



CACI

Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois

ANNUAL REPORT FY21

Powered
by
Unity &
Diversity



Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

What a year it has been for the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois! This past year has pushed and pulled us in many directions and has kept us on our toes. The ability to change and to be flexible is now our way of doing business. We continue our work by providing strong leadership and delivering the highest quality services. We are essential in the fight against child abuse and maltreatment, and we won't and can't stop. This past year, during a global pandemic, we served 14,210 kids: a 13% increase over the previous year.

The Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois is **Powered by Unity and Diversity**. We are better and stronger together, speaking with one voice, and learning from our differences as much as our similarities. We know that Illinois is a diverse state: geographically, culturally, racially, economically, and politically. These differences sometimes lead to divides in our everyday life. They also can lead to greater empathy, understanding, and alternate ways of thinking and responding. I have seen this phenomenon over and over in this past year in our work. Although conflict often gets much more attention, I have witnessed a great deal of unity and a shared vision from our membership, multi-disciplinary partners, statewide stakeholders, legislators, and the community. I have continued to be inspired by what we can do and not be defined by our challenges. If any good has come from this awful pandemic, it is the understanding that we are all connected.

The importance of Unity and Diversity is the basis of the CAC model. Each of the MDT professionals (law enforcement, child protection, mental health and medical providers, advocates, forensic interviewers, and prosecutors) bring their own expertise to the table with one giant purpose: keeping kids safe and helping them and their families heal from the trauma of child abuse.

More than ever, I am proud of the work of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois and each of the 40 individual CACs that serve Illinois children and families. CACI continues to grow and thrive. For this, I thank our Board of Directors, the CACI staff, our membership, our funders, and so many others for putting your trust in our hands. Most of all, I thank the families we serve and the community for putting your trust in the CAC model. We will continue to stretch, grow, and learn to best meet your needs.

As you're looking through this report, please remember that the numbers we share are actual children. They need your support and support can come in a variety of ways: a simple share of child abuse awareness information on social media, individual or company financial contributions to CACI, or involving your business or corporation in child abuse awareness efforts. Most importantly though, please listen to and champion the children in your lives. They are counting on you.

Thank you for your continued interest in the work of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois.

Kim Mangiaracino
Executive Director, CACI

About CACI

Established in 1995, CACI is the network that coordinates and provides a comprehensive response to child abuse in Illinois. As the leading resource on child abuse issues, CACI stays abreast of the latest research in child abuse, as well as the most child-friendly approaches in investigation and treatment of child abuse.



Mission

To support and sustain Illinois' Children Advocacy Centers through leadership in Resource Development, Education and, Collaboration.

Vision

The need of children and families are paramount in the public health response to child abuse and Illinois CACs and MDTs are valued and essential partners in that effort.

Children Served at Illinois CACs

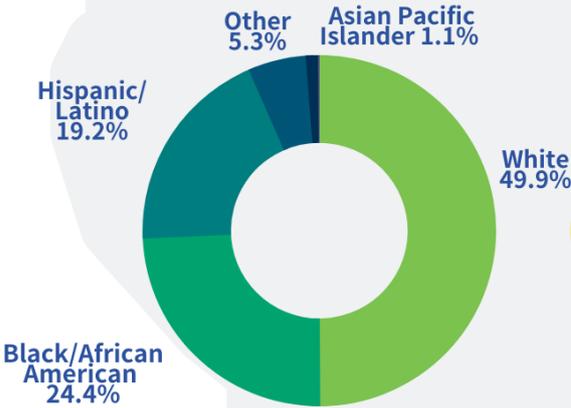
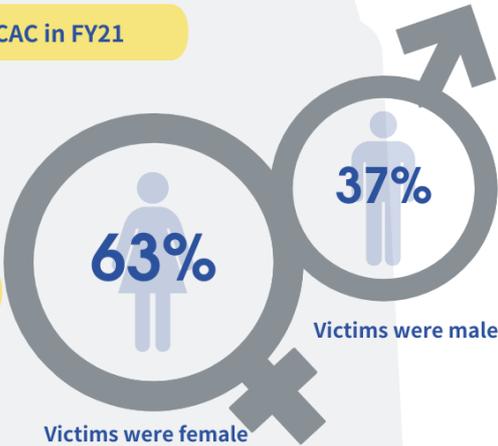
FY21 BY THE NUMBERS



