FY 2022 ANNUAL CANNABIS REPORT

Illinois Department of Human Services

Harm Reduction, Recovery, and Resiliency in Illinois







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SUMMARY



The Cannabis Regulation Tax Act provides IDHS with an exciting opportunity to help rebuild communities that have been devasted by the war on drugs and structural racism. – Secretary Grace B. Hou

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Divisions of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) and the Division of Mental Health (DMH) support a comprehensive care system for substance use and mental health disorders where treatment and recovery services incorporate harm reduction, recovery, and resiliency strategies for Illinoisans. This comprehensive approach that includes robust prevention, treatment, and recovery services is supported in part by the funds generated by the Cannabis Regulation Tax Act legislation (CRTA). These funds are utilized to do the important work of rebuilding communities that have been devastated by budget cuts, the war on drugs, structural racism, violence, and economic despair.

The CRTA allocates 20% of the funds to address mental health and substance use disorders, including **treatment**, **education**, **and prevention**, and 2% of the funds to be used for a **public education campaign** and **data collection and analysis** to address the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana.

To determine our best approach, IDHS is utilizing a social equity lens that includes:

- Recognizing communities have experienced structural racism, stigma, and other systems of oppression
- **Listening** to communities, using their definitions of justice and fairness and involving them in the decision making
- **Building** on the strength of communities by utilizing their social and cultural capital to redress health and social inequities

Using that lens, IDHS operates under the following guiding principles to direct our work and planning:

- Address racial and social equity
- Prioritize those communities and individuals disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs
- Catalyze innovation and fuel transformation
- Align with the intent of the law
- Advance the right to quality behavioral health care for all residents

Under the CRTA initiatives, IDHS supports system expansion in six program areas:

- **Community Investment** Provide resources to community-based organizations to offer critical behavioral health services
- **Criminal Justice Diversion** Develop programs and recovery supports to divert people from the criminal justice system

- **Work Force Development** Provide people with lived experience with career pathways and develop a more diverse behavioral health workforce
- **Healthy Recovery-** Expand pathways to recovery and wellness
- Prevention and Public Education Invest in resources to prevent higher levels of care.
- **Evaluation and Data Collection** Provide evaluation and data analysis on our programs to validate their success and learn from the challenges

In FY2022, IDHS issued grants for a total of \$32 million for system expansion in the six program areas. IDHS-SUPR and DMH expended \$18 million by implementing the following projects to grow the capacity of our substance use and mental health treatment services and recovery supports. These projects reduce the harm caused by substance use disorders and mental illness and increase the recovery, the resiliency, and the wellness of its residents.

Projects funded by CRTA:

Access Naloxone Project – \$3,151,080 expended Through the Access Narcan program, community organizations, jails, hospitals, and clinics can order Narcan directly, at no cost. SUPR aims to reduce the number of opioid overdoses through the expansion of a community and evidence-based Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND). SUPR manages the Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP) through which organizations can order and distribute naloxone (Narcan nasal spray).

Crisis Mobile Team and Lifeline Expansion –\$3,486,558 expended DMH is building a statewide crisis infrastructure, including the development of mobile crisis response teams. The vision for Illinois is to create a comprehensive and integrated crisis network that provides a systematic approach to responding to crises through "somewhere to call, someone to respond, and somewhere to go." CRTA this year supported the "somewhere to call" through supporting the expansion of the 988 Lifeline and the "someone to respond" by supporting Crisis mobile teams.

CRSS Success Project – \$4,015,535 expended This is a DMH project in partnership with SUPR that funds post-secondary educational institutions to provide classroom training and supervised practical experience (internship) opportunities for students to be able to successfully pass the Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) or Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) exam through the Illinois Certification Board. Grant funds also provide for wrap-around supports to help students overcome practical barriers to success (e.g., childcare, transportation, etc.)

IDHS/ISP Co-Responder/Diversion Project - \$613,039 expended IDHS and the Illinois State Police (ISP) are collaborating to establish deflection projects across the state. In SFY2022 deflection pilots were established 2 areas in Illinois, which will provide mental health, substance use, or other services for crime victims or others impacted by the crime. Deflection frameworks are designed to divert druginvolved individuals away from criminal justice involvement and into a community-based clinical intervention. Deflection frameworks typically promote community interventions over justice interventions.

Faith-Based Employment and Training \$3,127,888 expended – The IDHS/Division of Family and Community Services (DFCS) is working with churches in communities that were hardest hit by COVID-19, civil unrest, and historical and systemic racism. Most faith-based institutions are in Chicago, with only a few outside of Chicago: one in Aurora, one in Champaign/Urbana, and one in Elgin.

Housing – Launched in April, this permanent supportive housing project provides permanent supportive housing (PSH) for individuals who substance use disorder (SUD) or co-occurring substance

use and mental health disorder (COD). Priority populations for this program include young adults, women, and women with children, although organizations may consider all applicants. Organizations utilize the Housing First approach, which means connecting individuals to housing without preconditions or expectations for treatment or recovery services. Organizations provide a full range of tenancy support services that assist individuals in being successful. This project is being evaluated by CRTA funds and will be sustained by CRTA when current funding stream ends.

Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR) Prescriber Support - IDHS/SUPR supported the Southern Illinois University - School of Medicine (SIU-SoM), Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development (CRHSSD), to provide incentives for prescribers across Illinois to become DATA 2000 waivered or registered with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) to prescribe buprenorphine and provide medication assisted recovery (MAR) services to people who have an opioid use disorder (OUD). The stipends were also provided to organizations where waivered and/or registered prescribers work to implement MAR. The MAR stipend project's purpose is to support prescribers in their efforts to treat people who use opioids to reduce overdoses by increasing access to evidenced-based treatment.

Racial Equity Training - IDHS has partnered with the University of Illinois Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy to ultimately provide racial equity training to all its employees. This project also provides advanced training to policymakers and supervisors to build internal capacity and IDHS intends to make the curriculum available to its providers as well. This project is being evaluated using CRTA funds.

South Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force-\$86,309 expended The South Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force (SSTF) is a newer entity that will organize the resources of the South Side of Chicago to address the drug overdose challenges facing the communities in that area. South Side communities face overdose disparities similar to the West Side of Chicago. The area impacted is more dispersed throughout the southeast and southern areas of Chicago compared to the distribution of West Side overdoses. The SSTF was funded in April 2022 to develop its infrastructure and plans for implementation of policies and activities starting July 2022.

Training and Technical Assistance – \$476,213 expended This project provides funding to train the substance use disorder treatment field on cannabis misuse and Cannabis Use Disorders, on American Society of Addictions Medicine (ASAM) criteria, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), and other training needed by the field. Prevention First is the organization responsible for scheduling trainings for SUPR's licensed treatment organization and some DMH providers.

Warm Line - \$456,000 expended The DMH Warm Line provides phone-based wellness and recovery support for anyone in Illinois. They provide a unique blend of self-directed, empowering support with education that includes resources. The Warm Line is staffed by people who identify as individuals in recovery. They are open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sat, excluding holidays.

West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force-\$492,841 expended The West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force (WSTF) has been in existence for several years, organizing the resources of the West Side of Chicago to address the overdose challenges facing the communities in the area. The West Side of Chicago has become the center of the overdose crisis with the most overdoses reported in a defined area throughout the state. It has also pointed a spotlight on the ever-changing overdose crisis, from prescription pain pills to heroin to fentanyl contamination, as well as the ever-increasing disparate

overdose deaths impacting older African American male community members. The WSTF has brought together many of the community sectors of the West Side and their resources to bear on the crisis. They have also created street outreach teams to engage people who use drugs and distribute naloxone.

FY2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FY2023 GOALS

Summary

IDHS FY2023 Goals

- 1. **Goal 1** Ensure all programmatic decisions are made with a social equity lens.
- 2. Goal 2 Continue to leverage the expertise of DMH and SUPR.
- 3. **Goal 3** Ensure projects are in alignment with the One IDHS Strategy.

