

# Community Systems Development: Whys and Hows

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Development

spring  
into action

@IAFC\_Cares #SIACConf18



# State vision for community systems development

## **Families**

enroll their children (as needed and desired) in continuous high quality services from prenatal to third grade, are engaged in positive development of their children, are included in decision-making, and inform state and local policy.

## **Service Providers**

ensure that all children (especially those with very high needs) receive effective services, collaborate with each other to offer continuous high quality services from prenatal to third grade, engage families in decision-making, and inform state and local policy.

## **Community Collaborations**

ensure that all children (especially those with very high needs) receive effective services, work across sectors to support continuous high quality services from prenatal to third grade, build capacity for collective impact, and lead local systems change.

## **STATE SUPPORTS**

support and build capacity of collaborations to obtain and use data, develop the workforce, and increase family engagement; involve regional level partners in collective impact; facilitate the feedback loops between communities and state leaders to align systems.

## **State Leaders**




develop an effective cross-sector state system that assures continuous high quality services from prenatal to third grade; align funding streams, data systems, communications, policies, and procedures; practice and support collective impact; and incorporate family and provider feedback.

## **Illinois Vision:**



Every child enters kindergarten safe, healthy, eager to learn, and ready to succeed.

# Goals for collaborating

## Families:

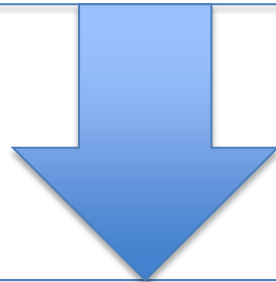
-  Access services more easily
-  Greater impact of parent and caregiver voice
-  More engagement in community

## Providers:

-  Access to a more streamlined service delivery system
-  Greater opportunity to align services to family and community needs

# Importance of local cross-sector collaborations

- Each community has a **unique combination of services**
- Connect families with multiple needs to **comprehensive services**
- Develop a **continuous stream of services** from prenatal to school age (with smooth transitions from prenatal to 0-3, 0-3 to 3-5, 3-5 to kindergarten)
- Increase cost-effectiveness and efficiencies** and **reduce duplication of effort**, through shared mechanisms like coordinated intake and referral



