



We Are JPA

Our Mission

To improve the social and emotional well-being and functioning of vulnerable children so they can reach their fullest potential at home, in school, and in our communities.

Who We Serve

Over 4,000 children, caregivers and educators in under-resourced neighborhoods throughout Chicago.



95% of our clients are African American and live in high-poverty neighborhoods



55% have a relative or close friend killed/harmed by violence



51% have a caregiver or close relative who has died due to medical reasons



40% experience domestic violence within their family



42% are homeless or experiencing housing instability

We've been serving the children of Chicago for over 120 years



1901

Jane Addams and her colleagues create The Juvenile Protective Association (JPA), providing the first juvenile advocates for Chicago's children

1960

JPA helps establish the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

1980s

JPA focuses on direct services, including therapy for children & families in Cabrini Green

1990-2010

JPA is a Principal Investigator on a 20 year Longitudinal Study on Child Abuse and Neglect following 247 families

2005

JPA begins to offer trauma-informed, school-based therapy to children in North Lawndale

2016

JPA pilots Connect 2 Kindergarten (C2K) to help teachers form stronger, more positive relationships with their students, resulting in smoother transitions to Kindergarten

2019

C2K evolves into Connect 2 Kids offering consultation to elementary school teachers of all grade levels to help them understand and support the social-emotional learning and trauma-informed needs of their students

2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, JPA adds tele-therapy to its school-based child and family therapy and consultation to educators

PRESENT

JPA offers school-based mental health programs, including therapy and consultation, to children, parents and educators living in marginalized communities throughout Chicago

Our Programs & Impact

Treatment & Counseling

JPA's school-based Treatment & Counseling Program helps children overcome the burdens of trauma and toxic stress and increase the likelihood of academic success and social-emotional well-being. Services include individual and small group therapy, consultation, workshops, and professional development.



89% of JPA's young clients consistently attend therapy sessions

“Because of him being in therapy and learning to control his anger, he’s now on the honor roll and sees how important his behavior is to his academic achievements. He is so very proud of himself!”

- Mother of Middle School Boy

Trauma-Informed Teacher Consultation

Through JPA's Connect 2 Kids (C2K) program, JPA therapists provide teacher consultation, helping them gain insights into the underlying causes of their students' disruptive behaviors, and modeling ways to positively and productively work with these children. C2K opens the door for teachers to form stronger, more positive relationships with students, thereby delivering significant growth toward social-emotional and classroom goals.



60% of children with challenging behaviors improve at the same rate as those in individual therapy.

“I faced tough challenges this school year and do not think I could have survived without the support of C2K”

- C2K Teacher

Additional Programs & Services

- Child & Family Resource Centers
- Drop-In & Crisis Counseling Sessions
- Caregiver Support & Therapy
- Child Welfare consulting, research and evaluation
- New Light - JPA's outpatient psychotherapy clinic

