



## IMPACT STATEMENT - JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 2024

### 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

**45%** 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, 2024 through December 1, 2024.

## THE PEOPLE ICDC Served in 2024

<h1>402</h1> <p>individuals and families served across southern Cook and Will counties.</p>	BY AGE	BY INCOME	BY GENDER	BY RACE
	<p><b>25%</b> age 3-9</p> <p><b>30%</b> age 14-18</p> <p><b>45%</b> age 19-22</p>	<p><b>71%</b> met income eligibility of federal poverty guidelines</p> <p><b>12%</b> without permanent housing</p>	<p><b>68%</b> female</p> <p><b>29%</b> male</p> <p><b>3%</b> non-binary</p>	<p><b>81%</b> BIPOC</p> <p><b>19%</b> Caucasian</p>

### Therapeutic Early Childhood Education Services

As an Illinois State Board of Education-approved early childhood program, in 2024, the Little Dreamers therapeutic school served 39 children, ages 3-9. 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 2024, 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, MOM-Logics, and take part in a monthly parent support group.

My son Dylan started to enjoy school again after getting used to the iCan Dream Center and seeing that there are people out there who accept him and work with him for who he is, without judgments or harsh criticisms. Dylan struggled in high school, and it wasn't until his high school placed him at the iCan Dream Center that he came back to us. He began to smile and laugh again and enjoyed going to school. **My son would not be here today, having the chance to go to college and live his theater dreams,** without the iCan Dream Center's support. This place saved my son.

+ MR. S, FATHER OF DYLAN, CLASS OF 2024



### 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 58 students in 2024 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 2024, 100 percent of seniors in this program received their high school diploma from their home school district.



“ This school has given me a chance to experience new things, become a part of sports, and get **excited for my future**, something I hadn’t had before.

+ PHIL



High school was pretty tough for me before coming to the iCan Dream Center. I was bullied and had my share of issues with anger. But this place helped me with all of that and **I am becoming a leader and have peace every day here.** It is a family here.

+ LOUIE

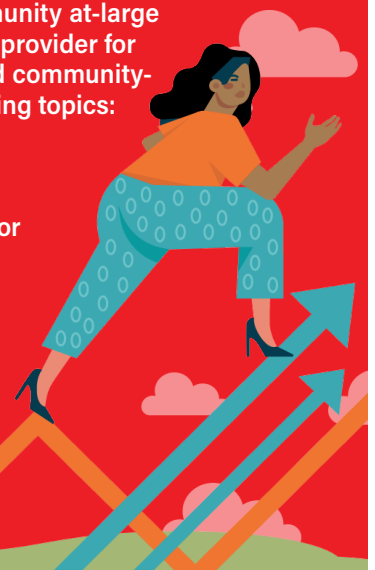
## TRANSITION PROGRAM


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 2024, ICDC served 38 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 2024, 28 students were placed in community internships at 16 businesses throughout the Tinley Park area. We have over 27 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 2024, we provided 14 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.

18501 Maple Creek Dr, Suite 200, Tinley Park IL 60477 | [iCanDreamCenter.com](http://iCanDreamCenter.com) | 708-798-4200 |