**Improved child and family outcomes**

# Importance of systems development



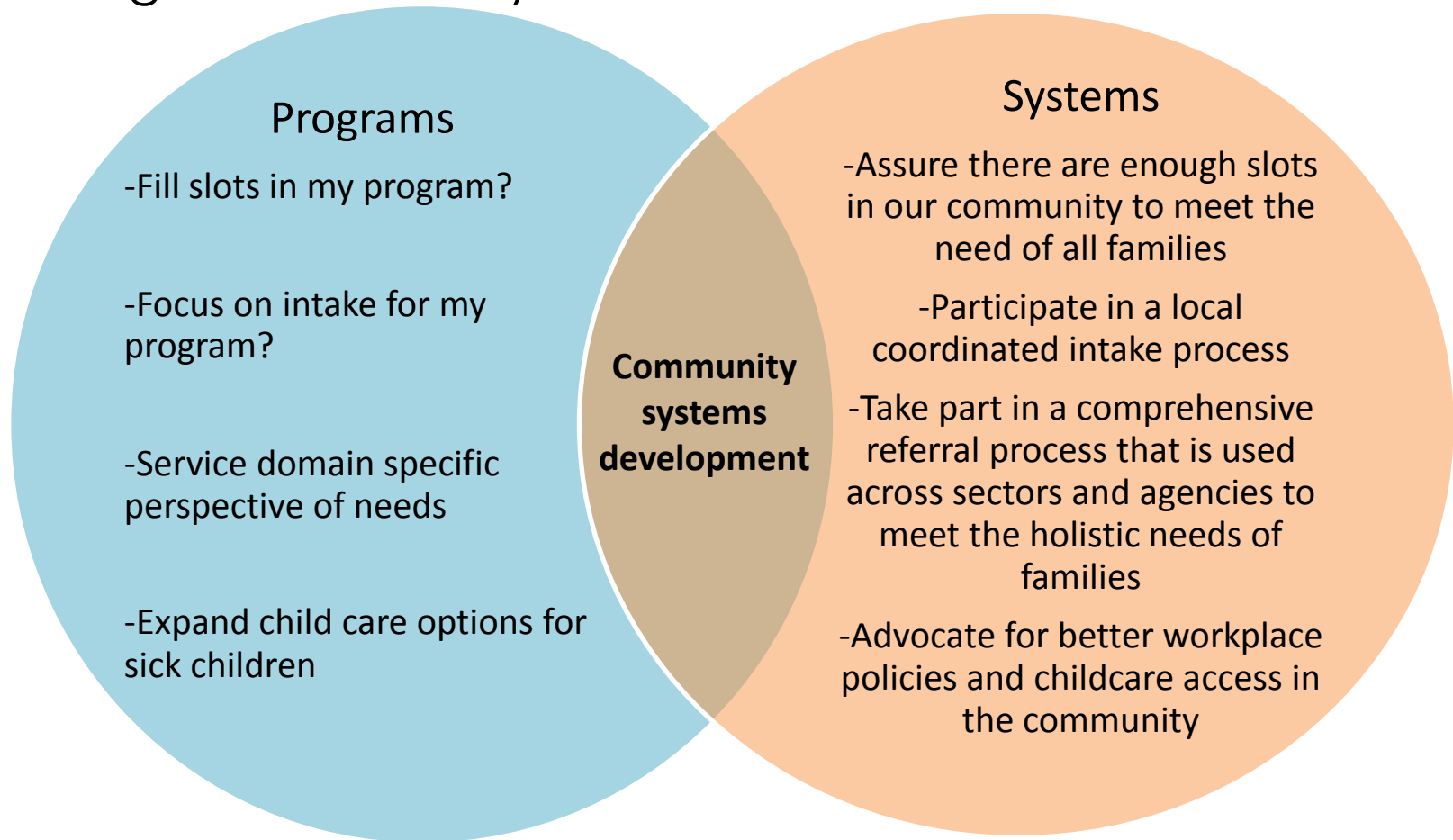
BUILD Initiative video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFvz4qz1In0>

🌿 Systems = Services + Infrastructure

🌿 Interdependent goals: quality, equity, stability

- 📋 Changes in one system affect outcomes of these goals in other systems





# All Our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Networks

**A system of community collaborations**



All Our Kids Networks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPfsIP8XOKU>



# About AOK Networks

- Each Network consists of a local coordinator and a wide range of stakeholders representing health, mental health, early learning, social services, family support, faith-based organizations, families and more. These stakeholders share responsibility for planning, decision-making, action and accountability.
- A community assessment supports our understanding of priority issues to be addressed. A system assessment is completed informing a strategic plan to implement system building and change approaches by each Network.
- Twelve of the Networks receive funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services, two Networks are funded by the Illinois State Board of Education and one Network receives local funds.

# Locations

- 🍃 Adams County
- 🍃 Carroll County
- 🍃 Chicago Southeast
- 🍃 Kane County
- 🍃 McHenry County
- 🍃 McLean County
- 🍃 Rock Island County
- 🍃 St. Clair County
- 🍃 Stephenson County
- 🍃 Tazewell County
- 🍃 Town of Cicero
- 🍃 Wabash/Edwards County
- 🍃 Will County

# Key Activities

- Assess the needs of young children and their families in the community. Evaluate the accessibility and capacity of the system of services for young children and their families
- Provide opportunities for parents and caregivers of families with young children to be leaders in their families, the Early Childhood System and their communities.
- Inform the community about issues affecting families with young children
- Link children and their families with appropriate services
- Identify and better understand the services families with young children need and use
- Address the training needs of people who work with expectant parents and families with young children
- Provide leadership for policy development to assure the health of young children and their families
- Assist network partners in establishing a family-focused, strength-based, culturally competent approach in their service

# For more information about AOK Networks

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Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten

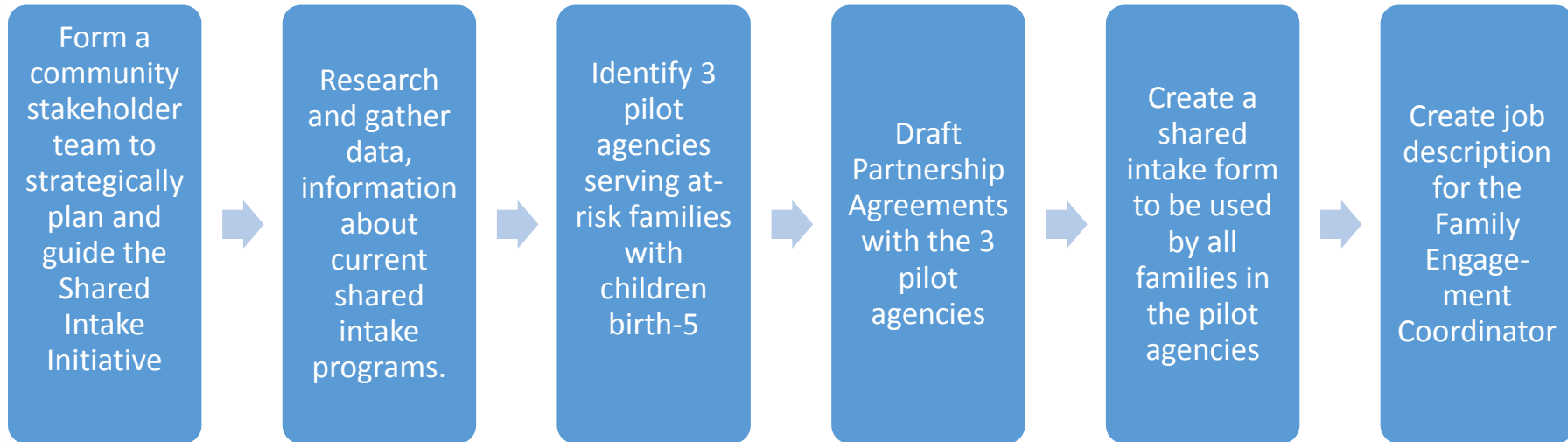
Kassia Eide

## GATEWAYS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD

# Background

- 🍃 Pilot began in 2014 through the Race to the Top Innovation Zone Initiative
  - 🍃 Identifies and connects highest need children to high quality early learning and development programs, services, and resources
  - 🍃 One point of entry for families seeking and applying for services
  - 🍃 SPARK's Family Engagement Coordinator works with three pilot agencies to provide families with individualized support

# Initial Planning



# Partner Agencies



## **SPARK worked with the Transitional Living Community (TLC)**

TLC is a temporary dormitory–style home to individuals and families who are between homelessness and returning to an independent life and aggressively working toward self–improvement and independence (by developing skills to manage a household and maintain employment, learning sound money management and savings practices, honing parenting skills and much more).



Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry operates one of the largest food pantries in Northern Illinois, distributing 50,000 grocery baskets full of food to approximately 23,000 unique, low-income residents annually.

