

Illinois Early Childhood Community Collaboration Profiles

Fourth Edition

April 2018

**Consortium for Community Systems Development
An Initiative of Illinois Action for Children**

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Learn more about the collaborative work being accomplished to help enhance the lives of young children and families, and to ensure the healthy growth and development of Illinois' youngest learners.

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Southern Illinois Coalition for Children and Families	Southern 15 counties in Illinois (aligns with Child Care Resource and Referral Region)
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Background

Throughout the years, the early childhood field has increasingly taken a cross-sector approach to meeting the needs of families with young children. Early childhood program agencies (i.e. Early/Head Start, Preschool for All, Child Care, Maternal and Child Health, Mental Health, Prevention Initiatives and Home Visiting) are working together to develop collaborative strategies and activities to better serve these families.

Many communities are developing local partnerships to help enhance the lives of young children and families, and to ensure the healthy growth and development of Illinois' youngest learners. The Illinois Early Childhood Community Collaboration Profiles highlights this collaborative work and serves as a resource for strengthening peer networks.

The first edition of the profiles was created by the Ounce of Prevention Fund (in conjunction with the Community Systems Development (CSD) subcommittee) in 2008. Since then, there have been two other editions, and it is our goal that the fourth edition will continue to serve as a resource to strengthen peer networks and learn about collaborative work done around the state.

About the Consortium for Community Systems Development (CCSD)

The CCSD is an initiative of the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant and is funded through July 2017. The Office of Early Childhood Development sub-granted the work of the CCSD to Illinois Action for Children. CCSD work was done in close coordination with leaders and members of the Community Systems Development Subcommittee of the Early Learning Council. In an effort to embed a community systems development approach within the Illinois early childhood system, the CCSD initiative work was concentrated in the following areas: strategic planning, training and technical assistance, and developing a sustainable support system. To learn more about the initiative and for additional resources, please visit www.partnerplanact.org.

Purpose and Scope of the 2017 Profiles

The 2017 community profiles were updated and revised based on the guiding principles and criteria of early childhood collaborations (approved by the Early Learning Council in 2014). The profiles also serve 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 2017 Profiles were 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

Adams County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network

Established: 1998

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

Adams County

Collaboration Address:

330 Vermont Street
Quincy, IL 62301

Collaboration Contact:

Triena Larsen
AOK Coordinator
tlarsen@co.adams.il.us
(217) 222-8440 ext 107

Communication Mechanisms:

Website

<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/adamscountyaoknetwork>

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Adams County Health Department serves as the Network's administrative home. The Network is led by one full-time Coordinator and responsibilities include: establishing and maintaining community collaboration representing service representatives; building strategies on coordination of care, workforce staffing and developing; and updating the Network's local webpage, to name a few. The collaboration is part of the AOK Network at large, and decisions are made by the Network and work groups

Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services and Illinois State Board of Education.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Community Services; the Illinois State Board of Education; health departments and other lead agencies; and local stakeholders who care about the health and well-being of very young children and their parents/caregivers. It is the most comprehensive, long-standing, community-based systems development initiative in the State of Illinois.. The Network also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council and Regional Office of Education.

Adams County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network

Established: 1998

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

Adams County

Collaboration Address:

330 Vermont Street
Quincy, IL 62301

Collaboration Contact:

Triena Larsen
AOK Coordinator
tlarsen@co.adams.il.us
(217) 222-8440 ext 107

Communication Mechanisms:

Website

<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/adamscountyaoknetwork>

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Working towards systems alignment
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

Adams County AOK is proud of the collaboration between multi-agencies working on a common goal to provide sustainable services to families and children in the area.

Addison Early Childhood Collaborative (AECC)

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Prenatal/Birth to 5

Affiliations:

DuPage Early
Childhood Regional
Collaboration

Areas Served:

Addison Community

Collaboration Address:

222 JF Kennedy Dr.
Addison IL 60101

Collaboration Contact:

Mary Haley
Project Director
Metropolitan Family
Services DuPage
haley@metrofamily.org
(630) 392-9353

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website

<http://www.dupagefoundation.org/addison-early-childhood-collaborative.html>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Addison-Early-Childhood-Collaborative-1103201969714672/>

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Mission: To ensure that coordinated and comprehensive services are accessible and meet the needs of Addison families, so all children from birth to five are safe, healthy, and ready to learn when they start school.

Vision: To ensure all children in the Addison community are safe, healthy and eager to learn.

Purpose: To increase access, coordinate and connect services, particularly to underserved areas, to meet children's health, social and education needs to improve their learning successes and school readiness.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage serves as the AECC's administrative home and lead agency. Staffing includes a Project Director who is responsible for: providing leadership to the Collaborative, engaging the community and key stakeholders, organizing and facilitating meetings, and engaging members in developing and implementing work plans.

The AECC is an advisory body, offering expertise, information and strategic guidance to the overall direction of the collaborative effort. The Steering committee provides strategic direction by setting the AECC's strategic direction and operating data; and oversees the work of all subcommittees (Parent and Family Engagement, Early Childhood Alignment and Coordination, and Data) and the Project Director. Agreements are reached through consensus.

The Collaborative currently has generous funding provided by the DuPage Foundations Bright and Early Initiative.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early childhood education, health and health care, special needs, employment and career, family support, mental health, child care, policy and advocacy, village organizations, community residents, parents and families. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education, Local Interagency Council and DCFS School Readiness Team. Additional community partners include the Addison Business Education Partnership Council, Addison School District, and DuPage Foundation's Bright and Early Initiative.

Addison Early Childhood Collaborative (AECC)

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Prenatal/Birth to 5

Affiliations:

DuPage Early
Childhood Regional
Collaboration

Areas Served:

Addison Community

Collaboration Address:

222 JF Kennedy Dr.
Addison IL 60101

Collaboration Contact:

Mary Haley
Project Director
Metropolitan Family
Services DuPage
haley@metrofamily.org
(630) 392-9353

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website
[http://www.dupagefeder
ation.org/addison-early-
childhood-
collaborative.html](http://www.dupagefederaion.org/addison-early-childhood-collaborative.html)

Facebook
[https://www.facebook.c
om/Addison-Early-
Childhood-Collaborative-
1103201969714672/](https://www.facebook.com/Addison-Early-Childhood-Collaborative-1103201969714672/)

Primary Activities and Strategies

AECC hosts annual community resource fairs and breakfasts to help Addison families become better connected to available programs, learn about the importance of early childhood education and the Collaboration's work. The AECC and Wheaton Warrenville Early Childhood Collaboration partner to jointly host Kindergarten Readiness Symposiums annually. They also partner with Easter Seals and the YWCA to offer Ages and Stages Developmental Screening training to child care providers. The Collaborative is also working to convene and coordinate all early childhood education programs (PFA, Head Start, Preschool Expansion, Private preschools) with the goal of increasing access to high risk families. They are developing a pipeline of cross-sector partners through the Preschool Expansion Grant.

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Providing technical assistance
- Leadership capacity development
- Developmental screening
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing a pipeline of cross-sector pipeline partners
- Work towards systems alignment
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Addison Early Childhood Collaborative (AECC)

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Prenatal/Birth to 5

Affiliations:

DuPage Early
Childhood Regional
Collaboration

Areas Served:

Addison Community

Collaboration Address:

222 JF Kennedy Dr.
Addison IL 60101

Collaboration Contact:

Mary Haley
Project Director
Metropolitan Family
Services DuPage
haley@metrofamily.org
(630) 392-9353

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website

<http://www.dupagefederation.org/addison-early-childhood-collaborative.html>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Addison-Early-Childhood-Collaborative-1103201969714672/>

Collaboration Accomplishments (continued)

The AECC engaged and directly learned from members of the Addison community and its families about how to effectively and efficiently work together as community collaboration. The collaborative has fantastic team of dedicated partners who consistently move the work forward in support of children's kindergarten readiness and academic success.

They have seen increases in:

- The percent of children entering kindergarten who have attended preschool
- The number of high quality early education slots as measured by ExceleRate
- The number of children with special needs who have been identified early and received intervention services; and
- The number of families of children with high needs receiving coaching to support children's learning through home visiting, or center-based parenting education, parent advisory and education classes.

Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Birth to 8

Affiliations: N/A

Areas Served:

Riverdale Community
Area of Chicago

Includes:

*Altgeld Gardens, a large
Chicago Public Housing
Authority development,
Riverside Village, Golden
Gate Homeowners
Association, Pangea, and
Concordia Place
neighborhoods.*

Collaboration Address:

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

Collaboration Contact:

Susannah Levine,
Director of Education
and Early Learning, BPI
slevine@bpichicago.org
(312) 641-5570

Communication Mechanisms:

Website

www.thecommunitybeat.org

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

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

Partners and Participants

Participants include resident leaders and representatives from: local elementary schools, child care centers, youth centers, health clinics, social service organizations, after school programs, faith organizations, Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Police department, park district, public library and other community organizations. The Coalition also works with the child care resource and referral, local interagency council and regional office of education.

Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Birth to 8

Affiliations: N/A

Areas Served:

Riverdale Community
Area of Chicago

Includes:

*Altgeld Gardens, a large
Chicago Public Housing
Authority development,
Riverside Village, Golden
Gate Homeowners
Association, Pangea, and
Concordia Place
neighborhoods.*

Collaboration Address:

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

Collaboration Contact:

Susannah Levine,
Director of Education
and Early Learning, BPI
slevine@bpichicago.org
(312) 641-5570

Communication Mechanisms:

Website

www.thecommunitybeat.org

Primary Activities and Strategies

The continuation of Innovation Zone-related efforts is a priority for the Coalition. The Coalition also provides professional development through the Pre-K to Kindergarten Transitions Program, early language development training for doula/home visitors, some teachers, and some case workers.

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Leadership capacity development
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing a pipeline of cross-sector pipeline partners
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access
- Community resource book or database

Collaboration Accomplishments

Free Doula and Home Visiting Program for expectant mothers, aged 21 and under and an innovative Pre-K to Kindergarten Transitions Program involving all four schools and two centers in the community

The collaborative relationships formed among Coalition members leading to increased partnerships with schools and child care centers on health security, nutrition, fitness, social-emotional learning, innovative science and arts learning.

Selected as an Innovation Zone community under Race-to-the-Top Early Learning Challenge Grant

Austin Early Childhood Collaborative

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Birth to 8

Affiliations:

Austin Coming Together

Areas Served:

The Austin Community of Chicago

Collaboration Address:

5049 W. Harrison
Chicago, Illinois

Collaboration Contact:

Marian Houston
Austin Coming Together
mhouston@austincomingtogether.org
(773) 417-8606

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
www.austincomingtogether.org

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Our mission is to increase enrollment and access to quality early learning for children in the Austin community.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Austin Early Childhood Collaborative is the home of Austin Coming Together. The Project Coordinator of the Early Learning Matters Program coordinates and attends quarterly meetings.. The Collaborative's steering committee, comprised of five individuals, serves as a soundly board and implementation arm, and decision making is made by consensus.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: child care, universities, local schools, social service providers, and other community based organizations. The Network also works with the Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The collaborative increases enrollment through community outreach to social service agencies working with high needs families. They develop cross-sector pipelines through networking agreements with over 20 community partners that assist with referrals of families with high needs.

