schield
(217) 423-6988 Ext. 1313
igrow@maconchd.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

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

Recent Accomplishments

- Partnered with the Illinois Department of Transportation Safety Liaison to provide updated car seat information training to collaborative members.
- Purchased Meeting Owl technology to offer remote and in-person participation options for collaborative members.
- Collaborative participation led to future speaker selections for upcoming collaborative meetings.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Madison County Alliance for Families & Children

Established in 2021

Overview

Areas Served
Madison County

Target Population
0-5 years; Prenatal; Families

Collaboration Address
2133 Johnson Rd.
Granite City, IL 62040

Collaboration Contact
Christina Owens; Heidi Elliot
1-(800) 467-9200 Ext. 105
cowens@brightpoint.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Health Providers
Families/Parents
Social service providers
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Community Organizations
Government

Mission

Madison County Alliance for Children & Families brings community partners together to strengthen systems that ensure young children and families have equitable access to opportunities and resources that promote optimal health, development, and success. We envision a county where all children and families have what they need to flourish, thrive, and experience success.

Recent Accomplishments

- Trained seven parents and caregivers in the COFI way, adding parent voice to our work and community.
- Successfully partnered with local libraries to host community early childhood enrollment and developmental screening awareness.
- Increased partner membership in the collaboration and work using IRIS as a coordinated intake tool

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Menard County Family Collaborative

Established in 2022

Overview

Areas Served
Menard County

Target Population
Children; Families

Collaboration Address
319 S 9th St.
Petersburg, IL 62675

Collaboration Contact
Megan Loberg-Simmering
(402) 833-8758
meganloberg@gmail.com

Partners & Participants
Businesses
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

- COLLABORATE with stakeholders who are invested in early childhood needs
- EDUCATE using partners in the community to educate caregivers
- ASSEMBLE information that families entering the community need
- SUPPORT needs of families with young ones

Recent Accomplishments

- Founded and facilitated a caregiver support group.
- Provide free children's programming at community locations in Menard County, serving over 50 families.
- Partnered with the local public school to provide a Family Learning Night, focused on supporting soft-skill building by family members and connecting them to local resources.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Monroe Randolph Partnership for Children & Families

Established in 2023

Overview

Areas Served
Monroe; Randolph Counties

Target Population
0-5 Years; Prenatal; Families

Collaboration Address
650 Opdyke St.
Chester, IL 62233

Collaboration Contact
Rachel Marshall
(618) 615-3387
rachelmarshall@chester139.com

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

- Community partners working together to increase child and family access to ECEC and family support programs.
- We work together to bridge the gap between holistic services and family and community needs. We include all family and community voices in planning and decision-making.

Recent Accomplishments

- We have established ourselves and are having regular partner meetings.
- We have done several outreach events in our community where we handed out brochures and other informational items.
- We are waiting to hear from Birth to Five on funding to determine our next steps.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)
- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs
- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

North Lawndale Early Learning Collaboration

Established in 2013

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
North Lawndale Residents 0-8 Years

Collaboration Address
2746 S Kildare Ave.
Chicago, IL 60623

Collaboration Contact
Razzail Jones
razzail.jones@actforchildren.org

Communications
https://www.actforchildren.org/program-supports/family-community-impact/north-lawndale-connections/

Partners & Participants
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Parents
Foundations
Health Providers
Social service providers

Mission

A diverse coalition of community organizations and parents, the North Lawndale Early Learning Collaboration's (NLELC) mission is to ensure that all children born in the community are on track to succeed by third grade. In North Lawndale, our efforts have been focused on creating a robust enrollment pipeline that would effectively connect families to the formal programs available to them and enrolling more high-need children in high-quality early learning programs.

Recent Accomplishments

- Implementation of IRIS

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Northwest Illinois Early Childhood Consortium/United For Kids

Established in 2023

Overview

Areas Served
Carroll; Stephenson; Jo Daviess Counties

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
524 W Stephenson St.
Freeport, IL 61032

Collaboration Contact
Connie Kraft
(815) 232-5184
director@uwni.org

Communications
www.uwni.org/united-kids

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The mission of the United For Kids Consortium 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 in Stephenson, Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties.

Recent Accomplishments

- Our consortium has brought regional stakeholders to the table to discuss the needs of our region.
- We have supported family engagement activities in our region.
- We have created our misson and continue working to develop our consortium to fit the needs of our region.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Palatine Early Learning Alliance

Established in 2019

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
Underserved Children; Families

Collaboration Address
2626 S Clearbrook Dr.
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Collaboration Contact
Kristen Ford
(224) 366-8629
kford@cntrmail.org

Communications
www.ecdec.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Parents
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

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.

