
The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services 2023 Annual Report on the Collaboration with the Department of Human Services to Develop Programs to Serve Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

Since 1995, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Human Service's Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) have collaborated to develop and implement integrated services for DCFS-involved families impacted by substance use disorders. This report includes program highlights and statistics outlining the partnership between SUPR and DCFS.

The Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/7.3c) requires that DCFS, in cooperation with DHS-SUPR, develop and test pilot programs of integrated child welfare and substance abuse services. The Departments are also required to evaluate and report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the effectiveness of these programs.

This report provides information on the most recent results from DCFS and DHS-SUPR programs. DCFS has worked with researchers to evaluate these pilot programs for families impacted by substance use disorders. The services have been funded directly by DCFS, in conjunction with DHS-SUPR, or through federal initiatives. DCFS works with a combination of university researchers and federal government contractors to evaluate the programs.

PROGRAMS

The Intact Family Recovery (IFR) Program

The IFR program serves families following the birth of substance-exposed infants (SEI). The DCFS Office of the Inspector General developed the initial program model. The IFR program team's child welfare workers work together with substance use disorder (SUD) workers to serve families. DCFS funds the team of child welfare and AOD workers. Treatment and recovery support services are funded by SUPR and through Medicaid.

The IFR program is designed to last 18-24 months to allow time for parents to complete substance abuse treatment services and any needed parenting and other social services. The IFR team supports parents and family members through the program's outreach/engagement, treatment, and recovery phases, including home visiting by the child welfare and SUD workers (together and separately) throughout the course of services.

As of 11/30/23, a total of 98 IFR cases remain open between three IFR agencies:

- LSSI South – 33
- LCFS – 28
- LSSI North - 37

The Intact Family Recovery (IFR) Expansion Projects

The IFR program expanded to other regions in Illinois through the Regional Partnership Grant Program (RPG). The Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) Program is administered by the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau, to improve the well-being of children affected by parental substance use disorders. The grants support interagency collaborations and integration of programs, services, and activities designed to increase the well-being, improve the permanency, and enhance the safety of children who are in, or at risk of, out-of-home placements as the result of a parent or caregiver's substance use disorder. The partnerships implement a range of activities and interventions, including peer recovery coaching, family-centered substance use disorder treatment, parenting and family strengthening programs, services to pregnant and postpartum women, medication-assisted treatment, in-home parenting, child safety support for families, and related evidence-based practices.

The Children's Bureau Research Partners Grant (RPG) was awarded to Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) in FY 17 to fund IFR Expansion in the Department's Cook Region (RPG4). RPG4 was a 5-year grant which ended in September 2022. ICOY received RPG6 to fund IFR expansion in the Department's Southern Region, specifically the Metro-East area, and RPG7 in the Southern Region with an emphasis on addressing racial disparities. To that end, ICOY and its partners formed the Metro East-coalition, focusing on St. Clair and Madison Counties.

With the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, IFR has the potential to become part of the evidence-based interventions recognized as supported or well-supported practices for Title IV-E reimbursement. In this way, Illinois is investing in families and in the research that can keep children safe and families together when they are impacted by substance use disorder.

St. Monica's Moms Recovery Home, and St. Josephine Bakhita Recovery Home

The following SUD programs serve DCFS-involved mothers and their children: Maryville Academy's St. Monica's Mother's Recovery Home, and St. Josephine Bakhita Recovery Homes. The Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery licenses these programs. Mothers with substance use disorders and mental health needs receive assessment, treatment, and recovery support services in a safe and drug-free environment. In addition to substance use disorder treatment and mental health counseling, mothers receive parenting classes and job readiness and training services. The programs serve women ages 18-35, and children birth to age 10. A Maryville Family Behavioral Health Clinic branch is also located on-site at the recovery home. The branch provides substance use disorder treatment and mental health therapeutic services. The attached report provides a comprehensive review of the successful outcome data from these programs.