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaborative is most proud of the development of the coordinated intake and the establishment of the annual Early Learning Symposium.

Bensenville Early Learning Collaborative (BELS)

Established: 2014

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

DuPage Early
Childhood Regional
Collaboration

Areas Served:

Bensenville School
District 2

Collaboration Address:

212 W. Memorial
Bensenville, IL 60106

Collaboration Contact:

Christy Poli
Early Childhood
Coordinator
Bensenville School
District 2
cpoli@bsd2.org
(630) 766-2602 x4237

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
www.bsd2.org

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The Bensenville Early Childhood Collaborative partners together to ensure awareness and access to quality early childhood services for all Bensenville families – especially those at risk.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Collaborative's administrative home is within Bensenville School District 2. The Collaboration is led by a LCSW who is also the Birth to Three Program Coordinator. The Collaborative is governed through bylaws and agreements. The DuPage Foundation provides financial support for an Outreach Coordinator, and transportation services.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: health, family and youth services, libraries, park districts, Early Intervention, school districts, higher education, and other community based agencies. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education, and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaborative works to increase enrollment in the Birth through 5 population.

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaboration is proud of its outreach to the community, and has improved participation and involvement by over 50 percent. Over the past two years, outreach efforts have connected over 400 families to birth to five services ranging from park district activities to Pre-School.

Birth-5 Community Coalition

Established: November 2014

Target Population:

Birth to 5
(children and families)

Affiliations:

Early Childhood
Regional
Collaboration

Areas Served:

Carol Stream and
portions of
Bloomington, and
Hanover Park that are
within Community
Consolidated School
District 93 boundaries

Collaboration Address:

District 93 Early
Childhood Center
280 Old Gary Avenue
Bloomington, IL 60108

Collaboration Contact:

Michelle Scharinger
Birth-3 Coordinator /
School Psychologist
District 93 Early
Childhood Center
scharim@ccsd93.com
(630) 307-3839

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
www.ccsd93.com

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

"Building a foundation of success for all children through community and family partnerships."

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Birth-5 Community Coalition is a group of community partners who have developed a collaborative effort to promote a unified, supportive network of strong early childhood systems, resources, and supports for children birth to 5 (and their families). The group has regularly scheduled meetings and works collectively to identify the coalition's vision statement, short and long term goals, and strategic plan.

The Community Consolidated School District 93 (CCSD93) provides administrative support for the Coalition. The Birth-3 Coordinator is responsible for overseeing this work.

Partners and Participants

All community members are strong partners in showing undeniable dedication (collective impact) in developing and providing solid, systematic, repeatable processes for children and families to foster growth and development for children as well as providing services and resources for families.

The collaboration is comprised of a variety of organizations representing:

- Health
- Human Services
- Early Intervention and Developmental Screening
- Special Needs
- Family Engagement
- School and Park Districts
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Local Public Library

The Coalition also engages the DuPage Foundation, State legislative offices and the DuPage Regional Office of Education.

Birth-5 Community Coalition

Established: 2014-2015

Target Population:

Birth to 5
(children and families)

Affiliations:

Early Childhood
Regional
Collaboration

Areas Served:

Carol Stream and
portions of
Bloomington, and
Hanover Park that are
within Community
Consolidated School
District 93 boundaries

Collaboration Address:

District 93 Early
Childhood Center
280 Old Gary Avenue
Bloomington, IL 60108

Collaboration Contact:

Michelle Scharinger
Birth-3 Coordinator /
School Psychologist
District 93 Early
Childhood Center
scharim@ccsd93.com
(630) 307-3839

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website:
www.ccsd93.com

Primary Activities and Strategies

The collaborative is in the beginning stages of developing a strategic plan that will target public education, community messaging, outreach, and a community database of resources.

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Reducing duplication of services
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Coordinated intake
- Developmental screening

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Birth-5 Community Coalition has met three times within the recent fiscal year and has identified a vision statement, short and long term goals, and established a core group to facilitate ongoing discussions. The coalition has begun to work on a strategic plan.

Born Learning

Established: 2012

Target Population:
birth to 5

Affiliations: N/A

Areas Served:
Ottawa area

Collaboration Address:

Collaboration Contact:
United Way of Eastern
LaSalle County
unitedwayelc@sbcglobal.net
(815) 434-4003

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

A United Way project, Born Learning is an innovative public engagement campaign that helps parents, grandparents, caregivers, and communities "know how" to create quality early learning strategies for young children that turn everyday moments into fun learning opportunities. Locally, they work on kindergarten readiness and identifying resources for families of young children.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Born Learning's administrative home is within the United Way of Eastern LaSalle County (UWELC). Staffing includes a volunteer leader with UWELC staff support. Subcommittees to work on specific projects. Decision making is by consensus. There is dedicate funding for their "day in the park" activities.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: school districts, preschool, and other community based organizations.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts

Collaboration Accomplishments

Beginning to get school buy in to pilot K-readiness survey.

Carroll County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network*

Established: 2011

Target Population:

Birth to 8

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

Carroll County

Collaboration Address:

10 W. Linden
Freeport, Illinois 61032

Collaboration Contact:

Dana Keim
Coordinator
All Our Kids Network
dana.keim@aeroinc.net
(815) 599-8404

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
www.aok-nwil.org

*Updated in 2015

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The All Our Kids / CCTC Collaboration is working to build a community system of care that promotes positive outcomes for children through collaboration of several agencies who provide a wide range of services.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Carroll County AOK Network's administrative home is within the Stephenson County Health Department. Network efforts are led by a Coordinator who hosts meetings, community events, and maintains a resource directory. Partner agencies co-lead. Members participate as needed. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: mental health, child advocacy, Head Start, disabilities, domestic violence/sexual assault, school district, Preschool for All, and home visiting. The Network also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education, and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the network's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Leadership capacity development
- Developmental screening

Collaboration Accomplishments

The collaboration created a single resource directory for the entire community that offers resources from birth through adulthood. This eliminated the need for multiple directories.

Champaign County Birth to Six Council

Established: 1986

Target Population:
Birth to 6

Affiliations:
Cradle to Career

Areas Served:
Champaign County

Collaboration Address:
Not applicable

Collaboration Contact:
Kim Woolridge,
Local Interagency
Council Coordinator,
Child and Family
Connections #16
kwoolridge@cicfc.org
(217) 778-6702

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website:
www.ccbirthto6.org

Facebook:
[Champaign County
Birth to 6 Council](#)

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Mission: To coordinate a comprehensive family-centered system of support in Champaign County for families with young children, including those with or at risk of physical, social/emotional, and/or developmental needs.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Champaign County Birth to Six Council is looking into partnering with its newly formed local Cradle to Career. Current staffing includes a part-time Local Interagency Council Coordinator who records and distributes meeting minutes to members, develops local collaborations, increases developmental screenings, and increases awareness of Early Intervention services. Members work together in committees to promote ease of access to services and an awareness of Early Intervention services and the importance of developmental screenings for children. The Executive Council (comprised of the LIC Coordinator, Council Co-Chairs, and Committee Chairs) handle day-to-day operations. The Council operates with bylaws. All members have equal voting rights and discuss issues at monthly meetings. Funding is provided through the local CFC office.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: local school districts, early care and education, health, Head Start/Early Head Start, special education, colleges, Child and Family Connections, businesses, libraries, early intervention, family services, social services, and other community organizations. The Council also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council, and Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Council hosts several training opportunities throughout the year. One example is their latest training on Safety for Home Visiting program staff. The council is also beginning to focus efforts on underserved populations in specific neighborhoods to increase enrollment of high need priority populations.

Champaign County Birth to Six Council

Established: 1986

Target Population:
Birth to 6

Affiliations:
Cradle to Career

Areas Served:
Champaign County

Collaboration Address:
Not applicable

Collaboration Contact:
Kim Woolridge,
Local Interagency
Council Coordinator,
Child and Family
Connections #16
kwoolridge@ccfc.org
(217) 778-6702

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website:
www.ccbirthto6.org

Facebook:
[Champaign County
Birth to 6 Council](#)

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the council's activities and strategies:

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Developmental screening
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing a pipeline of cross-sector partners

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Council is proud of the willingness of partner communities to work together and their tireless efforts to improve outcomes for young children and families.

Chicago Southeast All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Pregnant Mothers and Families with children Birth to 5

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

South Chicago, Southeast, South Deering, Calumet Heights, Hegewisch, and Roseland (community areas of Chicago)

Collaboration Address:

420 W 111th St,
Chicago, IL 60628

Collaboration Contact:

Yesenia Lopez
AOK Coordinator
SGA Youth & Family Services
ylopez1@sga-youth.org
312-447-4364

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
www.aoknetworks.org

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

All Our Kids (AOK) Mission: The All Our Kids Early Childhood Network is a community-based collaboration committed to enhancing high-quality, well-coordinated, easily accessible system of services and supports that promotes the positive growth and development of expecting parents and families with children birth to 5.

The Southeast AOK Network is a diverse collaborative that promotes a collective and holistic approach to serving pregnant women and families with children birth to five. The Collaboration strives to provide families with the necessary tools needed for their children to thrive in a healthy, socially and emotionally stable environment. Through consistently increasing capacity as partners engaged in continuous learning, identifying gaps in services, assessing community needs and proactively and strategically responding to changes in the local and state-wide community; the Network hopes to educate, inform, prepare and advocate for pregnant women and families with children birth to five.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Network's administrative home is within the SGA Youth & Family Services. The Coordinator is a guide for the group and ensures that the AOK Framework is clear to partners. Decision making is through consensus. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Public Schools, early care and education providers, home visiting, community parents, and other social service agencies. The Network also works with the Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

AOK has provided training in: Adult & Child Mental Health, The Importance of Play, Social & Emotional Training, Domestic Violence effects on Children, The Importance of Play, and Play Street Initiative.

Chicago Southeast All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Pregnant Mothers and Families with children Birth to 5

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

South Chicago, Southeast, South Deering, Calumet Heights, Hegewisch, and Roseland (community areas of Chicago)

Collaboration Address:

420 W 111th St,
Chicago, IL 60628

Collaboration Contact:

Yesenia Lopez
AOK Coordinator
SGA Youth & Family Services
ylopez1@sga-youth.org
312-447-4364

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
www.aoknetworks.org

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the network's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Network is proud of their participation in trainings on topics that are relevant to their communities and their first resource fair – "AOK Unlimited."