IDHS FY2023 Essential Projects

- 1. Chicago Public Schools High Needs Interventions Program The new Chicago Public Schools High Needs Interventions program will launch during State fiscal year (SFY) 2023. The program intends to seek out Chicago Public School students that have become disengaged from school for more than 18 months. The number of disengaged students increased during the pandemic. This project will seek to reach youth, ages 14-18, that are disconnected from their community's Chicago Public School by creating a system of support to help re-engage and connect them to CPS schools and comparable educational opportunities. The targeted youth are those who experience racial disparities in their exposure to violence and violent areas including the communities where they live and adjacent communities.
- 2. Women's Reentry Project In partnership with the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), IDHS/SUPR will launch a project that provides recovery housing for women who are reentering society from incarceration. IHDA has provided funding to 28 vendors for bricks and mortar purchase or rehab costs. IDHS/SUPR will license those facilities and support the expansion of recovery housing for women.
- 3. The Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center The Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center will serve as a consortium of universities in partnerships with providers, school districts, law enforcement, consumers and their families, State agencies, and other stakeholders to implement workforce development concepts and strategies across the state. Additionally, the center will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategic plan for the recruitment, education, and retention of a qualified, diverse, and evolving behavioral health workforce in this state
- 4. Behavioral Health Workforce Expansion: Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program (HB 5109 PA100-0862) IDHS/DMH, working alongside the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), completed the administrated rules in May 2022, and launched the Behavioral Health loan repayment website on July 1, 2022. That website is here. https://www.isac.org/students/after-college/forgiveness-programs/community-behavioral-health-care-professional-loan-repayment-program.html

ISAC is working on completing the buildout for the online application portal, which will make applying to the program user-friendly for potential applicants. ISAC is working to ensure that the application works properly and that applications are compliant with the authorizing legislation. ISAC reports that they anticipate making the application available to the public by August 2022.

IDHS FY2023 Metrics



Distribute 100,000 Naloxone kits.



Re-engage 400 youth in CPS project.



House 75
individuals in
the Permanent
Support
Housing
Project.

KEY DATA POINTS

Key Program Data Points for SFY 2022

Access Narcan

- 58,020 kits distributed for 116,040 doses
- Nearly 70 Hospitals distributing Narcan from ER
- Over 160 new community organizations distributing Narcan

CRSS Success

- 11 colleges and universities with grants.
- 112 students enrolled by end of SFY22
- College of DuPage promotional video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QInT4eauXfs
- Elgin Community College promotional video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOpityfHqYA

Work Force Training

- 41 trainings
- 606 participants

Permanent Supportive Housing

- 6 new providers
- 7 counties Cook-Chicago, Cook-Suburban, DeWitt, Kankakee, Madison, Macon, St. Clair, Will

Warm Line

- 33,235 total calls
- 11,602 calls received during the expanded call hours funded by CRTA
- 22% increase in call volume during the expanded call hours from SFY21

Grants Issued to Community Service Providers

IDHS has either renewed or issued new grants to 38 organizations during SFY23 for a total of \$32,000,000. This is an increase of over 200% in allocation to communities across Illinois since SFY20. IDHS continues to be committed to rebuilding the infrastructure for comprehensive services for Illinois residents. By launching the essential projects listed above and expanding projects started in SFY22, IDHS is already on target to allocate more funds in SFY23.

\$15,000,000

\$18,000,000

\$32,022,024

in grants issued in FY2020

in grants issued in FY2021

in grants issued in FY2022

Organizations that have received CRTA funding in SFY 2022 are reported below:

