

OCSE Child Access & Visitation Program

Name of State: Illinois

Part I: Contact Information

- Name of State Program Contact Joseph Mason
- Name of Designated State Agency Illinois Department of Public Aid
Division of Child Support Enforcement
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- City, State, & Zipcode Springfield, Illinois 62763
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Part II: Statistical Profile

- Total no. of minor children under 18 years
Of age living with one biological parent
(1990 U.S. Census data) 879,600

Part III: Previous and Current Year Funding Levels

	<u>Federal \$ Grant</u>	<u>State \$ Match</u>	and	<u>Percentage</u>
• FFY 1997	\$ 449,673	\$ 49,964		10%
• FFY 1998	\$ 449,673	\$ 49,964		10%
• FFY 1999	\$ 398,699	\$ 44,300		10%
• FFY 2000	\$ 398,699	\$ 44,300		10%

Part IV: Summary of State's Proposed Use of FFY 2000 Grant Funds

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Process for Awarding Funds:		
• Request for Proposals (new & continuation)		
• New only		
• Continuation only	X	
• Other _____		

Time of Year RFP's are Issued and/or Funding Decisions Are Made:
 Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring _____ Summer _____

Award of Funds: Grants _____ Contracts _____ Cooperative Agreements _____

Targeted Priority Areas:

• Mediation			
voluntary	Yes	_X_	No _____
mandatory	Yes	_____	No _____
• Counseling	Yes	_X_	No _____
• Education	Yes	_X_	No _____
• Parenting Plans	Yes	_X_	No _____
• Visitation Enforcement			
monitoring	Yes	_X_	No _____
supervision	Yes	_X_	No _____
neutral drop-off/pick-up	Yes	_X_	No _____

• **Development of Guidelines**

Visitation	Yes <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>
Alternative custody arrangements	Yes <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>

Summary Narrative: Proposed Use of FFY 2000 Funds

Illinois approach has been to work with the domestic relations courts to develop programs that provide support and facilitate non-custodial parents access and visitation with their children via three specific projects via three specific projects. The projects, which will continue to be supported via the FFY 2000 Child Access grant, are as follows:

1. The Parents and Kids in Partnership (PAK) project is located in Dupage County and the result of a collaboration between the Dupage Domestic Relations Court and the Dupage Department of Human Resources Psychological Services. This program goal is to reach out to the nontraditional family by providing three key services:
 - a) Parenting Education. The Pak educational seminar provides free three hour, one time parent education seminars. Parents are encouraged to set aside their personal differences and to develop a "business-like" parenting relationship that keeps children out of parental conflict. Basic skills for conflict resolution are also provided.
 - b) Mediation is the second key service provided to the families. This service is available in court each morning to provide immediate remedy for dispute visitation issues. The families are provided the opportunity to enter a mutually agreed upon visitation plan on the same day of the mediation. PAK also allows for additional sessions outside court, when needed.

- c) Supervised Visitation is the third service that is made available to parents. It establishes, reestablishes or maintains a relationship between the non-custodial parent and his/her child. This happens through a court order or through an agreement in mediation.
 2. Family in Focus project is located in Cook County (Chicago) and the result of a collaboration between the Domestic Relations Court and the Marriage and Family counseling Service. This project also has three key services that they provide to never-married families.
 - a) Court Facilitation. The goal of court facilitation is to provide services to pro se litigants in the parentage court who are receiving child support services. The process assists parents in reaching a settlement of their visitation issues. Court facilitation is used to prepare and enter parenting plans agreed orders. For example, judges identify families in need of a settlement conference and refer them to on-site attorneys who, through the use of negotiation and mediation techniques, assist the parents in reaching an agreement.
 - b) Supervised Visitation is the second service provided by the Family in Focus Program. When a judge determines that a child may be at risk either emotionally or physically from a non-custodial, never-married parent, the family is referred to supervised visitation.
 - c) Parent Education is the third service offered to never-married parents appearing before the court on child support and visitation matters. The classes are offered on weekends, Saturdays and evenings to provide parents with every opportunity to participate.
 3. The Visitation Center is the most recent of the projects that was funded via the child Access and Visitation Grant. The center is located in Peoria County and is a collaboration between the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court of Illinois and the Bradley University's Departments of Social work and Educational Leadership and Human Development. This program provides never-married parents with a safe and emotionally healthy place for visits and/or exchanges.

Part V: Projects Funded by States with FFY 98 OCSE Dollars

Grantee Name, Address & Phone Number	Amount of Award & Services Provided	Number of Parents Served:		
		Total #	# fathers	# mothers
1. Educational Transition Visitation & Supervision Center, Peoria county Courthouse (309) 672-6930	Education, development of parenting plans, development of guidelines for visitation enforcement	14	7	7
2. Marriage & Family Counseling Service Family & Focus (Circuit Court of Cook County) 69 W. Washington, Chicago (312) 603-1587	Visitation enforcement, development of parenting plans, development of guidelines for visitation & custody arrangements	345	184	151
3. PAK Human Resources Psychological Service				
4.				
5.				

Participant Data: Part A
(by income and marital status)

Grantee Name & Program Title	Average Annual Income		Parent Participation Rates:		
			divorced	separated	unwed
Educational 1. Transition Visitation & Supervision Center	Less \$10,000	30%	33%	8%	59%
	\$10-19,000	38%			
	\$20-29,000	32%			
2. Family & Focus (Circuit Court of Cook County)	Less \$10,000	18%	2%		98%
	\$10-19,000	23%			
	\$20-29,000	17%			
	\$30-39,000	11%			
	\$40K & Above	28%			
3. PAK Program					
4.					
5.					
6.					

Participant Data: Part B
(by race/ethnicity)

Grantee Name	<u>RACIAL / ETHNIC BREAKOUT:</u>						
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American	Pacific Islander	
1. Educational Transition Visitation & Supervision Center	58%	33%	9%				
2. Family & Focus (Circuit Court of Cook County)	11%	55%	27%		2%		
3. PAK Program							
4.							
5.							
6.							

Don't Know _____

Other, _____

Sources of Client Referral

GRANTEE							
Agency	Self-Referral	TANF	Child Welfare	Child Support	Social Services	Courts	Private
Educational 1. Transition Visitation & Supervision Center	X			X	X	X	X
2. Family & Focus (Circuit Court of Cook County)						X	
3. PAK Program							
4.							
5.							
6.							