



PLANO AREA ALLIANCE SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT



STRONG FAMILIES. STRONG FUTURES.

A Message From Laurel

Dear PAASSS Partners, Families, and Community Members,

As we reflect on the 2025–2026 year, we are incredibly grateful for the collaboration, commitment, and shared vision that continue to strengthen support for young children and families across Grundy and Kendall Counties.

With the funding support of Birth to Five Illinois and commitment of time, talent, and treasures from our community partners, donors, volunteers, and families, PAASSS continued building stronger connections between families, schools, health providers, and community organizations while expanding access to resources and supports across our region.

Highlights from This Year

- Expanded the IRIS referral and data dashboard system to strengthen coordination and better understand community needs
- Distributed 950 bilingual family activity calendars and 250 newborn resource kits
- Hosted two community screenings of No Small Matter and regional listening sessions to help shape the future of early childhood systems work
- Supported two parent leaders in becoming trained COFI facilitators who then helped lead two new cohorts of parent leaders in Spring 2026
- Increased community engagement through Healthy Kids Day, baby showers, parent mentor events, mental health collaborations, newsletters, social media, and family-centered outreach

As we look ahead, our new strategic plan will guide the next phase of our collaboration's work through three pillars:

Educate

Increase awareness of early childhood development, resources, and the importance of early investment.

Collaborate

Strengthen partnerships and align services across Grundy and Kendall Counties.

Empower

Center families as leaders and partners in shaping stronger communities for children.

None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our families, collaboration members, schools, nonprofits, health departments, faith communities, businesses, and regional partners. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected system of support for children and families. We invite you to continue this work alongside us by volunteering your time, sharing your talents, attending events, following our work online, connecting families to resources, or making a donation to support our mission. Every contribution helps strengthen the future of our communities.

With gratitude,



Laurel Mateyka
CEO & Founder



ABOUT PAASSS



PAASSS

PAASSS is a community collaborative serving Grundy and Kendall Counties in Illinois with a promise to support children and families in their journey to success in learning and life.



OUR VISION

A connected regional system where every child and family has access to the relationships, resources, and opportunities needed to thrive.



OUR MISSION

PAASSS works to strengthen coordinated systems of support for children and families across Kendall and Grundy Counties through collaboration, community partnerships, family leadership, and equitable access to resources and opportunities empowering them to raise children that are safe, healthy, eager to learn, and ready to succeed

CORE VALUES



COLLABORATION

We believe stronger outcomes happen when families, organizations, and communities work together.



EQUITY & INCLUSION

We are committed to reducing barriers and increasing access to resources and opportunities for all families.



TRUST & COMMUNITY

We value strong relationships, shared accountability, and listening to the needs of the communities we serve.



WHY PAASSS MATTERS

Strong early childhood support creates stronger futures for children, families, and communities. Through collaboration and connection to early learning programs, family resources, and coordinated services, PAASSS helps children enter Kindergarten healthy, supported, and ready to succeed while expanding equitable access to opportunities across Kendall and Grundy Counties.

COMMUNITY GAPS

Family Awareness & Navigation

Fragmented Systems

Equitable Access

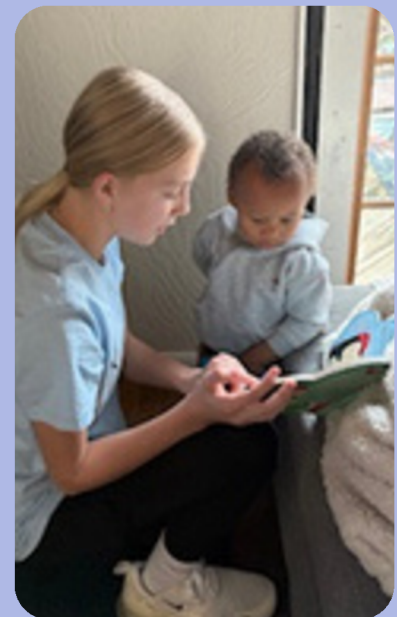
Parent Voice & Leadership

Early Identification & Prevention

EARLY EDUCATION

Early learning collaboration brings together multi-sector partners and providers to help ensure families have access to high-quality early childhood programs and well-trained professionals who support children's developmental and social-emotional readiness for Kindergarten.

PAASSS works to strengthen a connected system of support that expands equitable access to early learning programs, resources, and smooth transitions from birth through Kindergarten for children and their families across the region.



“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

~Nelson Mandela

OUR IMPACT

NUMBERS THAT ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD...



