UIC EDUCATION

Center for Literacy

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

A Year of Impact

Annual Report 2024 | A Year of Impact

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On the cover: A Center for Literacy workshop to support paraprofessionals who work with people in the autism community of Chicago.

Dear supporters, partners, and friends,

Thank you for your commitment to UIC's Center for Literacy throughout 2024!

We continued our work supporting Chicago communities and families. We reflected on more than 30 years of service as well as our current efforts to refine our mission and vision for the future.

In 2024, we secured and stewarded over $2 million in grant funding to directly support Chicago communities and families.

Our Professional Development team served 130 early childhood educators through learning circles and workshops. These trainings support emerging and established professionals to deepen their skills and work effectively with parents and children in Chicago Early Learning sites.

Our Resource Center for Autism and Developmental Delays (RCADD) served 399 participants through autism-focused workshops and consultations. We facilitated over 8,000 visits to RCADD's virtual and onsite Resource Rooms, which allow parents and educators to take home resources to use with the children in their lives.

Our Parent and Youth Outreach team provided 70 workshops on topics ranging from family literacy to employment readiness. We led six cohorts for fathers through our 24/7 Dads program, which supports fathers of young children with community and learning to improve their parenting skills.

We revitalized our Adult Education Program and began with 13 participants in 2024. We look forward to these learners earning their GEDs in 2025, as well as welcoming new learners to the program.

We consolidated all of our locations to our central office on UIC's campus to allow us to collaborate and increase our impact in Chicago neighborhoods.

We look forward to deepening our impact in 2025. Thank you for your partnership and continued support!

Andrea Vaughan
Interim Director

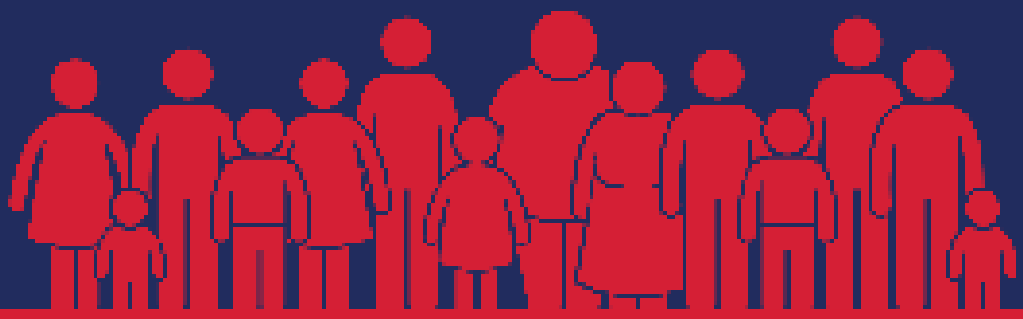
In 2024, we revised our **mission** and **vision** to more clearly reflect our work.

We teach families to access strengths within themselves and to connect with available resources to build thriving communities.

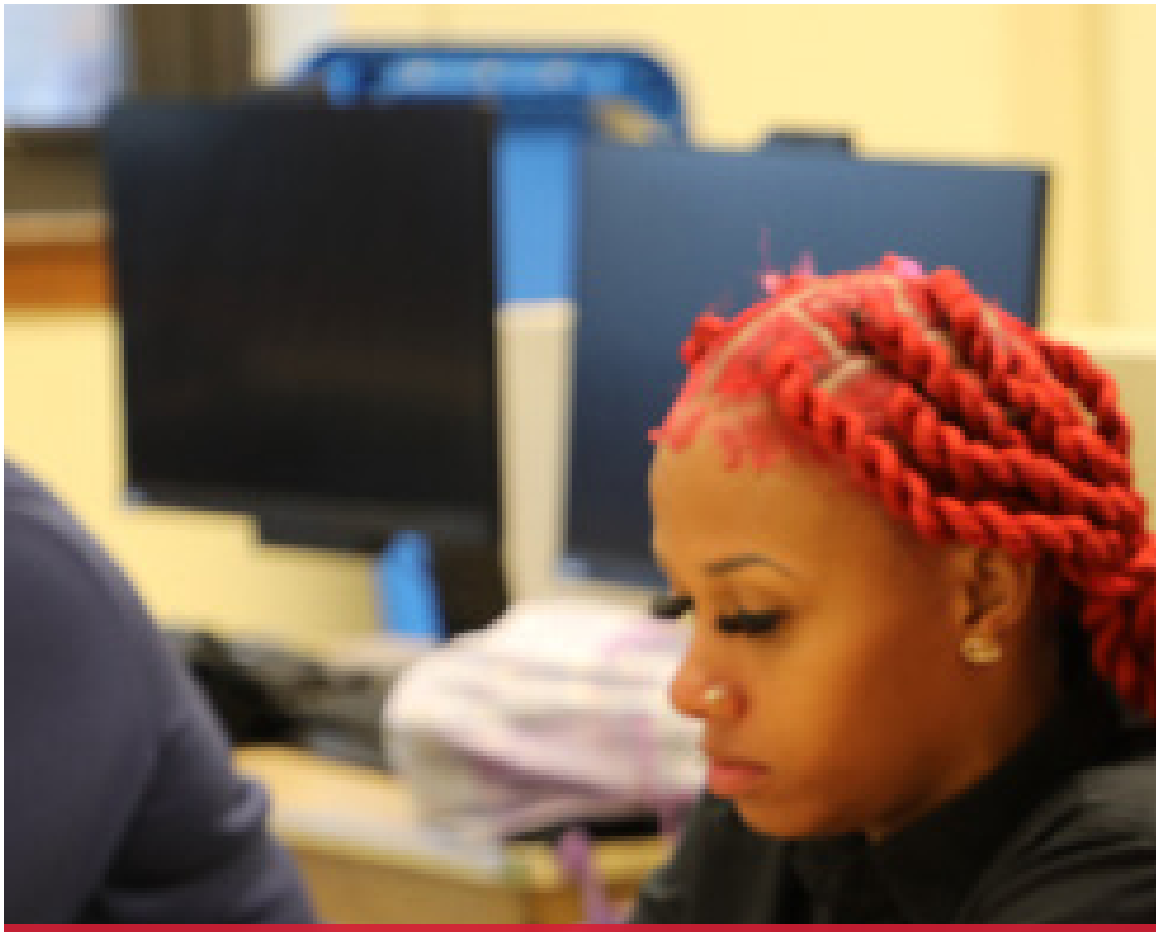
We envision a world where families are at the center of their communities and in charge of their educational futures.

