



An Overview: The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP)



MISSION STATEMENT

The Autism Program of Illinois works with network providers to educate, serve and support caregivers and individuals with ASD throughout the state to ensure access of early intervention, diagnosis and treatment.





2001

In 2001, Illinois parents, behavioral health experts, psychiatrists, and public health officials began to express concerns regarding the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among children and the lack of available services.

2007

In 2007, it became clear that the impact of autism was greater than previously realized and the Illinois Legislature expanded TAP through Public Act 95-707 (from primarily a university-led training and research program) to become a statewide network of regional centers that would also provide comprehensive direct services to children with ASD and their families.



2003

In 2003, the Illinois General Assembly responded to the outpouring of concern by passing Public Act 93-0395 that established The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP). Together with Hope (who still serves as the lead agency), TAP became a statewide network of autism resources and services. At that time, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that 1 in 150 U.S. children were being diagnosed with ASD.



2014

The numbers have continuously grown and the CDC continues to publish updated findings. In 2014, they indicated that 1 in 68 children were living with ASD – a number that was alarmingly higher than that of children diagnosed with both cancer and diabetes combined.

2023

The most recent CDC publication from March 2023 indicated that there are now 1 in 36 children living with ASD in the US.



2008

The timing of the Legislature's action in 2007 was fortuitous. The CDC revised their estimate of the prevalence of autism, and in 2008 reported that 1 in 88 children were likely to have ASD.



2020

An updated evaluation of the prevalence of ASD in the US published in April 2020, reported 1 in 54 children were diagnosed with ASD.





Meet the TAP Team



Shannon Dyson
Director



Jennifer Simpson
Quality Coordinator



Neha Sahni
Resource Coordinator



Sarah Anderson
Training Coordinator



TAP Central Office Role

- Execute the state grant from DHS
- Support the needs of the TAP statewide partners
 - Provide training content for partners
 - Provide marketing and communications support statewide
 - Ensure grant deliverables are met across the state
- Conduct statewide trainings:
 - Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule- 2nd Edition (ADOS-2)
 - TAP N2 Hope Conference- April 29-30th, 2025
 - First Responders Trainings
 - Autism Overview





Visit Our Website and Find Us on Social Media



www.tap-illinois.org



TAP-Illinois



TheAutismProgramIL



TAP of Illinois

Funding for this training is provided by The Autism Program of Illinois and The Illinois Department of Human Services.





Website

- Tip Sheets
- Emergency Response Kits
- TAP Newsletter
- TAP Network Calendar
- TAP Referral Portal



SERVICES



Screening/Diagnostics



Autism Intervention (ABA, Counseling, OT, PT, Speech)