Cicero's All Our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Network*

Established: 1996

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network
Innovation Zones
MIECHV

Areas Served:

Cicero

Collaboration Address:

5341 W Cermak Rd.
Cicero, IL 60804

Collaboration Contact:

Linda Rios

[aok@childrenscenterci
ceroberwyn.org](mailto:aok@childrenscenterci
ceroberwyn.org)

(708) 222-4503

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:

<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/escuelitamovil?fref=ts>

*Updated in 2015

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Currently, the Cicero All Our Kids Network's mission is to expand and retain an effective, cross-sector collaboration comprised of stakeholders for children birth to five and their families. In doing so, they seek to facilitate access to high quality resources and programs that help children's growth, development, and education.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Staffing consists of MIECHV CSD, Coordinated Intake, Home Visiting Staff and CFC to aid in developmental screening initiatives and referrals. Although the Collaboration has a Chair, Co-Chair and Network Coordinator; the Collaboration honors the principles of collaborative leadership, ensuring that decisions are always voted on or otherwise collected through survey. The Collaboration utilizes a comprehensive workplan to incorporate collective goals and measure progress. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early care and education, Child and Family Connections, MIECHV, universities, school districts, family supports, parent involvement groups, social services and other community based organizations. The Network also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Network provides and/or coordinates training opportunities such as its Home Visitor and Parent Engagement Trainings. As part of their Innovation Zone work; they increase enrollment of high need priority populations through Parent Ambassador programs and pop-up preschools. Network capacity and recruitment efforts help to develop a pipeline of cross-sector partners.

Cicero's All Our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Network*

Established: 1996

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network
Innovation Zones
MIECHV

Areas Served:

Cicero

Collaboration Address:

5341 W Cermak Rd.
Cicero, IL 60804

Collaboration Contact:

Linda Rios

[aok@childrenscenterci
ceroberwyn.org](mailto:aok@childrenscenterci
ceroberwyn.org)

(708) 222-4503

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:

<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/escuelitamovil?fref=ts>

*Updated in 2015

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the network's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake
- Developmental screening
- Developing a pipeline of cross-sector partners

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Network is proud of the work it produces in terms of coming together for the greater good. When creating a grant proposal or coordinating a community event, Network partners voluntarily and willingly give their time and best efforts – keeping parents and community on the forefront.

Collaboration for Early Childhood*

Established: 2002

Target Population:

Prenatal to Kindergarten Age

Affiliations:

Cradle to Career
K-8 System

Areas Served:

Oak Park, River Forest, Austin and Galewood Communities (in Chicago), Berwyn, and Forest Park

Other nearby communities with children enrolled in child care centers, family child care homes and preschools within Oak Park and River Forest

Collaboration Address:

123 Madison St., #209
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Collaboration Contact:

Carolyn Newberry
Schwartz
Executive Director
cnewberry@collab4kids.org
(708) 613-6122

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
collab4kids.org

Facebook:
[Collaboration for Early Childhood](https://www.facebook.com/CollaborationforEarlyChildhood)

*Updated in 2015

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The Collaboration for Early Childhood is a public/private partnership that leverages the resources of over 60 local agencies to create a comprehensive, community-wide system of high-quality programs and services that foster physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development of children during the critical first five years of life.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Collaboration is a formal 501 (c) 3 nonprofit with board leadership, by-Laws and dedicated staff to support the work. Leadership is provided by the Executive Director with additional support from the Professional Development and Developmental Screening Coordinators. A council of Collaboration stakeholders sets the strategic direction, appoints board members, and adopts the budget. The board makes decisions regarding corporate issues, executive staff, and contracts. Committees guide and help implement the strategies adopted by the board.

Funding is received through grants, individual donations and an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The Village of Oak Park, Oak Park River Forest High School District 200, and Oak Park Elementary School District 97 are the parties to the IGA Contract.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early care and education, health, local school districts, village government, park district, library, township, and Early Intervention. The Collaboration also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council and MIECHV.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaboration works with all families with a special focus on serving high need populations in the Oak Park and River Forest community. The Collaboration works to establish a street community presence, peer to peer referrals, and strong referral processes. Connections to cross-sector partners including mental health service providers, food pantries, shelters, and health clinics help to ensure high needs children receive home visiting, child care service, and high quality early learning opportunities.

Collaboration for Early Childhood*

Established: 2002

Target Population:

Prenatal to Kindergarten Age

Affiliations:

Cradle to Career
K-8 System

Areas Served:

Oak Park, River Forest, Austin and Galewood Communities (in Chicago), Berwyn, and Forest Park

Other nearby communities with children enrolled in child care centers, family child care homes and preschools within Oak Park and River Forest

Collaboration Address:

123 Madison St., #209
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Collaboration Contact:

Carolyn Newberry
Schwartz
Executive Director
cnewberry@collab4kids.org
(708) 613-6122

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
collab4kids.org

Facebook:
[Collaboration for Early Childhood](https://www.facebook.com/CollaborationforEarlyChildhood)

*Updated in 2015

Primary Activities and Strategies (Continued)

The Collaboration supports a web based developmental screening program at early learning centers, family child care homes and medical practices. It has developed a coherent communication process for early care and education providers, developmental therapists, school personnel, Child and Family Connections staff and physicians to communicate with each other regarding services for children with developmental delays. They also connect early care and education providers to Gateways and ExceleRate Illinois.

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education
- Outreach to communities and families
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource database
- Coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reduction of duplicated services
- Filling service gaps
- Advocacy efforts
- Providing technical assistance
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake
- Developmental screening

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaboration is most proud of their efforts to secure an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Oak Park, District 97, and District 200 to purchase services from the Collaboration to establish an integrated system of high quality services for children ages prenatal to kindergarten age. They are also proud of their professional development work, annual symposium, efforts around promoting developmental screening and the very big community commitment to ensuring that families meeting eligibility criteria receive home visiting services.

CU Kingergarten Readiness Goal Team

Established: 2014

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

United Way

Areas Served:

Champaign and Urbana Areas

Collaboration Address:

404 W. Church St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Collaboration Contact:

Beverley Baker
Director of Community Impact
Beverley Baker
beverley@uwayhelps.org
(217) 352-5151

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
www.cucradle2career.org

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/cucradle2career/>

*Updated in 2015

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The mission of the Collaboration is to increase community collaboration and effective use of community resources so every child is kindergarten ready when starting school.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The United Way of Champaign is the administrative home of the Collaboration and they receive funding for their work. There are two staffers that serve as part-time co-facilitators of the Collaboration; and their tasks include: communications, convening members, developing agendas, holding members accountable and gathering needed resources. Their steering committee oversees the work and decisions are made through consensus.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: a public health district, school districts, Head Start, healthcare centers, child care centers, and other social service agencies. The Network also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Service inventory for the community
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Coordinated intake
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing cross-sector pipeline partners for initiatives
- Working towards systems alignment
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

The CU Kingergarten Readiness Goal Team is most proud of their Getting Baby Talk program, which was started in the largest hospital in the county.

DuPage Early Childhood Regional Collaboration*

Established: 2015

Target Population:

To be determined
(likely birth to 8)

Affiliations:

Bright & Early (through
DuPage Community
Foundation)

Areas Served:

DuPage County

Collaboration Address:

246 E. Janata
Boulevard, Suite 265
Lombard, IL 60148

Collaboration Contact:

Fakelia Guyton,
Program Director, Early
Childhood Regional
Collaboration

DuPage Federation on
Human Services Reform
fguyton@dupagefederation.org
(630) 592-8337

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
<http://www.dupagefederation.org/early-childhood.html>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/DuPage-Federation-on-Human-Services-Reform/225714134114840>

*Updated in 2015

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The DuPage Early Childhood Regional Collaboration is part of the DuPage Federation (a 501c3). As of July 2015, staffing includes one Program Director with plans to engage executive director and program director participation from organizations that provide early childhood services county wide. Decisions will be made collectively and include local collaborative leaders and chairpersons in the process. Funding for the collaborative is provided by the DuPage Community Foundation and portions of the Preschool Expansion grant.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: local school districts, special needs, parenting supports, social services, museums, and other community based organizations. The council also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education and Local Interagency Councils.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The collaboration is in the process of convening members to co-create the purpose and strategic plan. Currently, collaboration activities include a service inventory for the community and coordinating advocacy efforts. Additional activities and strategies to be identified by the group.

Collaboration Accomplishments

The DuPage Early Childhood Regional Council expects to achieve the following goals during the coming year: Develop an effective and efficient system of early childhood supports for DuPage county's young children and their families, Enhance public support for early childhood services through a coordinated advocacy agenda, and easy provider access to the data and information needed to build support for early childhood support for early childhood services.

Early Childhood Coalition of the Illinois Quad Cities Area

Established: 2001

Target Population:
Birth to 5

Affiliations:

Areas Served:
Rock Island County

Collaboration Address:
3705 9th Street
East Moline, IL 61244

Collaboration Contact:
Cindy Mahr
Board President
In a Kid's World, Inc.
cindy.mahr921@gmail.com
(309) 737-1510

Communication Mechanisms:

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Mission: The Early Childhood Coalition is a dynamic collaboration that identifies needs and cultivates resources to enhance services and supports to young children and families.

Vision: In our community every young child and family has the support they need to be successful.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Early Childhood Coalition (ECC) is an independent 501(c)(3). Leadership and decision making are provided by the ECC board of directors. Board positions include: Past President, President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Chair, Community Outreach Chair, Communications/Membership Chair, Innovation Chair, At-Large. Members are invited to serve on committees.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early care and education, child and family connections, child advocacy, health, and school districts. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities and strategies:

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social media campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication services
- Community resources to leadership development
- Developing leadership capacity
- Developmental screenings
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population

Collaboration Accomplishments

The collaboration is proud of developing a diverse membership of early childhood service organizations to work together for the benefit of young children and families on their communities.

Early Childhood Forum of Central Illinois

Established:

Target Population:

Birth to 8

Affiliations:

Peoria County Bright Futures

Areas Served:

Central Illinois:
Woodford, Peoria,
Tazwell

Collaboration Address:

Collaboration Contact:

Erin Stout, President
estout@ph325.org
(309) 686-8590

Communication Mechanisms:

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Mission: The Early Childhood Forum of Central Illinois is a network of community service providers who share a vision of promoting quality programming for families with children birth to age eight.

The Partnership: Advocates for children and families provides opportunities for professional growth and development and increases public awareness of the benefits of early childhood education.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Early Childhood Forum of Central Illinois represents various smaller organizations and everyone, at some point, has an opportunity to lead the group. Decisions are reached through consensus. There currently is no funding for the collaborative.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: head start, early child care centers, home visiting programs, park districts, health departments, and other social service agencies. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities and strategies:

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social media campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication services
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Community resources to leadership development
- Coordinated intake initiatives
- Developmental screenings
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing cross-sector pipeline partners
- Reducing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

The collaboration is proud of their annual legislative breakfast.