IC EDUCATION

Center for Literacy



OUR PROGRAMS



Adult Education
The Center for Literacy supports adults in their efforts to advance their education and access employment opportunities through our GED program and workforce development services.

Parent and Youth Outreach (PYO Program)
We work with parents in our family literacy, financial literacy and fatherhood/parenting programs.

Resource Center for Autism and Developmental Delays (RCADD Program)
RCADD supports parents and educators of children with autism and other developmental delays through professional development, one-on-one coaching and access to our resource library.

Professional Development and Family Engagement
We support early childhood educators and emerging providers through one-on-one coaching, learning circles and workshop programming.

GED Program

The Center for Literacy is deepening its commitment to adult education through a revitalized GED program. Over the past 30 years, CFL has successfully graduated more than 400 GED students, and is now bringing back this vital opportunity for adult learners on Chicago's South and West sides to gain small-group and one-on-one instruction in pursuit of their high school equivalency degrees.

The program is entirely free to participants and is taught by a team of instructors that includes UIC College of Education graduate students and former GED program participants who understand these learners' needs and experiences, because they have been there themselves. The Center for Literacy partners with local schools, community organizations, and the UIC Neighborhood Center Initiative to envision the GED program as part of an educational pathway for Chicago residents to access education, connect to employment opportunities, and achieve their goals. In this way, the Center for Literacy is one very important way the College of Education and UIC show up in Chicago neighborhoods.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Adult Education

Re-ignited our GED program.

Partnered with three different community-based organizations to bring GED services to their participants.

Enrolled 13 learners in GED classes.

Parent and Youth Outreach

70 Workshops

300 Parents

6 Cohorts

28 Fathers

Provided 70 workshops on topics including family literacy, financial literacy, and career readiness to parents at Head Start and Early Head Start sites across the South and West Sides. Through these workshops, over 300 parents were served.

Facilitated six cohorts of dads in our 24/7 Dads program, serving 28 fathers in total.

Resource Center for Autism and Developmental Delays

Facilitated 19 workshops and 581 consultations for educators and parents/caregivers of children with autism and other developmental delays, for a total of 399 individuals served.

19
Workshops

581
Cosultations

399
Individuals Serviced

8,000 Completed Visits

Facilitated **over** 8,000 visits to RCADD's virtual and onsite Resource Rooms for patrons to check out and create materials for the children in their lives.

Professional Development and Family Engagement

Served 130 Early Childhood professionals, including family support workers, early childhood educators, and site leaders through 37 workshops on topics like goal-setting, case notes, and home visiting techniques.

8
Cohorts working toward their Early Childhood Education credentials.

31
Emerging Professionals Served.

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Resource Center for Autism and Developmental Delays (RCADD)

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Supporters - Partners

Bond Elementary School
Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)
Healthy Hood
Literacy Volunteers of Illinois (LVI)
North Lawndale Employment Network
Teamwork Englewood
UIC Neighborhood Centers - Office of Community Collaboration

Supporters - Funders

The Autism Program of Illinois
City of Chicago Department of Family Support Services
Illinois Community College Board

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