

## POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is the state agency responsible for a full range of child welfare services including child protection, prevention, family maintenance, substitute care, adoption, family-centered services, youth services for DCFS state wards, day care services for DCFS clients, licensing of foster homes, day care homes and centers, and child welfare agencies. DCFS is also legislatively empowered with the administration of the Illinois Child Abuse Prevention Fund.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Core Services:** Historically and throughout the past year, the programs supported through CBCAP, or matching funds, provided core and adjunct services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect. They played key roles in assuring that a continuum of services, including prevention; intervention and treatment were available in Illinois communities. Grantees have a variety of programs that offer a range of services such as: public education-community collaboration –resource development; peer education classes-life skills-home visiting/coaching and outreach to families; mutual support groups-connect to community resources; meaningful parent leadership; positive youth development or similar programming; responsible fatherhood programming; integration of strategically sound community organization activities; research-evaluation and training; and, respite care/homeless or Domestic Violence shelter.
- **Policy Achievements:** New legislation HBO652 that amends the Humane Care for Animals Act and the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. Now an animal control officer, Department of Agriculture investigator, or humane society investigator with reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child is being abused or neglected or is in danger of being abused or neglected must immediately make a written or oral report to the Department of Children and Family Services. While Investigation Specialists, Intact Family Specialists, and Placement Specialists employed by the Department of Children and Family Services must immediately report suspected animal abuse or neglect to the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Welfare.
- **Outreach to Special Populations/Cultural Competence:** DCFS continued its commitment to join with agencies and organizations to facilitate supports to those with unmet needs, especially those in situations where the potential for abuse and neglect was heightened. CBCAP supported programs conducting outreach and prevention and intervention services specifically to benefit special populations, such as, but not limited to:
  - HIV affected/infected families who were in need of respite, education and family support
  - Latino immigrants needing parenting classes, family support, educational intervention and resource assistance in a native language
  - Teen parents who needed parent education classes
  - Residents of a community public housing project who needed GED preparation, college credit course work, and age-appropriate children's activities
  - Dads who needed responsible fatherhood parenting classes and mutual support groups
  - Court involved and court mandated clients
  - Victims of domestic violence needing shelter
  - Refugees and immigrants (South Asian, Arabs, Middle Easterners and Bosnian) who needed prevention, intervention and shelter



- Parent involvement/leadership:** Having parents involved in services that benefit adults and children yields positive outcomes for everyone. For these reasons, CBCAP, CAPTA, FCS, CJS and Tax Check-Off funded programs are encouraged to involve parents, especially fathers, foster parents and grandparents in the development, operation, and quality assurance aspects of their programs. In FFY09, DCFS supported the Fathers Who Care Expo for Today's Men which was held in June at Malcolm X College in Chicago, Illinois where over 400 participants attended the event.
- Evaluation:** Informal evaluation of program activities continues through review of grantee logic models, required programmatic narratives and onsite visits to the agencies. Most, if not all, CBCAP grantees continue to utilize the online logic model provided through the FRIENDS toolkit. Also, grantees are encouraged to utilize the FRIENDS Strengthening Families Survey to evaluate whether or not protective factors are being engendered through their agency programming. Renewed contracts encouraged grantees to read additional information about programming requirements. Grantees provide information about their programming and, using the established guidelines, report whether their program model is evidence-based, evidence-informed, or a promising practice. Most CBCAP grantees have various forms of Peer Review and Performance Improvement activities that include program staff, program volunteers, like-agency personnel, and parent consumers. Typical for a majority of agencies, the Peer Review system involves an evaluation by referral sources and a quarterly Peer Review Committee meeting. Participants of services are asked to complete a survey to provide insightful feedback into how helpful the given information was, as well as, provide constructive criticism, negative or positive.
- Support Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Assistance:** Training topics available to CBCAP and Family Centered Service staff and grantees include: RTI – Response to Intervention, Promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors, Methamphetamines, Collaboration and partnership for prevention, Evidence-based and evidence-informed programs and practices, Grant reporting requirements, Contract Monitoring, Effects of Trauma (ACE) and FRIENDS Advanced Parent Leadership Ambassador Training. All CBCAP grantees are invited and encouraged to participate in a multitude of webinars and community learning calls that occur weekly. Notices of continuing education opportunities are widely broadcasted electronically as well along with new research information covering a wide range of topics.

Participants receiving direct services	# individuals	11,387	# families	
	# people with disabilities	156	# parents with disabilities	
Reach	# local grantees	9		
Spread	# training sessions on evidence-based and best practices		# professionals participating in training	



## ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Examples of key partnerships are:

Illinois' early childhood efforts that focus on a lifetime approach in the delivery of services to abused and neglected children is carried out through planning and development committees, ad hoc work groups, formal strategic planning sessions and task forces such as DCFS Early Learning & Family Strengthening Work Group (ELFS); Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS); and the IDHS Head Start State Collaboration Office Strategic Planning Committee

**Strengthening Families Illinois through Family Advocacy Centers:** CBCAP funds and monitors a contract with Strengthening Families Illinois (SFI) so that parent cafes and parent leadership training/development activities can exist within Illinois' newly established Family Advocacy Centers. SFI is implementing their project through early childhood education centers as well

**Strong Foundations Home Visiting Infrastructure Grant Advisory Committee:** The Illinois Department of Human Services is the designated lead agency with regard to the Strong Foundations – Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting grant and this advisory committee provided input into the major decisions governing this project.

