



**Kids Count Symposium
Building Better Lives for Generations of
Illinois Children**

***Friday, March 28, 2008
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago***

Co-Sponsors

Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago

Chicago Department of Children & Youth Services

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Illinois Department of Human Services

Illinois State Board of Education

United Way of Illinois

Voices for Illinois Children

**Special thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation
and the State Farm Insurance Companies for their generous support**

Symposium Agenda
Morning Session
9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Presentation of the Helen R. Weigle Award
for
Innovations in Children’s Programming
to
Mujeres Latinas en Acción
Maria S. Pesqueira, *President & CEO*
Presenter
Luz Maria Solis, *Board, Voices for Illinois Children***

Plenary I
Looking Back Over the Past 20 Years
Illinois Room

Panelists: Joe Antolín, *Vice President and Executive Director of Heartland Human Care Services, Inc., Heartland Alliance*
Harriet Meyer, *President, Ounce of Prevention Fund*
Sylvia Puente, *Director at the Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame*
Jerry Stermer, *President, Voices for Illinois Children*

Moderator: Ada Skyles, *Associate Director, Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago*

Break
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Workshops
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Health: Access to Health Coverage throughout a Child’s Life, ***Illinois Room***

Children’s health and their access to health coverage are improving overall. At the same time, Illinois has the highest proportion of low-income children who are uninsured in the Midwest—and slightly higher than the national average. This workshop examines how access to health coverage impacts a child’s health outcomes—from Mom’s prenatal care through preventive health visits and social and emotional services.

Panelists: Dr. Kevin Dorsey, *Dean, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine*
Dr. Mark Rosenberg, *Pediatrician and former President of the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics*

Dr. Stephen Saunders, *Medical Advisor, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services*

Barbara Shaw, *Director, Illinois Violence Prevention Authority, and Chair, Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership*

Moderator: Robyn Gabel, *Executive Director, Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition*

Education: The Education Continuum, ***Illinois Room***

Children who attend quality early learning programs are more likely to succeed in elementary and secondary school. Panelists explore just how well children are doing in the public education system in Illinois—from enrollment to graduation.

Panelists: Eboni Howard, *Director, Herr Research Center for Children and Social Policy, Erikson Institute*

Cynthia Moreno, *Deputy Director of Service Intervention, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services*

Max McGee, *President, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy*

Moderator: Sara Slaughter, *Director, Education Program, McCormick Tribune Foundation*

Family Economic Security: Poverty, Income Subsidies and Family Savings, ***Michigan Room***

Many families struggle to meet their most basic needs. Many others lack a financial safety net, so an unexpected illness may cause them to take on debt. This workshop discusses the economic security of Illinois families and the main building blocks for financial stability.

Panelists: Anna Jackson, *Lecturer, Southern Illinois University*

Paul Kleppner, *Professor, Northern Illinois University*

Dory Rand, *Supervising Attorney, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law*

Moderator: Larry Joseph, *Director of the Budget & Tax Policy Initiative, Voices for Illinois Children*

Urban Communities: Children and Youth in Urban Communities, ***Illinois Room***

Illinois' major urban communities face a unique set of issues that impact the well-being of children and their families—from housing and immigration to transportation and vulnerable youth. Panelists from around the state talk about these distinct challenges for children and youth living in metropolitan areas.

Panelists: Tony Raden, *Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Department of Children & Youth Services*

Sister Julia Huiskamp, *Co-Director, Griffin Center*

Ken Hinton, *Superintendent, Peoria Public Schools*

Kenneth Maurice, *Development Coordinator, Aurora Department of Youth and Sports Activities*

Moderator: John Kelker, *President/CEO United Way of Central Illinois*

Children and Youth at Risk: Critical Supports for At-Risk Youth, *Illinois Room*

The systems that provide support and assistance to vulnerable children and adolescents are often fragmented and uncoordinated, and services may end abruptly as teens enter adulthood. This panel looks at how these systems are serving this population of at-risk youth in Illinois and discusses how the state can develop better transitions between and out of them.

- Panelists:** Lorrie Rickman-Jones, *Director of the Division of Mental Health, Illinois Department of Human Services*
Jeffrey Butts, *Research Fellow, Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago*
Debra Kinsey, *Associate Deputy Director for Health Services, Division of Service Intervention, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services*
Dayna Finet, *Research Specialist at the Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
- Moderator:** Michelle Arnold, *Project Manager, Voices for Illinois Children*

Children and New American Families: Emerging Issues Facing New American Children and their Families, *LaSalle Room*

Policymakers are tested to meet the needs of children living in immigrant families. How has Illinois served this population and what challenges lie ahead? Panelists examine these questions from a variety of perspectives: education, community participation, changing family characteristics, housing and economic security.

- Panelists:** Marciela Garcia, *Executive Director, Latinos United*
Myra Gaytan-Morales, *Director, University Center of Lake County*
Grace Hou, *Co-Chair of the New Americans Initiative*
Celena Roldan, *Child Care Director, Erie Neighborhood House*
- Moderator:** Kandace Thomas, *Program Officer, The Irving Harris Foundation*

**Afternoon Session
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
*Illinois Room***

Speaker: Mike Lawrence,
Director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University

**Plenary II
Looking Forward to the Next Generation**

- Panelists:** Mary Ellen Caron, *Commissioner, Chicago Department of Children & Youth Services*
Richard Jones, *President/CEO, Metropolitan Family Services*
Jesse Ruiz, *Chairman, Illinois State Board of Education*
Maria Whelan, *President/CEO, Illinois Action for Children*
- Moderator:** Jerry Stermer, *President, Voices for Illinois Children*