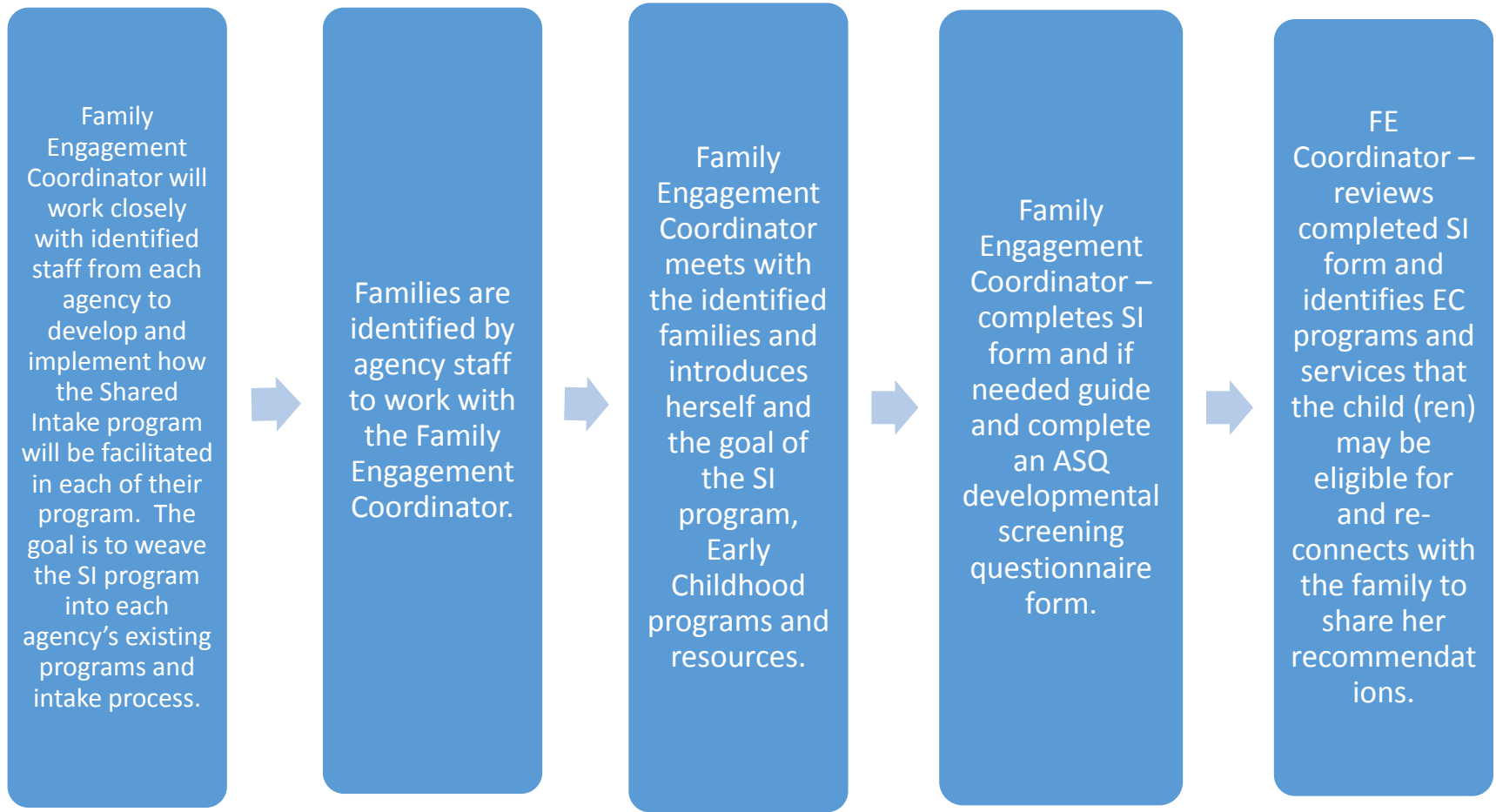


world relief™

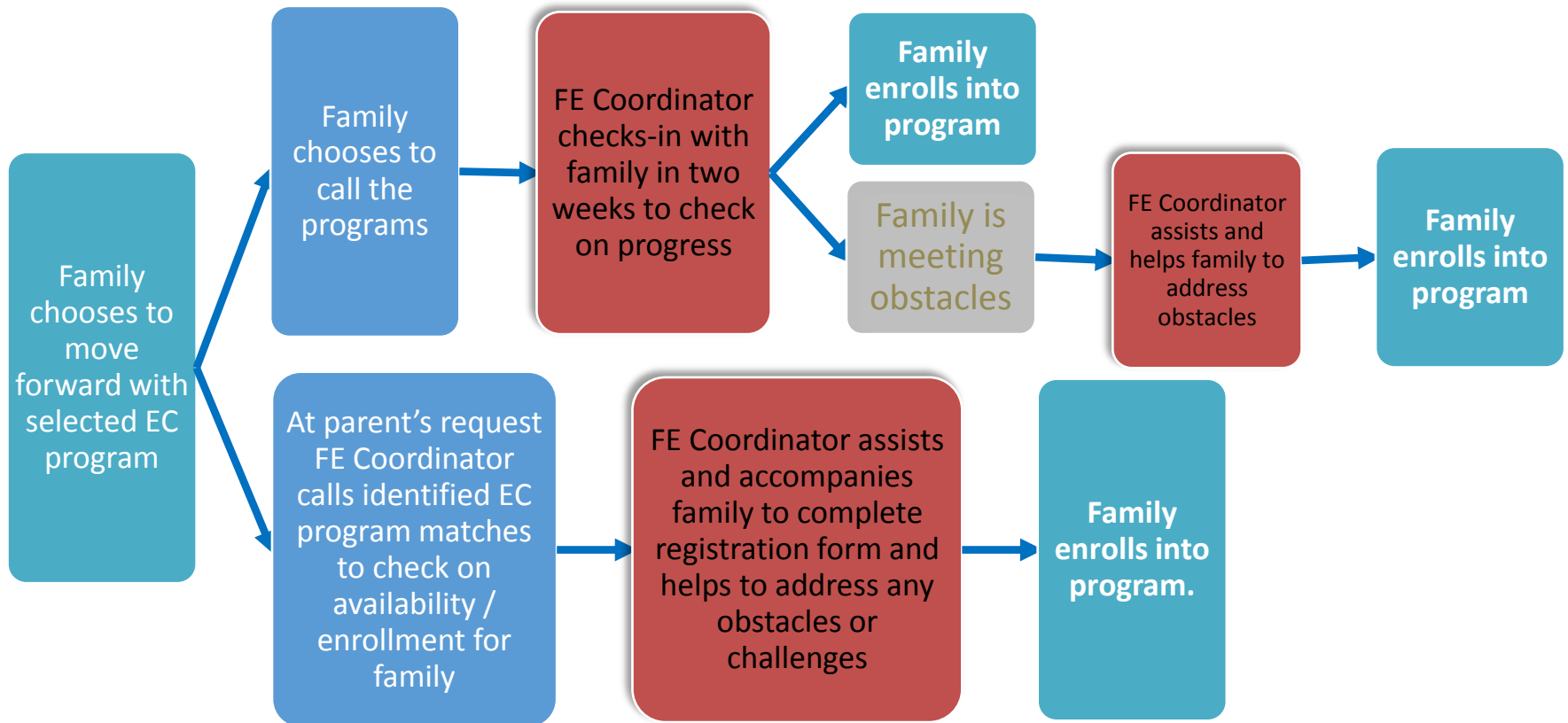
SPARK worked closely with the families identified by World Relief who have children birth-5. Working in partnership with the local church, World Relief is committed to helping refugees and immigrants from all countries resettle and rebuild their lives.



