

Community Systems Statewide Supports (CSSS)

Illinois Action for Children will design and implement a system of statewide supports to build the capacity of community collaborations to continuously improve local early childhood systems. This five year project, **Community Systems of Statewide Supports**, is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education and will ensure that local communities are working to help children birth through five—especially those from low-income or families with multiple needs—receive the support they need to enter kindergarten healthy, safe, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

IAFC will partner with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, Illinois State Board of Education and the Community Systems Development Subcommittee of the Illinois Early Learning Council to develop the new system of supports. We will focus on helping communities develop and implement community-wide, collaborative strategies to ensure more children, ages birth-to-five, enroll in and regularly attend high quality early learning services.

The project has four goals:

- 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.
- Provide targeted supports (including individualized coaching) to select communities who wish to receive in-depth support that is focused on increasing the number of children ages birth-to-five who are enrolled in high quality early learning services.
- Collaborate and coordinate with existing statewide providers of early childhood training to align training opportunities across systems.
- Implement a data and evaluation process to support continued system improvement at the community and state levels.

Community collaborations and early childhood leaders will have access to statewide training opportunities, coaching supports, web-based resources, and numerous tools to advance their local early childhood systems work.

For more information about community systems, upcoming events, and resources, visit partnerplanact.org or email partnerplanact@actforchildren.org