

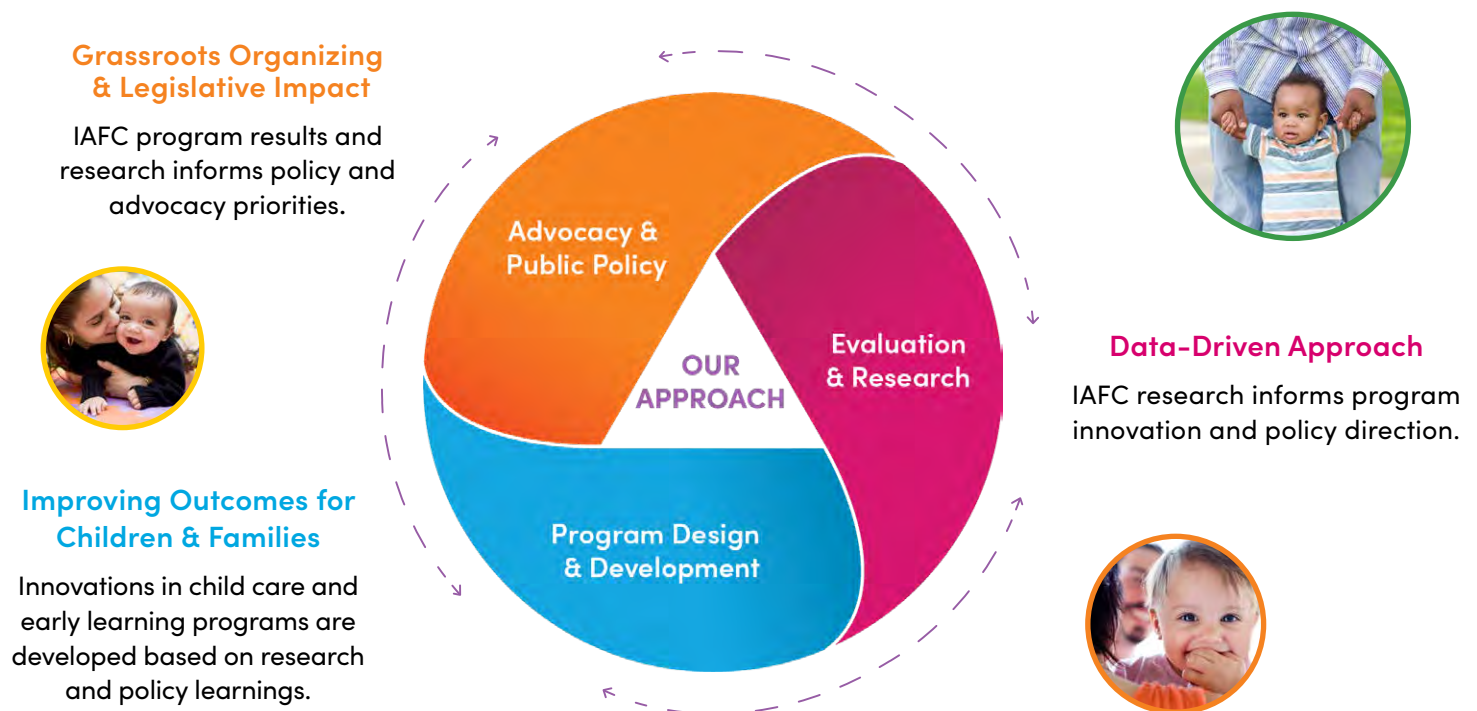
ABOUT Illinois Action for Children



Since 1969, the nonprofit organization Illinois Action for Children has been dedicated to creating the foundational conditions that allow young children to reach their full potential in school and life. As a state and national leader in early childhood care and education, IAFC's programs, services and advocacy improve learning and life outcomes for children and families, including reducing the effects of poverty. Our goal is for all children from diverse social, economic and cultural backgrounds to thrive.

Research shows that the first five years of life are the most important for healthy brain development, which contributes to lifelong wellbeing and achievement. That's why IAFC works in close partnership with the adults in children's lives – parents, providers, service and resource agencies, and elected officials to ensure alignment in our approaches to building strong families and powerful communities.

Continuous Improvement and Feedback Loop



Advocacy and Public Policy

IAFC leverages original research, internal expertise, grassroots organizing, and strategic partnerships to successfully advance priorities in early childhood and family/community support. We work to ensure policies impacting children and families reflect a research base, best practices, and real parent/provider experience.

Our work helps influence leaders to enact changes that leads to better futures for children, families, and communities. All of our public policy and advocacy work is funded by individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Evaluation and Research

With insights gained through program practice and delivery, IAFC conducts in-depth research and analysis to better understand the problems and opportunities associated with ensuring that there is equitable access to high-quality early care and education as well as other essential family support in communities throughout Illinois.

Programs

IAFCs expansive range of 23 unique programs provide supports to providers, families, and communities to promote equitable access to high-quality early care and learning.

- **Early Care and Education Provider Resources & Consultation Services**

We offer training and technical assistance, professional development, and consulting to home - and center-based, licensed and license-exempt child care providers, and school districts to ensure the best outcomes for children and families.

- **Community Impact**

We build relationships and engage families, communities, and schools to enhance their capacity to create a shared vision that results in better, more seamless access to the early care and education and other resources that all families need.

- **Early Learning Programs**

Our directly-operated and partner-based Early Learning Programs provide high-quality center-based environments, home-visiting, and parent education for pregnant women and children throughout South Suburban Cook County. These programs prepare children to enter kindergarten ready to learn and thrive.

- **Family Resources**

We administer the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in Cook County on behalf of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and offer enhanced child care referrals to assist families in finding and paying for child care for children ages six weeks to 12 years old.

Our Work Makes a Difference

IAFCs work has led to lasting changes that are “Building Strong Families and Powerful Communities” where children matter most. Philanthropy is critically needed to ensure that all have the opportunities and resources essential to school and life success.

Your Donation Creates a Better Future for Everyone

Investments in high-quality early learning programs are good for all of us! IAFC has earned GuideStar’s 2019 Gold Seal of Transparency where at least 91 cents of every dollar is invested directly in programs and advocacy work.

