



A bold vision for a bright future.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT















We are honored to celebrate 33 years of service, dedication, and impact at our Child Care Resource and Referral Center.

Over the past three decades, we have had the privilege of empowering countless families, children, and early childhood professionals. Our journey has been filled with growth, challenges, and above all, the unwavering commitment to providing quality resources and support to our community.

This milestone is a testament to the hard work of our team, the trust of the families we serve, and the partnerships that have allowed us to extend our reach and deepen our impact. As we look to the future, we remain inspired by the vision of creating a brighter, more inclusive world for every child and family.

Thank you for being a part of our story. Here's to continuing our legacy of care, support, and community for many more years to come!

Board of Directors

The strength of a Child Care Resource and Referral Center lies in the vision and commitment of its Board of Directors, who ensure that every decision paves the way for brighter futures, stronger families, and thriving communities..



BOARD PRESIDENTMarylin Turner-Mallory



BOARD TREASURERBrent townsend



EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEMBER

Lori Wilcox

www.childcarehelp.com 815-741-1163

Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on this past year, my heart is filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable journey our organization has taken. This year has been transformative, not only in the services we provide but in how we have expanded our reach and deepened our impact in the communities we serve. We have been fortunate to receive grant funding that has allowed us to implement critical programs aimed at addressing the needs of our most underserved populations. Through the Healing Illinois initiative, we have promoted racial healing and fostered connections that bring together communities across divides. The Health Equity Grant has empowered us to offer comprehensive health resources, ensuring that all families, regardless of their socioeconomic background, have access to the care they deserve.

Another incredible milestone has been our ability to help individuals pursue their dreams through scholarships that have made higher education more accessible. These scholarships are more than just financial aid; they represent hope and opportunity for families who might have otherwise thought such dreams were out of reach.

This year, we brought in consultants with specialized expertise to guide us through the implementation of several new initiatives. Their insight and knowledge have been invaluable, and their collaboration with our team has led to the successful launch of programs that address pressing issues within our community.

We have also made strategic decisions to hire some of the best professionals in the field, people who are not only skilled but who share our passion for making a difference. Their dedication and tireless efforts have brought a renewed sense of purpose and energy to our agency, ensuring we continue to grow and thrive.

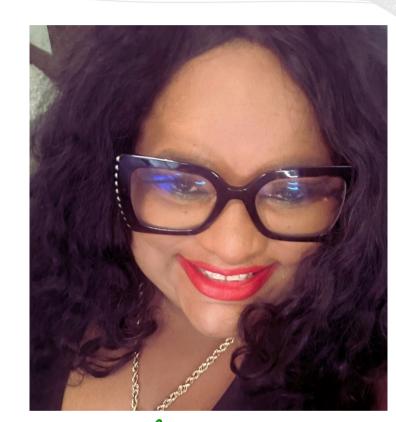
In every step, we have remained committed to uplifting the lives of those who need us most. Whether through educational resources, scholarship assistance, or health initiatives, our organization has been a beacon of hope for countless individuals and families. As we look ahead, we are more determined than ever to continue this important work.

Our services expanded to three additional counties: Dupage, Iroquois, and South Cook County in our Early Learning Programs

Thank you to everyone—our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners—for believing in our mission and for standing with us as we strive to create a brighter future for all.

With gratitude,

"In every step, we have remained committed to uplifting the lives of those who need us most."



Ria Amstong

RITA Renee Armstrong, B.S., M.P.A. Executive Director

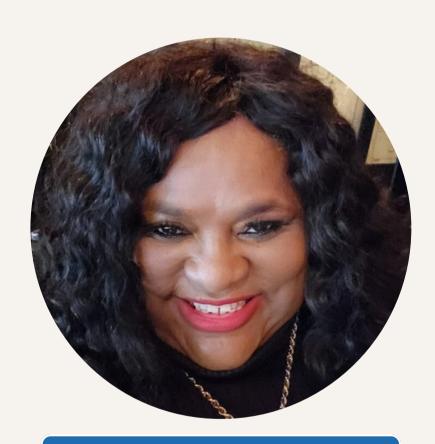
Leadership

Leadership in child care is about more than guiding programs. It's about inspiring a vision for a future where every child, family, and community can thrive. True leadership empowers, uplifts, and creates pathways to opportunity for those who need it most.

OUR TEAM MEMBERS











Kamilah Byas

- SDA5 Director
- kbyas@childcarehelp.com



DR. MALIK ELHAJ

- Director of Finance
- melhaj@childcarehelp.com



Ken Cervenka

- Finance Manager
- kcervenka@childcarehelp.com



Tokunboh George

- HR / Payroll / Benefits
- tgeorge@childcarehelp.com



Marquita Cox

- Director of Early Learning
- mcox@childcarehelp.com



Sherry Coe



- Assistant Director of SDA 5/Training Coordinator
- scoe@childcarehelp.com



Rebecca Kroiss



- Education Coordinator/Family Engagement
- rkroiss@childcarehelp.com



Georgia Lane



- Assistant Director of SDA 5/CCAP
- glane@childcarehelp.com

650K Families served in the seven county area

370K

Professional development hours offered

132M

Funding provided to child care providers

OUR IMPACT HAS NO BOUNDARIES!

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) is a nonprofit agency providing services to families, child care providers, and employers. CCR&R was founded in January of 1991 with the United Way of Will County as its fiscal agent. The organization serves Will, Grundy, Kendall and Kankakee counties and is part of the Illinois Statewide CCR&R System of IDHS.

