



Frequently Asked Questions about Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)

1. What does LSSI do?

LSSI is the largest statewide social service agency in Illinois. It is the social ministry organization of the three Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) synods in Illinois. Services and programs include:

- Foster Care
- Therapeutic Foster Care
- Family Support Services
- Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Treatment
- Home Care services that help seniors live independently
- Affordable senior housing
- Residential programs for people with developmental disabilities
- Programs that help incarcerated individuals remain connected to their children
- Employment skills school for returning citizens

For a full list, visit LSSI.org.

2. Where is LSSI located?

Our administrative offices are in Des Plaines, but LSSI offers dozens of programs at over 50 sites across the state.

3. How long has LSSI been around?

LSSI began in 1867 as an orphanage for children who lost their parents during a cholera epidemic. LSSI has been a leader in social services for over 155 years.

4. What is LSSI's mission?

Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.

5. Whom does LSSI serve?

- LSSI served over 50,000 people last year;
- LSSI is the largest provider of foster care in Illinois, serving children in 42 counties. Last year, 2,607 children were served through foster care placements.
- Last year, 1,447 residents received housing through LSSI's affordable housing programs serving seniors and adults with disabilities.

- 2,399 clients were treated for substance use disorder last year at LSSI's programs for alcohol and drug treatment.
- LSSI serves all people without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.

Download the LSSI Impact Statement at LSSI.org/ImpactStatement to learn more.

6. What role does the state of Illinois play in LSSI's services?

The state of Illinois contracts with LSSI to provide services to state residents, including children in foster care and people living with physical and developmental disabilities. LSSI provides services that promote dignity, enhance health and well-being, and help people reach their full potential. Your support helps make this quality care possible.

7. Does LSSI have affiliations with other organizations?

LSSI is the social service ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). It is a ministry partner of the three ELCA synods in Illinois: the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, the Northern Illinois Synod and the Central/Southern Illinois Synod.

8. How can I help LSSI?

Here are some of the ways you can expand your heart and help people served by LSSI programs:

- Become a foster parent
- Share from your abundance with a donation today
- Become a member of The Inspired, LSSI's monthly donors
- Remember LSSI in your will
- Pray for the people served by LSSI and for LSSI's staff
- Apply for a job with LSSI
- Sign up to receive LSSI's newsletter and emails
- Participate in LSSI's peer-to-peer fundraising events
- Become an advocate in your congregation for LSSI
- Designate LSSI for your Thrivent Choice Dollars
- Create a Thrivent Action Team to benefit LSSI
- Follow us on social media and share our posts on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube