

## **The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services 2024 Annual Report on the Collaboration with the Department of Human Services to Develop Programs to Serve Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorders (SUD)**

Since 1995, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Human Service's Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) have collaborated to develop and implement integrated services for DCFS-involved families impacted by substance use disorders. This report includes program highlights and statistics outlining the partnership between SUPR and DCFS.

The Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/7.3c) requires that DCFS, in cooperation with DHS-SUPR, develop and test pilot programs of integrated child welfare and substance abuse services. Departments are also required to evaluate and report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the effectiveness of these programs.

This report provides information on the most recent results from DCFS and DHS-SUPR programs. DCFS has collaborated with researchers to evaluate these pilot programs for families impacted by substance use disorders. The services have been funded directly by DCFS, in conjunction with DHS-SUPR, or through federal initiatives. DCFS works with a combination of university researchers and federal government contractors to evaluate the programs.

### **PROGRAMS**

#### **The Intact Family Recovery (IFR) Program**

The Intact Family Recovery (IFR) program supports families after the birth of substance-exposed infants (SEIs). Families are eligible for IFR if their child was exposed to substances during pregnancy and they are committed to engaging in the recovery process. The program brings together child welfare workers and substance use disorder (SUD) specialists to assist the families. Funding for the team of child welfare and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) workers comes from DCFS, while the Department of Human Services' Substance Use and Recovery Program (SUPR) and Medicaid fund treatment and recovery services.

The partnerships implement a range of activities and interventions, including peer recovery coaching, family-centered substance use disorder treatment, parenting and family strengthening programs, services to pregnant and postpartum women, medication-assisted treatment, in-home parenting, child safety support for families, and related evidence-based practices.

The IFR program offers comprehensive support over 18-24 months, allowing parents sufficient time to complete substance use treatment and access necessary parenting and social services. Throughout the program, the IFR team supports parents and family members during the outreach, treatment, and recovery phases. This includes home visits from both child welfare and SUD workers, individually or together, to ensure ongoing support throughout the process. As of 12/31/24, a total number of 102 IFR cases remain open between three agencies.

### **The Intact Family Recovery (IFR) Expansion Projects**

The IFR program expanded to other regions in Illinois through the Regional Partnership Grant program (RPG). The Administration for Children, Youth, and Families administer the RPG program, Children's Bureau, to improve the well-being of children affected by parental substance use disorders. The grants support interagency collaborations and integration of programs, services, and activities designed to increase the well-being, improve the permanency, and enhance the safety of children who are in, or at risk of, out-of-home placements as the result of a parent or caregiver's substance use disorder.

The Children's Bureau Research Partners Grant (RPG) was awarded to Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) in FY 17 to fund IFR Expansion in the Department's Cook Region (RPG4). RPG4 was a 5-year grant which ended in September 2022. ICOY received RPG6 to fund IFR expansion in the Department's Central Region and RPG7 in the Southern Region/Metro East with an emphasis on addressing racial disparities. With the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, IFR has the potential to become part of the interventions recognized as supported or well-supported practices for Title IV-E reimbursement. In this way, Illinois is investing in families and in research that can keep children safe and families together when they are impacted by substance use disorder.

### **Recovery Homes**

The Department of Children and Family Services partners with Maryville Academy's St. Monica's and St. Josephine Bakhita Recovery Homes to provide comprehensive support to mothers with substance use disorders and their children who are involved with DCFS. These programs offer essential services to help mothers in recovery while ensuring the safety and well-being of their children. Both programs are licensed by the Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR). The services provided are designed to address the complex needs of mothers, offering a safe, drug-free environment that supports both their recovery and the well-being of their children.

The programs specifically target women aged 18-35 with substance use disorders and mental health challenges, and children from birth to age 10. Core services include substance use disorder treatment, mental health counseling, parenting classes, job readiness, and training services. These services are tailored to help mothers regain stability in their lives while ensuring that they have the tools to care for and nurture their children. Additionally, on-site at the recovery homes is a Maryville Family Behavioral Health Clinic branch, which provides both substance use disorder treatment and mental health therapeutic services, further supporting the overall recovery process for both mothers and their families.

By offering a comprehensive range of services in one location, these programs aim to help mothers overcome their challenges, rebuild their lives, and create a stable and supportive environment for their children.

FY24 St. Monica’s program outcomes

% of parents who participate in parenting education activities	100%
% of residents who increase their knowledge of health and well-being strategies	100%
% of clients who maintain abstinence from all substances	79%
% of clients participating in AA/NA mutual support groups as required by treatment Plan	100%
% of clients who make progress towards their employment goals	98%
% of clients will maintain custody of children.	100%

FY24 St. Josephine Bakhita program outcomes:

% of parents who participate in parenting education activities	100%
% of clients who maintain abstinence from all substances	93%
% of clients participating in AA/NA mutual support groups as required by treatment Plan	100%
% of clients who make progress towards their employment goals	100%
% of clients will maintain custody of children.	100%