Recent Accomplishments

- We are currently working with a local childcare to provide longer hours and summer childcare for the children in our community.

- We continue to persevere in locating a space, obtaining the space, and opening a quality childcare facility to offer care to our underserved families within our community.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Pike County Child Care Task Force

Established in 2025

Overview

Areas Served
Pike County

Target Population
Child Care Providers; Families

Collaboration Address
39637 260th Ave.
Pittsfield, IL 62363

Collaboration Contact
April Darringer
(217) 641-4528
adarringer@jwcc.edu

Communications
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61578116966249

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The purpose of the Pike County Child Care Task Force is to strengthen early childhood systems in Pike County by bringing together child care providers, schools, families, community organizations, and stakeholders. Our goal is to improve access to high-quality early learning opportunities, support the early childhood workforce, and ensure children and families have the resources they need to thrive. By working collaboratively, we aim to share expertise, align services, reduce gaps, and build sustainable solutions that promote the healthy development and future success of all young children in our community.

Recent Accomplishments

- **Community Needs Assessment & SWOT Survey**: Conducted a countywide strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis, gathering input from providers, families, and community members to identify gaps in child care access and opportunities for system improvement.
- **Launch of Provider Palooza Planning**: Initiated planning for the first Provider Palooza event to celebrate and support child care providers, past, present, and future. This event will raise awareness of the vital role of early childhood professionals and strengthen connections across the community.
- **Formation of Task Force & Collaborative Structure**: Established the Pike County Child Care Task Force with active participation from providers, schools, and community partners. Created a governance structure and communication plan to coordinate efforts, advocate for resources, and build sustainable solutions for local families.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Plano Area Alliance Supporting Student Success

Established in 2018

Overview

Areas Served
Grundy; Kendall Counties

Target Population
0-8 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
Grundy-Kendall Regional Office of Education
1320 Union St.
Morris, IL 60450

Collaboration Contact
Laurel Mateyka
(815) 941-3136
paasssinfo@gmail.com;
laurelmateyka@paasss.org

Communications
https://paasss.org/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

PAASSS (Plano Area Alliance Supporting Student Success) will strengthen the community by ensuring that all families in Region 24 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. A community where all children and families are empowered to succeed in learning and in life. Partnering for Awareness and Access to Services Supporting Success.

Recent Accomplishments

- Development of community-based referral system (IRIS) to increase outreach and recruitment of priority and diverse populations.
- Coordination and expansion of shared professional development opportunities.
- Increasing messaging about the importance of early literacy development, sharing tips for parenting young children, and providing information about family-friendly, low-cost activities/events in the region through targeted marketing and public education campaigns.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Serve priority populations

Project SUN

Established in 2018

Overview

Areas Served
Kankakee County

Target Population
Mental Health Childhood Providers

Collaboration Address
200 E Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Collaboration Contact
Sarah Winkel
(815) 304-5933
sarah@cfkrv.org

Communications
www.projectsunkankakee.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Social service providers

Mission

Project SUN (Strong and Unified Network) is dedicated to strengthening Kankakee County's behavioral health system of care so that children and their families flourish.

Recent Accomplishments

- **March 2024**: Empowering Family Voice workshop with a representative from FREDLA as the featured speaker.
- **Spring 2024**: Finished the fifth round of "My Piece in the Puzzle," our racial equity program.
- **September 2024**: Empoderando Voz de la Familia panel discussion/Q&A about IEPs for Spanish-speaking parents.

Ready. Set. Grow.

Established in 2012

Overview

Areas Served
Adams; Brown; Cass; Morgan; Pike; Scott; Greene; Hancock; McDonough; Schuyler Counties

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
115 N 4th St.
Quincy, IL 62301

Collaboration Contact
Amy Peters
(217) 617-2827
amy@quincychildrensmuseum.org

Communications
www.quincychildrensmuseum.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

Quincy Children's Museum exists to transform the lives of children and families through experiences that inspire curiosity, creativity, discovery, and connection.

Vision: Joyful children, engaged families, and a connected community.

Values:

- **Discovery:** We believe in providing transformative experiences that create opportunities of wonder, excitement and joy for all.
- **Creativity**: We believe in building on the strengths, imaginations, and ideas of our visitors; creating opportunities for open-ended learning through play.
- **Curiosity**: We believe in providing unique and diverse programming, exhibits and materials that inspire continuous growth and excitement.
- **Connection**: We believe caring relationships within families and society as a whole empowers engagement, collaboration. Dynamic community partnerships are critical to maximizing a positive impact.

Recent Accomplishments

- Adding a 2nd day of 0-5 specific programming.
- Moving under the umbrella of a NPO organization.
- Serving more families and children than ever before.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

Regional Office of Education #13 Early Childhood Collaboration

Established in 2023

Overview

Areas Served
Marion; Clinton; Jefferson; Washington Counties

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Contact
Jill Wardlow
eccollab@roe13.org

Communications
www.roe13.org

Partners & Participants
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents

Mission

The ROE #13 Early Childhood Collaboration will promote a community partnership to develop equitable access to resources for families in support of healthy growth and development of children birth to five.

The collaboration's goal is to develop an effective infrastructure to support, strengthen and coordinate the services to our youth while empowering families.

The ROE #13 Early Childhood Collaboration is building a network of community service providers who share a vision of promoting high quality services to increase enrollment of children from birth to age 5 in early learning programs and services.

Recent Accomplishments

- The initial implementation of IRIS.
- Establishment of a formal collaboration.
- Family events showcasing resources.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Regional Office of Education #26 IRIS Community Collaboration

Established in 2022

Overview

Areas Served
McDonough; Fulton; Schuyler; Hancock Counties

Target Population
Students; Families

Collaboration Address
130 S Lafayette St. Ste 200, Macomb, IL 61455

Collaboration Contact
Mandy Kreps
(309) 575-3253
Mkreps@roe26.net

Communications
www.roe26.net/iris

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Health Providers
Social service providers

Mission

To provide the ROE26 region with a streamlined referral and intake process to support social service agencies in connecting community members to resources while working to increase the enrollment and retention in Early Childhood Education and care programs.

Everyone benefits from a healthy, thriving, well-connected community that values all of its citizens. A centralized and coordinated referral system like IRIS can help eliminate many of the barriers that prevent families from engaging with services that are available to them, and well-connected organizations can benefit from the increased ease of identifying clients who are interested and eligible for their services.

Values and Principles:

- **Connection**: We strive to meet people where they are at with an empathetic understanding that everyone's experience is unique.
- **Transparency**: The collaboration works as a whole to make decisions, live standards, and communicate openly.
- **Equitable inclusion**: We are committed to high quality services and supports designed to reduce disparities in outcomes associated with gender, race, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status while ensuring that all people who have a stake in the community are welcomed and contribute to the work of the collaboration.
- **Commitment**: We are committed to serving the broader community with integrity by adhering to our community standards and working collaboratively with all entities and community members.

Recent Accomplishments

- Successfully onboarded a major hospital into the Collaboration.
- Have all three Childcare Resource and Referrals as part of the collaboration.
- Currently have 99 IRIS partners. We are about to hit the 100 mark.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Serve priority populations

Sangamon Home Visiting and Education Referral Team (HEART)

Established in 2021

Overview

Areas Served
Cass; Christian; Logan; Macon; Macoupin; Montgomery; Morgan; Sangamon Counties

Target Population
Children; Families

Collaboration Contact
Gwen Walsh
gwalsh56@siumed.edu

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Health Providers
Social service providers

Mission

Our vision is to have ongoing engagement with pregnant mothers at risk, connecting her to community and healthcare resources during her pregnancy, through the birth of her child, and as the family grows.

Recent Accomplishments

- We have reached 1,908 referrals to partner organizations in our collaborative since launch in August 2021.
- A Sangamon HEART poster was presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition in fall 2024. It has a visual representation of our growth over the past several years, and won best abstract in our section.
- We have 27 active organizations in our collaborative and continue to work towards growing our network of partners to better serve children and families in our community.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake
- Serve priority populations

Sauk Valley STARS Early Childhood Education Coalition

Established in 2004

Overview

Areas Served
Lee; Ogle; Whiteside Counties

Target Population
Early Childhood Providers

Collaboration Address
c/o ROE #47
2214 E. 4th Street, Suite B
Sterling, IL 61081

Collaboration Contact
Lois Meisenheimer
(815) 625-1495
lmeisenheimer@roe47.org

Communications
www.roe47.org/page/sauk-valley-stars

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

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.