# Role and Responsibilities of the Family Engagement Coordinator



# Family Enrollment into Early Childhood Program



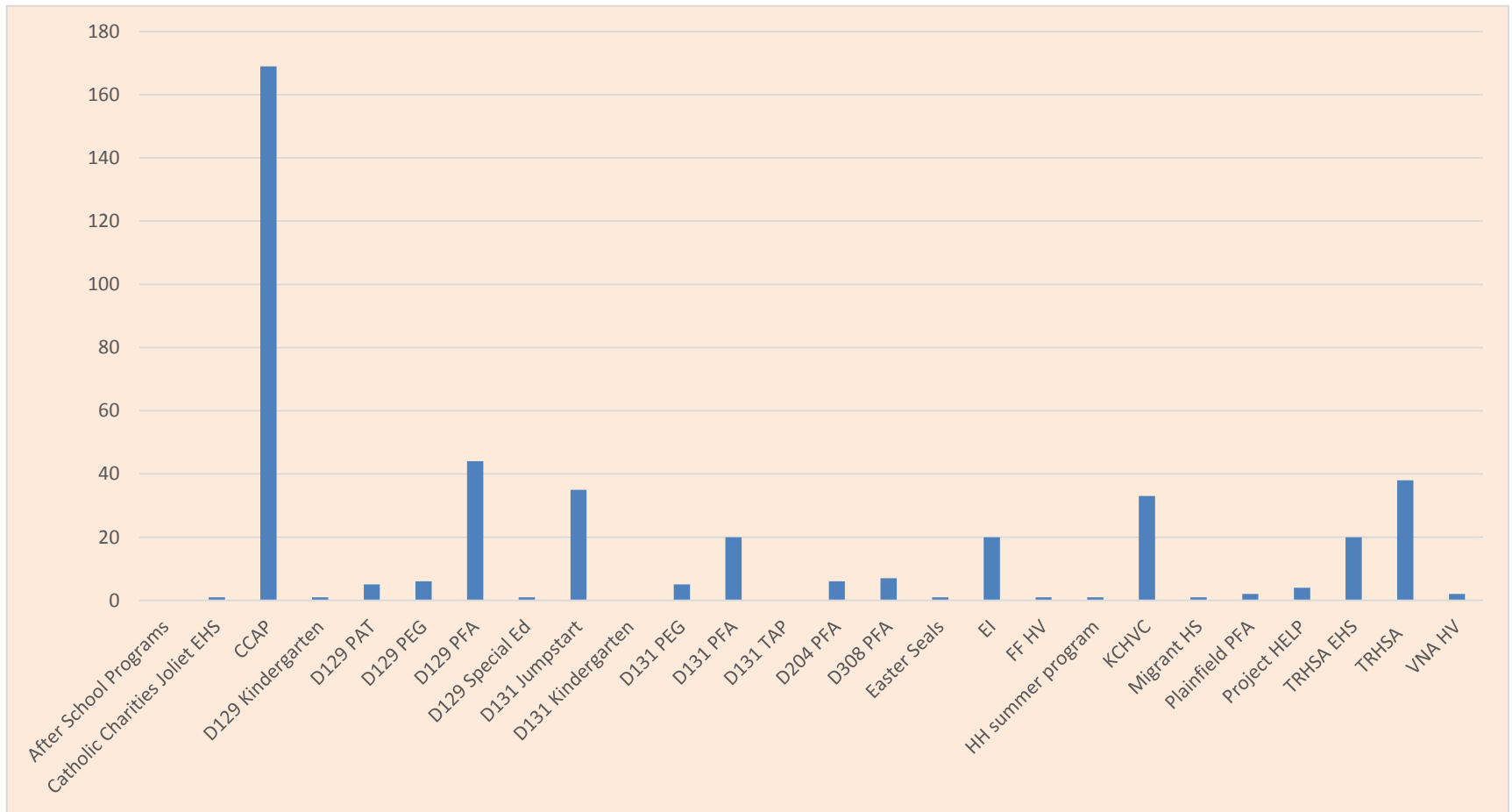
# Shared Intake Outcomes

- Since the start of the Shared Intake Initiative...

