



IMPACT STATEMENT - JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER, 2023

Mission Statement

As a non-profit organization, iCan Dream Center connects youth to holistic, innovative special education services. Responding to the urgent societal need to slow the school to prison pipeline in suburban Chicago, we are committed to making a positive contribution by fostering an education setting where neurodiverse youth have access to the skills, resources, and opportunities necessary to thrive beyond their labels.

DIVERSITY Represented By Professional Staff

85% BIPOC
15% Caucasian
19% self-reported as Neurodiverse

33% of staff hold a Master's Degree or above



The information below about our programs and the people ICDC served last year represents January 1, 2023 through December 10, 2023.

THE PEOPLE ICDC Served in 2023

375

children, adults, and families served across southern Cook and Will counties.

BY AGE

28%
age 3-7

29%
age 14-18

43%
age 19-22

BY INCOME

71% met income eligibility of federal poverty guidelines

12% without permanent housing

BY GENDER

68% female

29% male

3% non-binary

BY RACE

81% BIPOC

19% Caucasian



Therapeutic Early Childhood Education Services

As an Illinois State Board of Education-approved early childhood program, in 2023, the Little Dreamers therapeutic school served 42 children, ages 3-7. Students in this program require more time and individualized attention to excel in the general education setting. With a teacher to pupil ratio of 3:1, our primary goal is to support children in transitioning to the least restrictive learning environment. In 2023, 90% of students who exited or aged out of this program moved to less restrictive environments. **Teachers in this program are recruited specifically for their ability and desire to meaningfully connect with young, at-risk learners with intense needs.** Parents in this program receive compulsory 1:1 parent coaching through our partner organization, MOMLogics, and take part in a monthly parent support group.



I am forever grateful for everything this program has done for my son, Lael. There is **constant reassurance, and genuine passion, love and safety for my child**, and for that sense of security, I am grateful.

+ CARLEDA, PARENT OF LAEL, LITTLE DREAMERS

Parent Logics Parent Support Group

We are committed to combating the feelings of frustration, helplessness, and uncertainty that can accompany parenting individuals with disabilities. We provide training, resources, and an opportunity for parents to connect, share and vent. We are pleased to continue to partner with Lavelle Hall Smith of MomLogics as part of our monthly Parent Retreat Series.

Accelerated High School Completion

23 area high school districts throughout Southern Cook and Will counties referred over 70 students in 2023 to the iCan Dream Center Accelerated High School Completion Program. For students who have made insufficient progress toward graduation requirements in the traditional high school setting, this program filled the gap by placing students on a path toward graduation and lifelong success. The high school completion program takes a unique approach. **Students can receive high school credits and post-secondary services simultaneously, all while addressing barriers and setting students up to achieve success after high school through one of our on-site vocational training programs, our community internship program, or community college.** This program offers students all of the supports provided by their school district with additional services that are tailored to the unique needs of the student. In 2023, 100 percent of seniors in this program received their high school diploma from their home school district.



With providing me grace & care, the environment has allowed me to see my worth & motivate myself to chase my dreams.

+ ASIA, SENIOR / CAREER GOAL: PSYCHOLOGIST OR SOCIAL WORKER



iCan Dream Center helped me learn to read better. The place feels like a family Everyone is a good person and the people here have helped me move forward.

+ COREY, TRANSITION PROGRAM
CAREER GOAL: MANAGER OF A NIKE STORE



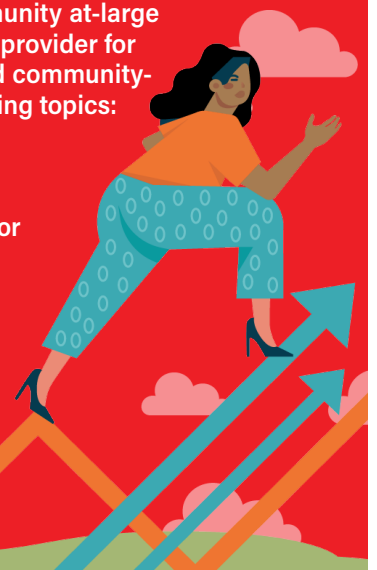
TRANSITION PROGRAM

After high school, many students enroll in college. Others go on to jobs. The worst thing that can occur is for students to get lost in a world of idleness, video games, or isolation while they “figure out” the next steps. One thing all 18- 22-year-olds have in common is that they require postsecondary training and opportunities to achieve their dreams. In 2023, ICDC served 52 students referred by 22 high school districts for postsecondary education services. **Each student was linked to the services they need along with individualized, therapeutic wraparound supports. Students participating in this program benefited from development of functional skills while also receiving the benefit of paid vocational experience within the community.** In addition, all students were provided recreational opportunities to enhance social skills. In 2023, 37 students were placed in community internships at 17 businesses throughout the Tinley Park area. We have over 24 community partners that expand with evolving student interest.

Professional Development

With waiting lists in many of our programs, we recognize that we cannot serve every eligible student in the community. However, we express our commitment to making a positive impact on the community at-large by resourcing schools and teams. iCan Dream Center is a trusted professional development provider for special education teams, school administrators, law enforcement, medical practitioners, and community-based agencies. In 2022, we provided 12 professional development workshops on the following topics:

- Developing an Effective Functional Behavioral Analysis and Behavioral Support Plan
- Incorporating Behavioral Supports for Early Learners with Intense Needs
- Ready, Set, Learn: Proactive Strategies to Support Students with Executive Functioning Issues
- It's the Law! Avoiding Special Education Compliance Pitfalls
- Gender Equity
- Restorative Justice Practices in School
- Engage and Connect Through Meaningful Play
- Understanding Functions of Behavior
- Implications of Race on Disability Diagnosis and Service Delivery
- Cultivating Your Passion for Emerging Leaders
- Self-Care for Leaders
- Treating Sensory-Sensitive Children in Dental Settings



ICDC is an equal opportunity employer.

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