425K

CCAP paperwork items processed

Meet Direct Thy Path Daycare

I'm writing to inform you that the center was eligible for the WorkForce Grant.

I want to thank you for caring about the center's quality. The workForce grant will allow me to increase the staff income to assist in the rising cost of our economy. The grant will also allow me the additional revenue to market a higher level of qualified potential new hires.

"The workForce grant will allow me to increase the staff income to assist in the rising cost of our economy."

-Direct Thy Path Daycare



Smart Start Workforce Grants provide child care programs with stable funding to cover costs and invest in quality staff without raising tuition or CCAP co-pays. These grants, paid in advance, ensure competitive wages for classroom staff, attracting more educators and meeting families' needs affordably. Building on previous investments, these grants continue Illinois' shift from pandemic stabilization to supporting the child care workforce, directly raising wages across the field.

Our Core Services



Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) is a nonprofit agency providing services to families, child care providers, and employers. CCR&R was founded in January of 1991 with the United Way of Will County as its fiscal agent. The organization serves Will, Grundy, Kendall and Kankakee counties and is part of the Illinois Statewide CCR&R System of IDHS.



Strengthening Connections

CCR&R's Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

CCR&R values and respects the diversity of its employees, volunteers, and customers. Therefore, we make every effort to respect the worth and individuality of each person and create an environment in which we learn from one another by recognizing our different backgrounds, perspectives, and contributions.

We are committed to enhancing the value of our work through respect of one another's cultures and the development of relationships by engaging in mutual and compassionate learning. CCR&R believes that all individuals, families, and communities:

- Possess strengths and areas for growth.
- Have a culture that guides their behavior.
- Uniquely adds value via cultural practices.
- Our shared humanity holds equal significance to our cultural distinctions.
- Learning begins at birth, is life long, and reciprocal.
- Reciprocity in learning leads to greater understanding.
- Fostering an inclusive and appreciative stance towards cultures will enhance both our operational proficiency and the worth of our endeavors.

We will continue to uphold and grow an organizational culture that lives this mission.



Our Early Learning Programs

Department of Early Learning Services

The Department of Early Learning Services is comprised of the Early Head Start program and the Preschool for All (PFA) and PFA-Expansion (E). EHS hosts 12 classrooms at 3 program partners with 96 slots. PFA/PFA-E houses 8 classrooms at 6 program partners with 157 slots.



Early Head Start

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) offers child care assistance to families that qualify through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Early Head Start provides early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families.



Preschool For All & Preschool for All-E

Preschool for All is a state-funded program through Illinois State Board of Education that provides a high-quality learning environment. This includes comprehensive developmental screenings, a research-based curriculum, and learning activities that are aligned with Illinois Early Learning and Developmental Standards. These experiences provide children with a foundation of knowledge and skills that prepare them to become Kindergarten ready.



2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT

IMPACT REPORT

Connecting Children to Opportunities

Program Impact Areas EHS # of Families 295 # of Children Served 320

Health Outcomes at Enrollment Number of Children with Health 80% Insurance Number of Children with Ongoing Continuous Source of Health 100% Care Number of Children at Enrollment Up to 93% Date on EPSDT Schedule Number of Children with Continuous 68% Accessible Oral Care Number of Children Up to Date on 68% Immunizations At Enrollment Number of Children who Completed a

31%

Professional Oral Examination During the

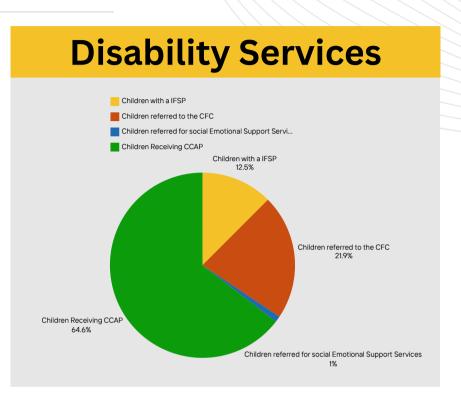
Program Year

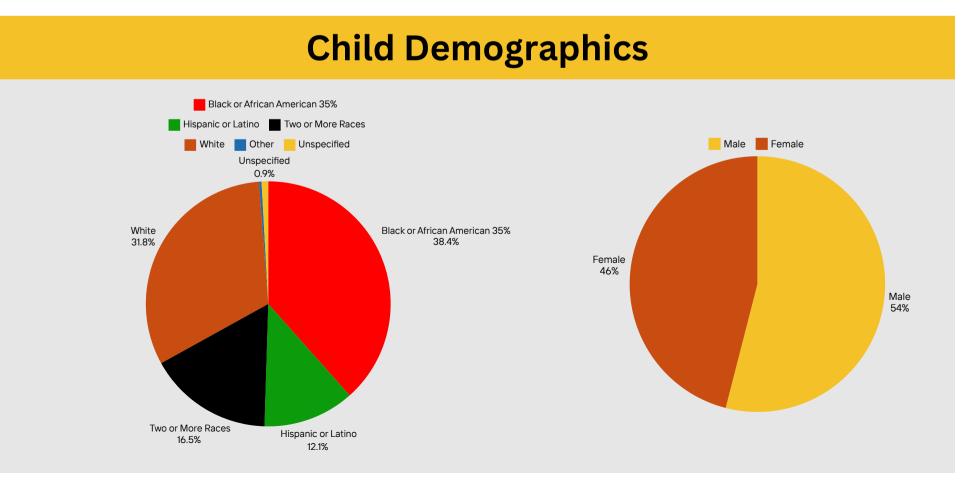
Early Head Start

Our Early Head Start (EHS), funded by the Office of Head Start, serve to expand the availability of high quality infant and toddler care through education. Children from birth to age 3 from low-income environments are connected with continuous and comprehensive childhood development and support services. Family engagement opportunities provide an interactive process of relationship building with shared decision-making opportunities to best support the strengths and abilities of each child.

