



children's home + aid

THE LLOYD A. FRY FOUNDATION



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca  
metropolitan chicago



JUVENILE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Lloyd A. Fry Foundation Supports New Tri-Agency Collaborative Project Aimed at Improving Evaluation Practices in Children's Counseling Programs**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2011) - The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation has awarded a two-year grant of over \$100,000 to the Tri-Agency Collaborative, a joint project between Children's Home + Aid, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, and the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, to help the agencies improve evaluation practices in counseling programs for children in Chicago. With the support of the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, the Tri-Agency Collaborative is seeking to improve programmatic outcomes, measurement and evaluation of mental health programs run by the participating agencies.

Evaluating the success of mental health programs for children in community and school-based settings has historically been a challenge for social service providers, due to limited resources and obstacles related to accurately capturing the impact of counseling services on children. "Counseling services are inherently personal, individualized and subjective, making it hard to show the impact on children in an objective way" said Anne Barclay, Vice President of Clinical and Community Services at Children's Home + Aid. Sharing this common challenge, the members of the Tri-Agency Collaborative came together to try to find solutions they could share among themselves and other social service providers to improve the quality of services for Chicago's most vulnerable children.

Implementing appropriate outcomes measures, measurement tools and benchmarks requires a significant investment of resources – a significant challenge for agencies already facing reductions in funding for children's mental health services. "Foundations, corporations, and public agencies increasingly want to see measures of how effective and cost efficient mental health services are in order to provide or continue funding," said Dr. Stephen Budde of the Juvenile Protective Association, the consultant for the project selected by the Tri-Agency Collaborative, "paradoxically, these same organizations are largely uninterested in funding the work necessary to produce meaningful outcome measures. The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation had the foresight to provide financial support to a group of committed providers to help them build organizational capacity, through collaboration and consultation, to more thoughtfully and rigorously evaluate their programs."

"We are excited to support the Tri-Agency Collaborative as they seek to address systematic barriers that have been a hindrance to our mental health program grantees for many years," says Unmi Song, Executive Director of the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, "we hope that this dynamic partnership will have a significant impact on the way mental health providers evaluate their services, so that Chicago's children can benefit from the most effective, highest quality mental health services possible." The Tri-Agency Collaborative is confident that this significant investment from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation will help them achieve these goals.

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**About Children's Home + Aid**

Children's Home + Aid is a leading child and family service agency in Illinois. Each year, it protects, educates and counsels more than 40,000 children, youth and families to improve their lives. Since 1883, Children's Home + Aid has been a compassionate advocate helping to shape public policy in child welfare, early childhood and juvenile justice. Children's Home + Aid is recognized for establishing best practices and achieving outstanding results through its programs and services that focus on child abuse prevention, healthy child development and strengthening families.

For more information about Children's Home + Aid, visit [www.childrenshomeandaid.org](http://www.childrenshomeandaid.org)

**About the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation**

Across all of its funding areas, the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation's focus is on helping organizations: build capacity to enhance the quality of services and better assess the impact of programs; develop successful program innovations that other organizations in the field can learn from or adopt; and share knowledge so that information which can help low-income communities and individuals is widely and readily available.

Education, prosperity, and hope for all are the vision behind the Fry Foundation's grant making. They provide support to nonprofit organizations that have the strength and commitment to improve conditions for low-income, underserved Chicago residents.

For more information about the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, visit [www.fryfoundation.org](http://www.fryfoundation.org)

**About Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit social service agency whose mission is to bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities in need throughout Illinois, regardless of race, gender, age, ability to pay, and religious affiliation. LSSI began in 1867 when an orphanage was founded in Andover, Illinois for children whose parents were victims of a cholera epidemic. LSSI now provides programs in 44 communities across Illinois and served 69,000 people in FY2010. Nearly 90% of LSSI's clients live at or below the poverty line. LSSI's goal is to help clients help themselves in three life-changing ways: by improving their functioning, by strengthening their connection with families and communities, and by fostering their self-sufficiency.

For more information about LSSI, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org)

**About the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago and the RISE Children's Center**

Our mission to eliminate racism and empower women is actualized through a large breadth of programs and services. Regardless of race or economic status, the YWCA provides women with the support and tools they need to transform their lives, be confident in their choices and raise healthy families. The YWCA serves over 138,000 women, children and families annually through these programs. The RISE Children's Center provides child victims of sexual assault, age 3-17 and their significant others with immediate crisis services in order to minimize the impact of trauma. The goal of the services is to improve the functioning of clients and facilitate self-determination, empowering clients to become advocates for social change through a continuum of crisis intervention services designed to increase awareness of options.

For more information about the YWCA visit [www.ywcachicago.org](http://www.ywcachicago.org)

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