

Impact Statement: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Mission Statement

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

Since 1867, LSSI has remained committed to serving the whole person, listening with empathy and compassion, even during times of pandemic. We continue to strive for safety while responding to our clients' needs at a time when our help is needed most.

The information below about our programs and the people LSSI served last year represents July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

The People LSSI Serves

- 38,000 children, adults, seniors, and families
- One in every 333 people in Illinois

By Income

71% below \$5,000
93% below \$25,000

By Age

- 30% of children served by LSSI's Children's Community Services were under 5
- 20% of people served by all programs were 25-34



“Whether you have a child in your house for a weekend or a lifetime, you are investing in them.”

—JOE PATERNOGA, LSSI FOSTER PARENT

Foster Care Services

As the largest provider of Foster Care Services in Illinois, we care for children who have been removed from their birth families due to abuse and/or neglect and place them with foster families who receive training and support from LSSI. Our primary goal is to help children find their forever home, either by reunification with birth families whenever possible or through adoption.

2,857 children were served through Foster Care placements.



Therapeutic Foster Care Program

LSSI provides specialized Therapeutic Foster Care through an evidence-based treatment program that places children with histories of severe trauma and emotional/behavioral needs into single-family homes rather than institutional settings.

Since May 2017, we have enrolled 78 youth in LSSI's Therapeutic Foster Care Program, and 41 have successfully completed the program. The initial outcomes from the 5-year pilot of this program show 71% of kids successfully achieving their treatment goals.



Affordable Housing

For older adults and people over age 18 with disabilities, LSSI provides affordable housing at 20 housing sites throughout Illinois. A Social Service Coordinator is available at every site to assist residents.

LSSI provided affordable housing to 1,456 residents with an annual income between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

Intact Family Services

Designed to stabilize, strengthen, enhance, and preserve family life by enabling children to remain safely at home, Intact Family Services works with families who have come to the attention of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

1,269 families were enrolled in this program.



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

—MATTHEW 25:35-40 (NIV)

Mental Health Services

LSSI's Welcoming Center is a safe, walk-in emergency department alternative for people experiencing behavioral health symptoms like anxiety, depression, bi-polar disorder, substance use, and post-traumatic stress. Project IMPACT (Immediate Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team) uses a creative wrap-around behavioral health model with trained counselors available 24 hours a day, every day, to help people experiencing a behavioral, psychiatric, or addiction crisis. LSSI's Step-Up School-Based Counseling Services partners with 64 Chicago Public Schools to provide mental health care for grammar and high school-age students.



Alcohol and Drug Treatment

LSSI provides a full continuum of targeted Alcohol and Drug Treatment for individuals, beginning with medically assisted detox through residential care and transitional housing.

LSSI served 2,288 clients with alcohol/drug challenges.

People with Disabilities

LSSI guides each client age 18 or older with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities toward a plan to live successfully in their community. Our person-centered services at 25 locations across the state range from residential to community-based living and include programming at our Shady Oaks Developmental Training Center.



Prisoner and Family Ministry

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority granted LSSI's reentry program funding in 2021 as part of the R3: Restore, Reinvest, Renew grant program, which funds programs in Illinois communities that have been harmed by violence, excessive incarceration, and economic disinvestment. This has allowed LSSI to hire an additional program coordinator for the **Employment Skills School** and offer more classes.

Visits to Mom – Over the past 12 years, LSSI provided transportation to over 5,000 children and 2,800 caregivers to visit a parent who is incarcerated.

Storybook Project – From June 2019 through March 2020, 3,703 children received books from their incarcerated parents through 67 events held by volunteers at correctional centers throughout the state.

Both Visits to Mom and the Storybook Project have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. LSSI looks forward to the eventual resumption of these programs.