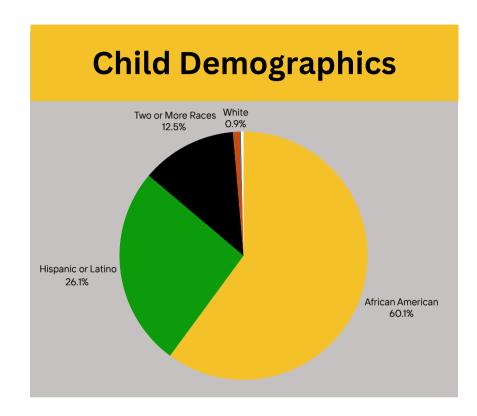


- Mary's Little Lamb Kankakee
- Play Palz Chebanse
- Play Palz Bourbonnais
- Play Palz Kankakee and Downtown
- Lasting Impressions Bourbonnais
- Lasting Impressions Station Kankakee

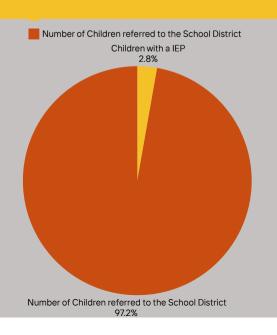




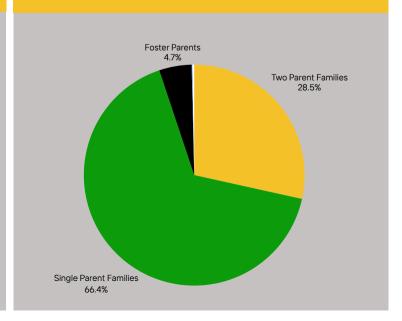
PRESCHOOL FOR ALL (PFA) AND PFA-E



Disability Services







Connecting Children to Opportunities

The focus of the Preschool for All (PFA) and Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE) programs is to prepare young children for Kindergarten readiness and future school success. Serving children at risk of academic failure, our program specialists develop connections with families, empowering them to be active participants in their child's educational experience. Positive and reciprocal relationships are established through participation in monthly parent meetings, workshops, and parent-teacher conferences. Our high quality educational programs offer the skills and confidence needed to continue to grow and learn.

174 Children Served!

Community Based Organizations

- Mary's Little Lamb Kankakee
- Play Palz Chebanse
- Play Palz Bourbonnais
- Play Palz Kankakee and Downtown
- Lasting Impressions Bourbonnais
- Lasting Impressions Station Kankakee
- Tiny Tots Cresthill
- Kiddy Care Cresthill
- One Hope United Will County
- PK's Christian Learning Site 1 Parkforest, IL
- PK's Christian Learning Site 2-University Park, IL

| Health Outcomes at Enrollment | % |
|--|-----|
| Number of Children with a Physical | 57% |
| Number of Children Who Received a Hearing Screening | 41% |
| Number of Children Who Received a Vision Screening | 44% |
| Number of Children Up to Date on Immunizations At Enrollment | 68% |
| Number of Children with Continuous Accessible Oral Care | 68% |
| Number of Children who Completed a Professional Oral Examination During the Program Year | 31% |

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Families participated in a variety of events this summer, including the following:

- Children in EHS received Christmas gifts and families made arts and crafts with their children that included a snowman magnet, hot cocoa jar, and creating a picture ornament to hand on their Christmas Tree. January 24, 2024
- Leap Into Spring in which families created a terra cotta flowerpot, a time capsule, dirt cups (snacks) and color cardsThe children enjoyed the activity as well as the parents.. February 29, 2024
- Lucky Clovers Activity in which families created four leaf clovers. March, 2024
- Family Fun Day at Perry Park in which families were able to play a variety of board games with their children and visit the petting farm. May 30, 2024
- Summer Splash Pad in which families were able to bring their children to a splash pad for children to enjoy the water. July 25, 2024
- Back to School Resource Fair in which families were able to visit vendor tables to obtain information about resources in the community. The Kankakee Health Department provided immunizations and physicals, children received backpacks and were able to play a variety of games. August 1, 2024
- Families were also able to participate in a variety of parent training that included child development, social emotional learning, summer learning activities, screen time, information on utility services funding, etc. Health and Wellness, Mental health support all year long.

Parent Training - Second Wednesday of Every Month

Child Development - Dec 13, 2023 Social Emotional - Jan 10, 2024 Summer Learning - June 12, 2024

ESI Screenings - July 10, 2024









Connecting Families with Assistance

Child Care Assistance Program

Our partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) allows Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) to provide subsidized childcare through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Our Eligibility Specialists and Scanners support families with applications, redeterminations, change of providers and change of information forms, as well as assisting with any questions or concerns clients may have. The CCAP team also assist with payment entry for monthly billing certificates for providers within our SDA-5. This program allows families to have access to quality early childhood education programs throughout the counties we serve.

"The workforce grant will allow me to increase the staff income to assist in the rising cost of our economy."

- Illinois Childcare Provider

CONNECT WITH US TODAY!

- Satellite offices in Kankakee and Plano
- Email: assistance@childcarehelp.com
- Walk-in Joliet Office



Connecting Families with Assistance

CGAP DATA

2,561
Approved Applications!