Recent Accomplishments

- Continued expansion of community-based referral system (IRIS) to increase outreach and recruitment of priority and diverse populations.
- Development of marketing and public education campaigns to increase awareness of and enrollment in early childhood programming across the region.
- Expansion of work focused on child care, including increasing awareness in the business sector of how child care deserts in our area are impacting the workforce.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake
- Increase enrollment of children in early learning programs

South Suburban Birth to Five Forum

Established in 1990

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
Prenatal; 0-5 Years

Collaboration Contact
Alma Cano
acano@district130.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)

Mission

The South Suburban Birth to Five Forum is a group of Early Learning Programs serving families with young children throughout the southern suburbs of Chicago. The group meets five times each school year to share information and exchange ideas. Each member offers support services to families with children who may be considered at risk because of their environment and/or economic status.

Our programs provide parental education and child development services to families with children prenatally to age five (5).

Members agree to:

- Collaborate in referrals, resources and support for children and their families within the south suburbs.
- Promote services for young children and their families.
- Exchange information that pertains to Early Childhood and or Prevention Initiative Programs.
- Share ideas that are working in their individual programs such as Parent Education Events, Family Events, Field Trips, etc.
- Share information that will assist other programs to comply fully with state requirements.
- Meet with representatives from Parents as Teachers and Baby Talk programs.

Recent Accomplishments

- New members added to the group.
- Shared updated information regarding IDEC.
- We have representation on the CS3 Capacity Building Team.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Southern Illinois Coalition for Children and Families

Established in 2008, Incorporated in 2016

Overview

Areas Served
Alexander; Franklin; Gallatin; Hamilton; Hardin; Jackson; Johnson; Massac; Perry; Pulaski; Pope; Saline; Union; White; Williamson Counties

Target Population
0-6 Years; Prenatal; Families

Collaboration Address
700 Logan College Drive Carterville, IL, 62918

Collaboration Contact
Lori Dixon Longueville
(618) 924-0504
southernillinoiscoalition@gmail.com

Communications
www.southernillinoiscoalition.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

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.

Vision: All children in southern Illinois have the same opportunities to grow, develop and learn to be able to thrive, giving them the best start in life.

Values:

- **Children**: Children are at the center of our work.
- **Families**: Families are essential to helping children on their road to success.
- **Communities & Partnerships**: By working together we can better help children and families succeed
- **Equity**: All voices are important and should be heard.
- **Advocacy**: We are champions for children by promoting positive change.
- **Excellence**: We are committed to excellence providing quality programs and services through innovative and research-based strategies.

Recent Accomplishments

- 4978 children documented as screened for developmental delays in FY 24.
- 3,555 school readiness calendars and family letters sent out each month in FY 24.
- 78,399 individuals reached through SIFamilies website and social media in FY 24.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase quality of early learning programs

Southernmost Illinois Early Learning Special Education Collaborative

Established in 2023

Overview

Areas Served
Johnson; Massac; Alexander; Pulaski Counties

Target Population
Special Education Students

Collaboration Address
751 Ullin Ave.
Ullin, IL 62992

Collaboration Contact
Kimberly Clayton; Angela Alexander
(618) 634-9800
director2020@jampsped.org;
supervisor1@jampsped.org

Partners & Participants
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Parents
Other
Social service providers

Mission

The Southernmost Illinois Early Learning Special Education Collaborative is a diverse group of early childhood education professionals with a shared mission of improving the quality of education and services for young children in southern Illinois. Our collaboration is guided by the principles that all children deserve to learn in a safe, nurturing environment. We believe that collaboration among early childhood entities will provide improved resources, support, and facilitate better outcomes for the children and families we serve.

Vision Statement:
The vision for the Southernmost Illinois Early Learning Special Education Collaborative is to foster learning communities that facilitate growth for students, teachers, therapists and staff in environments that are safe, engaging, meaningful, and positive. We envision strong connections and quality relationships between students, teachers, parents, therapists, staff, and community members. We hope to promote understanding of one another, positive mental health, and an atmosphere that helps everyone become the best versions of themselves.

Recent Accomplishments

- During FY 25 our collaboration assisted 10 school districts with coordinating and executing child find activities.
- We created 150 new parent survival kits that the Southern Seven Health Department WIC staff distributed, and we hosted parenting support groups.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Southside Early Learning Network Coordinated Intake Collaboration

Established in 2013

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Collaboration Address
1701 W. 63rd Street
Chicago, IL 60636

Collaboration Contact
Fanya Mojica; Kara Yarbrough
(312) 786-5367
fmojica@brightpoint.org;
kyarbrough@brightpoint.org

Communications
https://www.brightpoint.org/strong-families/parent-support/home-visiting/southside-early-learning-network/

Partners & Participants
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The Southside Early Learning Network (SELN) is a collaborative that supports and improves outcomes for expectant moms, dads, and children birth to five in Chicago's Southside communities through seamless connection to home visiting and other family support services.