	SFY 2022	
	GRANT	
GRANT RECIPIENT	AMOUNT	SERVICES PROVIDED
		Faith-Based Employment
ALLEN METROPOLITAN CME CHURCH	\$150,000	and Training (E&T)
BEACON HEALTH OPTIONS INC	\$456,000	Warm Line
BISHOP ARTHUR M BRAZIER FNDN	\$989,051	Faith-Based E&T
BLACKMEN UNITED FOUNDATION	\$150,000	Faith-Based E&T
BRIDGEWATER-SULLIVAN COMMUNITY	\$165,000	Faith-Based E&T
CHICAGO RECOVERING COMMUNITY	\$127,127	South Side Task Force
CHICAGOLAND CHRISTIAN CENTER	\$138,750	Faith-Based E&T
DUPAGE COUNTY	\$276,318	Crisis
GREAT TRUE VINE M B CHURCH	\$277,500	Faith-Based E&T
HELPING OUR PEOPLE EXCEL	\$552,500	Faith-Based E&T
HICKS WRIGHT CORPORATION	\$150,000	Faith-Based E&T
HUMAN RESOURCES DEV INST INC	\$215,353	Crisis
ILLINOIS INST OF TECHNOLOGY	\$467,284	Crisis
INNER-CITY MUSLIM ACTION	\$400,000	Faith-Based E&T
LIGHTS OF ZION BIBLE CHURCH	\$150,000	Faith-Based E&T
PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP INC	\$650,000	West Side Task Force
ROSECRANCE INCORPORATED	\$264,709	Crisis
SHILOH MSSNRY BAPTIST CHURCH	\$224,000	Faith-Based E&T
THE ENDELEO INSTITUTE INC	\$500,000	Faith-Based E&T
THE THRESHOLDS	\$243,620	Crisis
UNIVERSAL BAPTIST CHURCH	\$349,500	Faith-Based E&T
TASC INC	\$2,161,012	IDHS-ISP Deflection
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS	\$2,500,000	Evaluation/ Epidemiology
PERSONAL ASSISTANCE TELEPHONE	\$5,431,613	Lifeline - 988

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	\$1,879,384	Medication Assisted Recovery	
EMERGENT DEVICES INC	\$8,014,819	Access Narcan	
PREVENTION FIRST INC	\$1,500,000	Public Education	
BOARD OF TTEES COMM COLL DIST	\$371,317	CRSS Success	
RINCON FAMILY SERVICES	\$435,689	CRSS Success	
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIST 502	\$140,000	CRSS Success	
ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	\$60,208	CRSS Success	
GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY	\$296,513	CRSS Success	
HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	\$710,088	CRSS Success	
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	\$209,509	CRSS Success	
PREVENTION FIRST INC	\$925,464	Workforce Development	
UNIVERSITY OF ST FRANCIS	\$89,696	CRSS Success	

Public Education

\$1,500,000

allocated for public education in FY2022

- 71,456 Unfaded sessions
- 61, 833 Let's Talk Cannabis IL sessions

IDHS/SUPR, working through Prevention First and their subrecipient, Rescue, launched a public awareness and education campaign in December 2019. When the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act was passed, IDHS/SUPR made sure that it provided Illinois' general and targeted populations information about the law, what was and what was not allowed, and messages about cannabis. The approach was focused on developing and presenting information in a nonjudgmental and science-based manner. The campaign's four (4) statewide audiences included:

- Adults 21+ that are currently using cannabis or are considering using (general population impacted)
- Parents/Mentors to address the potential questions and possible increase in use by youth
- Pregnant/Breastfeeding moms due to the potential health effects
- Youth under age 18 since the approach would still be a no-use approach

Materials were also developed for distribution via marijuana dispensaries, and research was conducted with Illinois county health departments and local prevention providers to identify gaps in education. Ongoing work, launched during May 2022, included two message packets that were released for the Let's Talk Cannabis-IL (LTCI) and Unfaded campaigns. For LTCI, the "Strong Connection" theme targets pregnant or breastfeeding women, aged 18-35, in Illinois who currently or have previously used non-medical cannabis. The content seeks to increase perception of risk with pregnant and breastfeeding audiences. "Strong Connection" serves to plant the seed of doubt by showing moms the potential risk cannabis poses to the unique bond shared with their babies through non-judgmental, balanced information that encourages them to wait to use. Since July 1, 2021, the LTCI campaign has resulted in 4,318 PDF clicks/downloads, 6,477,253 social media impressions, 684,266 social media engagements, and 61,833 website sessions

