

Illinois Intact Family Recovery (IFR)

Lessons Learned

Takeaways from Six Years of Implementing Intact Family Recovery Services, 2018-2024

What is IFR?

Intact Family Recovery (IFR) Services is a collaborative, cross-systems program that uses partnerships between substance use treatment providers and child welfare agencies to improve outcomes for families with children at risk of out-of-home placement due to a parent's substance use.

The IFR program uses recovery coordinators — specialized case managers whose primary focus is getting parents into substance use treatment and staying in treatment. In IFR, recovery coordinators and child welfare caseworkers work as a team to help families impacted by parental substance use.

We implemented and tested IFR in two separate programs: 1) Northern Illinois Intact Family Recovery Services (NIL-IFR) and Eastern Illinois Intact Family Recovery Services (EIL-IFR). Factors critical to successful program implementation are listed below.

Specialized expertise and support helps everyone.

Child welfare providers like having RCs on their teams. Case workers reported that RCs provided an “extra set of eyes” on clients, increased their understanding of SUD, and taught them strategies to help clients who have substance use issues.

Effective inter-agency collaboration requires clear roles and responsibilities.

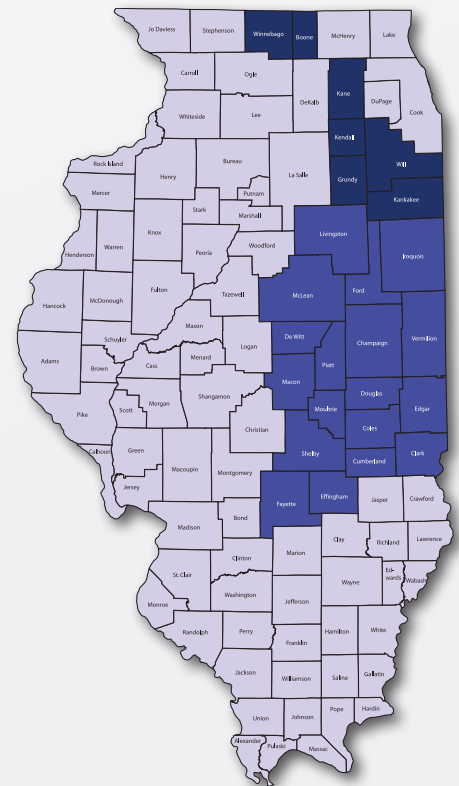
Case workers and RCs collaborated most effectively when each had a clear understanding of their own role, and of one another's responsibilities

on shared cases. Ongoing training helped staff understand their role and program expectations.

Communication is the heart of collaboration for effective decision-making.

Communication and collaboration between RCs and case workers worked best when clear processes were in place. Team supervision meetings, joint visits with clients, and face-to-face discussions ensured timely, two-way communication between the RC and case worker about their shared cases.

We implemented IFR from 2018-2024 in 25 Illinois counties.



NIL-IFR **EIL-IFR**

289 Families

Received NIL-IFR Services or EIL-IFR Services from 2018-2024.



180 Families

Received NIL-IFR Services from 2018-2022.

109 Families

Received EIL-IFR Services from 2020-2024.