31,810

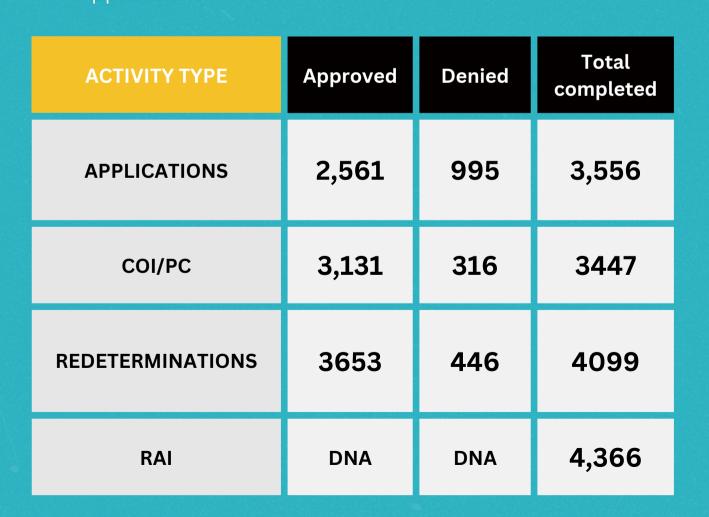
Assistance Emails!

53,028

Payments!

279

Family Referrals!



| ACTIVITY TYPE | Activity Total |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| CCAP PHONES | 21,806 |
| ASSISTANCE EMAIL | 31,810 |
| FRONT DESK (WALK-IN CLIENTS) | 8,506 |
| PAYMENTS | 53,028 |
| APPEALS | 79 |



| ACTIVITY TYPE | Activity Total |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Referrals (total number of families) | 279 |
| TANF Enhanced Referrals | 0 |

www.childcarehelp.com 815-741-1163 **Supporting Communities Through Referrals**

FAMILY REFERRAL

The Family Referral Specialist assists and counsels families to meet their individual child care needs of the entire family. Families can contact the referral specialist to receive assistance with provider referrals for child care, diapers, baby products and other specialized services within our four counties. The family referral specialist creates client records in a parent referral database and assists with TANF. They attend monthly partnership meetings to share information on provider services that may benefit families who are in need of specialized services for their children.

| ACTIVITY TYPE | Amount |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Total Number of Families | 279 |





BABY BEDS



BABY PRODUCTS



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Connecting Providers with Educational Opportunities

CORE SERVICES



CCR&R firmly supports the growth of all its providers and understands that not all needs are the same. To better serve all our counties and the wide array of training needs, CCR&R partners with over 30 different consultants ranging in expertise from PBIS to Active Play, and Mindfulness to Toilet Training. Our team of on-site specialists offer training required for Illinois Gateways Credentials and ExceleRate Circles of Quality, as well as health and safety trainings needed to be compliant with the state of IL and its CCAP requirements. CCR&R offers its training at no-cost to the providers. Our goal is to be a support to each and every early childhood educator in our county – Together We Are Stronger.

Provider Services

We are a team of specialists who maintain a database of all childcare providers in order to provide on-site consultation services, technical assistance surrounding the Quality Rating Improvement system (QRIS), and trainings for the ExceleRate Circles of Quality program. We coordinate trainings required for professional development hours with a multitude of topics specific to the needs of Early Childhood educators.

Health & Safety Coaches

We are a team of individuals who work with the License-exempt (LE) child care programs for completion and monitoring of the IDHS Health, Safety and Child Development training requirements. Through keeping an up to date roster of LE providers who are compensated via the CCAP initiative, we perform inperson assessment visits, detect breaches of health and safety protocols and formulate necessary Corrective Action Plans to ensure providers adhere to health and safety regulations.

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT

IMPACT REPORT

LEAP Education Partners, LLC

Our Experience with the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in Illinois

At LEAP Education Partners of Illinois, our recent acquisition of two childcare centers in the Manteno/Bourbonnais area brought us into close collaboration with the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). With over 50% of the children enrolled at these centers relying on CCAP to help cover their childcare costs, the program quickly became an essential component of our operations.

Navigating the process of acquiring these schools and transitioning the CCAP payments to our LEAP of IL entity was no small feat. The support provided by the CCAP program was invaluable during this transition. In particular, we commend Georgia Lane and the team at the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Joliet office. Their clear and precise guidance on processing timelines allowed us to manage our business effectively, ensuring financial stability during the transition.

Beyond just the logistics, CCR&R has been an outstanding partner in helping us understand and assist parents with the various aspects of CCAP, including applications, recertifications, and provider changes. Their commitment to supporting both providers and families has significantly impacted our ability to deliver high-quality childcare services.

In summary, the CCAP program, bolstered by the unwavering support of the CCR&R Joliet office, has been a cornerstone of our success in the Manteno/Bourbonnais area. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and highly recommend their services to any childcare provider and parent in need of financial assistance for childcare.

With appreciation, LEAP Education Partners of Illinois, LLC

The support provided by the CCAP program was invaluable during this transition.

-LEAP Education Partners



TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Transporting Children Safely
- Nutrition
- Starting Point
- Child Development, Health and Safety Basics
- Mandated Reporter
- Intro to ERS
- CPR/FA
- Pyramid Model
- Strengthening Business Practices
- Welcoming Each & Every Child
- Professional Development hours through independent consultants
- and many, many more!

