

WHY IT MATTERS

Across Illinois, too many people experience serious illness, injury, crisis, or loss that may have been preventable. Problems such as maternal health complications, chronic illness, substance use, behavioral health concerns, unsafe living conditions, violence, and other community challenges rarely happen without warning. Often, there are circumstances or warning signs that appear long before a crisis occurs.

Unfortunately, many of our systems are designed to respond after something happens. A person becomes seriously ill, a family reaches a crisis point, someone is injured, or a life is lost—and then we respond. By that time, the opportunity to address the underlying problems may have already been missed. Families can become overwhelmed, community resources can be stretched thin, and the cost of responding to a crisis can be far greater than addressing the risk earlier.

Illinois C.A.R.E.S.™ takes a different approach. We believe risk is not random. By looking at what has happened in real communities and studying the patterns that often come before illness, injury, crisis, and death, we can better recognize when someone or a community may be facing increased risk. This helps us ask important questions:

What is putting people at risk?

What can we do about it?

What resources are available?

And how can we help before the situation becomes a crisis?

Our Predictive Wellness Model™ is about getting ahead of problems instead of waiting for them to become emergencies. Through education, awareness, resources, and early action, Illinois C.A.R.E.S.™ helps individuals, families, organizations, and communities recognize risk and strengthen the factors that can help protect people. The goal is simple: identify risk earlier, understand what is driving it, connect people to the right resources, and act before preventable harm occurs.