950
CALENDARS
DISTRIBUTED

250
NEWBORN KITS
DISTRIBUTED

\$66,000
FUNDING RECEIVED
FROM BIRTH TO FIVE
ILLINOIS

\$2,575
DONATED BY
ILLINOIS ACTION
FOR CHILDREN CS3
TEAM

(((•))) DIGITAL IMPACT

57,912
FACEBOOK VIEWS

2,596
WEBSITE VISITORS

1,267
SOCIAL MEDIA INTERACTIONS

39
NEW FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

3,190
WEBSITE SESSIONS

60,000+
DIGITAL TOUCHPOINTS
Generated in FY26



During FY26, PAASSS generated more than 60,000 digital touchpoints through our website and social media platforms, helping connect families, providers and community partners to resources, programs and services throughout Kendall and Grundy Counties.



TOGETHER, WE CREATE LASTING CHANGE

Since launching IRIS in August 2025, PAASSS has expanded access to services and connected more families across Kendall and Grundy Counties to critical support. Through partnerships with organizations in Cook, DeKalb, Kane, Kankakee, LaSalle, and Will Counties, families now have access to resources and services that were previously unavailable within the region.



58

REFERRALS

Total in the PAASSS Grundy/Kendall IRIS Network.



28

FAMILIES

Unduplicated number of families who were the subject of at least one referral.



69%

LOOP CLOSURE RATE

Percentage of all referrals with a rejected or completed status.



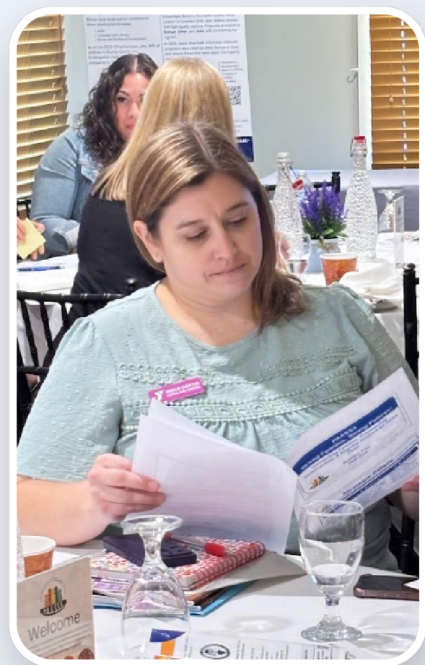
55

PARTNER AGENCIES

PAASSS Grundy/Kendall IRIS Network



IN ACTION



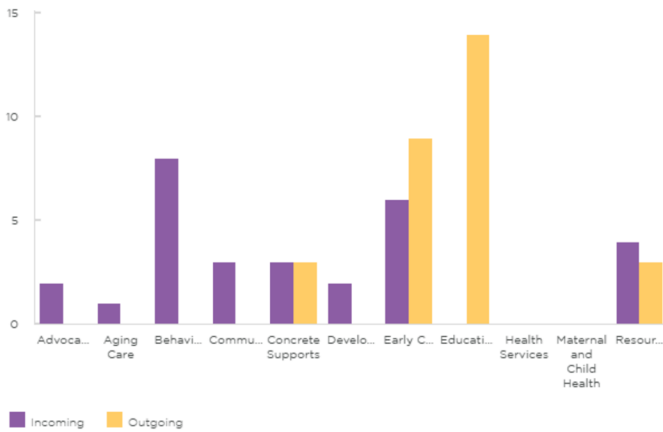
180

TRAINED IRIS USERS

PAASSS Grundy/Kendall IRIS Network

IRIS UPDATE

Referral Distribution by Partner Primary Sector



Grundy / Kendall ROE #24-Truancy was able to send six referrals on behalf of a client to unique partner organizations at one time, connecting a family with complex needs to resources across the community more efficiently.

COMMUNITY WINS

Families find support faster.

Partners work smarter together.

No family falls through the cracks.

Data tells our community's story.

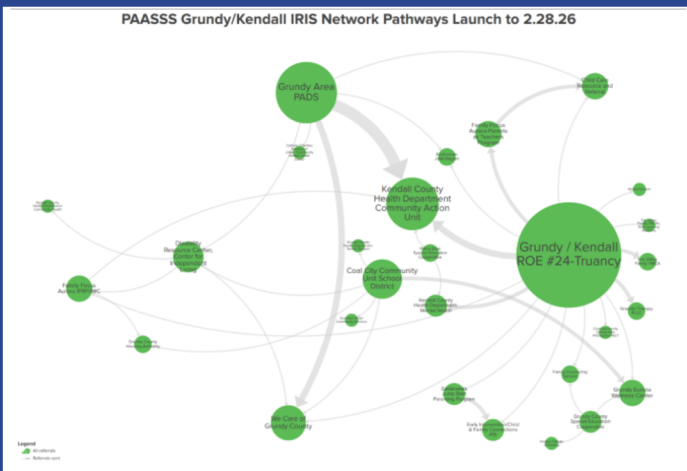
Collaboration drives change.