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

Established: 2013

Target Population:

Birth to Five

Affiliations:**Areas Served:**

Elgin community

Collaboration Address:

220 E. Chicago Street
Elgin, IL 60120

Collaboration Contact:

Amber Peters
Collaboration Director
Elgin Partnership for Early Learning
amberpeters@elginpartnership.org
(847) 452-2457

Communication Mechanisms:

Website

www.elginpartnership.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/theEPEL/?ref=bookmarks>

Twitter:

@844Kidinfo

Other:

Phone Line 844-KID-INFO

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Mission: The Elgin Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL) collaborates with partners to ensure that children are supported in becoming ready for Kindergarten.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

EPEL has dedicated funding through three funders and the YWCA of Elgin is their fiscal agent and the administrative home of the Collaboration.

The EPEL Director manages daily operations, implementation of strategies, evaluation and develops and monitors fiscal resources. The Collaborative is led by one staff member and the Executive Board. EPEL is comprised of the Executive Board, four subcommittees and a parent committee. Task forces are convened as needed. The Board makes policy decisions; the Executive Director makes day-to-day decisions with consultation with Board members, as needed.

Partners and Participants

Partners and participants include representatives from: hospitals, special needs, foundations, community colleges, public libraries, health, early care and education, school districts, and other community based agencies. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaboration is providing and coordinating training opportunities as an Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies authorized entity to improve the quality of services in Elgin. EPEL coordinates activities across all systems to improve effectiveness and efficiency of all partners and participants. EPEL is developing a data collection plan that will be useful to all partners in driving data based decision making.

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

Established: 2013

Target Population:

Birth to Five

Affiliations:

Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

Areas Served:

Elgin community

Collaboration Address:

220 E. Chicago Street
Elgin, IL 60120

Collaboration Contact:

Amber Peters
Collaboration Director
Elgin Partnership for Early Learning
amberpeters@elginpartnership.org
(847) 452-2457

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
www.elginpartnership.org

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/theEPEL/?ref=bookmarks>

Twitter:
@844KidInfo

Other:
Phone Line 844-KID-INFO

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Website, social media, warm line
- Regular General Collaboration meetings with partners
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory of the community
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Committing resources to leadership development
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Community resource book or database
- Development screening
- Work towards systems alignment
- Developing cross-sector pipeline partners
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority populations
- Reducing duplication of services
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts

Collaboration Accomplishments

EPEL is proud of:

- The development of the KIDS information phone line.
- Developing and facilitating a successful Child care Director and Family Care Provider Network Cohorts that meets quarterly.
- Being chosen as an Innovation Zone community through Race-To-The-Top grant funding.

Evanston Early Childhood Community Collaboration

Established: November 2000

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

Evanston Cradle to Career
Collective Impact Initiative
Evanston Early Childhood
Director's Council

Areas Served:

Evanston, Lincolnwood, Morton
Grove, Northbrook, Northfield,
Skokie, Wilmette and Winnetka

The Collaboration is in a
transition period and will
expand its reach from Evanston
to the northern suburbs.

Collaboration Address:

Not applicable

Collaboration Contact:

Carol Teske, Executive Director
Child Care Network of Evanston
teskec@childcarenetworkofevanston.org
(847) 475-2661

Communication Mechanisms:

Not applicable

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Vision: Every child in the Evanston community will have the opportunity to experience an exceptional early childhood education that reflects the diversity of the community.

Purpose: To support, maintain, and build capacity for a comprehensive, high quality early childhood system serving all children, birth to age eight, and their families.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

There is a formal written agreement between the member organizations within the Collaboration. There are no dedicated staff members. Coordination is done by the lead agency.

Partners and Participants

Membership is voluntary and open to any organization or individual within the community. Partner organizations include foundations and mental health.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Building bridges between early childhood and kindergarten educators
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts

Collaboration Accomplishments

Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative

Established: 2017

Target Population:

Birth-5

Affiliations:

Areas Served:

Glen Ellyn, Carol Stream, Glendale Heights, Lombard and parts of Bloomingdale, Hanover Park, Addison, Downers Grove, Wheaton

Collaboration Address:

Collaboration Contact:

Cindy D'Ambrosio
Assistant Director
cdambrosio@casedupage.com
(630) 942-5600

Jeanine Woltman
GECC Coordinator
jwoltman@casedupage.com
(630) 942-5600

Communication Mechanisms:

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Currently under development

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative currently operates with the support and oversight of the Cooperative Association for Special Education. The Collaborative's conducts outreach and facilitates the development of the strategic plan. The collaborative is currently working on leadership structure and decisions are made through consensus with the support of the district superintendents.

Funding for the collaborative is through the Bright and Early DuPage grant.

Partners and Participants

Participants and partners include representatives from: health, child and family connections, school districts Glenbard School Districts #15, #16, #41, #44, #87 and #89, local public libraries, early care and education, and social services. The Collaborative also works with the Local Interagency Council and Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Outreach to communities and family members
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Developing leadership capacity

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaboration is proud to be made up of multiple school districts coordinating efforts to support the youngest children in their community.

Greater East St Louis Early Learning Partnership

Established: 2009

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

AOK

Areas Served:

Cities and Townships of:
Alorton, Centerville,
East St. Louis,
Farimount City
(subsection) and
Washington Park

Collaboration Address:

564 Veronica Avenue,
East St Louis, IL 62205

Collaboration Contact:

Brenda Crisp
Co-Chair Executive
Board of Directors
Uni-Pres Kindercottage
unipres@sbccglobal.net
(618) 874-6505

Communication Mechanisms:

Facebook
<https://tinyurl.com/y7xbuhn7>

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Mission: To strengthen and sustain a high quality prenatal to five early childhood system of programs, services and supports in the Greater East St. Louis area.

Vision: A community where families, early learning partners, and their community work together to ensure every child and family has the knowledge, skills, disposition and opportunities to be successful in life beginning with prenatal care.

Purpose: The Greater East St. Louis Early Learning Partnership is mutually reinforcing and respectful of the State's vision: Every child birth to five years of age and every high needs child is experiencing early education with strong support from family and ready access to healthcare and social services.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Partnership does not have a 501c3 but discusses and votes on the best fiscal agency of the group when a grant is being discussed. Uni-Pres Kindercottage, Children's Home & Aid, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and the YMCA have served as fiscal agents thus far.

The Co-Chair of the Executive Board of Directors and AOK Coordinator support the Collaboration work by providing, but not limited to, facilitating meetings, relationship building and grant writing. The Network leadership also includes: Executive Committee (2 co-chairs, 13 members) and Workgroups (3 chairs, 3 vice-chairs, numerous members).

Decision making includes thoughtful discussion, review of data and information and then followed by consensus.

Greater East St Louis Early Learning Partnership

Established: 2009

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

AOK

Areas Served:

Cities and Townships of:
Alorton, Centerville,
East St. Louis,
Farimount City
(subsection) and
Washington Park

Collaboration Address:

564 Veronica Avenue,
East St Louis, IL 62205

Collaboration Contact:

Brenda Crisp
Co-Chair Executive
Board of Directors
Uni-Pres Kindercottage
unipres@sbcbglobal.net
(618) 874-6505

Communication Mechanisms:

Facebook
<https://tinyurl.com/y7xbuhn7>

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: health, early childhood education, higher education, social services, family and parenting supports, and Philanthropy. The Collaborative also works with child care resource and referral, local interagency council, Regional office of Education and Department of Family Services School Readiness Team.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Partnership increases awareness of early child care development, data sharing for making informed decisions, annual calendar of city-wide events for coordinating efforts to bring awareness and supports to the community.

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Providing technical assistance
- Leadership capacity development
- Developmental screenings
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing a pipeline of cross-sector pipeline partners

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Partnership is proud of its ability to come together and embrace one vision to accomplish the following:

- Developing parental community leaders
- Utilized community-wide developmental screening tool and early learning application
- Coordinated community-wide developmental screening efforts
- Annual Week of the Young Child celebrations throughout the community which includes literacy promotion
- Selected for Erikson Institute's Early Development Instrument

Greater Logan Square Neighborhood Association

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Birth-5

Affiliations:**Areas Served:**

Logan Square,
Humboldt Park,
Hermosa, Avondale

Collaboration Address:**Collaboration Contact:**

Lucy Gomez Feliciano
Director of Early
Learning and Health
Logan Square
Neighborhood
Association
lgomez@lsna.net
(773) 384-4370

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

*Updated in 2015

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Stakeholders serving families with young children come together to support families.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Logan Square Neighborhood Association staff manages Collaborative work and meeting facilitation. Decisions on activities are based on consensus.

Partners and Participants

All are welcome to share and learn. Organizations meet every other month to network and address current concerns impacting families with young children. Participants include representatives from: health, child and family connections, early care and education, and social services. The Collaborative also works with the Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaboration has lead and coordinated advocacy efforts including a legislative breakfast and community meeting on the sun setting of the Illinois income tax increase. They have also produced a resource directory and planned community events including preschool fairs.

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Community resource book or database
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts

Collaboration Accomplishments

Mutual trust and respect among collaboration partners and participants.

Grundy Partnership for Children

Established: 2003

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

Areas Served:

Grundy County

Collaboration Address:

520 W. Illinois Ave Morris,
IL 60450

Collaboration Contact:

Devan Gagliardo
Program Director
Community Foundation
of Grundy County
devan@cfgrundycountry.com
(815) 941-0852

Communication Mechanisms:

Facebook
[Grundy Partnership For
Children](#)

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Collaboration's administrative home is within the Community Foundation of Grundy County. There is a small budget for this initiative. The work of GPC is driven by strong collaboration between community-based organizations with a shared leadership structure. Leadership team duties are evenly spread out among all members and decision making is through consensus.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: foundations, libraries, school districts, health, child care, child and family connections, hospitals, special needs, early intervention, and other social service providers. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council and Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Developmental screening

Collaboration Accomplishments

This year, GPC has been able to connect with local pediatricians and family doctors. We have also made new partnerships that allow us to provide more screenings to the children of Grundy County.

Kane County: All Our Kids Network*

Established: 2000

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

AOK

Areas Served:

Kane County

Collaboration Address:

1240 N. Highland Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506

Collaboration Contact:

Rebecca Lyons, MPH
AOK Coordinator
Kane County Health
Department
LyonsRebecca@countyofkane.org

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
<http://kanehealth.com/aok.htm>

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/KaneAOK>

Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/kanecounty/>

*Updated in 2015

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The Kane County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network is a community based collaborative effort that identifies community assets and needs, builds on those assets and address present and future gaps in services to promote optimal growth and development for all Kane County children, birth to five and their families. The Collaborative works together to connect and coordinate services across service sectors as they address local early childhood priorities with the goal that every child in Kane County enters kindergarten safe, healthy, ready to succeed and eager to learn.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Kane County AOK receives grant funding to support the work and their administrative home is within the Kane County Health Department. Staffing includes an AOK coordinator whose main duties are to facilitate meetings, develop strategic plans, logistics and facilitating initiatives and work groups. Decision making is done collaboratively.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early care and education, MIECHV, special needs, school districts, health, child care and other social service agencies. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council and Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaborative provides training opportunities for mental health providers to better serve children (i.e. the Lauren Wiley Reflective Case Consultation). They also work to develop a pipeline of cross-sector partners with local agencies, other collaborations and partners to ensure no child slips through the cracks when being referred to services.

