

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Partners in Mental Health Quarterly Impact Brief



July 2025

Impact Brief Overview

Illinois continues to advance critical legislation and community-based responses to address the growing mental health needs of children and adolescents. This policy brief outlines recent legislative updates, program initiatives, and service delivery strategies to support mental wellness and safety across the state.

Community Voices: Pathways Testimonials

Clients and caregivers involved in the Pathways community-based programs report feeling more supported, empowered, and safe through wraparound services. Youth shared improvements in emotional regulation and school attendance, and caregivers expressed appreciation for flexible supports like respite, safety planning, and therapeutic tools.

About FSA

We are a private, not-for-profit agency offering services to children, adolescents, and adults of all ages. The goal of Family Service Association is to strengthen individuals and families so that they can meet the challenges of modern life in positive and constructive ways. Founded in 1931, the organization has grown to a multi-service agency currently serving more than 2,000 clients annually.

Legislative Updates

- **House Bill 1879 (2025 Amendment):**
 - Expands Medicaid coverage for school-based mental health services, allowing reimbursement for licensed mental health professionals operating within educational settings. This bill strengthens continuity of care and ensures access to trauma-informed services in schools.
- **House Bill 1588 (Children's Behavioral Health Transformation)**
 - Streamlines behavioral health services for youth by creating a centralized intake and referral system and expanding community-based mobile crisis response teams. The bill emphasizes early intervention and the reduction of inpatient psychiatric admissions through timely, accessible support.

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Suicide Prevention Awareness & Firearm Safety

Evidence-based strategies such as lethal means safety counseling, firearm lock distribution, and safe storage education are being implemented across provider networks and community events.

FSA provides Firearm Restraining Order & Safe Storage Training. If you have questions, please reach out to Tameron Keeffe.

Training Opportunity: 8/27/2025 from 6:00pm-7:30pm

Carpentersville Fire Department Station 93
5000 Sleepy Hollow Road
Carpentersville, IL 60110

Email: tkeeffe@fsaelgin.org or Phone: (847) 695- 3680

Identified Needs and Barriers for Youth Clients

- **Unmet Emotional Regulation Needs** due to trauma and inconsistent therapeutic access
- **Barriers to Engagement** include transportation, stigma, lack of culturally responsive services
- **Caregiver Burnout** impedes follow-through on treatment plans
- **Lack of Age-Appropriate Resources** for young children and adolescents

FRO TRAINING SURVEY RESULTS FOR FY25

1. Please rate the following statements about your knowledge of the topics covered during this training.

[More details](#)

● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree ● Agree ● Strongly agree

I have a better understanding of what is a Firearms Restraining Order (FRO)

I have a better understanding of who can apply for a Firearms Restraining Order (FRO)

I have a better understanding of the legal process for a Firearms Restraining Order (FRO)



Capacity Building: Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training

Mental Health First Aid training for school staff, caregivers, and community leaders is being expanded through state and federal partnerships. MHFA equips adults to recognize early warning signs of mental illness or crisis, respond with empathy, and connect youth to professional services quickly and appropriately.

**FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT WAS PROVIDED IN PART BY THE KANE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

For any queries, or additional information please contact: Adam Kurczak.

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Innovative Solutions: Comfort Items & Flex Funds

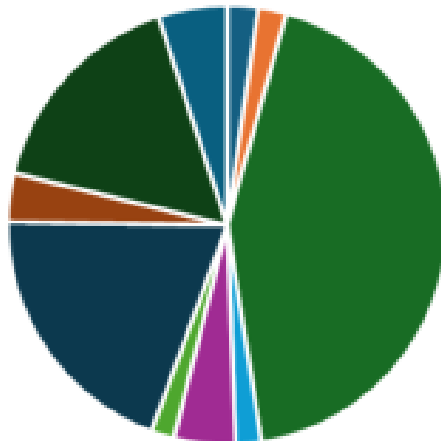
To enhance youth coping and emotional regulation, flex funds and alternative funding streams are being used for non-traditional supports, including:

- **Mental Health Apps** (e.g., Calm, Moodpath, MindDoc)
- **Fidget Toys and Weighted Blankets**
- **Coloring Books, Colored Pencils, and Storytime Books** (paper and audio)
- **Crossword Puzzles and Sensory Activities**

These tools reduce anxiety, enhance focus, and provide tangible emotional support for youth navigating complex trauma.

Sum of \$\$ Amount

Kane County Flex Funds



Area of client's need

- Crisis Situation / basic needs
- Educational Needs
- Emotional Regulation
- Executive Functioning
- Family Functioning
- Grief
- Independent Living Skills

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