Recent Accomplishments

- Completed professional development workshop: The Impact of Trauma on Child Development.
- Annual update of Policy & Procedure Manual.
- Redraft of Partnership Agreement Document.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake

SPARK Aurora

Established in 2012

Overview

Areas Served
Kane County

Target Population
0-5 Years

Collaboration Address
44 E. Galena Blvd.
Aurora, IL 60505

Collaboration Contact
Rosaisela Sida
(630) 896-4636 Ext. 108
rosaisela.sida@foxvalleyunitedway.org

Communications
www.sparkaurora.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education
providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of
Education, Local Education
Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing,
police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The mission of SPARK (Strong, Prepared, and Ready for Kindergarten), Early Childhood Collaboration is to ignite a love of learning in every child by providing equitable access to comprehensive early childhood education and support to families in Aurora. SPARK aims to empower our diverse families and children to attain full success in learning and in life.

Vision Statement:
Fox Valley United Way is committed to ensuring that all families in our communities have equitable access to opportunities and resources supporting positive health, education, and financial outcomes.

Recent Accomplishments

- **Play.Learn.Connect.**: community-wide family outreach and engagement in collaboration, including recent expansion at a permanent room at our local community youth center.

- **Digital Screening Platform**: ASQ-3 and ASQ SE-2 screenings and trainings are now logged and tracked digitally improving systems efficiency and streamlining awareness, transparency and communication to parents.

- **Utilization of IRIS, (Integrated Referral and Intake System)**: enhancing the efficiency, coordination, and effectiveness of connecting families with the services they need once they complete the Gateways to Early Childhood coordinated intake.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Coordinated intake
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Serve priority populations

Success by 6

Established in 2008

Overview

Areas Served
Kankakee; Iroquois Counties

Target Population
0-6 Years; Families; Early Childhood Providers

Collaboration Address
200 E Court St #500
Kankakee, IL 60901

Collaboration Contact
Mariah Vail
(708) 573-9762
mariah@myunitedway.org

Communications
facebook.com/successby6

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

Success By 6 works to ensure all Kankakee & Iroquois 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.

Recent Accomplishments

- Launched a Family Support Bus partnership, which allowed members of our collaboration to bring ASQ screenings and other resources for free to dozens of locations across our community.

- Created weekly Connect & Play programming, which offers parents a free place to come and spend time with their child while also connecting with local early childhood service providers as well as other parents who can support them in their journey.

- Hosted regular free trainings for our Coalition during our bimonthly meetings, bringing in subject matter experts who can address some of the key issues in our local early childhood network.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

The Alliance for Early Childhood

Established in 1989

Overview

Areas Served
Cook; Lake Counties

Target Population
Parents; Families; Teachers

Collaboration Address
1235 Oak Street
Winnetka, IL 60093

Collaboration Contact
Stacy Sunderland
(847) 780-7442
stacey@theallianceforec.org

Communications
www.theallianceforec.org

Partners & Participants
Community Organizations
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

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.

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.

Recent Accomplishments

- Launched Mindful Beginnings, an outdoor meet-up for new and expecting parents.
- Increased attendance at our community-wide Let's Play! events by 150% in 2 years.
- Expanded workshop offerings at the Preschool-Kindergarten Summit, a conference for early childhood educators held at the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Increase quality of early learning programs

The Jewish Early Childhood Collaborative

Established in 2018

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Early Childhood Providers

Collaboration Contact
Kate Warach
katewarach@juf.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Social service providers

Mission

Meet the ever-changing needs of the Chicagoland Jewish community through accessible, high-quality Jewish ECE programs.

An effective Jewish ECE ecosystem in Greater Chicago in which a maximal number of families are enrolling in our schools. A field where educators love and are supported in their work - including a comprehensive compensation plan. And a community that actively models high-quality, cutting-edge opportunities for learning and growth for school professionals, lay leaders, children, and families.

