



# **2024 Illinois Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR)**

## **Addendum A-2**

**SUPPLEMENTAL CAPTA FUNDING  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING**

**Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
Submitted June 30, 2023**

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING

### Supplemental CAPTA Funding (American Rescue Plan Act)

*As part of the state's 2024 Annual CAPTA Report Update:*

- *Provide an update on the state's use to date and planned use of the supplemental funding provided through ARPA.*
- *Describe how the state has engaged with families, community-based agencies or other partners to plan for the use of funds and how issues of equity are informing the planned use of the funds.*
- *Describe any barriers or challenges the state has experienced in being able to access or use the supplemental funds.*

*To facilitate ongoing communication between CB and states on issues relating to CAPTA and child abuse, please submit the name, address, and email for the state CAPTA coordinator (also known as the State Liaison Officer) or where this information can be found on the state website*

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan. This law included \$100 million in supplemental funding for CAPTA, with Illinois receiving an estimated allotment of \$3,821,789 (to be obligated by September 30, 2025).

The Department has spent this past year conducting a gap analysis, methodically reviewing with management, programs, administrative services, and child protection services where the great needs existed and with an eye to the elevation of diversity, inclusion, and equity. Programs are scheduled to be funded in the two upcoming plan years and are closely aligned with our initial 'wish list' provided in last year's report:

- **Plans of Safe Care:** Department will fund a project manager.
- **Improved Tracking for Dually Involved Youth:** DCFS will utilize funds to focus additional support and to enhance interagency collaboration between the child protection system and the juvenile justice system for improved delivery of services and treatment (including continuity of treatment plan and services). DCFS will utilize funds to improve the current tracking and reporting system of dually involved youth.
- **Race Equity Training for the Department and CWCA Staff**
  - Race equity training has been mandated for the agency. Potential to expand the original audience of DCFS staff to also include CWCA staff for a total of 7,000 participants across the state.
  - There are potential facilitators (e.g., same university on-demand training as the mandatory LGBTQI+ but a module focused on race equity)
- **Permanency Enhancement Project**
  - Through university partners and Community Action Teams, funds would be used for permanency goals (reunification, timely placement, timely exit)
  - \$150k per Community Action Team will be considered for FY23.
- **DCFS Policy Review**
  - Securing an outside contractor to review all existing policies through an equity lens.
- **DEI Initiatives**
  - Asian American Services
    - Asian American populations for DCFS child abuse prevention and resource seminars
    - Stipend for data analyst intern to review and analyze demographic data of youth in care, mapping of high Asian language needs in Illinois to assist with bilingual hiring
  - African American Services
    - Budget to take diverse randomly selected staff, foster parents and youth to cultural experiences and activities throughout the State and utilize those experiences for workshop conversations.
    - Budget to hire through grant funds 2 data analysis staff dedicated to DEI work.

- Budget for DEI to sponsor cultural days throughout the State at various field offices, administrative offices (all DCFS regions) at least once a year for each field office.
- **Indian Child Welfare Act Services (ICWA)**
  - DEI unit to host community wide events for Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week in May
  - Funds available for tribes who need assistance being able to motion to intervene in court
- **LGBTQI+ Services**
  - Secure Grant to protect homeless LGBTQI Youth (Homeless Prevention Services)
  - LGBTQI DCFS Expanded Gateway Services Youth in Care and Non-Youth in Care (Location for youth to have a safe space)
- **Latino Services**
  - Hotline support for Spanish-speaking youth-in-care to contact when they can’t get a hold of their caseworker
  - Bilingual resources in Spanish
  - Data collection

DCFS is working on several additional initiatives to expand/enhance staff and services to the Spanish Speaking communities and to recruit staff for DCFS and partner agencies.

- Loyola has international interns from Mexico and other Spanish speaking nations. These interns are bilingual (Spanish/English) and very proficient in both languages. They are talented in various fields, primarily communication. Loyola would like to place interns within DCFS to assist with communications and related matters.
- A second initiative relates to offering access to the Loyola Online, bilingual MSW program for DCFS employees (perhaps also to the staff of our Child Welfare Contributing Agency - CWCA). Loyola is applying for a grant that would provide a \$10,000 stipend to workers/students. Loyola has requested a letter of commitment that would guarantee a certain size cohort of students each semester. DCFS is not able to provide this guarantee of a certain size of cohort. Details need to be worked out.
- A third initiative involves reaching out to Loyola Social Work students to recruit them to work with DCFS. We (DCFS) would be eager to send recruiters to Loyola for such an effort.

## **CONTACTING DCFS**

**Leslie S. Rice**

Chief Accountability Officer

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

1911 South Indiana Avenue, 1051G

Chicago, Illinois 60616

Desk Phone: (312) 328-2953

State Cell: (312) 877-2947