### Key partners:

#### Public Sector

- Differential or alternative response
- Education and special education
- Early childhood
- Home visiting
- Head Start/ Early Head Start
- Child care

- Fatherhood programs

#### Private Sector

- Advocacy organizations
- Parent organizations
- Faith community
- Adolescent pregnancy organizations

## SYSTEM CHANGE EFFORTS

- **Early Childhood:** With a focus on a lifetime approach in the delivery of services to abused and neglected children, the state lead will continue to be an active part of Illinois' early childhood efforts through planning and development committees, ad hoc work groups, formal strategic planning sessions and task forces.
- **Child and Family Service Reviews/Program Improvement Plan (CFRS/PIP):** The state lead has contributed information to a summary of events relating to the development of the most recent 5-year Child and Family Services Plan and pertinent materials for the completion of the Department's Annual Progress and Services Report. The Lead Agency's systemic changes revolve around Executive Orders, the passage of legislation, and the development of rules, policies and procedures that relate to the following activities. These improvements shadow objectives in the most recent Illinois PIP. Detailed progress and implementation toward agency goals can be found in the latest Annual Progress and Services Report for the Department.
- **Home Visiting:** Because the Illinois Department of Human Services is the designated lead agency with regard to the Strong Foundations – Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting grant this lead has been peripherally



involved only in major decisions governing this project. The has a working relationship with the Strong Foundations Project Manager with whom suggestions regarding the project are welcomed and information is regularly shared.

- **State Interagency Coordinating Council for Part C:** None mentioned.
- **Strengthening Families:** CBCAP funds and monitors a contract with Strengthening Families Illinois (SFI) so that parent cafes and parent leadership training/development activities can exist within Illinois’ newly established Family Advocacy Centers. SFI is implementing their project through early childhood education centers as well. This connection blends with the lead’s involvement with early childhood efforts within DCFS and within other agencies in Illinois. This lead will continue to have a working relationship with the Director of the Illinois Head Start Collaboration Office, and was among those who provided input to the most recent Head Start Strategic Plan, a copy of which accompanies this document.
- **Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force:** The Child Abuse Prevention Month campaign received assistance from a seventy-four member state coordinating committee. The purpose of the coordinating committee was to help synchronize the campaign with other activities being conducted throughout the state in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Committee also assisted in the development of plans for media launch events and provided ideas to further engage local communities and the media. The Committee was invited to participate with an initial statewide planning teleconference meeting early in January. Regional sub-committees were established and information about additional activities being planned throughout the state was shared. The Committee ensured a statewide presence was incorporated throughout the campaign.

## FUNDING AND FISCAL LEVERAGING

### *Fiscal Leveraging*

#### **Innovative funding mechanisms:**

- Statewide tax check-off
- Portion of proceeds from sale of commemorative birth certificates
- FLEX funding
- State Counseling Funds
- State funds relating to the 20 Family Advocacy Centers
- State Training Funds

State Allowable Claims	<b>2,959,466</b>
Population-based Allocations	<b>1,080,112</b>
Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations	<b>106,841</b>
<b>Final FY 08 Federal Grant Amount</b>	<b>1,153,902</b>



## EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES

Level per Program Assessment Rating Tool	CBCAP Funding
Programs Lacking Support or Positive Evidence/Undetermined/Harmful	
Emerging and Evidence-informed Programs and Practices	\$587,216
Promising Programs and Practices	
Supported Programs and Practices	\$119,400
Well Supported Programs and Practices	\$81,706

Estimated Percent not found

## TRAINING TOPICS

### Administrative and Management Topics

- collaboration and partnerships for prevention
- grant reporting requirements
- contract monitoring
- ethics

### Programmatic and Service Topics

- evidence-based and evidence-informed programs and practices
- promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors
- FRIENDS Advanced Parent Leadership Ambassador Training
- methamphetamine
- Effects of Trauma (ACE)
- Response to Intervention - RTI

## RESOURCES

- Safe Sleep For Your Baby Brochure  
[http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/Safe\\_sleep.pdf](http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/Safe_sleep.pdf)
- 6 Ways to keep Families Strong Brochure  
[http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/6\\_Ways\\_to\\_Keep\\_Families\\_Strong.pdf](http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/6_Ways_to_Keep_Families_Strong.pdf)
- [www.state.il.us/dcfs/](http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/)
- Annual State Profiles: [www.friendsnrc.org/](http://www.friendsnrc.org/)

