

Preserving Families

The Intact Family Services program works with families with indicated and unfounded reports of neglect or abuse determined by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS). The goal of the program is to ensure children can remain safely with their families while working with all parents to minimize the risk factors for abuse or neglect that brought the family to DCFS's attention.

The Importance of Solution Based Casework

Children's Home & Aid uses the Solution Based Casework (SBC) service model in our Intact Family Services program. SBC is an evidenced-informed casework practice model that prioritizes working in partnership with families, focuses on pragmatic solutions to difficult situations, and notices and celebrates change.¹

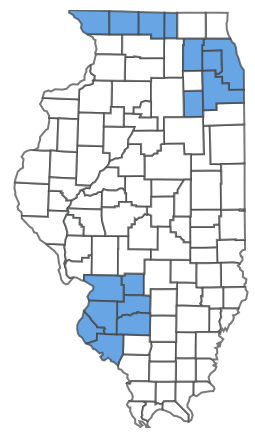
We work with families who are at the greatest risk – risk associated with trauma and adversity, socio-economic factors, systemic racism, inequity, isolation, and geographic service limitations. We believe that systems should work collaboratively to keep families together. In response, we work to empower and advocate for families, while helping families create systems of support that can help them find, maintain, and celebrate success.

Why these results matter

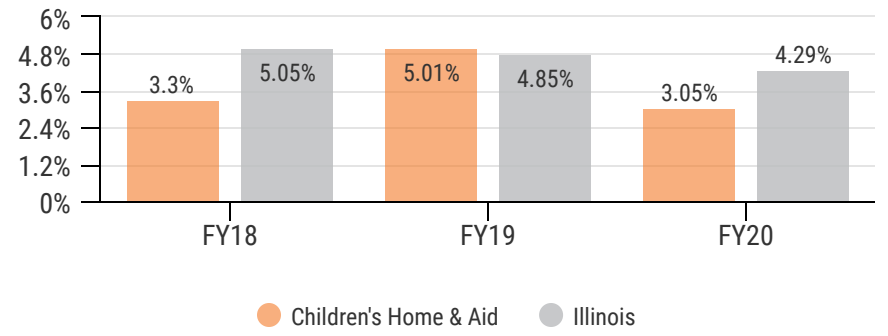
'The child welfare system frequently underestimates and undervalues the negative impact on a child who is removed from [their] family. Substantial evidence supports the notion that children suffer considerable trauma when they are separated from their parents.'² Research shows that emotional distress and later long-term issues such as aggression, depression and attachment issues can be attributed to children being separated from their parents.

Intact Family Services is designed to reduce and resolve the issues that brought families to the attention of DCFS so children can safely remain at home and not enter foster care. One measure of the impact of Intact Family Services is the number of families who do not have an additional indicated report of abuse or neglect within 12 months once they leave the program. 'Family preservation services, like Intact Family Services, grew out of the recognition that children need a safe and stable family and that separating children from their families is traumatic for them, often leaving lasting negative effects.'³

In FY20 Children's Home & Aid's Intact Family Services reached **2,026** children and youth from **848** families, across **16** counties in Illinois



Families with a Subsequent Indicated Case of Abuse or Neglect within 12 months



1. Van Zyl, Michiel A., et al. "Components of the Solution-Based Casework Child Welfare Practice Model That Predict Positive Child Outcomes." *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, vol. 8, no. 4, 2014, pp. 433-465., doi:10.1080/15548732.2014.939252.
 2. Shanta Trivedi, *The Harm of Child Removal*, 43 *New York University Review of Law & Social Change* 523 (2019)
 3. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/supporting/preservation/>
 4. Fuller, Tamara, et al. *Children & Family Research Center, 2020, Conditions of Children in or at Risk of Foster Care in Illinois.*