IRIS Impact

🌐 Connect → 🤝 Collaborate → 📊 Understand → 💡 Improve → 🌱 Thrive

NETWORK PATHWAYS

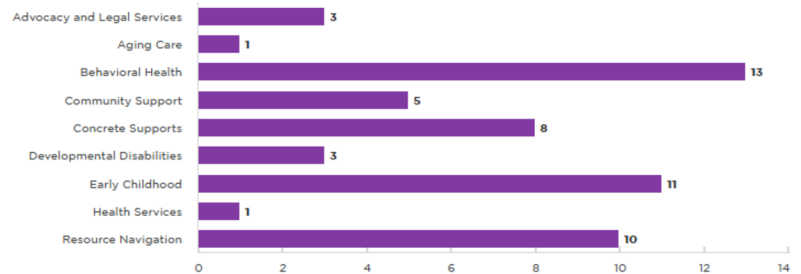
PAASSS Grundy/Kendall IRIS Network Pathways Launch to 2.28.26



Grundy Area PADS connected an individual to housing resources at Disability Resource Center, Center for Independent Living and to LIHEAP resources at Kendall County Health Department Community Action Unit. Once KCHD-CAU accepted the referral, the referral was completed in less than 24 hours.



Referrals Received by Sector



Updated February 28, 2026

In the first six months of use, the majority of referrals have been to Behavioral Health, Early Childhood, and Resource Navigation organizations.

READY TO LAUNCH

MILESTONES THAT FUELED THE MISSION



AUGUST

ONBOARD IRIS PARTNERS AND LAUNCH IRIS NETWORK



OCTOBER

DESIGN 2026 CALENDAR, FINALIZE BIRTH TO FIVE BUDGET AND WORKPLAN

DECEMBER

RELEASE & DISTRIBUTE 12 MONTH BILINGUAL ACTIVITY CALENDARS

JANUARY

HOST NO SMALL MATTER SCREENINGS, UPDATE WEBSITE, IRIS DATA MEETING



FEBRUARY

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS, COFI PHASE I COHORT 2, NEWBORN KIT MAKE & TAKE AND DISTRIBUTION

APRIL

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS, IRIS DATA MEETING, HEALTHY KIDS DAY



JUNE

ANNUAL REPORT & STRATEGIC PLAN, COFI PHASE I COHORT 3

SUPPORTING THE ADULTS WHO SUPPORT OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

In June 2026, in partnership with Birth to Five Illinois Region 24, PAASSS brought together families, educators, caregivers, and community partners for an important conversation about early childhood mental health and wellness.

The event centered family voice by highlighting a parent's personal journey navigating challenges, advocating for their children, and partnering with schools to find support. Early childhood mental health providers continued the conversation by sharing the importance of reducing stigma, asking for help, and recognizing that supporting adult well-being directly impacts child well-being.



WHY THIS MATTERS

"Children thrive when the adults around them feel supported, connected, and empowered."



COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Families, educators, providers, and community leaders learning together
- Local mental health resources shared with families and professionals
- Family voice centered as a driver for change
- Partnerships strengthened across Grundy and Kendall Counties



IN ACTION



OUR PARTNERS



Strong systems are built through shared commitment. The work of PAASSS is only possible because of partners and donors who invest their time, talent, and resources to ensure every child and family has access to the support they need to thrive.



FUNDER:

With support from **Birth to Five Illinois**, PAASSS has expanded its capacity to serve as a trusted regional convener and backbone organization for early childhood systems change.



COLLABORATORS:

Through the leadership and commitment of **55 IRIS Network partners**, agencies are moving toward a coordinated system to improve access, strengthen referrals, and ensure families receive the right support at the right time.



PARTNER ORGANIZATION:

PAASSS gratefully recognizes the **Grundy/Kendall Regional Office of Education #24** for providing the fiscal partnership and organizational support needed to sustain and expand our regional impact.



Do you think you or your team could contribute to and benefit from working with PAASSS to advance our mission?

Reach out to **Laurel Mateyka** at laurelmateyka@paasss.org.

Together, we can change the future for our children and families.

A BRIGHT FUTURE ✨

LAUNCHING OUR NEXT MISSION



1

EDUCATE

Bring awareness, resources, and learning opportunities to families and providers.

- Increase outreach efforts
- Expand accessible education
- Improve multilingual resources

2

COLLABORATE

Strengthen partnerships and improve coordination across organizations.

- Grow community partnerships
- Improve referral systems
- Strengthen communication

3

EMPOWER

Support family leadership, engagement and equitable access to resources.

