

Community Inclusion Teams 2021

Early CHOICES & ECTA

Inclusion Implementation Project Overview

State Leadership Team (SLT)

An interagency, cross-sector, collaborative team that develops and strengthens policies, procedures, funding, professional development and more.

Community Inclusion Teams (CITs)

School district or Local Education Agency based CITs serve as demonstrations of the effectiveness of the inclusion indicators and provide a model for others in the state of Illinois. Currently 3 in progress.

Statewide Network

A professional network of Program Coaches who provide technical assistance to Community Inclusion Teams and local program leadership.

Implementation Programs (IPs)

Selected by CITs, IPs have Leadership teams that meet monthly. Implemented action plans, changed practices and enhanced policies and procedures. Will serve as demonstrations. 5 in progress.

"In the spirit of non-competition and collaboration, we share resources."

Community Inclusion Team 2021 Highlights

Relationships

Solid relationships built strong collaborations between districts and community entities.

Collaboration

Community collaboration increased access to inclusive placements.

Vision

Aligned visions supported collaboration across systems.

Coaching

Implementing Practice Based Coaching key to supporting inclusion.

The Collinsville District and Collinsville Head Start entered a new collaboration so services will be provided at Head Start.

Lessons Learned and Next Steps

Support

CITs need support from TA providers & from within program. Strong leadership at a high level required.

Time and Relationships

This work takes time & is labor intensive. Investment of time & energy yields results. Relationships are the foundation of this work.

Professional Learning and Partnerships

CIT forums and "The Preschool Inclusion Toolbox" series. Intentional planning and funding, keeping partners informed of the work

Building Capacity to Scale Up

Grow from existing from existing CITs and mentor other communities.

"We are trying to draw in as many partners as we can so we can grow our circles of influence."