Kane County: All Our Kids Network*

Established: 2000

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

AOK

Areas Served:

Kane County

Collaboration Address:

1240 N. Highland Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506

Collaboration Contact:

Rebecca Lyons, MPH
AOK Coordinator
Kane County Health
Department
LyonsRebecca@countyofkane.org
(630) 232-5829

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
<http://kanehealth.com/aok.htm>

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/KaneAOK>

Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/kanecounty/>

*Updated in 2015

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake
- Developmental screening

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaboration is most proud of their Developmental Screening work group – in cooperation with LIC - to increase the number of developmental screenings conducted in Kane County and in turn increase the number of referrals made for children in need of services. The Kane County AOK Developmental Screening workgroup is currently working towards gathering data from all childcare centers in Kane County to assess screening processes and work to improve referrals made to Early Intervention.

Macon County Early Childhood Collaboration

Established: 2013

Target Population:

Prenatal to 5

Affiliations:

Macon County Health Department

Areas Served:

Macon County

Collaboration Address:**Collaboration Contact:**

Rebecca Harley Meyer
Coordinated Intake
rmeyer@maconcountyhealth.org
igrow@maconcountyhealth.org
(217) 423-6988 x1140

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
igrowmaconcounty.org

Facebook
[igrowmaconcounty](https://www.facebook.com/igrowmaconcounty)

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Macon County Early Childhood Collaboration goal is to collaboratively meeting the needs for all newborns, toddlers and children in Macon County. They uphold the belief that home visiting will help strengthen the parent child relationship, encourage healthy child growth and development, support the parent's role as the child's first teacher, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Collaboration organizes meetings in a neutral location, such as public libraries, and there is a Coordinated Intake staff member that is responsible for meeting agendas, minutes, facilitating and planning meetings. A Leadership group was developed and includes igrow Coordinated Intake, Healthy Families Illinois supervisor, Bright Start supervisor, Early Beginnings Supervisor and Baby TALK supervisor. This group meets monthly to plan events, trainings, and Advisory Board meetings for the collaboration. Agency staff and community members are invited to the events held, and would be welcomed at the leadership meetings. Decisions are made through open discussion and majority opinions. There is no dedicated funding for this work.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: foundations, school districts, public libraries, human services, early education, family supports, child care resource & referral, shelters, food banks, healthcare and mental health centers, and early intervention. The Network also works with Child Care Resource and Referral and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The collaboration started planning trainings for parent educators/home visitors to address community needs. They also work to increase enrollment of high needs populations by recruiting children and parents with mental health needs, teen parents and children at-risk for maltreatment. The Collaboration promotes community awareness of their programming and works closely with social service agencies to reach high-need families. The network develops cross-sector pipeline partners by identifying community strengths and needs and holds a mental health forum.

Macon County Early Childhood Collaboration

Established: 2013

Target Population:

Prenatal to 5

Affiliations:

Macon County Health
Department

Areas Served:

Macon County

Collaboration Address:**Collaboration Contact:**

Rebecca Harley Meyer
Coordinated Intake
rmeyer@maconcountyhealth.org
igrow@maconcountyhealth.org
(217) 423-6988 x1140

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website
igrowmaconcounty.org

Facebook
[igrowmaconcounty](https://www.facebook.com/igrowmaconcounty)

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies:

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Community resource book or database
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Coordinated intake
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaboration received a lot of support from the community. They had good attendance at their events and had 46 people attend their Mental Health Forum. The Collaboration also increased community awareness of their programming, promoted various family resources, and family referrals increased.

McHenry County All Our Kids Network

Established: 2013

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

McHenry County

Collaboration Address:

365 Millennium Drive
Suite A
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

Collaboration Contact:

Susan Beckman
AOK/LIC Coordinator/
Parent Liaison
Options and Advocacy
susan.beckman@opad.org
(815) 477-4720 ext.227

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
www.mchenrycountyaok.org

Other
<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

McHenry County AOK Network's administrative home is within Options & Advocacy for McHenry County. The Network is led by one part-time Coordinator and responsibilities include: establishing and maintaining community collaboration representing service representatives; building strategies on accessibility and coordination of services, facilitating and planning meeting agendas, sending out advocacy information, and maintaining reporting. Options & Advocacy along with 4-C: Community Coordinated Childcare (Child Care Resource and Referral) take leadership roles within the Network. Co-chairs bring forward possibilities and help to facilitate discussion, and decisions are made as a collaborative. There is a core planning team that helps to prepare the agenda and actionable items for the AOK meetings. The Network is a large group comprised of many members and small groups working on single items or overall processes. The Collaboration is funded through the Department of Human Services.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early care and education, social services, early intervention, health and school districts. The collaborations strongest allies and partners include: Head Start, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), Child and Family Connections, McHenry County Department of Health, Local Interagency Council, and the Division of Specialized Care for Children.

McHenry County All Our Kids Network

Established: 2013

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

McHenry County

Collaboration Address:

365 Millennium Drive
Suite A
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

Collaboration Contact:

Susan Beckman
AOK/LIC Coordinator/
Parent Liaison
Options and Advocacy
susan.beckman@opad.org
(815) 477-4720 ext.227

Communication Mechanisms:

Website

www.mchenrycountyaok.org

Other

<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Primary Activities and Strategies

The McHenry County AOK Network continues to develop a pipeline of cross-sector partners through the Shared Referral form they created with social services, child care and health care. One of the goals is to make sure families are being actively referred to programs which would help increase enrollment. They have also developed leadership partnerships with 4-C and the CFC, and continue ongoing technical assistance through 4-C and Options & Advocacy. Through the McHenry County Developmental Screening Program, the Network provides child care providers' assistance in: administering the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, how to make referrals and how to complete the child find form.

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities & strategies.

- Community wide learning checkups
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Providing technical assistance
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake
- Developmental screening
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing a pipeline of cross-sector partners
- Working towards systems alignment
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Network is most proud of the McHenry County Developmental Screening Program. Through this program they have been able to reach more children and they see sustainable impact through this program by training child care providers to do developmental screenings on all children in their care, to make referrals, and to submit child find information on a regular basis. They are working on piloting a shared referral form. The purpose of the shared referral form is to ensure that families are able to access services and that partner agencies are knowledgeable about the services offered within the community and are actively referring families to those services. The four piloting agencies include: 4-C Community Coordinated Child Care, Head Start, McHenry County Department of Health and Options and Advocacy.

McLean County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network

Established: 1999

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and families)

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

McLean County

Collaboration Address:

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

Collaboration Contact:

Maureen Sollars
Network Coordinator
McLean County Health
Department

Maureen.sollars@mcleancountyil.gov

(309) 888-5539

Communication Mechanisms:

Website

<http://health.mcleancountyil.gov/>

Facebook

www.facebook.com/McLeanHealth

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The public health department is the administrative home of the Collaboration. The Network is led by one full-time Coordinator and responsibilities include: establishing and maintaining community collaboration representing service representatives; building strategies on coordination of care, workforce staffing; and developing and updating the Network's local webpage, to name a few. They also have a committee group who meets bi-monthly and have work groups to move the work forward. The network strives for consensus through decision and cooperation.

McLean County AOK: Early Childhood Network is a grant funded program through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Partners and Participants

The McLean County AOK Network is comprised of representatives from: home visitors, McLean County Health Department, mental health, Head Start, health care, Early Intervention, school districts, and other social services. The Network also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education, the Local Interagency Council and the DCFS School Readiness Team.

McLean County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network

Established: 1999

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and families)

Affiliations:

McClean County Health Department

Areas Served:

McLean County

Collaboration Address:

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

Collaboration Contact:

Maureen Sollars
Network Coordinator
McLean County Health Department
Maureen.sollars@mcleancountyil.gov
(309) 888-5539

Communication Mechanisms:

Website

<http://health.mcleancountyil.gov/>

Facebook

www.facebook.com/McLeanHealth

Primary Activities and Strategies

McLean County AOK Network helps to coordinate Mental Health First Aid, Early Intervention, mental health and parent leadership trainings in the community. They also provide technical assistance and support to the Mental Health First Aid Collaborative.

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Providing technical assistance
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake
- Developmental screening
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Work towards systems alignment
- Decrease barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

In 2003 the McLean county community was awarded a "Community of Excellence Award" from the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council. The AOK Network collaborated with the United Way to apply for this award. This year the Network will have helped train 1,000 people in Mental Health First Aid.

North Lawndale Innovation Zone

Established: 2013

Target Population:

0-5 year olds in deep poverty, experiencing homelessness, children of teen mothers, and children with special needs.

Affiliations:

Illinois Action for Children

Areas Served:

North Lawndale

Collaboration Address:**Collaboration Contact:**

Kristina Rogers
Senior Community
Connections Associate
Kristina.rogers@actforchildren.org
(312) 823 -1158

Communication Mechanisms:

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

North Lawndale Early Learning collaboration aims to ensure priority children (0-8) and their families have seamless access to quality early learning programs and are supported to achieve sustained enrollment.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Illinois Action for Children serves as the administrative home for the collaboration. The collaboration has a team dedicated to this work and leaders range from various agencies who have been involved in the work for some time. Decision making is done through a consensus and made as a collective.

There is currently no funding for this initiative.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: social service agencies, local government, community engagement agencies, early childhood partners, and school district partners. The Network also works with the Child Care Resource and Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy gaps
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority populations
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Providing technical assistance
- Developmental screenings
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Working towards systems alignment
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

North Lawndale Innovation Zone is proud of enrolling 100% of CPS programs two years in a row, even when the application process changed drastically.

Rock Island County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established: 2008

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

AOK

Areas Served:

Rock Island County

Collaboration Address:

524 15TH Street
Moline, IL 61265

Collaboration Contact:

Shayna Kaha
All Our Kids Early
Childhood Network
Coordinator
shaynak@childabuseqc.org
(309) 736-7170 ext. 101

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Other
<http://www.rockislandaok.org/>

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Fiscal and program oversight is provided to the Rock Island County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network by a parent agency, the Child Abuse Council of the Quad Cities. The day to day operations of the collaborative are led by the AOK Network Coordinator. The Collaboration consists of many community partners from a comprehensive range of programs and organizations serving children and families. Partners serve in a variety of participatory roles and play critical roles in sustaining the capacity of the Network. Decisions are made through a collective decision-making process under a shared agenda.

