**Fund 184 Violence Prevention Grants (Legacy Programs)**

State Fund 184 supports the following Violence Prevention Grant programs (also known as Legacy Programs):

**Choose Respect**

**Choose Respect Illinois (CRI):** CRI is a three-year effort that promotes youth and adult partnerships in violence prevention to help youth ages 11-21 form healthy relationships to prevent dating abuse before it starts. This approach includes recruiting youth and young adults ages 14-21 and supportive adults who have been trained in the CRI Initiative to plan and implement their local activities with technical assistance from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the CRI Staff Team.

CRI is based on the national Choose Respect program that was developed by the Division of Violence Prevention of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This national effort is designed to motivate youth to challenge harmful beliefs about dating abuse and take steps to form respectful relationships. Choose Respect supports the development of respectful relationships by:

* Providing effective messages for youth, parents, caregivers, and teachers that encourage them to establish healthy and respectful relationships; and
* Creating opportunities for youth and communities to support healthy and respectful relationships.

CRI, building on the CDC model, was developed to accomplish the following strategic goals:

* Promote healthy relationships among teens;
* Engage youth leadership in violence prevention; and
* Conduct teen dating violence prevention and awareness activities.

CRI uses interactive learning tools, television and radio spots, and podcasts to support positive messages about respectful relationships. Other learning tools include the Playbook: A Toolkit for Making the Choose Respect Initiative Work in Your Community that contains over 30 activities and a 60-minute video, *Dating Matters*, designed to help educators, youth-serving organizations, and others working with teens understand the risk factors and warning signs associated with teen dating violence.

To promote community collaboration and reach youth in a variety of settings, each Choose Respect Illinois grantee is made up of an implementing agency and two partner sites that recruit youth to participate in the program and coordinate CRI activities.

**Choose Respect Technical Assistance:** Established in 2005, the Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention (ILAACP) is a statewide, membership-based charitable organization that strengthens prevention systems, policies, and programs in underserved communities through culturally-relevant research, training, and advocacy. Since 2008, ILAACP has provided technical assistance and program support for the Choose Respect Grant Program. ICJIA works collaboratively with ILAACP Choose Respect staff to plan and implement the two main grantee trainings and a minimum of four (4) webinars.

**Safe from the Start**

**The Safe from the Start (SFS)** Grant Program was initiated after national and local attention was focused on the issue of childhood exposure to violence. The SFS program implements and evaluates comprehensive and coordinated community models to identify and respond to primarily young children (ages 0-5) exposed to violence in the home or community. SFS Program consists of three major components, Coalition and Collaboration building; Direct Services and Public Awareness.

**Illinois Health Cares**

**Illinois Health Cares** is a statewide, multi-disciplinary effort that works to promote an improved health care response to domestic/intimate partner violence, elder abuse and sexual violence through policy reform, public health approaches, prevention efforts and systems change. Stakeholders are guided by the principle that collaborative work will result in an overall impact greater than the sum of what might be accomplished by entities working independently. The grantee coordinates the team of primary partners that will take the lead on the planning and implementation of the initiative. The team of primary partners must include, at a minimum:

* A community-based domestic, elder and/or sexual violence victim service program (as applicable)
* A local public health department
* At least one hospital
* At least one clinic or group practice

The primary partners collaborate to ensure the goals outlined below are accomplished. In addition, grantees coordinate an expanded community coalition comprised of a diverse group of additional health care providers and domestic, elder, and/or sexual violence advocates as applicable. The community coalition should provide support to the primary partners throughout the planning and implementation process, and promote the adoption of any products the initiative develops (e.g., policies, protocols, procedures, public education materials, and training modules). The community coalition represents the range of ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic characteristics of patients in the community, and the needs of domestic/elder/sexual violence victims (as applicable) of all ages and sexual orientations. The entire community coalition (primary partners and expanded coalition members) must meet on a quarterly basis, at a minimum.

**Collaborative**

There are three **Collaborative** programs. Details are provided below:

**1. Mental Health America of Illinois (MHAI)** is the Illinois Chapter of the national organization Mental Health America. Founded in 1909, MHAI has worked to promote mental health, prevent mental illnesses and improve the care and treatment of persons suffering from mental and emotional disorders.