14,210

Children were served at CAC in FY21

Female children report far more abuse than males

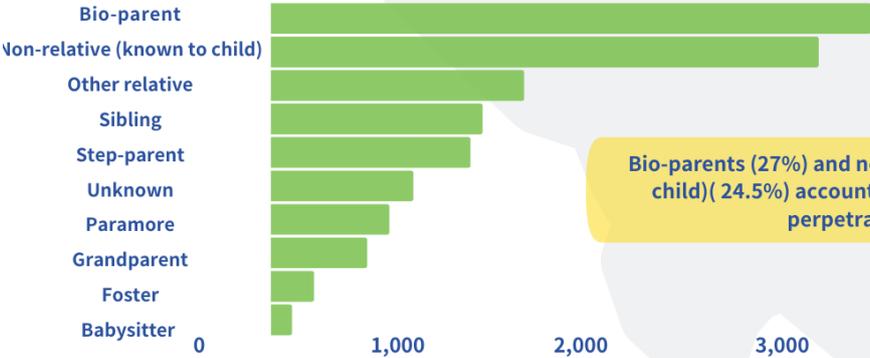


Caucasian children report the majority of abuse

Victims per age group



Number of cases per perpetrator



Bio-parents (27%) and non-relative (known to child) (24.5%) account for the majority of perpetrators.



CACI Impact on CACs

CACI is a membership-based, nationally accredited state chapter of the National Children's Alliance (NCA). Accreditation standards include:

- **Organizational Capacity:** CACI implements sound administrative practices in both programming and fiscal operations.
- **Membership:** CACI works with its members to collect and provide vital statistical information. CACI provides services that support and encourage its members to meet and exceed the 10 standards required for their national accreditation.
- **Training and Technical Assistance:** CACI provides training and program support to developing and existing Children's Advocacy Centers throughout Illinois.
- **Legislative Advocacy:** CACI works collaboratively with its membership and partner agencies to advocate for and oppose new laws that will support and protect child victims of abuse and their families.

"I appreciate what you are doing for all of us. There are so many things we cannot do from individual centers that you are in a position to help with. Thank you!"

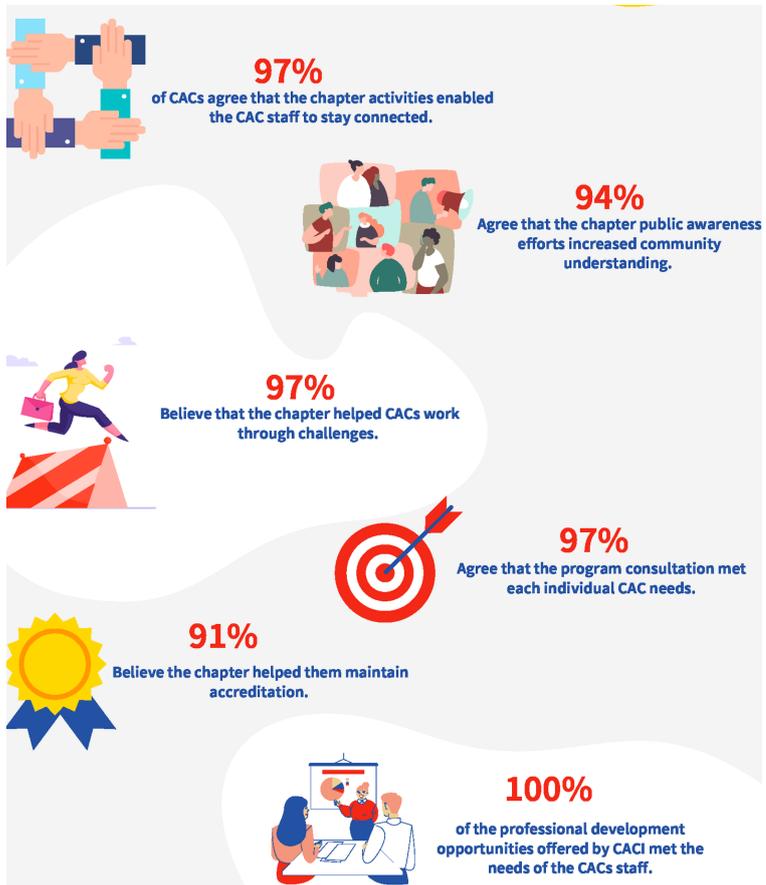
"Our CAC appreciates the work the Chapter invests in each CAC. The comprehensive support available has a positive impact on each CAC and plays a role in helping to create a safer community for those we serve. Without the Chapter and all the dedication to our mission, our clients would not have the vital services necessary to transform their lives from victims to survivors. Thank you for supporting what we do!"