Funding is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early care and education, home visiting, community prevention and caregiver education, women's health, community foundations, mental health, family supports, healthcare, family recreation, transportation, adult education, and other social services agencies in the community. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education, Local Interagency Council and DCFS School Readiness Team.

Rock Island County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established: 2008

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

AOK

Areas Served:

Rock Island County

Collaboration Address:

524 15TH Street
Moline, IL 61265

Collaboration Contact:

Shayna Kaha
All Our Kids Early
Childhood Network
Coordinator
shaynak@childabuseqc.org
(309) 736-7170 ext. 101

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website
<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Other
<http://www.rockislandaok.org/>

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Leadership capacity development
- Developmental screenings
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing cross-sector pipeline partners
- Work towards systems alignment
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Rock Island County AOK Network is proud of the Learning Through Play Workgroup. The workgroup was able to sponsor a free, family event that supports play-based learning and building strong child-caregiver relationships. Five local agencies partnered together to provide developmentally appropriate activity stations where caregivers engaged in playful learning with their child. All of the activities supported children's language and literacy development. 21 families attended the event, held at the local library, with 28 children from 7 months to 8 years old attending. Volunteers were on hand, at each station, to model play, ask open-ended questions, and support caregivers; empowering them to be their child's first and most important teachers. Resources were also available to families to help continue the fun and learning at home, building the caregiver's confidence and skills as leaders in their families and community. The Learning Through Play Workgroup is committed to partnering with the community to provide this free event for families on a quarterly basis.

The Sangamon County Continuum of Learning

Established: 2006

Target Population:

Prenatal to 18 years old

(Recommendations for the community – contained in the "Sangamon Success" report – are divided into 4 stages of a child's development: prenatal through age 2; ages 3-5; grades K-5; and grades 6-12)

Affiliations:

Innovate Springfield

Areas Served:

Sangamon County

Collaboration Address:

15 South Old State
Capitol Plaza, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62701

Collaboration Contact:

Nadia Gronkowski
Social Innovation
Program Coordinator
Nadia@InnovateSpringfield.org
(217) 670-1770

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
<https://www.continuumoflearning.org/>

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The Sangamon County Continuum of Learning (CoL) works to promote evidence-based programs, practices, policies, and public attitudes that address the educational, social-emotional, and health needs of less-advantaged youth throughout Sangamon County. The CoL's purpose is to ensure that every less-advantaged child in Sangamon County has access to evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions during every stage of his or her life so that he or she can benefit from the cumulative effects of those interventions.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

CoL's administrative home is with Innovate Springfield's Social Innovation Program, and there is one full-time Coordinator who facilitates the work of the partnership. Responsibilities include: hosting and organizing community convenings, providing technical assistance, and conducting secondary research on evidence-based youth programs, to name a few.

The CoL is divided into two groups: the Leadership Council and the Community Partners Network. The Leadership Council consists of leaders of seven partner organizations: the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, the United Way of Central Illinois, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the UIS Center for State Policy & Leadership, Innovate Springfield, Springfield Public School District 186, and Lincoln Land Community College. Each organization's leader also engages a staff member in the Leadership Council's activities and bi-monthly meetings. The Community Partners Network is a newly-formed group that meets quarterly and is intended to be a larger sounding board for how to implement the "Sangamon Success" recommendations in Sangamon County.

Decisions are made by the Leadership Council through discussion and gathering input from the Community Partners Network. The Continuum of Learning's work is largely privately funded.

Partners and Participants

Participants and partners include representatives from: funders, higher education, school districts, the health care community, home-visiting programs, and mentoring programs. The collaborative also works with the Local Interagency Council and Regional Office of Education.

The Sangamon County Continuum of Learning

Established: 2006

Target Population:

Prenatal to 18 years old

(Recommendations for the community – contained in the "Sangamon Success" report – are divided into 4 stages of a child's development: prenatal through age 2; ages 3-5; grades K-5; and grades 6-12)

Affiliations:

Innovate Springfield

Areas Served:

Sangamon County

Collaboration Address:

15 South Old State
Capitol Plaza, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62701

Collaboration Contact:

Nadia Gronkowski
Social Innovation
Program Coordinator
Nadia@InnovateSpringfield.org
(217) 670-1770

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
<https://www.continuumoflearning.org/>

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Continuum of Learning coordinates training opportunities through an annual Youth Mentoring Summit, home-visiting program convening, peer learning networks, and more.. They also support local interested organizations in determining how to utilize evidence-based best practices and conduct meaningful evaluations. Above all, the Partnership's early childhood goals focus on increasing access to and quality of early childhood care for less-advantaged children and their families.

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities and strategies:

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Reducing duplication services
- Identifying and continuing to fill service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Coordinated intake
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population

Collaboration Accomplishments

One of the Continuum of Learning's most meaningful accomplishments to date is mobilizing private funding and community support to implement the first recommendation in the "Sangamon Success" report: establishing a Nurse-Family Partnership program in Sangamon County. Following their training by the Nurse-Family Partnership national organization, in Fall-Winter 2017 four newly-hired homevisiting nurses at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine will begin to serve a total of approximately 100 clients over the next three years, visiting first-time low-income mothers in their homes from the 28th week of their pregnancy until their child's second birthday.

Sauk Valley STARS (formerly Whiteside Stars)

Established: 2013

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

Northern Illinois
Children's Care
Collaborative

Areas Served:

Whiteside, Lee and
Ogle Counties

Collaboration Address:

Collaboration Contact:

Lois Meisenheimer
Co Chair
Regional Office of
Education #47
lmeisenheimer@roe47.org
815-625-1495 x118

Communication Mechanisms:

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Sauk Valley STARS works to help all families know about and utilize needed services for Kindergarten readiness.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Collaboration's leadership structure is led by co chairs. Decision making is done by consensus. There is no decided funding for the collaboration.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: Head Start, school districts, early childhood, health and mental health. The Collaboration also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education and the Local Interagency Council, health department, mental health

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Community resource book or database
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps

Collaboration Accomplishments

The collaboration accomplishments include streamlining the referral process and coordination of family activities across programs.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start

Established: 1985

Target Population:

Expectant Families-5 years of age

Affiliations:

Collective Impact Innovation Zones

Areas Served:

St. Clair County

Collaboration Address:

601 James R.
Thompson Blvd.,
East St. Louis, IL 62201

Collaboration Contact:

Ms. G. Lynn Bailey
Program Director
Department of Health and Human Services
gbailey@siue.edu
(618) 482-6955

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:

www.siue.edu/eslcheadstart

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HeadStart2Harvard

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start works to provide health, nutritional, instructional, family engagement and support services to children and their families throughout St. Clair County in order to promote school readiness and financial self-sufficiency.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Collaboration is led by an executive committee along with work groups for quality and screening.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from over 30 organizations, Child Care Resource and Referral, and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Outreach to communities and families
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Providing technical assistance
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake
- Developmental screening
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing a pipeline of cross-sector partners

Collaboration Accomplishments

The collaboration accomplishments include:

- Summer 2017 community screening organizer and participant
- Collaborative partner with three school districts and four privately owned/operated child care centers, serving a total of 569 children and their families.

South Suburban Birth to 5 Forum

Established: 1998

Target Population:
Birth to 8

Affiliations:
Not applicable

Areas Served:
South Suburbs of Cook
County (from the
Indiana border to Blue
Island)

Collaboration Address:
1125 Division St
Chicago Heights, IL
60411

Collaboration Contact:
Kathey Chvostal
Developmental
Specialist
SPEED Family
Enrichment Program
kchvostal@speed802.org
(708) 481-6101 x4215

**Communication
Mechanisms:**
Not applicable

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The members of the Birth to 5 Forum work together to collaborate, discuss, and plan how to meet the needs of young children through early childhood and their families.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

South Suburban Birth to 5 Forum's administrative home is within SPEED SEJA 802 Family Enrichment Program. There is one main person that coordinates Collaboration meetings and events. The group meets 5 times per school year at various programs throughout the south suburbs. Decisions are made as a collective group with open discussions and equal say in activities. There is no dedicated funding for this initiative.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: local school districts, Prevention Initiative programs, Head Start, child care, local Child and Family Connections, and other social service agencies that serve young children and their families. The collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Coordinate training opportunities including regularly scheduled presentations for members to participate in.

Below is a general list of the forum's activities and strategies.

- Outreach to communities and families
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Developmental screening

Collaboration Accomplishments

South Suburban Birth to 5 Forum is proud of continuing to be in place for over 30 years with active members.

Southern Illinois Coalition for Children and Families*

Established: 2007 (re-established 2013)

Target Population:

Birth to 5, but planning on expanding

Affiliations:

Innovation Zones

Areas Served:

Southern 15 counties in Illinois corresponds with CCRR region and aligns with other early childhood systems

Collaboration Address:

700 College Rd
Carterville, IL 62918

Collaboration Contact:

Lori Longueville
Director
Child Care Resource and Referral
lorilongueville@jalc.edu
(618) 985-5986

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
www.southernillinoiscoalition.com

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/siccoalitionchildrenandfamilies

*Updated in 2015

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Child Care Resource and Referral is the backbone organization for the Coalition and provides space, address, and some clerical support. 15 Lead agencies serve on the Coalition's governance council, oversee activities and have the potential to be fiscal agents for initiatives as needed. Decisions are made by consensus.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early childhood, health, mental health, early intervention, K-12 education, prevention initiative, higher education, school districts, special education, IDHS, child welfare and other social service providers. The Coalition also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council, ministerial alliances, churches, the Regional Office of Education and Department of Children and Family Services.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Reducing duplication of services
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Leadership capacity development
- Developmental screening
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaboration is proud of their: Screening Collaborative, School Readiness Initiative, SIFamilies-Connect, and "More You Know, Better They Grow" campaign

Southside Early Learning Network (SELN)

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Birth to 5
Pregnant women

Affiliations:

Innovation Zones
MIECHV

Areas Served:

Englewood
South Englewood
Greater Grand Crossing

Collaboration Address:

5958 S. Marshfield
Chicago, Illinois 60636

Collaboration Contact:

Jeremy Kilpatrick
Program Manager
Children's Home + Aid
Jkilpatrick@childrenshomeandaid.org
773-918-8695

Communication Mechanisms:

Not applicable

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The Southside Early Learning Network (SELN) is a collaborative that supports and improves outcomes for expectant families and children birth to five on the south side of Chicago. Diverse stakeholders must be coordinated and responsive to the development of children and the needs of families in order to build a pathway for children to succeed.

SELN advocates for issues and policies that ensure children are entering school healthy and ready to learn. It capitalizes on the strengths of families and hopes to reach all children as early as possible with evidence-based resources that help them thrive. By providing a single point of entry to home visiting and other high quality early childhood programs, SELN brings parents and community partners together to build an integrated community of care on the south side of Chicago.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Children's Home + Aid, a 501 (c) (3) agency, serves as the coordinating agency for the SELN. There are no elected officers for leadership. Decision-making is done through an advisory board and collaborative partners. The advisory board consists of MIECHV partners and a parent and ensures that the mission, and the strategic plan, is being followed through accordingly.

