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**CHICAGO  
CHILD CARE  
SOCIETY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CHICAGO CHILD CARE SOCIETY TO EXPAND SERVICES TO CHICAGO'S SOUTH SUBURBS TO ADDRESS EMERGING NEEDS**

*Illinois State Board of Education grant allows the agency to serve 150 more children and their families through home visitation program*

CHICAGO, June 2018 – Chicago Child Care Society (CCCS) will offer its early childhood in-home visiting services to eight new communities in Cook County's southern suburbs, including Calumet City, Chicago Heights, Dixmoor, Dolton, Ford Heights, Harvey, Posen, and Riverdale. The suburban areas face high poverty rates, according to a 2014 Cook County Indicators report. In Ford Heights alone, 42.2 percent of households are at 100 percent the federal poverty line or below, while the 2014 statewide poverty rate was 22.94 percent. The services, which begin on July 1, 2018, will help to strengthen families dealing with poverty, ensuring they receive the care and support they need to be successful. The expansion is possible because of an \$850,000 Prevention Initiative Grant from from the Illinois State Board of Education. Over the next five years, CCCS will serve 150 more children between 0 and 3 years of age and their families.

Among mothers in the new communities CCCS will serve, nearly 70 percent are single and 18 percent are teenagers, according to the Cook County Department of Public Health in a 2008 community profile. Over 16 percent of those mothers do not receive prenatal care during their first trimester. The nonprofit's early childhood in-home visiting initiative aims to eliminate obstacles young families face by bringing services directly to them. CCCS provides weekly 90-minute home visits, developmental screenings, child development education and activities to stimulate parent-child bonding. The program also promotes pre and postnatal care and encourages healthy family functioning. It currently serves 459 children and their families.

"This grant from the Illinois State Board of Education is essential in allowing us to provide critical support for more children and families," said Dara Munson, CEO of Chicago Child Care Society. "We see the need for our early childhood education services growing and we are looking forward to increasing services to help meet that need. Through our work, we hope to create a stronger and healthier community in which all families have the opportunity to thrive."

CCCS has served children, youth and families for nearly 170 years, providing support to the whole family. As a part of its mission, CCCS continues to evolve the services it offers — and where they are offered — to match the current and emerging needs of its community.

### **About Chicago Child Care Society**

Chicago Child Care Society (CCCS) is a multi-service, non-profit child welfare agency that delivers high impact intervention and prevention services for children and youth who are facing significant challenges in their lives. CCCS has supported children and stabilized families for 169

years. Our mission is to provide innovative, community-based education and social service programs that address the current and emerging needs of vulnerable children and their families. Our programs address early childhood (0-5 years), teen parents, at risk adolescents/teens, relative care and specialized foster parents and families and tackle societal issues of poverty, teen pregnancy and inadequate childcare and healthcare. For more information, please visit [www.cccsociety.org](http://www.cccsociety.org).

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