"I have been extremely happy with the direction that CACI has taken the last several years and I always appreciate the honesty that comes from all staff."



**Brooke Ferber, Executive Director
Vermilion County CAC**

"Vermilion County Child Advocacy Center is a brand-new organization that struggled to open during the pandemic of 2020. I was hired May 19, 2021. With the tremendous help of CACI staff, my mentor Billie Larkin, and my board chair Vermilion County State's Attorney Jacqueline Lacy, we were able to get established as a 501C3 non-profit, secure funding, remodel a new office space, and purchase the furniture and recording systems needed for operation. Every week CACI Executive Director, Kim Mangiaracino and other staff of CACI hold a New Director's meeting to answer questions, explain procedures and guide us in the right direction for success. Our center's first forensic interview was held on July 1, 2021! CACI staff continue to provide support and each CAC can also reach out to other centers for help. The CAC's of Illinois are very helpful to staff, centers and clients! We work together to make sure every center is effective so the children receive the services they deserve."



Legislative Policy Advocacy

CACI served on and meets quarterly with the Illinois Children's Justice Task Force, which is a multidisciplinary, legislatively mandated advisory group that is charged with making recommendations to DCFS directed at improving investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse cases in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim.

Participated as a member of the SASETA (Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act) implementation Task Force which helps address systematic healthcare issues impacting child and adult victims of sexual assault.

Collaborated with the National Children's Alliance in the effort to secure the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Illinois CACs championed this cause with continuous outreach to state and federal partners and legislators throughout this past year. The VOCA fix was passed and signed by the president on July 22, 2021, ensuring the stabilization of this important funding stream.

Lead & Coordinated the efforts on:

HB 3461 - *awaiting Governor's signature*

This law will strengthen and mandate Erin's Law for all K-12 students in Illinois. There is a focus on educating school personnel and parents in recognizing and reporting child abuse. Updated training focuses on grooming behaviors, which aims to reduce educator misconduct.

HB3462/Public Act 102-0477

Amends the Bill of Rights for Children and provides that every child reported to the Department of Children and Family Services or law enforcement to be a victim of sexual abuse has the right to have that child's forensic interview conducted by a forensic interviewer from a children's advocacy center.



Carrie Cohan,
Executive Director
Madison County CAC

"Over the past few years, CACI's legislative efforts have organized and provided many new opportunities for Centers and our collective movement within the State and Nation. There is communication and training on the legislative process available for all Center Directors. Centers can listen and learn, take a leadership role, and/or learn different ways to communicate with legislators and the legislative process. The addition of a lobbyist added new insight, connections and relationship building, communication and tracking, and movement of important issues forward. Legislative efforts through CACI allow the CAC movement to have greater impact, develop expertise in the community, ensure funding and sustainability, and ensure all children receive the best possible services."

Outcome Measurement System (OMS)

The OMS program gives families and multidisciplinary team (MDT) members a voice in the CAC process by gathering feedback on satisfaction with procedures, as well as short-term and longer-term outcomes of the CAC/MDT model. Effective collection practices allow CACs to provide this opportunity broadly and efficiently, increasing the scope of the feedback to then use for program improvement purposes.

OMS: Initial Visit & Follow Up Caregiver Survey



94.7%

Feel the center staff provided them with resources to support their child and respond to his or her needs in the days and weeks ahead.



92.8%

Feel they know what to expect with the situation facing their child and themselves after visiting a CAC.

I feel I have received information that has helped me understand how I can best keep my child safe in the future.



If I knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one my family faced, I would tell that person about the Center.