TRAININGS

163 topics covered1013 providers









HEALTH & SAFETY VISITS

13 Kendall County

44 Will County

9 Kankakee County

3 Grundy County

SUMMER CAMP

1 Kendall County15 Will County

CPR

48 CPR/FA Classes Offered 450 Participants

IPDF

28 Reimbursed - \$8400

20 Providers (5 FCC/15 LLC)

31 Professional Consultants throughout us.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



IPDF:

28 ECE providers/teachers reimbursed for a total of \$8,400



Quality Improvement:

20 providers (5 FCC and 15 LCC) participated and were able to maintain bronze, Silver or Gold Accreditations through Excellence



Professional Consultants

31 Professional consultants all throughout the Country







Ann Anderson M.Ed

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kbyas@childcarehelp.com Main: (815) 741-1163 Ext.267

HIGHER EDUCATION NAVIGATORS

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), Illinois Board of Education (IBE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), and Illinois Assistance Commission (ISAC) joined forces to assist with removing barriers to early childhood credentials and degree completion specifically for the Early Childhood (EC) workforce. The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship was created to provide financial assistance to eligible Early Childhood Education (ECE) students.

Kamilah Byas, Ann Anderson, and Renee Muehlbauer are the three Higher Education Navigators who promote and advocate for the ECACE Scholarship offered to EC workforce members between May 2022 and June 2024. The scholarship is for previous and current EC workforce members who wish to pursue their Associate's, Bachelor's, and now master's (with PEL) degrees with credentials in early childhood education. By offering such a program to the EC workforce members across the state of Illinois, it is hoped that EC workforce members will remain teachers and administrators in the early childhood field.

Kamilah, Ann, and Renee all hold master's degrees in education and have been in the education field for over thirty years. All have held positions in higher education, higher education administration, and early childhood or a combination of all three, and all are advocates for the educational development of children and the individuals who care for them.

In addition to marketing the opportunity within the four-county area, the navigators provide support in the initial stages of enrollment, completion of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), and the ECACE scholarship application. Navigators are the bridge between the EC workforce members who wish to obtain their degrees and the college or university that they wish to attend. Navigators have partnered with the local community colleges in their area (Joliet Junior College, Waubonsee Community College, Kankakee Community College, and Prairie State Community College) and public and private four-year colleges and universities in their region.

With helping me out with my ECACE application I was able to go back to school after having my baby and finishing my associates and now working my way towards a bachelors degree. -Brenda Olaez

Meet Brenda Olaez

I wanted to sent this email to express my gratitude for the Navigators always being so attentive to my needs. **Thank you** for helping me fill out my application for the ECACE program. As well as helping me with my financial aide the first time. **Thank you** for the constant updates on the ECACE program. With helping me out with my ECACE application I was able to go back to school after having my baby and finishing my associates and now working my way towards a bachelors degree. **Thank you** for informing me about the gateways scholarship as well as answering my questions regarding that. **Thank you** for taking the time and stoping at my job to drop off flyers and resources. As well as making zooms to clarify any information for not only me but for anyone else in need. The staff is always such a joy having around. Always so cheerful and positive. **Thanks again for everything.**



If you work in early childhood education and are pursuing additional credentials or a degree, you may be eligible for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program. This scholarship helps address the shortage of qualified educators by supporting those advancing their education. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$7,500 per academic year, covering costs after other financial aid. A Higher Education Navigator from your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency can help guide you through educational opportunities and college enrollment. Recipients must continue or return to early childhood education in Illinois after completing their studies.

PROMOTING PERSONAL ADVANCEMENT AND SUCCESS



Meet Samantha

CCR&R, I wanted to thank you for assisting me with getting my ECACE scholarship. With this scholarship, I was able to finically afforded my early childcare tuition. I will also be able to continue my childcare career to obtain a bachelor's degree in Early childhood education. I will be able to enhance my skills in education and childcare because of you! Thank you

"With this scholarship, I was able to finically afforded my early childcare tuition."

-Samantha



If you work in early childhood education and are pursuing additional credentials or a degree, you may be eligible for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program. This scholarship helps address the shortage of qualified educators by supporting those advancing their education. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$7,500 per academic year, covering costs after other financial aid. A Higher Education Navigator from your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency can help guide you through educational opportunities and college enrollment. Recipients must continue or return to early childhood education in Illinois after completing their studies.

Financials

Investing in child care is not just a financial decision, it's a commitment to the future of our communities.

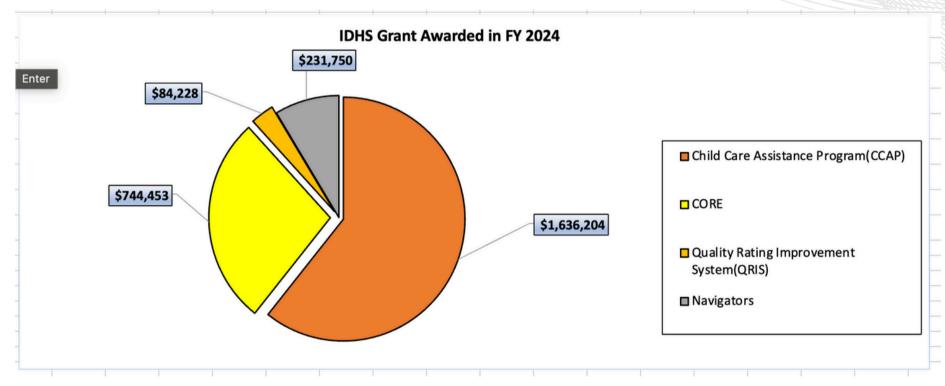
Every dollar spent on quality child care programs yields immeasurable returns, creating stronger families, brighter futures, and a more equitable society.

