



Past Examples of Children's Healthcare Workforce Development Projects for ILCHF's "Youth Workforce Development 2.0" RFP

This document represents a compilation of past examples of Children's Healthcare Workforce Development Projects supported by the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation. The goal of the Youth Workforce Development 2.0 RFP is to provide learning opportunities and guidance to youth as early as elementary school to allow the exploration of potentially pursuing a career path in children's healthcare.

This initiative seeks to provide grants of up to \$20,000 each to support strategies that encourage children to potentially pursue a career path in children's oral health or mental health.

There are many ways to think about this application and we encourage creativity and innovation!

Mental Health Workforce Development Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Crossroads Workforce Development Program: Led by Youth Crossroads Inc., this program offered high school students from low-income communities of color with introductory job training in youth mental health issues. Led by a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, students received an introduction to the impact of childhood trauma, trauma informed care, school-based counseling, group counseling, and crisis response. Students who completed the introductory training program were given an opportunity to provide in-take services at Youth Crossroads and shadow mental health professionals in school-based and community settings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health for All/Salud Mental Para Todos: Led by the Douglas County Health Josselyn Center for Mental Health, this program created a bilingual curriculum to engage middle school and high school Latinx students. The 18-month after school program demonstrated mental health careers with tool kits that also introduced mental health self-care skills. Josselyn Center therapists were featured as guest speakers to talk about and demonstrate their work at an age-appropriate level.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Health Workforce Educational Videos: Led by the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society, this project developed three professional videos highlighting the health workforce. The videos showcased the IWS Children's Clinic pediatrics, dentistry, and behavioral health programs and included interviews from providers and professionals. Once completed, the Society shared these videos with local schools and other outlets, introducing children to careers in children's healthcare.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Career Mentors: Led by NAMI Illinois, this project piloted an initiative that provided Black and Latinx elementary and high school students with learning opportunities and role models recruited from accomplished behavioral health professionals. Mental health mentors addressed the need for career exposure and mentoring projects to strengthen the sector's career.



- **Workforce Training Course:** Led by the KidsMatter Foundation in partnership with the College of DuPage Continuing Education, offered 11th and 12th grade students workforce training along with an opportunity to work collaboratively on mental health-related public education campaigns. Students took part in a Health Care Professional Careers Survey course offered through the College of DuPage, introducing students to careers across the health career fields, with an emphasis on Behavioral Health, including psychology, social work, and human resources. The program also provided hands-on learning supported by access to professionals in the field for assistance in career direction or finding work experience. Students completing the course work had the opportunity to receive a certification in teen mental health first aid.
- **Counselors-In-Training Program:** Led by Easterseals Central Illinois, this program hosted a series of trainings at a 5-week camp for young adults. Examples of training topics included: behavior management, emergency procedures, specific disability overviews, diversity/inclusion/ adaptation, conflict resolution, child abuse prevention and reporting, safety and supervision policies, and sensory needs and integration strategies. Camp Mental Health Certification instruction was also provided, teaching counselors, leadership staff, and Counselors-In-Training the risk factors, warning signs, and prevalence of mental illness in campers.

Oral Health Workforce Development Projects

- **“Grow Our Own” Program:** Led by the Cass County Health Department, this program partnered with three local school districts to provide work study programs in oral health for high school students interested in pursuing a career in this field upon graduation. Students received hands on training as they worked alongside staff members in a dental clinic. Staff members from the dental clinic also participated in career fairs to promote interest in oral health for students did not have had a chance to participate in the work study program.
- **Mini Medical School:** The University of Illinois College of Medicine, in collaboration with OSF Children’s Hospital of Illinois, led an initiative to provide a longitudinal mini medical school experience for students from underserved communities. 5th grade students in this program were exposed to career options in oral and behavioral health, provided ongoing mentorship from professionals, and STEM-based curriculum around the various topics covered. The curriculum included exposure to various topics and careers, along with hands-on opportunities.
- **Choices & Pathways to Dental Careers:** Led by TCA Health’s dental team, this program launched a culturally competent Annual Dental Career Day at the organization’s main health center. Two events were held – one geared toward middle school students, and one for high school students. The purpose of the career days was to encourage youth from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue careers in dental and allied dental professions.



- **School of Dental Medicine Learning Opportunities:** Members of Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Dental Medicine (SDM) implemented a program to provide elementary, middle, and high school aged members of the Boys and Girls Club of Alton with the opportunity to explore careers within the oral healthcare field. Elementary school aged members of the Club participated in learning sessions provided by SIU SDM faculty to learn about the roles of dental healthcare providers. Middle school aged and high school aged members of the Club were invited to attend one-day programs at the SDM where they worked with SDM faculty and students to explore dental equipment and materials and participate in other hands-on simulation activities to understand the day-to-day work of oral healthcare professionals.

Questions or Technical Assistance?

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