

Illinois DCFS University Partnerships Program



Thinking about a career in Illinois child welfare after graduation?

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) University Partnership (UP) Program is a unique collaboration between the DCFS Office of Learning and Professional Development (OLPD) and Illinois colleges and universities that offer social work and related human services degree programs.

The UP Program offers child welfare courses that utilize the DCFS Placement/Permanency Foundation Training curriculum. These courses are available to students who are pursuing a bachelor's, master's or post-graduate degree and want an expedited path to gaining employment in a direct service role at DCFS or a Child Welfare Contributing Agency (CWCA) after graduation.

Successful completion of the UP Program will allow UP graduates to be eligible for the Illinois Child Welfare Employee License (CWEL), which is required to be employed as a child welfare specialist (caseworker) or supervisor.

The purpose of the program is to equip and develop the child welfare workforce in Illinois by providing an opportunity for students to gain more knowledge about a career in Illinois child welfare and learn how they can positively impact the lives of vulnerable children, youth and families.

Participating colleges and universities:

University Partnership Program courses are currently being offered in over 15 colleges and universities throughout Illinois. *Please click* or scan the QR code below for a list of participating schools.



Need help or want to know more?

Contact:
DCFS Office of Learning and Professional Development
DCFS.internships@illinois.gov



<https://dcfs.illinois.gov/brighter-futures/independence/dcfsaip.html>

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