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Grant Awarded in FY 2024

Grant Awarded Overview in FY 2024*

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Grant Awarded in FY 2024

| Program Name | Amount | |
|--|--------|-----------|
| CORE | \$ | 744,453 |
| Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) | \$ | 1,636,204 |
| Navigators | \$ | 231,750 |
| Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) | \$ | 84,228 |
| Total | \$ | 2,696,635 |



Head Start (EHS) Grant Awarded in FY 2024

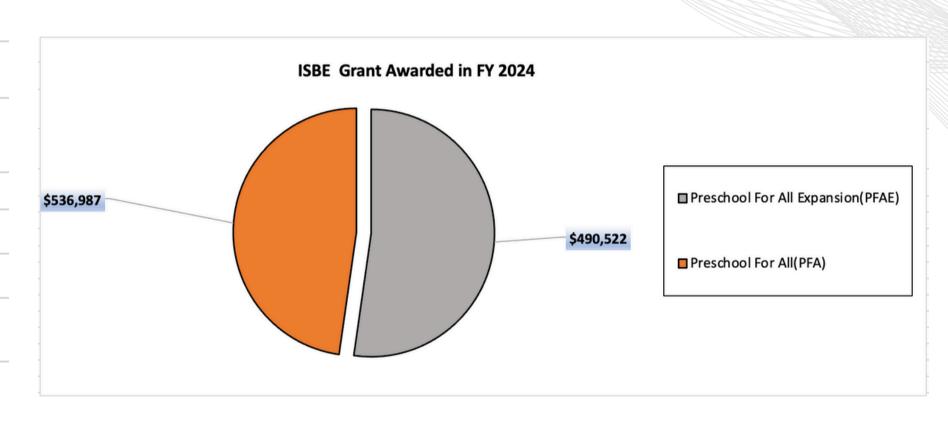
| | _ | | _ |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Grant Award | 1-4 0 | ! | |
| Grant Awarr | lea Civer | view in | FY 11114T |
| aidiit Awdi | | AICAA III | 1 1 LVLT |

Early Head Start (EHS) Grant Awarded in FY 2024

| Program Name | Amount | |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|
| | | |
| Early Head Start (EHS) | \$ | 2,329,151 |
| | 1 | |

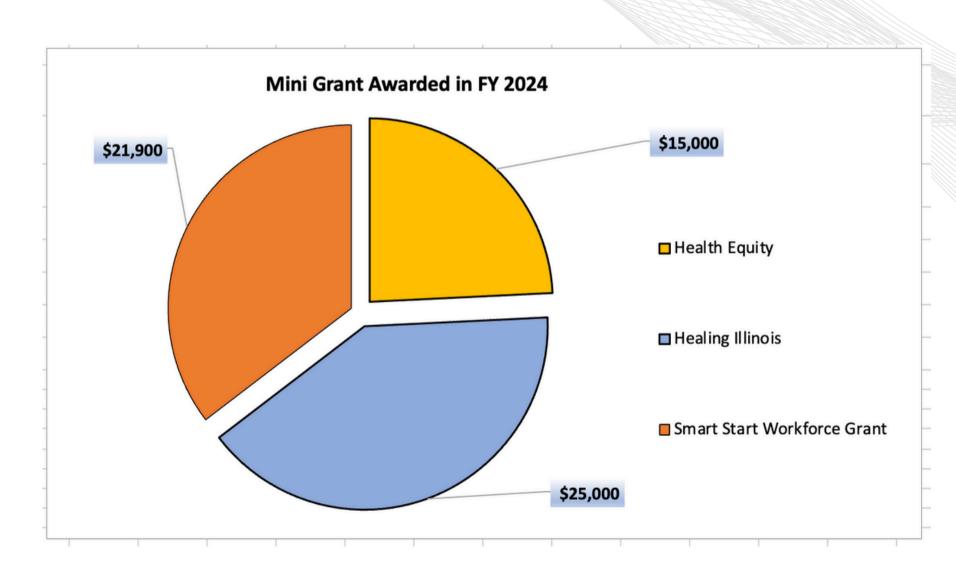
Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Grant Awarded in FY 2024

Grant Awarded Overview in FY 2024* Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Grant Awarded in FY 2024 **Program Name Amount** Preschool For All (PFA) 536,987 Preschool For All Expansion (PFAE) 490,522 1,027,509 Total



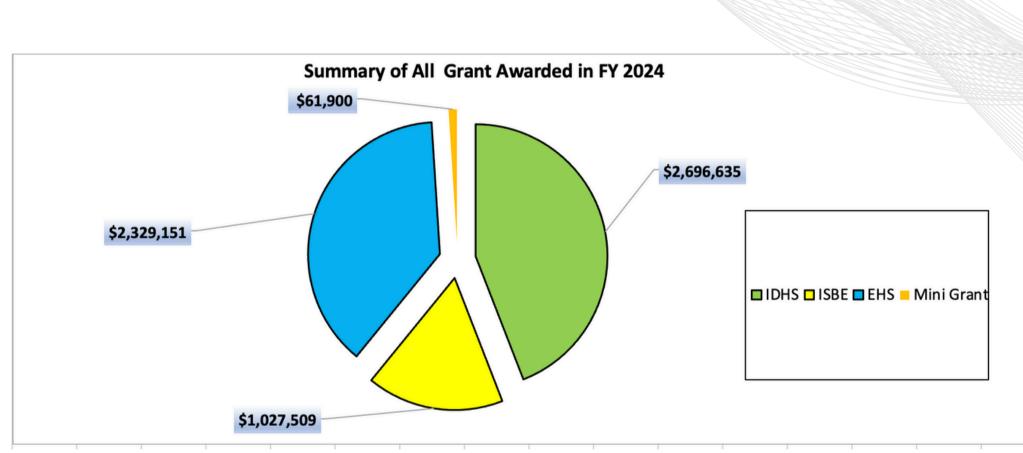
Mini Grant Awarded Overview in FY 2024*

| Mini Grant Awarded Overview in FY 2024* | | | |
|---|----|--------|--|
| | | | |
| Program Name | | Amount | |
| Health Equity | \$ | 15,000 | |
| Healing Illinois | \$ | 25,000 | |
| Smart Start Workforce Grant | \$ | 21,900 | |
| Total | \$ | 61,900 | |