The School and Community Assistance Team (SCAT) Project, developed by Mental Health America of Illinois in 1999, offers services that lessen the effects of emotional trauma on individuals and communities to help prevent further mental and emotional debilitation in the aftermath of a violent or other traumatic incidents. This is accomplished through a network of over 2,000 volunteers that include police officers, fire fighters, school teachers and administrators, emergency medical professionals, clergy, and mental health professions (such as licensed psychiatrists, psychologists. and social workers). SCAT Teams respond to approximately 25 crises annually across the state. Examples of crises include school shootings, gang incidents, suicides, and other non-violent incidents (such as tornados, car accidents and fires). In addition to recruiting and training volunteers along with maintaining a current volunteer database, other activities of the SCAT Project will include:

* Consulting with Illinois communities to develop appropriate and proactive crisis plans
* Educating individuals on crisis and trauma
* Disseminating educational materials about the role of mental health in crisis and trauma

**2. Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition (ICTC):** In 1987, a dedicated group of civic, business, community, academic, and philanthropic leaders established Voices for Illinois Children (Voices) to develop and promote strategies that improve conditions for all children throughout the state. As a privately funded organization, Voices seeks to educate opinion leaders and policymakers on all issues facing children and families. Over the years, Voices has grown into a powerful and well-respected advocate. Voices unites community leaders and people who care passionately about children into a statewide network that helps establish new policies and implements innovative programs to improve education, health care, and family economics. Voices serves as the fiscal agent for the Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition.

The Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition (ICTC) was convened in 2005 to promote the prevention and treatment of childhood trauma. Recognizing childhood trauma as a public health issue, ICTC brings approximately 65 organizations together (including public and private, clinical, research, advocacy and educational institutions) that are focused on increasing the use of trauma-informed practice and policies.

While it is assumed that children will have a normal, healthy development, ICTC focuses on the prevention and treatment of childhood trauma. ICTC describes childhood trauma by using the three e’s – event, experience and effect. A traumatic event happens, it feels threatening or frightening to a child and as a result, the child has long-term developmental, behavioral and physical health problems. Among other things, events can be things that happen once – like a natural disaster, an accident or being a victim of crime or chronic like physical abuse and neglect or it can include exposure to adverse events like domestic violence or substance abuse or violence in the community. One of the most difficult aspects of childhood trauma and its prevention is that some of these adverse and often violent events happen within families for generations.

ICTC increases the capacity of professionals to help trauma-affected children and their families.

* ICTC reaches over 1,000 people annually ongoing trainings, presentations, and workshops. These learning opportunities touch on a variety of topics related to trauma, including childhood exposure to violence and exposure to the juvenile justice system.
* The Stories Project is a collection of three DVDs that includes *Inside Him* (the story of a little boy who cannot express his upset feelings and is targeted at 3-5 year olds), *Clingy Thing* (the story of a little girl who clings to adults because she is scared and is targeted at 3-5 year olds) and *Mobile* (focuses on an infant’s reaction to the arguments she hears around her). These DVDs are culturally appropriate and include a board book to help start a discussion between professionals and families about trauma.

Develop a workforce which includes all individuals working with children and families that is trauma-informed

* ICTC has developed a list of core concepts that should be included in all curricula or training on childhood trauma. At the annual ICTC symposium in July 2013, a guide will be distributed to that guides professionals in approaching college and university administrators to including trauma in curricula for fields that work with children.

**3. Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP):** Children’s mental health is a major contributing factor in children’s risk for violence. Risk factors such as high emotional distress, early aggressive behavior, poor peer interaction skills, and frequent conflict in the family increase the likelihood that a child will become a perpetrator or a victim of violence. Therefore children’s mental health is essential in violence prevention.

In 2003, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Children’s Mental Health Act that created the Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership (Partnership). The Partnership was mandated to develop a plan to build a children’s mental health system in Illinois to provide comprehensive, coordinated mental health prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for children from birth through age 18. The Partnership’s Board has over 30 members from a variety of state agencies, mental health and youth serving agencies and several elected officials.

Much of the Partnerships’ work is done through eight committees and workgroups. These range from the Early Childhood Committee, which seeks to improve mental health of youth from birth to age five by providing mental health early intervention and treatment services, to the School Age Committee, which works to promote increased collaboration and partnerships between schools and school-based mental health programs, community mental health agencies, and juvenile justice agencies to promote social and emotional development in children and youth.