Partners and Participants

The SELN engages partners through meetings and works collectively to service families through referrals.

Participants include representatives from: Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Public Schools, early care and education, home visiting, health, community parents, and other social service agencies.

Southside Early Learning Network (SELN)

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Birth to 5
Pregnant women

Affiliations:

Innovation Zones
MIECHV

Areas Served:

Englewood
South Englewood
Greater Grand Crossing

Collaboration Address:

5958 S. Marshfield
Chicago, Illinois 60636

Collaboration Contact:

Program Manager
Children's Home + Aid
Jkilpatrick@childrenshomeandaid.org
eandaid.org
773-918-8695

Communication Mechanisms:

Not applicable

Primary Activities and Strategies

SELN is working with other agencies to develop a pipeline for services to families. As part of Englewood's Innovation Zone, the collaboration is working to enroll high need children in high quality early learning and development programs in the community (including home visiting, community based care, Head Start, and Preschool for all).

Children's Home + Aid provided home visiting trainings through the Ounce of Prevention.

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Outreach to communities and family members
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Coordinated intake
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing a pipeline of cross-sector partners

Collaboration Accomplishments

SELN is proud of the home visiting trainings provided through the Ounce of Prevention and the community work completed by their active parent groups. SELN is also proud to be known as a focal point for Early Childhood Services in the Englewood and West Englewood Community.

SPARK Aurora Early Childhood Collaboration

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:**Areas Served:**

Aurora, IL

*community wide
collaboration for the
City of Aurora*

Collaboration Address:

44 E. Galena Blvd.,
Aurora, IL 60505

Collaboration Contact:

Trish Rooney
Director
Fox Valley United Way
trish.rooney@foxvalleyunitedway.org

(630)896-4636

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
www.sparkaurora.org

Facebook
[SPARK Aurora Early
Childhood Collaboration](#)

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Fox Valley United Way serves as the administrative home for SPARK. Staffing includes a Director and a Family Engagement Coordinator. The Collaboration is modeled under a community systems structure and uses the collective impact approach. Group decision-making is made by consensus. Funding provided by both private and public sources.

Partners and Participants

The collaboration's founding partners are the City of Aurora, Fox Valley United Way, School Districts 129, 131, 204 and 308, Head Start and the Aurora Public Library. The Collaboration also works with Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council and Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaborative provides support to parents in helping them to understand the various early childhood programs and services offered in the community and through statewide programs. A family interview through the Gateway to Early Childhood program helps staff determine how to best meet the early childhood needs and eligibility of the family and the child. Play. Learn. Connect. is the community outreach strategy to identify and enroll the most at risk children. Also, in an effort to create a seamless early childhood pipeline, they are working with cross-sector partners from home visiting programs, early intervention, PFA, Preschool Expansion and Head Start to ensure smooth and thoughtful transitions from one program to another.

SPARK Aurora Early Childhood Collaboration

Established: 2012

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

SPARK

Areas Served:

Aurora, IL

*community wide
collaboration for the
City of Aurora*

Collaboration Address:

44 E. Galena Blvd.,
Aurora, IL 60505

Collaboration Contact:

Trish Rooney
Director
Fox Valley United Way
trish.rooney@foxvalleyunitedway.org

(630)896-4636

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website:
www.sparkaurora.org

Facebook
[SPARK Aurora Early
Childhood Collaboration](#)

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource database or book
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reduction of duplicated services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake initiatives
- Developmental screening
- Work towards systems alignment
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

Collaboration accomplishments include:

Shared intake initiative (known now as Family Gateway Interview, which provides single entry point for families looking to learn more about early childhood program and service opportunities) and Play.Learn.Connect.

St. Clair County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network (SCC-AOK)

Established: 2009

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

AOK

Areas Served:

SCC-AOK serves all 26 communities of St. Clair County.

Collaboration Address:

1200 N. 13th Street
East St. Louis, IL 62205

Collaboration Contact:

Kelsey Curren
AOK Coordinator
kcurren@lessiebatesdavis.org
(618) 875-2211

Communication Mechanisms:

Website

<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/Greater-East-St-Louis-Early-Learning-Partnership-705769532857246/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

SCC-AOK's administrative home is within the the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. The Network is led by one full-time Coordinator and responsibilities include: establishing and maintaining community collaboration representing service representatives; building strategies on coordination of care, workforce staffing and developing; and updating the Network's local webpage, to name a few. The Network structure consists of general network membership, an Executive Committee with two co-chairs and three workgroups each with a Chair and Vice-Chair. Decision are made through shared decision-making across the various groups and funding related matters and leadership selections are decided among the Executive Committee members.

The Network is funded through the Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: Head Start/Early Head Start, health, school districts, foundations, family and parent supports, child advocacy, violence prevention, and other social services. The Collaboration also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaboration providers and/or coordinates professional development for Early Childhood providers. They also increase enrollment of high need priority population through a weighted eligibility checklist utilized by the community.

St. Clair County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network (SCC-AOK)

Established: 2009

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

AOK

Areas Served:

SCC-AOK serves all 26 communities of St. Clair County.

Collaboration Address:

1200 N. 13th Street
East St. Louis, IL 62205

Collaboration Contact:

Kelsey Curren
AOK Coordinator
kcurren@lessiebatesdavis.org
(618) 875-2211

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/Greater-East-St-Louis-Early-Learning-Partnership-705769532857246/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Community resource book or database
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Developing leadership capacity
- Coordinated intake initiatives
- Developmental screenings
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Network is most proud of the ability to work together to make strong and long-lasting changes in the Greater East St. Louis community. The community continues to use shared applications for early learning services, reducing some barriers for families to enroll in these programs. The Collaboration continues to find ways to streamline services and coordinate and collaborate with one another so that families have better and easier access to the services they need.

Stephenson County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network*

Established: 2000

Target Population:

Prenatal to 8

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network
Collective Impact

Areas Served:

Stephenson County

Collaboration Address:

10 W. Linden
Freeport, IL 61032

Collaboration Contact:

Dana Keim
Coordinator
All Our Kids Network
dana.keim@aeroinc.net
(815) 599-8404

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
www.aok-nwil.org

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/All-Our-Kids-AOK-Network/158977240793731?fref=ts>

Twitter:
All Our Kids
Network@nwil.org

*Updated in 2015

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

The Stephenson County All Our Kids (AOK): Early Childhood Network is committed to a community system that assures positive growth and development of children 0-8 and their families by providing a framework to support initiatives embracing this goal.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Network's administrative home is within the Stephenson County Health Department. The AOK Coordinator and 5 key leaders have been involved since the inception of the network. The Large group meets monthly as a network with activities conducted at workgroup level. Decisions are made by consensus. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: churches, school district, early care and education, health, parenting programs, community college, adult education, housing authority, crisis intervention, sexual assault/domestic violence programs, child advocacy center, parents, and other community based organizations. The Network also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Regional Office of Education and Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Network offers a community training seminar in conjunction with the Child Care Resource & Referral and University of Illinois Extension. Technical assistance is provided to partners in the form of grant writing to co-write for funds. They are also working to develop a pipeline of service providers who impact family literacy.

Stephenson County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network*

Established: 2000

Target Population:
pre-birth to 8

Affiliations:
All Our Kids Network
Collective Impact

Areas Served:
Stephenson County

Collaboration Address:
10 W. Linden
Freeport, IL 61032

Collaboration Contact:
Dana Keim
Coordinator
All Our Kids Network
dana.keim@aeroinc.net
(815) 599-8404

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
www.aok-nwil.org

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/All-Our-Kids-AOK-Network/158977240793731?fref=ts>

Twitter:
All Our Kids
Network@nwil.org

*Updated in 2015

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the Network's activities and strategies

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and filling service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Providing technical assistance
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake
- Developmental screening
- Developing a pipeline of cross-sector partners

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Network is proud of starting a transportation system in the City where there was none and establishing a Health Department in Carroll County (one of four counties in the state without health services).

Success By 6 of Kankakee County

Established: 2008

Target Population:

Birth to 6

Affiliations:

United Way of
Kankakee and Iroquois
Counties

Areas Served:

Kankakee County (and
expanding into Iroquois
County)

Collaboration Address:

701 S Harrison Ave
Kankakee, IL 60901

Collaboration Contact:

Tiffany DeRocco
Executive Director
United Way of
Kankakee & Iroquois
Counties
tiffany.derocco@myunitedway.org
(815) 932-7476

Communication Mechanisms:

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

Mission: Success by 6 is an early childhood initiative that works to ensure that all children birth to age six have the positive and enriching experiences and parent-child relationships necessary to begin school ready to succeed.

Vision: All children and families should be healthy, happy, and well-adjusted.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Success By 6 is part of the United Way and Community Foundation, which provides the funding for the initiative. Collaboration committees are responsible for creating ideas to present to the larger group. Committee leads are responsible for reporting out to funders. Final project approval is determined by the funders. United Way is now the entity that schedules meetings and prepares the agendas.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: libraries, park districts, school districts, local college and university, health, child and family connections, daycares, pediatricians and other community based organizations. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council and Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the Collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Developmental screening

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaboration was one of two organizations in the state of Illinois to be chosen to participate in Erickson Institute's Early Development Instrument pilot program in 2016. Results were released in 2017, and they are working on a new strategic plan based on the results of the instrument, which allows them to focus on specific neighborhoods and their needs.

Tazewell County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network

Established: 2000

Target Population:
Birth to 5

Affiliations:
AOK

Areas Served:
Tazewell County

Collaboration Address:
21306 IL Route 9
Tremont, IL 61568

Collaboration Contact:
Julie Herzog
AOK Coordinator /
Health Educator
Tazewell County Health
Department
jherzog@tchd.net
(309) 925-5511 x266

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website
www.tazewellhealth.org
www.aoknetworks.org

Facebook
[https://m.facebook.com/
tazewellcountyhealthdep
artment](https://m.facebook.com/tazewellcountyhealthdepartment)

Twitter

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Collaboration's administrative home is within the Tazewell County Health Department. The Network is led by one full-time Coordinator and responsibilities include: establishing and maintaining community collaboration representing service representatives; building strategies on coordination of care, workforce staffing and developing; and updating the Network's local webpage, to name a few; . The AOK Network partners—also organized by collaborative leadership—share responsibility for planning, decision-making, action and accountability of more comprehensive early childhood system of services and supports. Decision-making is made through group discussions and voting.

Funding for the initiative is provided through the Department of Human Services.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: law enforcement, early care and early intervention, behavioral and public health, school districts, social services, and other community based agencies. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council, Regional Office of Education and DCFS School Readiness Team.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaborative coordinates training opportunities for mental health, eliminating poverty (Bridges out of Poverty initiative), and Infant Safe Sleep.