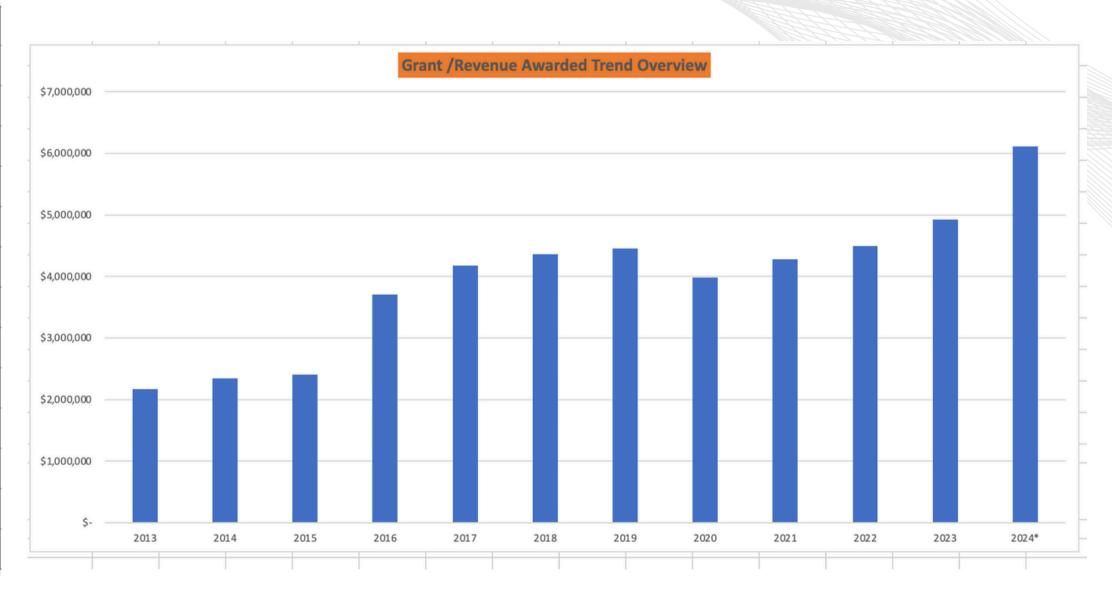
Grant Awarded Overview in FY 2024

| Grant Awarded Overview in FY 2024* | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Summary of All Grant | Awarded in FY | 2024 |
| | | |
| | | |
| IDHS | \$ | 2,696,635 |
| ISBE | \$ | 1,027,509 |
| EHS | \$ | 2,329,151 |
| Mini Grants | \$ | 61,900 |
| Total | \$ | 6,115,195 |



Grant/Revenue Awarded Trend Overview

| Grant/Revenue Awarded Trend Overview | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|-----------|
| | Year | Amount | |
| 2013 | | \$ | 2,167,777 |
| 2014 | | \$ | 2,347,383 |
| 2015 | | \$ | 2,405,647 |
| 2016 | | \$ | 3,707,405 |
| 2017 | | \$ | 4,177,021 |
| 2018 | | \$ | 4,364,334 |
| 2019 | | \$ | 4,452,761 |
| 2020 | | \$ | 3,986,845 |
| 2021 | | \$ | 4,274,844 |
| 2022 | | \$ | 4,490,038 |
| 2023 | | \$ | 4,922,735 |
| 2024* | | \$ | 6,115,195 |



Administrative Office

801 N. Larkin Avenue Suite 100 Joliet, IL 60435

815.741.1163

Child Care Referrals and Community Resources

815.741.1179 800.552.5526

Child Care Assistance Program/CORE

801 N. Larkin Ave Suite 202 Joliet, IL 60435

815.741.1163 815.741.4622 800.641.4622

Assistance@childcarehelp.com

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Navigators

815 N. Larkin Avenue Suite 104B Joliet, IL 60435

815.741.1163

Early Head Start Office

187 S. Schuyler Suite 100 Kankakee, IL 60901

815.741.7600 800.641.4622

Walk-In Hours

Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Phone Hours

Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Visit us at

www.childcarehelp.com



ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES

- 41mprint, Inc
- Abila
- Active Play Books
- Affluent Multimedia
- Aflac
- Amazon
- Bay Investment Corporation
- Bea & Vandenberk
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
- Birth to Five IL
- BMO Harris Bank
- Brilliant Staffing

- CBIZ
- Chase
- Chicago Growth Mindset
- Clock Tower Partners
- Colonial
- Comcast
- ComEd
- Coverall
- CPS
- Cray Kaiser Ltd
- Dabney Behavioral Health
- Discount School Supplies
- Early Childhood Specialties LLC
- Easter Seals Joliet
- Emotional Milestones
- Will Co. Community
 Concerns
- Wish Cleaning Company
- Xerox
- Empist, LLC
- C Baity Consultants
- Cadence Academy
- Caffe Strategies LL
- Catholic Charities
- Mary's Little Lamb

