Illinois Respite Coalition

Start-Up Process
• In 1998, The Illinois Respite Coalition (IRC) started out as a grassroots organization with parents, respite providers and community leaders. Technical assistance was provided by ARCH.
• In 2001, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) received federal funding to develop six demonstration grants and funded the IRC.
• In 2013, volunteer board members continued to move the coalition mission and vision forward; Maryville Academy began serving as fiscal agent.

Structure
• The IRC has a volunteer Board of Directors that serves as leadership for the coalition and meets on a quarterly basis.
• The Board of Directors supervises and supports the Statewide Respite Coordinator.

Staff
• The Statewide Respite Coordinator is the only paid staff position under the IRC's direction.

Funding
• State funding through the Department of Children and Family Services
• State funding through the Department of Human Services
• Funding from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
• Donations

Major Activities
• The IRC maintains a database of agencies throughout the state of Illinois that provide respite and other services that are of assistance to caregivers and care recipients.
• Services are available to any family caregiver or provider statewide, regardless of age or disability.
• The IRC assists parents and caregivers by providing referrals and connecting them to services in their area.
• Emergency respite funding is available for families who are in crisis and need temporary assistance.
• Trainings on respite and related topics are available upon request.
• The IRC assists the state with identifying gaps in services and builds diverse respite partnerships.
• Distributes literature and information on matters such as child and elder abuse prevention and how to choose a respite worker.
• Provides access to training and caregiving resources online.
• The IRC networks with respite coalitions in other states.
• Outreach is conducted to promote the services provided by the IRC to agencies, support groups, and other organizations.
• The IRC is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the importance of “Lifespan Respite” and advocates support for universal access to quality respite services for residents of the State of Illinois.
**Documents/Resources Available**

- Bylaws
- Brochures (available in English and Spanish)
- Surveys
- Job description of Statewide Respite Coordinator

**State Contact Information**

**Christy Thielen**  
IRC Statewide Respite Coordinator  
4015 North Oak Park Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60634  
Office: (773) 205-3627  
Cell: (630) 207-8479  
Fax: (773) 205-3631  
thielen@maryvilleacademy.org

**Tina Yurik**  
President, IRC Board  
Director, Clearbrook’s Take a Break Volunteer Program  
1935 Techny Road, Suite 15  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
(847) 291-6971 ext. 227  
tinayurik@gmail.com