Social Skills Groups



Support Groups



Family and Community Resource Rooms



Education/Training/Awareness





TAP PARTNER SERVICE LOCATIONS

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - Charleston

EASTER SEALS CENTRAL ILLINOIS – Bloomington, Peoria

EASTER SEALS ROCKFORD – Rockford

GRUPO SALTO – Chicago

HAVE DREAMS – Evanston

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY – Bloomington

KREIDER SERVICES – Dixon

RCADD – Chicago

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY – Carbondale

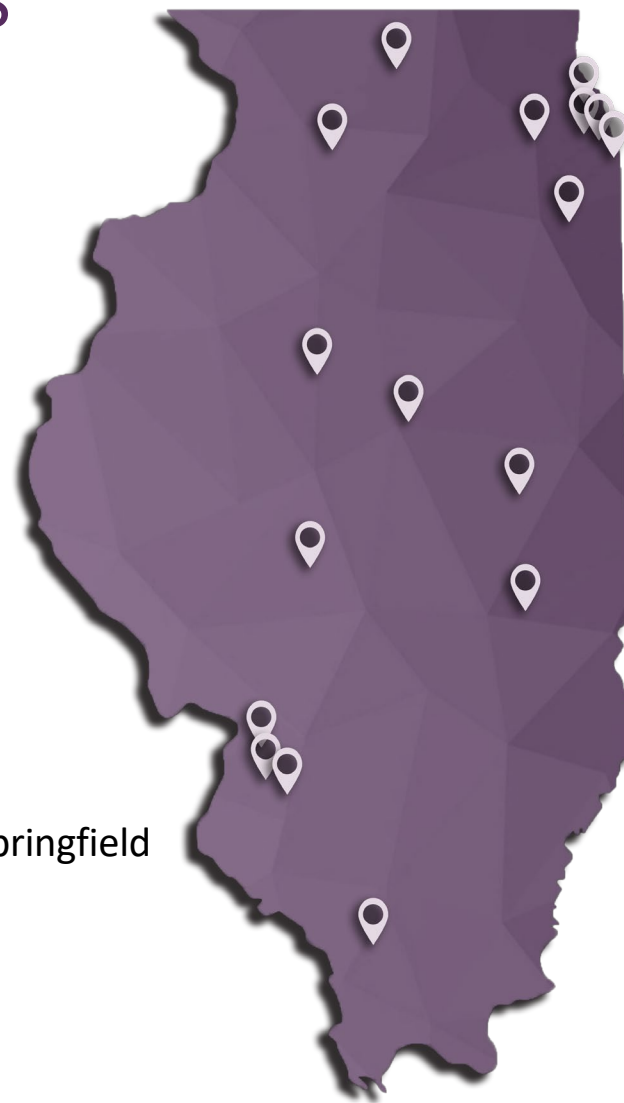
THE ANSWER, INC – Forest Park

THE AUTISM CLINIC AT HOPE – Glen Carbon, Herrin, O’Fallon, Springfield

TRINITY SERVICES – Mascoutah, New Lenox

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS – Champaign/Urbana

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS – Chicago



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2,075

The number of individuals and/or families who were seeking autism services through the TAP referral database that TAP network partners responded to. The network is accessed on the TAP website.

Scan QR code for the
Tap Referral Portal



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

809

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Screenings

516

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Diagnostics



Our TAP Partner: Eastern Illinois University - Charleston

- Autism Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation
- Community Training for pre-professionals and professionals in-training
- Individual and Group Therapy for STEP Program participants
- Provide consultation and referrals
- Student Training for pre-service professionals

For more information: 217.581.2712

[Eastern Illinois University :: Autism Center \(eiu.edu\)](http://eiu.edu)



Our TAP Partner: Easterseals Central Illinois – Bloomington, Peoria

- Autism Early Diagnostic Clinic: early identification, screening & comprehensive medical diagnostic evaluation
- Parent Training – monthly Autism New Diagnosis Family Orientation and group

For more information: 309.686.1177

[Easterseals Central Illinois | Autism Services and Supports](#)

Our TAP Partner: Trinity Services & Trinity Services dba Abilities Behavior Services – 2 locations

New Lenox location

- Autism Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation
- Group Therapy for children with autism
- Community Training for parents, educators, caregivers, first responders, providers, community members
- Family and Community Resource Room
- Provide Student Training for pre-service professionals

Mascoutah location

- ABA Therapy

For more information: 815.462.4273

[Trinity Counseling Center | Trinity Services](#)

[Abilities Behavior Services](#)

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



679

Individuals received evidence-based interventions

22,820

Hours of Individuals intervention provided



Our TAP Partner: Southern Illinois University - Carbondale

- Autism Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy and Speech Therapy
- Community Training for teachers, paraprofessionals, providers
- Consultations
- Student Training for pre-service professionals

For more information: 618.453.7130

<https://casd.siu.edu/>



Our TAP Partner: The Autism Clinic (TAC) at Hope – Glen Carbon, Herrin, O’Fallon, Springfield

- Autism Screening & Diagnostic Evaluations- Springfield and O'Fallon
- Speech/ Language Therapy- Glen Carbon only
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy
- Family and Community Resource Room
- Consultation and IEP support to families receiving services

For more information: 217.525.8332

<https://www.theautismclinic.org/>

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



6,158

Illinoisans served in Family and Community
Resource Rooms



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



3,491

Hours of consultations provided serving

982

Individuals across the state

- Autism Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation
- Consultation and Parent Coaching
- Community Training for first responders
- Social Skills Groups for children with autism
- Family and Community Resource Room
- Community Outreach Events

For more information: 815.395.5566

[Easterseals Serving Chicagoland and Greater Rockford | The Autism Program of Easterseals](#)

Our TAP Partner: RCADD (*Resource Center for Autism and Developmental Delays*) – Chicago

- Bi-lingual Community Trainings for parents, educators, caregivers, providers, community members
- Consultations for parents, educators, and professionals
- Family and Community Resource Room
- Google site with Bi-lingual resources and interactive activities
- YouTube channel with Bi-lingual trainings

For more information: 312.413.4441
<https://cfl.uic.edu/fastservices/rcadd/>

Our TAP Partner: University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign

- Community Training for teachers, paraprofessionals, providers, and family members
- Social Skills Activities/Group, and Play Group
- Family and Community Resource Room
- Provide consultation and referrals
- Student Training for pre-service professionals