- Fast Print
- Fredpryor
- Fox valley YMCA
- Garden of Prayer
- Geico
- Genesis Lock Smith
- Governors State University
- Grace Child Care Center
- Grace's Place
- Illinois Association of School Administrators
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- INCCRRA
- Involved Inc.
- Iron Mountain
- Jesse White Secretary of State
- Joliet Junior College
- Kankakee Community
 College
- LakeShore Learning
- Larkin Professional Centre
- Lasting Impressions
- Lewis University
- Little Ones Consulting, Inc

- Oestreich
- Olivet Nazarene University
- One Hope United
- Pitney Bowes
- Play Palz
- Principal
- Proven IT
- Reliable Fire & Security
- Service Master
- Simple Solutions
 Educational Services
- Simply Self Storage
- Softstone Products
- Staples
- US Bank
- Verizon
- Walk of Children of Light,
 LLC
- Waubonsee Community College
- West Bend
- YMCA Fox Valley
- You Move We'll Clean Up
- YWCA
- Z&B Consulting Inc.
- LLM International

FY23/24 CCR&R ACHIEVEMENTS, GOALS, AND CHALLENGES.

Office Environment Enhancements

- Partnered with Bays Investment Corporation to obtain additional space for our soperational and program staff at 815 N. Larkin location.
- Improved the overall agency's office space and furshinings to provide more inviting environment
- Improved the look and feel of the office space by cleaning blinds and replacing broken blinds in the workspace.
- Enhanced our training room with colorful chairs and upgraded technology to provide more training to our constituents.
- All office space now reflect our brand colors and logos.

Child Care Assistance Program

- Established a new partnership with United Methodist Church to launch a satellite office in Plano for our CCAP providers located in desert areas.
- Reopened all offices after two years of covid operation for full in-person services at all locations.

Provider Services/CORE

- Facilitated in-person CPR and First Aid trainings and successfully certified 421 teachers and providers.
- Over 25 new new consultants to conduct professional development training to teachers and providers for 2022 and 2023
- Awarded \$79,962.65 in Quality Improvement funds to 17 partner programs to assist them in achieving and/or maintaining ExcelRate Illinois Circles of Quality.

Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion

- Established a new partnership and opened a Preschool for All Expansion Classroom with Walk As Children of Light, LLC.
- Established a new partnership and opened a Preschool for All Expansion Classroom bwith Grace's Place.
- AExpanded ISBE programs in South Suburbs of Chicago

Business Operations and Employee Development

- Continued our partnership with our IT service provider, Empist.
- Successfully completed our annual Fiscal agency audit with no significant findings.
- Created logo signage for outside windows at both our Joliet and Kankakee offices.
- Coordinated Agency wide trainings to support ongoing staff mental health and new partnership with Chicago Mindset Growth.
- Successfully completed an IDHS audit with no significant findings.
- Agency now has ACH to process payments for our vendors.
- Implemented new and effective marketing strategies for Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram Accounts.
- New connection with Taylor J. (Marketing/ Content Creation/ Consultant) to further improve our social media presence.
- New connection established with Swimmer Integrated Marketing for the development of our new website.
- Integrated Health and Wellness Fitbit tracking devices and yoga/meditation techniques to support employee's mental health and wellbeing. March 2023 and ongoing.
- Assured all agency employees have full access to full integrated access to technology services and devices.

Agency Development

- Continued our partnership with United Way of Grundy. United Way of Will County and United Way of Kankakee
- Full grant Renewal for IDHS 2023 and 2024
- Full grant Renewal for EHS 2023 and 2024
- Full grant Renewal for PFA 2023 and 2024
- Full grant Renewal for PFA-E 2023 and 2024
- Navigators Funding 2023 and 2024

Agency Achievements

- In FY 24, facilitated in-person CPR and First Aid training, certifying 450 teachers and providers, which impacted approximately 1,000 children in Will, Kankakee, Kendall, and Grundy counties.
- Higher Education Navigators participated in two Catholic Charities Mid-Year Conferences to discuss Early Childhood Education Scholarships with 100 Early Childhood staff.
- Six new consultants have been added to enhance professional development training for teachers and providers, bringing the total number of consultants from 25 to 31 for FY 24.
- Health Equity Grant made a significant impact on this crucial effort to improve vaccination rates in our community awarded by Will County
- Our Healing Illinois initiative has connected with over 3,500 people online and engaging 17 Zoom sessions with hundreds of childcare professionals across seven counties. Funded by the State of Illinois.
- CBIZ Human Capital Management provided comprehensive, nationwide solutions with over 300 professionals, and helped guide us through every stage of the employee life cycle—from hire to retire—with a focus on strategic success, consistent service, and a strong foundation.
- Launched a New Centrally HR System after 3 years.

OUR NEW MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to provide a comprehensive approach to advancing change throughout our service communities by offering ongoing Advocacy, Resources, Assistance, and Educational Support to all Families, Childcare Providers, and Early Childhood Educators. We promote stronger community engagement by fostering dignity, inclusiveness, and culturally responsive practices that help develop healthier and happier families." October 2024



CCR&R connects families and young children to valuable services and financial assistance.

95% of children and families we connect with annually are academically stronger between 6 weeks to 5 years old Our numbers improve the quality of life to over 9,000 families yearly in Illinois Donations and charitable giving can be provided by contacting our Administrative office at 801 N. Larkin Avenue Suite 100 Joliet, IL 60435.



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

Thank You For Serving CCR&R from 2015- 2024. Job Well Done!