95.3%

Agree

"Since our visit our daughter is on a better path with the help of the Center and her therapist. Thank you for all of the help, we will never be able to repay you all!"

"Everybody was very kind, patient and understanding. They explained everything in great detail."

"I'm just very thankful for their help. If they didn't do what they did, my son would very likely be hurt again. It was a traumatic time, but the center lent stability and care and support. Thank you."

OMS Youth Feedback Survey

Youth surveyed about their experiences at a CACs received 431 surveys from children ranging in age from 7-17.

"It is somewhere I can calm down and tell people things I wouldn't talk with anyone else about."

"I felt not judged."

"They help me feel safe."

"The thing that I liked about the center is that they were very helpful. Another thing that I liked was that they were very caring, helpful, and kind. They made sure I was comfortable. Something that I loved about the center was that the place was a house, and it was very home like. The last thing that I loved about the center was the people because they were so nice and loving."

"I liked that [the staff] listened and I liked the dogs."

OMS Multidisciplinary Team

"I cannot say enough positive things about the CAC in Peoria, IL. The employees are respectful, knowledgeable & approachable. The services provided are exceptionally valuable to my community and I am grateful to be involved with this agency."

"The CAC has been a great resource for information and problem solving."

CACI Training

CACI is committed to promoting excellence in Illinois CACs through leadership, education and collaboration; providing training opportunities to strengthen CACs and multi-disciplinary partners, in accordance with the best practices and NCA standards for accreditation, which result in better service to Illinois children and their families.

- Advocate Trainings
- Forensic Interviewing
- Leadership Development
- Multi-Disciplinary Team Coordinator Trainings
- Multi-Disciplinary Trainings
- Mental Health
- Prosecutor Training

"With the CACI's trainings, resources and expertise, keeping a smooth running case review and MDT has been obtainable. I have reflected on CACI training materials, and acquired good feedback from other MDT Coordinators during MDT Round Tables. I especially appreciate that the experts at CACI are available to discuss MDT concerns and able to provide guidance when needed."