- 594 intakes have been completed

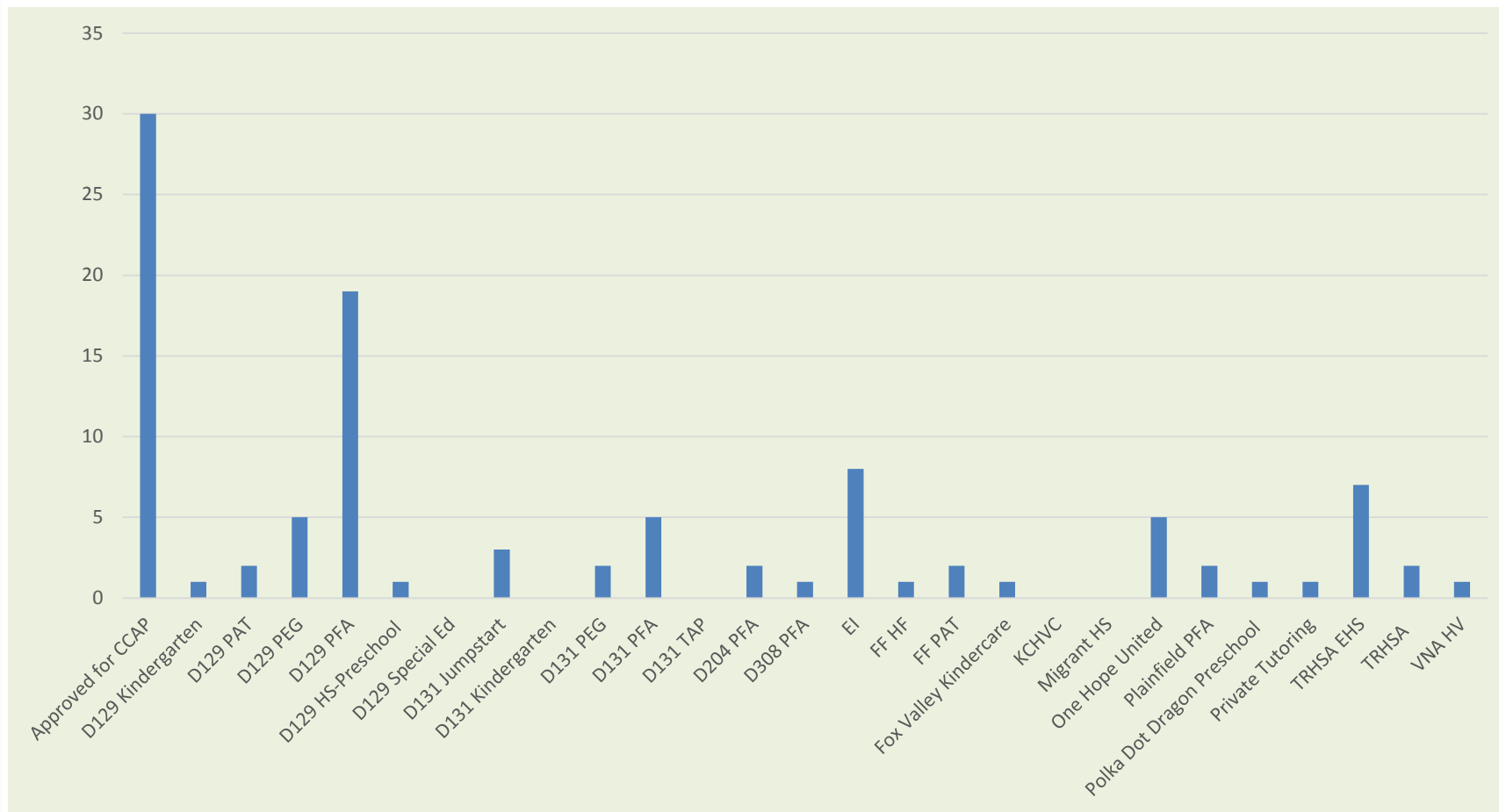
- These families have a total of 825 children age 5 and under.
- Of those 825 children:
  - 51% (423 children) have received a referral from our Shared Intake Coordinator to early childhood services and program
  - 20% (162 children) have received a developmental screening
- 49% didn't receive a referral because of the following categories:
  - 1) not interested in placement,
  - 2) at follow-up phone was disconnected,
  - 3) left messages, no return call,
  - 4) moved out of the community,
  - 5) already enrolled in EC program (this is increasing and that's a good thing!)

# Referrals to Programs



\*Significant increase in referral to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and Early Intervention

# Enrollment into Specific Early Childhood Programs



# Our Families and Their Stories

- 🌿 **A family recently arriving from Afghanistan**
- 🌿 *"I learned about SPARK from the staff at World Relief. Kassia, SPARK Family Engagement Coordinator, met with me and shared the programs that my children can enroll in. She helped enroll my daughter into Todd Early Learning Center and she has been helpful in helping me understand the program. My hope for my children is that they can go to school to learn to speak English by talking to other children and also for them to make friends. My daughter has been able to do this at Todd Early Learning Center."*





🍃 **A family of high risk receives critical services and education for their children**

🍃 *"I learned about SPARK at the Parent University at West Aurora High School. Kassia was able to start the process with Two Rivers Head Start, she made sure that we had the resources we needed, she found us a campus and made a lot of phone calls to try to get my daughter enrolled. I want my children to be school ready, I want them to achieve and go beyond their potential, also to continue reading. I want them to be in an education program, summer programs, and camp, and not to struggle in school. I have never met a nicer group of ladies; Kassia went above and beyond to help us with different aspects. SPARK did not shut the door on us. Kassia referred us to an Aurora pastor that was able to get us a crib, living room set, pack and play, towels, sheets, pillows, pot and pans and winter coats for our kids and there are still people reaching out us to see if we need anything else. I didn't think we would make it, but you were so helpful. Now I need to enroll my kids in school in our new community."*

# For more information about SPARK

[www.sparkaurora.org](http://www.sparkaurora.org)

## Contact:

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# ECE Community Systems Development in Action

- 🌱 Early Learning Council: Community Systems Development Subcommittee
- 🌱 ECBG Birth to 3rd Grade alignment
- 🌱 ECBG T&TA Supports for CSD
- 🌱 In your community?

# Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

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