After launch, it was clear that a specific youth campaign needed to be developed. Using Rescue's IBase Survey, a proprietary market research tool, psychographics of those teens in Illinois that are at high risk of using cannabis were identified to further segment messaging and media. The *Unfaded* campaign is the result. Unfaded is a youth-targeted campaign supporting staying focused on goals. Messages are developed through youth-oriented channels and identifiable subjects, developed through an encompassing frame of no use of any substance that can hinder a person's goals. The Unfaded new content package, "Owe It," was developed for teens, aged 13-18, who are at high-risk of substance use. Teens know using substances is harmful, but they aren't thinking about it in the moment. Content from "Owe It" uses relevant, motivational messaging to remind teens that using substances as a teen can hold them back from making progress towards their future goals. The Unfaded campaign's results include 33,255,845 social media impressions (FB/IG/Snapchat), 1,300,039 social media engagements (FB/IG/Snapchat), 14,324,590 social media impressions (TikTok), 2,231,490 social media engagements (TikTok), and 71,456 website sessions.

Evaluation and Analysis

IDHS currently has thirteen funded programs in various stages of evaluation. Some programs are close to or fully operational, whereas others are still in the planning/proposal stage. The operational status of each program also affects the evaluation status of that program. Programs that are further along in development are also further along in terms of having a firm evaluation plan in place or underway. All CRTA-funded programs have been assigned to one or more investigators on the UIC evaluation team to serve as a principal or co-principal investigator. Each month, the principal investigators (PI)/Co-PI provide updates on the status of the implementation status and corresponding evaluation progress. This brief report summarizes the most recent evaluation summaries that were provided in July 2022. As of yet, we do not have evaluation data to report but expect we will have reports and information in the next project year.

The program to expand Naloxone distribution is operational and capturing data via a web-based portal. The PI plans on extracting data from the portal and conducting qualitative interviews with key stakeholders for a first-year report. The Medication Assisted Recovery Provider Support program has enrolled prescribers for training and a plan is in place between SIUC and the evaluator to upload the training data and develop reports on the program's status and training outcomes. The Racial Equity Training program is fully operational, the Co-PIs have been regularly meeting with program staff, and an evaluation plan has been developed and approved by the UIC IRB. Most recently, a post-training survey has been administered to training participants. While there has been much activity surrounding implementation of the **Behavioral Health Corp** workforce development program, it has been in a state of flux as the exact structure and services were being determined over the course of the first year. The evaluators have been attending monthly and bi-weekly development meetings and have begun interviewing and surveying staff at those programs (11 funded, 5 operational, as of June 2022). The Suicide Prevention-Lifeline and Services (two closely coordinated initiatives, collectively termed the "988" programs) has been very active with 68 agencies funded to provide emergency services. Evaluators are working closing with DMH/SUPR to develop an initial survey and quarterly metrics. The PSH Housing program evaluation is underway with Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and surveys to assess progress and services developed and distributed. The Mobile Treatment Units program is underway but still developing pilot testing services. A meeting with program staff and the evaluator was held at the end of July 2022 to discuss evaluation details.

A few programs remain in the implementation phase and consequently do not have evaluation plans developed yet. These include the **Women's Re-entry** program. The **Crisis Response Trauma Recovery Centers** initiative is still in development and needs to create a NOFO to solicit potential vendors. The evaluator has been consulting with SUPR on a broader crisis response strategy. Evaluation of the **Cannabis Education Prevention** program ("Let's Talk Cannabis") is on hold temporarily until a subcontract is in place with NORC at the University of Chicago to assist. Several meetings have been held with program staff to obtain information on the nature of the intervention.