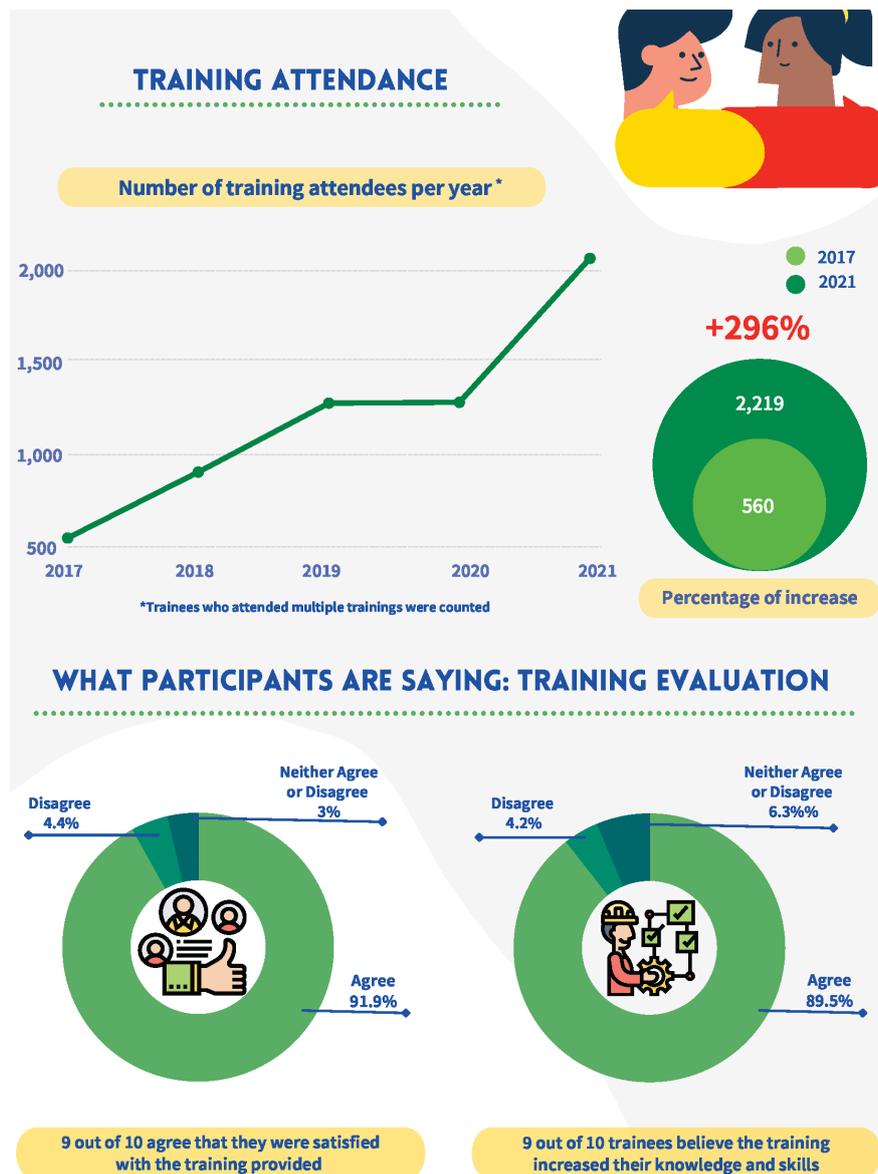


Diane Heath
Advocate
April House CAC

Ivette Nodal
Bilingual Trauma Therapist
Will County CAC



"While navigating the many changes and challenges brought forth from this pandemic, CACI continuously provided our therapy team with an abundance of support. This included peer support groups, monthly supervision, and many valuable virtual trainings. CACI ensured that we stayed connected and supported from the very beginning. All of this provided me with additional tools to continue enhancing my clinical skills, the opportunity to offer clients a variety of therapeutic modalities to best fit their needs, and further knowledge on best practices via telehealth."



Responding to COVID

COVID Relief Funds

During FY2021, CACI was awarded \$904,575 in federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funds (CESF) to pass through to the CACs to help maintain services, either in person or virtually, in a safe manner during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Examples of items funded:

- PPE, disinfectants, air purifiers, sanitizing and cleaning supplies
- Plexiglass shields
- Updated technology and supplies for staff to work remotely and clients to receive services virtually
- Recording systems and servers
- Video conferencing equipment and subscriptions
- Operating expenses normally funded with fundraising and unrestricted funds

Teleservices Support

How we supported kids and families

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many CACs transitioned some of their in-person services to virtual using technology to keep children and families safe while still providing them with the help that they need.

Tele-Mental Health: Using technology to deliver mental health treatments.

Tele-Victim Advocacy: Navigating criminal justice processing and connecting families with resources.

Tele-Forensic Interviews: Research supports that a trained forensic interviewer can conduct a court admissible tele interview of a child through practice and training.

How we supported CACs and MDTs

- **Round Table** networking opportunities were offered to connect and learn from one another.
- **Training;** additional opportunities were provided to build practices off research-based principles for improving tele practices.
- **Research articles** and **and sample documentation** were distributed regularly to assist in supporting the professionals conducting these services.
- **Ask the Expert Sessions** - Joseph Kurland, MPH, CIC, who is a certified infection preventionist at Children's Minnesota, provided 7 virtual sessions to provide the most up-to-date information to CAC staff to continue to deliver services during the pandemic. Participants had opportunities to network with other CACs and ask questions that assisted them in maintaining a safe and healthy environment. CACI planned and arranged these training opportunities with the support of our friends at Midwest Regional CAC.



Jill Mann,
Executive Director,
Knox County CAC

"Having the CESF grant money has been incredibly helpful to our center. This money has helped us to purchase supplies to keep our center as COVID free as possible in these uncertain times. CACI was incredibly helpful in setting up and communicating to us how we could receive and use these funds. Their staff was a great support for us as we navigated all we needed to do. With our funds we purchased a UV light to disinfect the rooms, and multiple items to disinfect surfaces. With the price of disinfectant sprays & wipes increasing due to shortages we would not have been able to afford all we needed. CESF funds also helped us to be able to work from home which reduced exposure for our staff so we could do our best to stay healthy. We were able to purchase laptops & work with IT services to ensure no interruption of services. Without these extra funds we absolutely would have been even more worried & stressed about how to stay safe and healthy & how to keep our CAC clients and families safe when they are in our office."