Tazewell County All Our Kids: Early Childhood Network

Established: 2000

Target Population:
Birth to 5

Affiliations:
AOK

Areas Served:
Tazewell County

Collaboration Address:
21306 IL Route 9
Tremont, IL 61568

Collaboration Contact:
Julie Herzog
AOK Coordinator /
Health Educator
Tazewell County Health
Department
jherzog@tchd.net
(309) 925-5511 x266

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website
www.tazewellhealth.org
www.aoknetworks.org

Facebook
[https://m.facebook.com/
tazewellcountyhealthdep
artment](https://m.facebook.com/tazewellcountyhealthdepartment)

Twitter
[@tazewellhealth](#)

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Reducing duplication of services
- Providing training opportunities
- Community resources to leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Leadership capacity development
- Decreasing barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaborative increased the number of child care professionals using Ages and Stages Questionnaire: 3rd Edition & ASQSE- 2 tools. They also provided Bidges Out of Poverty workshops for 500 professionals about best practices, ideas and concrete tools that bring people from all economic backgrounds together to address root causes of poverty. The Network increased the following: infant safe sleep practice education workshops at social service agencies and local hospitals; and awareness of children's mental health through a community mapping process and the development of Tazewell County AOK Children's Mental Health Resource Guide.

All Our Kids Early Childhood Network: Wabash and Edwards Counties

Established: 2000

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

Wabash County Health Department

Areas Served:

Wabash and Edwards Counties

Collaboration Address:

130 W. 7th Street
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863

Collaboration Contact:

Tristan Barbre
AOK Network
Coordinator
tbarbre@wabashhealth.org
(318) 263-3873 ext. 237

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
www.aoknetwork.org/illinois/
<https://www.aokwabashedwards.com/>

Facebook

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Kane County Health Department is the administrative home of the Collaboration. The Network is led by one full-time Coordinator and responsibilities include: establishing and maintaining community collaboration representing service representatives; building strategies on coordination of care, workforce staffing and developing; and updating the Network's local webpage, to name a few. Decision making is done through collective impact.

Kane County AOK receives grant funding through the Illinois Department of Health and various fundraising efforts.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early care and education, school districts, health, mental and medical health professionals, faith based and parent representatives, law enforcement, child care and other social service agencies. The Collaborative also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaborative provides professional development opportunities, such as a annual children's mental health conference. The Network also partners to develop or assist in training opportunities to other Wabash and Edwards County communities.

All Our Kids Early Childhood Network: Wabash and Edwards Counties

Established: 2000

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

Wabash County Health Department

Areas Served:

Wabash and Edwards Counties

Collaboration Address:

130 W. 7th Street
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863

Collaboration Contact:

Tristan Barbre
AOK Network
Coordinator
tbarbre@wabashhealth.org
(318) 263-3873 ext. 237

Communication Mechanisms:

Website
www.aoknetwork.org/illinois/

<https://www.aokwabashedwards.com/>

Facebook

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Community resource book or database
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake
- Developmental screening
- Work towards systems alignment
- Decrease barriers/obstacles to access

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaboration's most widely used supports is their Parent Resource Pocket Guide. This Resource is updated on an annual basis to provide families within their community the resources and services that they need. Every year, in collaboration with Wabash Valley College, they print 500 guides to distribute to their birth to five families. The Wabash County Sheriffs Office and Mt. Carmel Police Department also work in coordination with the AOK Network to distribute to those in most need of help. They have reported that they are especially useful when responding to domestic violence/disturbance situations and child abuse cases. They are also beneficial for officers to identify parents and families who are not receiving all the services that they need. Local businesses also distribute these guides.

WeGo Together for Kids West Chicago Early Learning Collaboration

Established: 2005

Target Population:
Birth through 12th grade

Affiliations:
DuPage Early
Childhood Regional
Collaboration

Areas Served:
City of West Chicago in
DuPage County

Collaboration Address:
312 East Forest Ave
West Chicago, IL 60185

Collaboration Contact:
Marjory Lewe-Brady
Director of Partnerships
West Chicago
Elementary School
District 33
lewe-bradym@wego33.org

Ciara Burns
Community School
Coordinator
burnsc@wego33.org

**Communication
Mechanisms:**

Website
[http://www.wego33.org/
Partnerships11.aspx](http://www.wego33.org/Partnerships11.aspx)

Facebook
[https://www.facebook.c
om/WeGo-Together-for-](https://www.facebook.com/WeGo-Together-for-)

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

WeGo Together for Kids shares a vision of a vibrant and engaged community where children and families reach their full potential. They support and enhance the health, safety, and well-being of children and families through a collaborative, coordinated, and comprehensive approach for West Chicago schools and community.

Governance, Staffing and Funding

The Collaborative's administrative home is within the West Chicago Elementary School District 33 administration building and is co-led and facilitated by the Community School Coordinator and Executive Director of EduCare West Dupage. WeGo Together has blended funding streams; and the West Chicago Early Childhood Collaboration is a work group of WeGo Together that focuses on early childhood population in West Chicago, Illinois. Decisions are made through shared consensus.

Partners and Participants

The Collaboration has over 50 partners which include local human service agencies, child care organizations, fire and police departments, public library, healthcare and recreation groups . They also work with the Child Resource and Referral, and Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public Education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Leading and/or coordinating advocacy efforts
- Leadership capacity development
- Coordinated intake

Collaboration Accomplishments

The Collaboration is most proud of the commitment of its members. They began to coordinate and collaborate on efforts that resulted in

Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative

Established: 2013

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

DuPage Early
Childhood Regional
Collaboration

Areas Served:

Community Unit School
District 200,
Wheaton and
Warrenville

Collaboration Address:

222 E. Willow Ave.
Wheaton, IL

Collaboration Contact:

Elise Schram
Project Director of the
WWECC, Metropolitan
Family Services
SchramE@metrofamily.org
(630) 784-4860

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
<http://www.dupagefederation.org/wheaton-warrenville-early-childhoodcollaborative.html>

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

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

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage acts as the fiscal agent and the administrative "home" for the Collaborative. The Project Director for the WWECC is an employee of the fiscal agent, accountable to and subject to the Human Resources Policies and Procedures of the organization. The Project Director oversees the overall operational day-to-day responsibilities of the Collaboration, and effectively facilitates meetings, develops and implements work plans and builds stronger communities and partner relations. The WWECC Executive Committee adopts a consensus decision making process that is guided by the following principles: Inclusive and Participatory, Agreement Seeking, Process Oriented, Collaborative, Relationship Building, and Whole Group Thinking. The Executive Committee will have the ultimate decision making power over the Collaboration Program Director and collaboration.

Current funding for the WWECC was made possible by a grant from the DuPage Foundation (DF), through the Bright and Early DuPage

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/wheatonwarrenvillecc/>

Initiative.

Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative

Established: 2013

Target Population:

Birth to 5

Affiliations:

DuPage Early
Childhood Regional
Collaobration

Areas Served:

Wheaton and
Warrenville

Collaboration Address:

222 E. Willow Ave.
Wheaton, IL

Collaboration Contact:

Elise Schram
Project Director of the
WWECC, Metropolitan
Family Services
SchramE@metrofamily.org
(630) 784-4860

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:

<http://www.dupagefederation.org/wheaton-warrenville-early-childhoodcollaborative.html>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/wheatonwarrenvillecc/>

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: Community Unit School District 200, children's museums, health, social services, park district, public library, and other community based agencies. The Collaboration also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, the Local Interagency Council and Regional Office of Education.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaborative provides Family Day of Play events that focus on the importance of play in health of the developing brain. They also host a breakfast that focuses on language development and its importance to academic success; and provide their Kindergarten Symposium that promotes developmental screenings. They are also increasing enrollment of high need priority population through the preschool expansion grant.

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and family members
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Providing and/or coordinating training opportunities
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Identifying and beginning to fill service gaps
- Lead and/or coordinate advocacy efforts
- Providing technical assistance
- Leadership capacity development
- Developmental screening
- Increasing enrollment of high need priority population
- Developing cross-sector pipeline partners
- Work towards systems alignment
- Decrease barriers/obstacles to access

- Data collection to drive initiatives

Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative

Established: 2013

Collaboration Accomplishments

The WWECC has created a strong Parent Council that recognizes parents are their child's first and most important teacher. The group helps increase parental involvement in their child's academics, as well as, helps parents to learn about their child's growth and development. There are 88 parents on the Council. The Collaborative also created and facilitated the Family Day of Play Event, which is an interactive event for children and families of the community. Over 200 children and families come to the annual event in February.

WECC developed a developmental screening flowchart to help streamline the Ages Stages Questionnaire developmental screening referral process in their service area, and worked through the full Able Framework pilot program to promote systems change work in early childhood. The Gold Circle of Quality was awarded to the Preschool Expansion Grant program through ExceleRate Illinois in April 2016.

Will County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established: 2004

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

Will County

Collaboration Address:

501 Ella Avenue
Joliet, IL 60433

Collaboration Contact:

Rebecca Deang
Network Coordinator
rdeang@willcountyhealth.org
[org](http://www.aoknetworks.org)
(815) 727-8864

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Current Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statement

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

Governance, Staffing and Funding

Will County Health Department serves as the Network's administrative home. The Network is led by one full-time Coordinator and responsibilities include: establishing and maintaining community collaboration representing service representatives; building strategies on coordination of care, workforce staffing and developing; and updating the Network's local webpage, to name a few. The collaboration is part of the AOK Network at large, and decisions are made via email or votes passed by a majority.

Funding for the initiative is provided through the Illinois State Board of Education.

Partners and Participants

Participants include representatives from: early childcare and education agencies, school districts, a foundation, and other social service agencies. The Network also works with the Child Care Resource and Referral, Local Interagency Council, Regional Office of Education and Department of Child and Family Services Readiness Team.

Primary Activities and Strategies

The Collaboration provides and/or coordinates early childhood mental health annual training to providers.

Will County All Our Kids Early Childhood Network

Established: 2004

Target Population:

Birth to 5 (specific focus on pregnant women and children)

Affiliations:

All Our Kids Network

Areas Served:

Will County

Collaboration Address:

501 Ella Avenue
Joliet, IL 60433

Collaboration Contact:

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

Communication Mechanisms:

Website:
<http://www.aoknetworks.org/illinois/>

Primary Activities and Strategies (continued)

Below is a general list of the collaboration's activities and strategies.

- Community event planning
- Public education, messaging, social marketing campaigns
- Outreach to communities and families
- Service inventory for the community
- Community resource book or database
- Increasing referrals across programs
- Reducing duplication of services
- Committing resources to family leadership development
- Developmental screening
- Developing cross-sector pipeline partners

Collaboration Accomplishments

Will County AOK is most proud of providing their community thousands of resource directories in English and Spanish on an annual basis. Since 2008, they also have been hosting an annual early childhood mental health training, and started a pilot shared referral process with partners.