



THE FEDERATION FOR  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



## children's home + aid

### *About Children's Home + Aid*

Children's Home + Aid is a leading child and family service agency in Illinois. The organization helps children recover their health, their hope, and their faith in the people around them. We link children to a network of opportunity and care, to extended family, teachers, mentors, and the resources of the neighborhood and community. For more than 130 years, the organization has gone wherever children and families need them, and where that work has been proven to be most effective: at home, in the classroom, in the neighborhood, in the course of daily life. The organization has offices located across Illinois and serves more than 40,000 children and families each year in over 60 counties.

*The Federation for Community Schools, an initiative of Children's Home + Aid, will be part of the agency's Center for Policy, Practice and Innovation.*

### *About the Center for Policy, Practice and Innovation --*

Children's Home + Aid launched the Center for Policy, Practice + Innovation to pioneer approaches in program design and delivery, and to advance effective public policy at the state and national levels. The Center for Policy, Practice and Innovation at Children's Home + Aid allows Children's Home + Aid to:

- Promote effective state and federal public policies and services.
- Improve the quality of services - inside and outside of Children's Home + Aid - available to vulnerable children and families.
- Incubate innovation practices to improve outcomes and inform public policies.

The Center for Policy, Practice + Innovation is an extension of the agency's long-standing commitment to advocating on behalf of the children and families and delivering the best possible results (for more information, [click here](#))

### FAQs

- *Why Children's Home + Aid?*  
Children's Home + Aid's mission is a good fit with the Federation's mission; Children's Home + Aid has networks in counties across the state, which will help grow the Federation's work, and; the Federation can help Children's Home + Aid continue to grow its community school efforts.
- *Why the Center?*

The Center for Policy, Practice and Innovation is a good place for the Federation's work to live because of Center's advocacy and practice goals are in line with the Federation's mission. We've already been collaborating on shared advocacy priorities and work like advocacy on behalf of community schools, a fiscal scan into state investments in children and youth ages 8-21 and creating a comprehensive vision of success for children and youth. This is an opportunity to continue to expand that work.

- *Why is this transition happening now?*

The Federation's board undertook a process to evaluate the long-term sustainability of the Federation as a stand-alone organization. The board's decision was that being part of a larger organization with a shared mission and with resources that could help support and expand our work would be the best plan for sustaining the Federation's efforts long-term.

- *Did you pursue other funding opportunities before joining another organization?*

For the past several years, the Federation has pursued a range of funding opportunities, but none offered the stability that long-term sustainability requires.