

# Illinois Judicial Branch

## ILLINOIS COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT (FFY2020)



### **FFY2020 Funding Availability**

Please contact the CIP Grants Program Developer to inquire about availability of FFY2020 CIP funding.

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The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC), on behalf of the Supreme Court of Illinois, provides funding opportunities to interested applicants for proposed projects related to the goals of the State Court Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is a federally funded initiative designed to improve the quality of the court process for children and families involved in abuse, neglect, dependency, and termination of parental rights court proceedings.

FFY2020 CIP funding is available from October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021.

Priority consideration will be given to those proposals that support one or more of the following six pillars for CIP funding and programming.

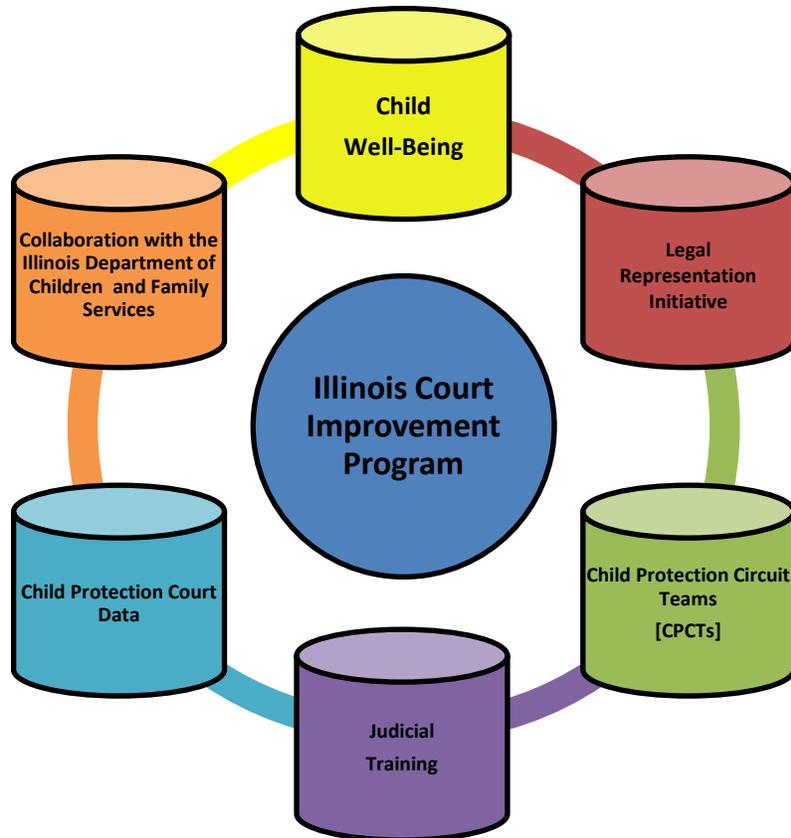


Supreme Court of Illinois  
Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

# THE SIX PILLARS OF THE ILLINOIS COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

## ILLINOIS' FRAMEWORK FOR FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts continues to develop the foundation and infrastructure for improved court practices in child protection cases by concentrating its efforts on the six pillars of Illinois Court Improvement Program funding and programming. These pillars include:



**The Statewide Legal Representation Initiative.** These projects will improve the quality of legal representation for children, parents and families. The Initiative includes attorney training, resource development, and funding local programs and projects that enhance the effectiveness of legal representation, and results in improved outcomes for children and families involved in child abuse and neglect cases.

**Child Protection Circuit Teams (CPCTs).** CPCTs promote coordination between courts and child protection stakeholders to ensure safety and stability for children and families involved in child abuse, neglect, and dependency court proceedings. The CPCTs help to identify service gaps and breakdowns in coordination or communication between agencies. They enhance the professional skills and knowledge of individual team members by providing a forum for learning about the strategies, resources and approaches used by various disciplines. These projects may encourage local and/or regional training opportunities for multi-disciplinary circuit teams.

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**Judicial Training.** The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts is committed to developing and maintaining an effective system of training and technical assistance for judges. The priorities include the planning, design and delivery of training events which build knowledge, competencies and judge skill sets, as well as increasing professional networking opportunities, for judges who preside over child abuse, neglect and termination of parental rights cases.

**Child Protection Court Data.** The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts works to build the courts' capacity to collect child protection court data and enhance the ability for judicial leaders to make data-driven decisions that support court improvement efforts in juvenile abuse and neglect court cases. The AOIC's *Child Protection Data Courts (CPDC) Project* purpose and objective is to collect court data and track local child protection court performance and to measure outcomes in ten judicial pilot sites. Examples of additional AOIC's child protection court data initiatives have included: evaluation of child protection mediation programs, foster care youth, judges, attorneys and/or various child protection court stakeholder focus groups; case flow management and hearing quality studies, cold-case child protection court file reviews, etc.

**Collaboration with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (IDCFS).** The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts collaborates with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services by participating in the implementation of multiple strategies of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP), participating in the Children and Families Services Review (CFSR), and Title IV-E Review.

**Well-Being.** Child well-being refers to factors other than safety and permanency that relate to a child's current and future welfare – most notably, the child's physical and mental health, as well as educational achievement. Improving the court's response to issues that affect the well-being of abused and neglected children under its care is a priority. Courts share the responsibility for ensuring that children receive a quality education and are physically and emotionally healthy.