For more information: 217.244.1395
<https://theautismprogram.illinois.edu/>

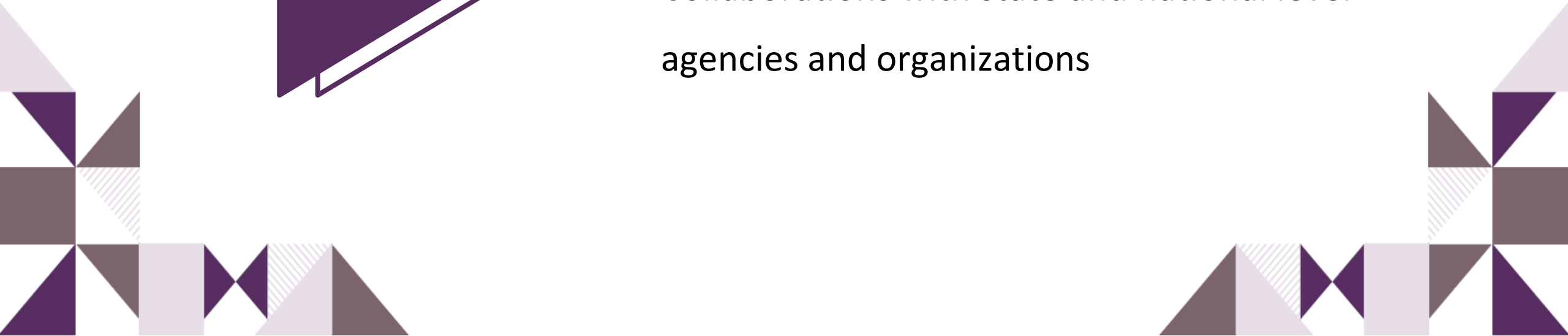


2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



233

Collaborations with state and national level agencies and organizations



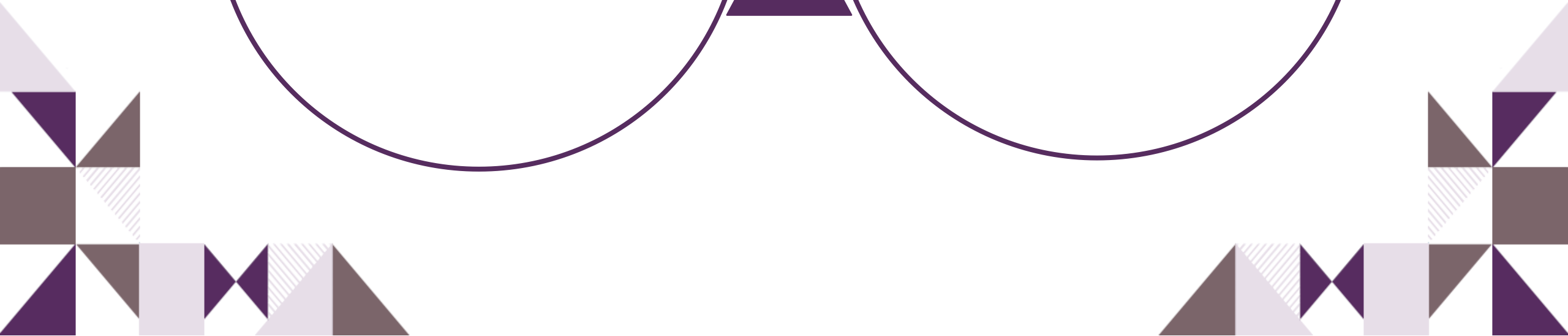
2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

486

Trainings Provided

6,880

Attendees





Our TAP Partner: Illinois State University Bloomington

- Autism Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy
- Community training for teachers, paraprofessionals, providers, pre-professionals, and caregivers
- Consultation
- Social Skills Groups for school-aged children with autism
- Family and Community Resource Room
- Parent support groups
- Provide Student Training for pre-service professionals
- Community Engagement

For more information: 309.585.1117



Our TAP Partner: Kreider Services dba Florissa - Dixon

- Autism Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation
- Community Training for parents, educators, caregivers, first responders, providers, community members
- Individual therapy
- Family/ Sibling Support
- Social Skills Groups for children with autism
- Family and Community Resource Room
- Provide Student Training for pre-service professionals

For more information: 815.288.1905

<http://florissacenter.org/>

- Autism Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation
- Community Training for parents, educators, paraprofessionals, caregivers, first responders, providers, and community members
- Group Therapy
- Individual Therapy- speech, occupational, and physical therapy, counseling and ABA
- Family and Community Resource Room
- Provide Student Training for pre-service professionals
- Assistive Technology program
- Community Engagement
- Research and Evaluation

For more information: 312.413.1647

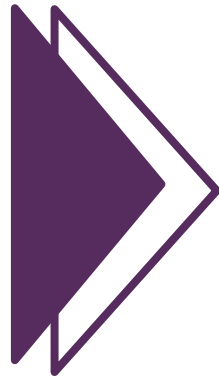
[Autism Clinic and TAP Training Center \(uic.edu\)](http://uic.edu)

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



1,023

Group Sessions Conducted



2,484

Individuals served in Group Sessions
Conducted

Our TAP Partner: Grupo Salto - Chicago

- Family and Sibling Support
- Community Trainings provided by Tu y Yo young adult group
- IEP and Transition Trainings for Spanish speaking families
- Peer Mentoring
- Tu y Yo young adult group

For more information: 773.757.9691

<https://gruposalto.org/>

Our TAP Partner: Have Dreams - Evanston

- The Social, Communication and Independent Living Skills (SCILS) Program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Professional Educator & Parent Training based on the TEACCH[®] methodology of Structured Teaching

For more information: 847.905.0702

<https://havedreams.org/>

- Parent support groups
- Music-n-Me nutrition and dance program
- Spectrum University tutoring services

For more information: 708.632.4064

<http://theanswerinc.org/>

Mark your calendars!

TAPN2HOPE Conference coming April 29th-30th,
2025 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL!



TAPN2HOPE

Brought to you by:





Contact Us

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Questions?

