

# South Suburban Innovation Zone

Carlos Patton- Director, Early Learning  
Programs

Illinois Action for Children

*People Helping People*



**Partner • Plan • Act**

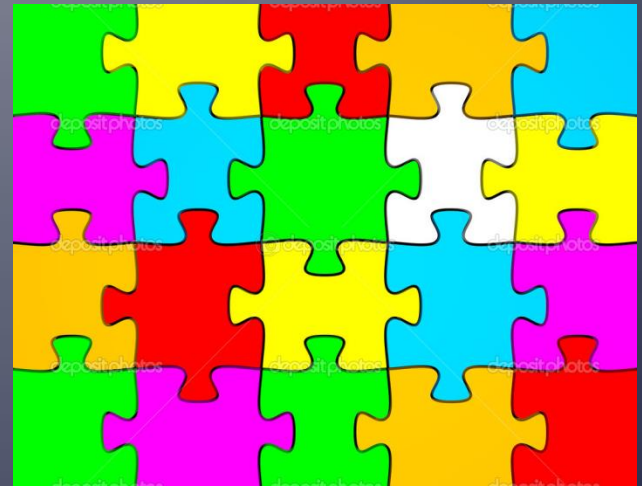
an Illinois Action for Children Community Systems Development Initiative



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children

# South Suburban Innovation Zone: Who are we?

- Who are we?
  - Child Care Programs
  - ExceleRate Programs
  - Preschool for All Programs
  - Head Start Programs
  - School District Programs
  - High Quality Program Leaders



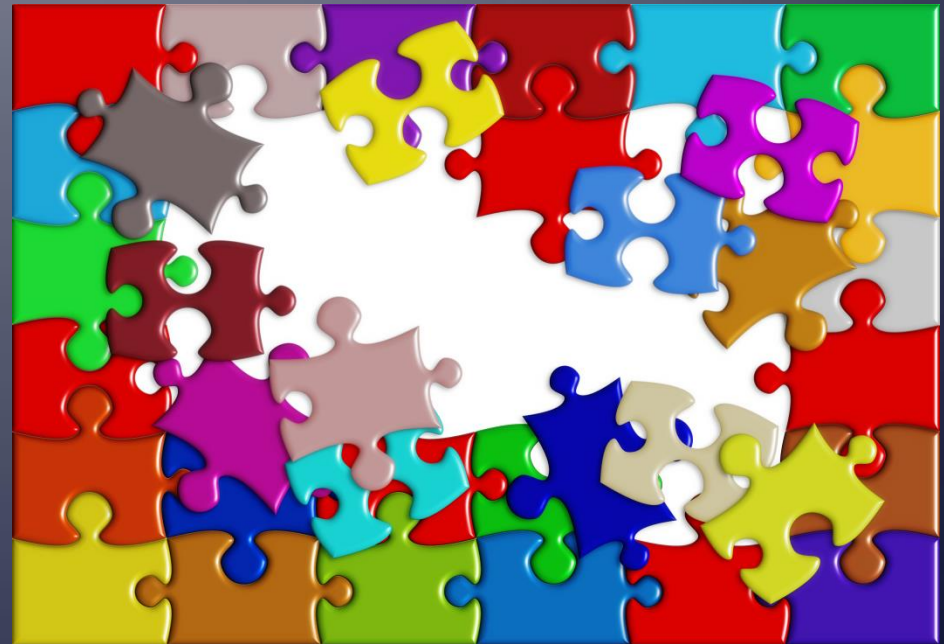
# South Suburban Innovation Zone: Strategies

- Built a core team
- Formed a community of practice
- Engaged the school districts and social service agencies



# South Suburban Innovation Zone: Goal I

Serve more children from the priority population.



# South Suburban Innovation Zone

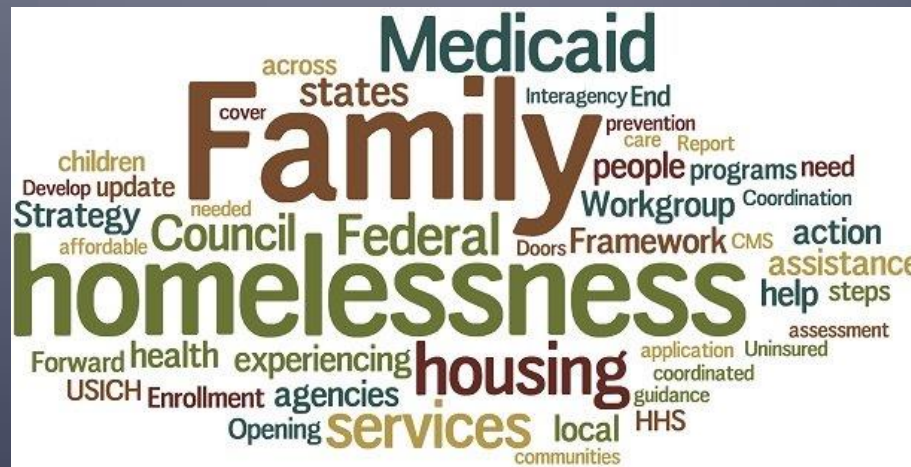


# South Suburban Innovation Zone: Goal II

- Quality Improvement in Early Learning Programs
  - Formed a Core Team
  - Built Commitment
  - Connected Child Care Centers to Resources
  - Professional Development
  - Applied for Preschool Expansion