Recent Accomplishments

- Launched an initiative around emotionally responsive practice within our programs.
- Have seen educator salaries rise and an increase in benefit offerings in our programs.
- Led the creation of the national study on Compensation and Credentialing in Jewish Early Childhood Programs.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

The Village Early Childhood Collaboration

Established in 2020

Overview

Areas Served
Henderson; Knox; Mercer; Warren Counties

Target Population
0-8 Years; Prenatal; Families

Collaboration Address
932 Harrison Street
Galesburg, IL 61401

Collaboration Contact
Rhonda Hillyer
(309) 345-8283
rhillyer@roe33.net

Communications
www.roe33.net

Partners & Participants
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Health Providers
Social service providers

Mission

- Long-term change we want...to create an easily accessible, seamless, quality early childhood system that will support the success of families
- Action...Diverse Stakeholders coming together and collaboratively working to better the system for families

Recent Accomplishments

- Developed an Early Childhood Program Resource Guide.
- Partners collaborated to establish monthly cohort meetings (with translation) for people who want to become licensed child care providers.
- Partnered with rural community health care systems to provide books in their waiting rooms.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Together Englewood

Established in 2023

Overview

Areas Served
Cook County

Target Population
Families; Individuals

Collaboration Address
6956 South Wentworth Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60621

Collaboration Contact
Tanya Denise Lee
(312) 498-2006

Communications
https://bridgingthegapchicago.org

Partners & Participants
Businesses
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

Together Englewood's purpose is bridging the gap of resources to connect to families that need them. We work together to service the whole family through support services and tracking from all collaborations and their specialty.

Recent Accomplishments

- Collaboration members with shared families work together to create a plan to serve the whole family.

- Our Collaboration created a referral process.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Villa Park Area Early Childhood Collaborative

Established in 2021

Overview

Areas Served
DuPage County

Target Population
0-18 Years; Priority Populations, Especially Newcomer Families

Collaboration Address
136 S Cornell Ave.
Villa Park, IL 60181

Collaboration Contact
Patty Ibarra
(630) 629-9622
pibarra@tritownymca.org

Communications
www.vpaecc.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional
Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The Villa Park Area Early Childhood Collaborative (VPAECC) is a group of dedicated community members and leaders working together to improve awareness and access to:

- Early Childhood Screenings
- Early Intervention & Home Visiting Programs
- Kindergarten Readiness Opportunities
- Vaccinations & Well Child Visits
- Mental Health Services
- Community Resources
- Family Engagement & Education
- And More!

Recent Accomplishments

- Secured a partnership as a Community Investment Fund recipient with Endeavor Health to expeditiously connect families to resources with the support of parent navigator roles.

- VPAECC has partnered with the Academy of Pediatrics to develop a webinar series on home visiting and early childhood interventions.

- VPAECC successfully executed three signature community events to help families connect to resources and receive vital health and early intervention services.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)
- Implement collaborative screenings
- Increase children's attendance in early learning programs
- Serve priority populations

Wheaton Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative

Established in 2013

Overview

Areas Served
DuPage County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families

Collaboration Address
222 E. Willow Ave.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Collaboration Contact
Annie Behrns
(630) 784-4860
behrnsa@metrofamily.org

Communications
www.facebook.com/wheatonwarrenvilleecc/

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Foundations
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

Mission

The Wheaton Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative is a partnership of non-profit, social service, and community-based agencies and entities, all of whom have a vested interest in positive long-term outcomes for children and their families.

Recent Accomplishments

- DuPage Community Health Fair (held annually in the summer; we have had 2 and are currently planning our 3rd).
- Community Partners Play Date (held monthly at the Wheaton Public Library, began in January of 2024).
- Ongoing collaborations with partners to facilitate high-quality programming for our families, such as museum pop-ups and opportunities at a local arboretum.

Primary Activities & Strategies

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

Willowbrook Corner Coalition

Established in 2014

Overview

Areas Served
DuPage County

Target Population
0-5 Years; Families

Collaboration Contact
Arcelia Garay
arcelia.garay@ywcachicago.org

Partners & Participants
Birth to Five Illinois/Regional Community Systems
Businesses
Child Care Referral (CCR&R)
Community Organizations
Early Childhood Education providers (child care, home visiting)
Education (Regional Office of Education, Local Education Agency/ school districts)
Faith-based Organizations
Families/Community Members
Families/Parents
Foundations
Government
Health Providers
Other public services (housing, police, libraries)
Social service providers

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.

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

Recent Accomplishments

- Streamlined referral processes through IRIS.
- Provided parent education workshops.
- Participated/hosted in 20 outreach and enrollment events from July 2024 to October 2024.

Primary Activities & Strategies

- Align birth to third grade (B-3 framework)
- Coordinated intake
- Increase children's attendance in 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.

Partner Plan Act

illinois action for children

Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Illinois State Board of Education

Gateways to Opportunity®
Illinois Professional Development System

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