FUNDING USAGE

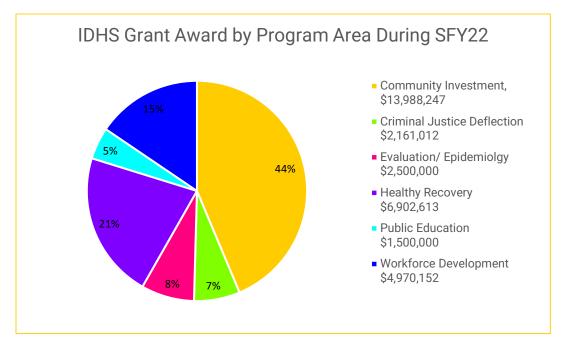
Summary

IDHS continues to implement programing across the state that reflects the guiding principles and program areas we set out to achieve. In SFY 2022, IDHS awarded over \$32 million in grants for the six project areas. During SFY20, IDHS organizations spent 6.4% of funds allocated for programming. In SFY22, IDHS organizations spent 57% of funds allocated for programming. IDHS faces the same staffing challenges that plague the behavioral health field, in general, due to the COVID pandemic and staffing shortages. Even with staffing challenges, IDHS and the behavioral health field are continually increasing the capacity and quality of services to IL communities.

\$959,078	\$12,323,806	\$18,077,993
Amount expended in FY2020	Amount expended in FY2021	Amount expended in FY2022

SFY2022 Grants Awarded

The chart below shows the breakdown of the \$32 million that IDHS awarded during SFY2022 by program area.



The chart, below, shows the percentage of grant funds expended by each program area (versus the breakdown of the total grants awarded, reflected in the pie chart, above. **Community investment**, **public education**, **healthy recovery**, and **workforce development** are all over 50% in grant funds expended as a percentage of award. The two **criminal justice deflection** projects were launched in the third and fourth quarter and were still in the startup phase during SFY22. These projects should show a significant increase in SFY23. The **evaluation and epidemiology** contracts were being procured and did not get fully executed until late in SFY22. With most of the procurement challenges solved, the percentage spent should also increase for evaluation/epidemiology in SFY23.

Program Area	% of grant funds spent
Community Investment	56%
Criminal Justice Deflection	28%
Evaluation/Epidemiology	20%
Healthy Recovery	63%
Public Education	85%
Workforce Development	70%

LEGISLATION, UPDATES, AND INITIATIVES

Summary of SFY2022 Legislation

- 1. HB4334 Overdose Prevention Supplies: Amends the Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Act. Provides that any governmental or nongovernmental entity described under specified provisions or any entity that provides medical care or health services may distribute fentanyl test strips to the public to test for the presence of fentanyl, a fentanyl analogue, or a drug adulterant within a controlled substance. Makes other changes. Amends the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act. Provides that "drug paraphernalia" does not include equipment, products, or materials to analyze or test for the presence of fentanyl, a fentanyl analogue, or a drug adulterant within a controlled substance. Bill is currently in House Committee
- 2. HB110 Safe Consumption Service (New Act): Creates the Safer Consumption Services Act. Provides that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Public Health may approve an entity to operate a program in one or more jurisdictions upon satisfaction of specified requirements relating to, among other things, the safe and hygienic use of pre-obtained drugs. Requires the Department to establish standards for program approval and training and allows it to adopt any rules that are necessary to implement the Act. Requires the Department to approve or deny an application within 45 days after its receipt. Provides that a program approved by the Department must also be designated as an authorized needle and hypodermic syringe access program under the Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Act. Provides reporting requirements for entities operating programs under the Act. Provides that, except for criminal prosecution for any activities that are not conducted, permitted, and approved pursuant to the Act, specified persons related to a program shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability solely for participation or involvement in the program if it is approved by the Department under the Act. Bill is currently in the House Rules Committee.
- 3. **SB4197 Amends the Substance Use Disorder Act:** Amends the Substance Use Disorder Act. Provides for the Department of Human Services to establish a public education program, treatment, and recovery services regarding gambling disorders. This bill also codifies Safe Consumption Services, such as Overdose Protection Sites (OPS) to be funded and regulated by IDHS/SUPR. Bill currently in Senate awaiting committee assignment.

SUMMARY of SFY 2022

IDHS is grateful for the opportunities that the CRTA funds have provided to expand the infrastructure for mental health and substance use disorder support for all of Illinois' residents. IDHS is committed to continuing to be good stewards of the CRTA funds to assure that all residents have equitable access to services that support harm reduction, recovery, and resiliency strategies. As IDHS looks to the new fiscal year 2023, the expansion of current programs and the addition of new strategies promises to continue to broaden the reach of human services and to further the goal of creating a more socially just and equitable Illinois.