# South Suburban Innovation Zone: Goal III

Develop a network of health and social services



# South Suburbs Preschool Expansion Referral Process

**Start Process**

Coordinator makes a connection with Social Service Agencies to request help referring families with children

Agreement made between Coordinator and Social Service Agency to request if families with children 0-5 want to enroll

Social service agency asks family if they want to learn more about early learning, or if they want to enroll

Are Families Ready to Enroll?

**YES**

Intake Form will be completed by SS Agency and Parent

SS Agency will contact Coordinator and Send Intake Information to Coordinator

**NO**

Coordinator will ask, what makes it hard to enroll and what would make it easier? Work with family to make enrollment easier. Then this arrow goes back to "Yes."

Coordinator will track barriers and bring back to IZ team for discussion; barrier will be added to quarterly report

Coordinator will keep in contact with families by following up with them monthly

Coordinator will contact School District and Childcare Centers with Intake Information

Coordinator, School District, and Child Care Center will determine Families Eligibility and complete Enrollment form

Families will complete enrollment form with Child Care Center and School District

Families will visit center or school within radius of the home

**Continued Processed**

Coordinator will follow up with family and SS Agency to verify Enrollment

Posen Robbins  
143.5

Dolton District  
149

Harvey District  
152

Lansing District  
158

Dolton District  
148

Children's Home Center  
Calumet City,

Cuddle Care Child Care  
Riverdale, IL

NDLA II South  
Holland, IL

Under Carrey's Care  
Riverdale, IL

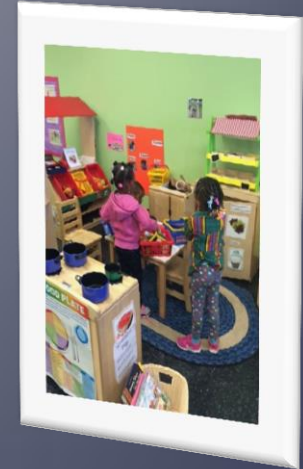
Child Life Academy  
Burnham, IL

12/18/15

Families will enroll with childcare center within radius of their home  
Enrollment process will be completed by Child Care Center and School District  
Intake Form will be completed by Social Service Agency and Families



# South Suburban Innovation Zone: Accomplishments



- Increased knowledge of ExceleRate
- Formed a collaboration of child care centers, school districts, home providers, and social services agencies
- Helped accredited sites to do crosswalk over to Gold
- Received the Pre-K Expansion grant for six of our partnerships

# South Suburban Innovation Zone: Lessons learned

- Know your community
- Don't be afraid to start over
- Start small
- Building relationships
- Child care centers wants to be engaged in quality improvement

# South Suburban Innovation Zone: Contact information

- To learn more about the South Suburban Innovation Zones please contact:

Carlos Patton

Director, Early Learning Programs

Illinois Action For Children

708.365.1502

# Response from the Office of Early Childhood Development

Joanna Su,  
Community Systems Policy Director  
Governor's Office of  
Early Childhood Development

# Q & A

Renee Tetrick,  
Program Innovation Analyst  
Illinois Action for Children

# Illinois Action for Children's upcoming events

- **Responsible Budget Coalition Rally**  
January 27, 2016 (Springfield) at 11:00 am  
Please RSVP by January 15th to:  
Responsible Budget Coalition at [jennifercushman@povertylaw.org](mailto:jennifercushman@povertylaw.org)  
(646) 326-4279
- **Illinois Action for Children's State Policy Priorities and Federal Update Thursday, January 28th at 1:00pm**  
To register: [www.partnerplanact.org/webinars](http://www.partnerplanact.org/webinars)
- **Spring Into Action Conference (Springfield, Illinois)**  
March 8-9, 2016  
To register: [www.actforchildren.org/events](http://www.actforchildren.org/events)
- Today's recording will be posted on Partner Plan Act Website  
[www.partnerplanact.org/webinars](http://www.partnerplanact.org/webinars)
- Additional questions? Please send an email to [partnerplanact@actforchildren.org](mailto:partnerplanact@actforchildren.org)