- Increase parent leadership
- Reduce participation barriers
- Expand culturally responsive outreach



Guided by these strategic pillars, we will continue strengthening regional partnerships, increasing access to resources, and ensuring every child and family has the support they need to thrive.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP MORE CHILDREN, MORE FAMILIES AND MORE COMMUNITIES THRIVE.

INVEST IN OUR MISSION

Invest in PAASSS and help support young children and families across Region 24. Together, we can strengthen early learning, build brighter futures, and create lasting impact in our community.



FOLLOW AND SHARE

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and help us grow by liking and sharing our posts. Encourage your followers to do the same. Together we can reach more families, share more resources, and make a bigger impact.



SUPPORT LITERACY

Help bring literacy to local laundromats! Each nook costs \$1,530 and includes: Small couch (\$400), bookstand (\$429), small rug (\$329), educational toys (\$215), puppet set (\$149), and books (\$143).



SCAN TO DONATE

or visit
paasss.org/donate



Your support helps create opportunities, build stronger communities and change futures for children and families.

A GALAXY OF SUPPORT

- Arukah Institute of Healing
- Association for Individual Development
- Birth to Five IL Region 24
- Bridgeview Clinical Services
- CASA of River Valley
- Catholic Charities of Joliet
- Centennial Counseling
- Child and Family Connections (CFC4)
- Child and Family Connections (CFC15)
- Child Care Resource & Referral (SDA5)
- Coal City Community Unit School District
- Community Foundation of Grundy County
- Community Organizing Family Issues (COFI)
- Crossroads Counseling Services, PLLC
- Disability Resource Center
- Easter Seals Joliet Region & Jump Start
- Epilepsy Advocacy Network
- Erikson Institute - DCFS Project
- Family Counseling Service
- Family Focus Aurora IFRP/IWC
- Family Focus Parents as Teachers Program
- Family Recover Centers
- Fox Valley Family YMCA
- Fox Valley Family YMCA Early Learning Academy
- Fox Valley United Way
- Graceful Therapy PLLC
- Grundy Area PADS
- Grundy County Health Department
- Grundy County Housing Authority
- Grundy County Special Education Cooperative
- Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission
- Grundy Eunoia Wellness Center
- Grundy Kendall Regional Office of Education
 - Youth Employment
- Grundy Kendall Regional Office of Education
 - McKinney-Vento
- Grundy Kendall Regional Office of Education
 - Truancy
- Grundy Transit System
- Grundy Workforce Services

THANKS TO OUR FISCAL SPONSOR

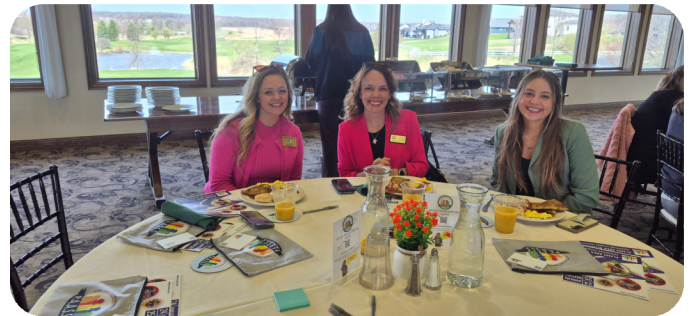


Made possible by funding from



A GALAXY OF SUPPORT

- Heartlife Recovery 180 Grundy R.O.S.C.
- Home Helpers
- Illinois Action for Children - CS3 Team
- Illinois Valley Industries
- Immaculate Conception School
- KCS Counseling, Ltd.
- Kendall County Community Action
- Kendall County Community Health
- Kendall County Mental Health
- Kendall County WIC
- Loaves & Fishes Community Services
- Madrigal Consulting and Counseling, LLP
- Morris Hospital YMCA
- Morris Preschool
- Morris School District 54
- Mutual Ground
- NAMI Will-Grundy
- Oswego Police Department
- Plano Areas Special Education Cooperative
- Plano CUSD 88 - PH Miller
- Plano Community Library District
- Plano Methodist Church
- Plano Police Department
- Plano Public Library
- Rush Copley Health Care
- Sandwich School District 430
- Saratoga Elementary School District 60c
- South Wilmington Grade School
- Two Rivers Head Start
- United Way of Grundy County
- We Care of Grundy County
- Yorkville School District 115



One mission. Many partners. Endless possibilities for children and families.



PLANO AREA ALLIANCE SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

CONTACT US

PAASSINFO@GMAIL.COM
219 N. HALE STREET,
PLANO, IL 60545
815.201.3924

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.PAASSS.ORG

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK.COM/PAASSS

Every connection made, every resource shared, and every partnership strengthened moves us closer to a brighter future for children and families across Grundy and Kendall Counties.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

LET'S KEEP REACHING FOR THE STARS...TOGETHER!