


Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Mission Statement

Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.

Founded in 1867, LSSI exists to serve the Whole Person. We strive to listen with empathy and compassion. We promote the dignity of people, value the diversity of human life, and help people realize their full potential.

Who LSSI Serves



Last fiscal year, July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, **LSSI helped over 50,000 people** in communities across Illinois—**one out of every 250 people in the state is served by LSSI!** One life transformed has a ripple effect, as that person creates strong relationships with countless others.

LSSI provides services to children, adults, and

seniors. Children ages 10-14 are the largest population served in LSSI's Children's Community Services programs. The largest percentage of all individuals LSSI serves is adults between the ages of 25 and 34. Of all of LSSI's primary clients, 95% have annual household incomes under \$25,000.

**"LSSI saved my life.
It's a positive atmosphere.
They've helped a lot of people."**

—LIZ, LSSI INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT CLIENT

Foster Care Services

LSSI is the largest private provider of **Foster Care Services** in Illinois, providing placement and case management for children who have been removed from their birth families due to abuse and/or neglect. LSSI provides training and support for Foster families, collaborating with birth parents to reunite children with their birth families whenever possible.

2,533 children were served through **Foster Care** placements, with **526 children achieving permanency**, meaning they were reunited with their birth families or adopted.

LSSI was chosen by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as a pilot organization for **Therapeutic Foster Care**, an evidence-based treatment program that places children with histories of severe trauma and emotional/behavioral needs into single-family homes rather than institutional settings. Since May 2017, **55 children have been enrolled in the program, with 27 children having graduated to date** and finding forever homes.



Intact Family Services

Designed to stabilize, strengthen, enhance, and preserve family life by enabling children to remain safely at home, **Intact Family Services** works with families who have come to the attention of the DCFS. **1,196 families were enrolled in this program last year.**



Last year, 4,963 children received books from their incarcerated parents.

The Storybook Project

At 14 Illinois prisons and jails, **The Storybook Project** enables incarcerated parents to maintain family connections by recording themselves reading a book to their children. With the help of **dedicated, well-trained volunteers** and donated new children's books, incarcerated moms and dads read and record a book. LSSI mails the book and recording to their child.

"I am so thankful for Storybook. My little girl is 5. She is my heart and joy. She loves getting the books and CDs. God bless all of you."

—FATHER AND STORYBOOK PROJECT PARTICIPANT

LSSI's **Step-Up School-Based Counseling Program** served 539 students at 25 grammar and high schools that make up the Chicago Public Schools. The program has now grown to include 45 schools.

The Welcoming Center is a walk-in, **safe alternative** to seeking care in the emergency department when people are experiencing **behavioral health** symptoms, including anxiety, depression, bi-polar disorder, substance use, and post-traumatic stress. Last year, the **Welcoming Center served 1,712 adults.**

LSSI's Project IMPACT

(Immediate **Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team**) grew to five sites: Swedish Covenant Hospital, Methodist Hospital, Community First Medical Center, Thorek Hospital, and Weiss Memorial Hospital. Nearly doubling the amount of clients helped over the previous year, **Project IMPACT served 13,043 adults** with trained counselors who are available 24/7 to help people experiencing a behavioral, psychiatric, or addiction crisis.



LSSI offers **Affordable Housing** for older adults and people over the age of 18 with disabilities at 20 housing sites throughout Illinois. Last year, LSSI provided **housing for 1,485 residents with an annual income between \$5,000 and \$25,000.**



LSSI provides a full continuum of **Alcohol and Drug Treatment** beginning with medically assisted detox through residential care and transitional housing. Last year, LSSI served **3,766 clients** with alcohol/drug issues, and our programs consistently outperform other comparable services in the region and state.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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LSSI does not discriminate in admission to programs or employment in compliance with the law.

