



We Are JPA

Our Mission

is 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

more than 3,000 children, parents, caregivers and educators on the south and west sides of Chicago each year



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



of our clients have experienced at least one trauma, such as community violence, abuse, neglect, or homelessness

We've been serving the children of Chicago for 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–Present

JPA expands its reach by offering programs that include in-school therapy and consultation to teachers in underserved neighborhoods

2020

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

Building Strong Children

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men”

-Frederick Douglass

JPA understands that for children to thrive, they must have a solid foundation. That is why JPA provides vital mental health services and support to the whole family to ensure the best possible outcomes for Chicago's youth – our future.



School-Based Therapy Services

JPA provides individual and small-group therapy for children affected by trauma so they can express their emotions in a safe space and find ways to create positive, caring relationships with teachers and peers.

- Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, JPA partnered with 18 schools in the Altgeld Gardens, North Lawndale, Bucktown, Belmont Cragin and Humboldt Park neighborhoods, among others.



of children in individual therapy, as rated by their teachers, make substantial progress throughout the school year.

JPA therapists lead classroom groups for elementary and middle school children that encourage students to discuss their feelings on topics that worry them or cause anxiety such as making friends, bullying, dating, and more.

“I jumped up a level in reading! I think it's because I can talk about my dad being in jail and how it makes me feel.”

- 3rd Grade Boy

Adaptive & Responsive Services

When the pandemic forced schools to close, JPA quickly enacted a plan to move its therapy and counseling services to tele-therapy.



Utilizing digital resources, therapists continued to offer consistent, confidential therapy sessions to 75% of their caseloads, with more experienced therapists seeing 90% of their clients.

- JPA staff and volunteers assembled & delivered over 100 therapy kits to every child on their caseload. The kits contained similar toys & activities the children find in their school therapy room, which gives them a sense of comfort and familiarity.
- JPA provided all therapy clients (and their siblings) with headphones so they can maintain private conversations with their therapists - and be more attentive to their virtual classes.

Summer Programs

JPA offers a variety of social-emotional enrichment programming for children, including a reading program for PreK-2nd graders, 9th Gear group sessions for middle school students, and a summer camp for 3rd - 5th graders focusing on topics such as self-awareness, decision making & relationship skills.

Parent Groups

JPA offers workshops and group sessions to hundreds of parents each year to help them cope with trauma's effects and provide options for strengthening positive, supportive relationships with their children.

- Over 95% of parents participating in parent workshops report learning useful information/strategies about child development and parenting.

Individual Therapy For Caregivers

One of the unexpected outcomes of the physical closing of schools is that we have experienced an unprecedented level of contact with our clients' primary caregivers. As a result, JPA has expanded its services to include individual therapy for parents and other family members.

- 86% of school-aged individual therapy clients have a parent who has regularly requested time for themselves with their child's therapist.