Sarah Wrehl
Executive Director
Tazewell County CAC

"Due to Covid-19, our CAC has been unable to have our annual Trivia Night fundraiser for two years. Sadly, the inability to host our large fundraising event has resulted in an annual revenue loss of approximately \$21,000. Funds raised at our annual event assists in funding our crisis counseling program. The Corona Virus Supplement Funds helped to fill in the funding gap for our vital counseling program. Without the additional funds, our CAC would not be able to provide the high quality counseling services the victims need and deserve."

Financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES		STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021			
SUPPORT & REVENUE		ASSETS	
GRANTS	\$ 9,250,416	CASH	\$ 116,683
MEMBERSHIP DUES	36,828	RECEIVABLES	1,518,272
FUNDRAISING	19,920	FIXED ASSETS, NET	5,716
TRAINING/OTHER INCOME	91,253	TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,640,671
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$ 9,398,416	LIABILITIES	
EXPENSES		ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & ACCRUED EXP.	\$ 1,607,935
PASS-THRU GRANTS	\$ 8,272,021	NOTE PAYABLE	29,732
CACI EXPENSES	1,110,377	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,637,667
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,382,398	NET ASSETS	
The financial statements presented have not been audited and finalized numbers are subject to change. These statements are to be used for informational purposes only.		NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	\$ (13,014)
		CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	16,018
		NET ASSETS, END	\$ 3,004
		TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 1,640,671

Our Public Partners and Supporters

The Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois is thankful for our many partners & donors supporting our mission.

Donations help CACI ensure that children receive excellent care. We strengthen our children's advocacy centers, train first responders, fill gaps in services, invest in prevention, and advocate fiercely.



Midwest Regional
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER



Our Public Partners and Supporters



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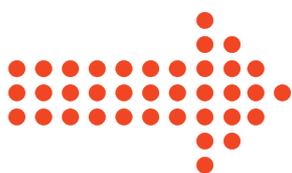
Cara Vock

Kathleen Ward

Amanda Wells

Michael Williams

Thomas Yaxley



THANK
YOU



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Executive
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Kenny Matthews,
Chief Financial
Officer



Cara A. Vock,
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& Membership
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Coordinator



**Michael
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VOCA Grant
Programmatic
Monitor



Kathy Murphy,
VOCA Fiscal
Grant Monitor



Ya'Shika Reed,
Training and
Prevention
Specialist

*Joining our
team in FY22*



Hanane Bousfoul,
Data and Communications
Specialist

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Northern Region

- April House
- Braveheart Children's Advocacy Center
- Carrie Lynn Children's Center
- Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County
- Child Network
- Dani-Brandon Center for Children
- Family Service Agency
- J. Nicarico Children's Advocacy Center
- Kane County Child Advocacy Center
- Kendall County Children's Advocacy Center
- Lake County Children's Advocacy Center
- Mercer County Children's Advocacy Center
- Rock Island Co. Children's Advocacy Cnt.
- Shining Star Children's Center
- Tyler's Justice Center for Children
- Will County Children's Advocacy Center

Cook County Region

- All Our Children's Advocacy Center
- Chicago Children's Advocacy Center
- Children's Advocacy Center N & NW Cook
- LaRabida Children's Advocacy Center
- Proviso Children's Advocacy Center

Central Region

- Advocacy Network for Children
- Champaign Co. Children's Advocacy Center
- Children's Advocacy Center of McLean Co.
- Children's Advocacy Center of E. Cent. Il.
- Fulton-Mason Crisis Service Center
- Knox County Children's Advocacy Center
- Peoria County Children's Advocacy Center
- Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center
- Tazewell County Children's Advocacy Cnt.
- The Child 1st Center
- Unified Child's Advocacy Network Center
- Vermilion Co. Children's Advocacy Center

Southern Region

- Amy Schulz Child Advocacy Center
- Franklin-Williamson Child Advocacy Center
- Madison County Child Advocacy Center
- Perry-Jackson Child Advocacy Center
- St. Clair County Child Advocacy Center
- The Guardian Center, Inc.
- Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center

