



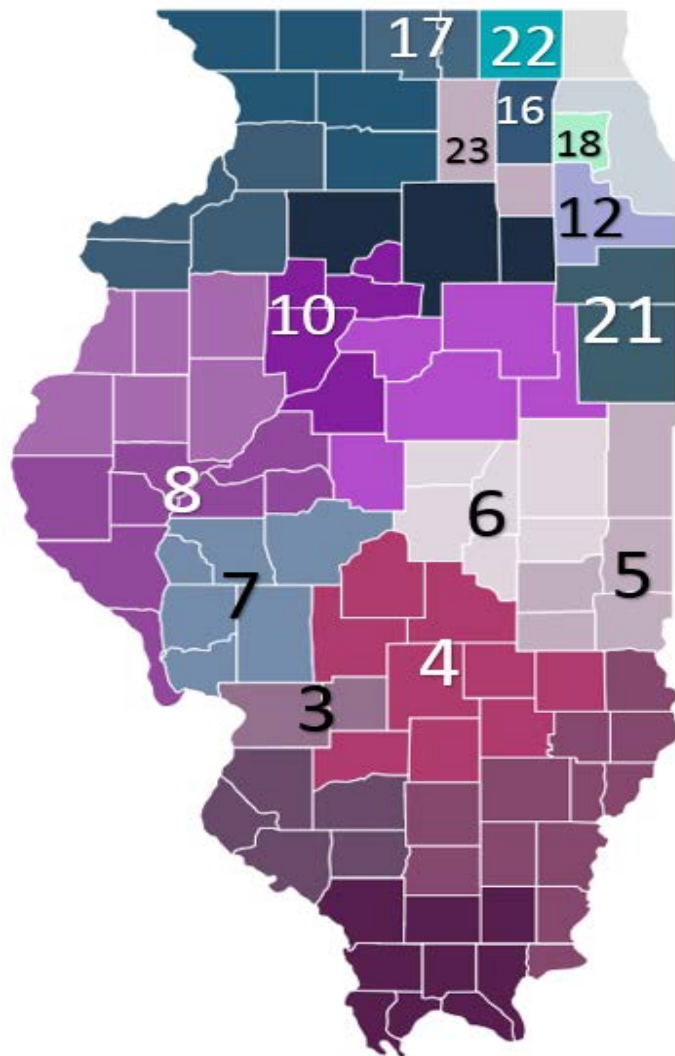
## Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council

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Sponsored by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Mary Ratliff  
Program Director

- The purpose of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council (IFVCC) is to improve the justice system's institutional, professional and community response to family violence, including:
  - intimate partner abuse,
  - child abuse,
  - teen dating violence,
  - and abuse against older adults and people with disabilities.
- Initiated under the auspices of the Illinois Supreme Court in 1990, Illinois is one of the few states that has a systematically organized, statewide infrastructure that operates at both the state and local levels.



The shading represents the service areas of the 24 judicial circuit across Illinois. The circuits that are numbered currently receive state funding for IFVCC grants.

**Note:** Training and technical assistance is offered throughout all judicial circuits. As of Fiscal Year 2019, Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils are active in 14 judicial circuits in Illinois.



## IFVCC Members

- Chief Judges
- Circuit Judges
- Probation Officers
- State's Attorneys
- Legal Services
- Public Defenders
- Law Enforcement
- Circuit Clerks
- Victim Advocates
- Court Services
- Court Security
- Social Services
- Public Health Professionals
- Clergy
- Educators
- Child Protection Services
- Public Aid Services
- Private Attorneys
- Mediators
- 911 Emergency Response Technicians
- Emergency Room Personnel



# Focus on 3 Areas

- Systems Change
- Professional Training and Education
- Community Awareness



# Systems Change



- Local Councils provide **opportunities for communication** between criminal justice professionals and community service providers as well as encourage the **sharing of information and resources**, thereby **providing for development of a network of safety and assistance for family violence victims**.
- Chief and circuit judges convene and chair the local councils in most counties in Illinois which are composed of policy-level decision makers who represent agencies and services to help intervene and prevent family violence.

# Professional Training and Education

- Annually, up to 15,000 professionals from across Illinois participate in trainings and council projects.
- Topics include, but not limited to:
  - Protocols and Best Practices
  - Strangulation
  - Stalking
  - Human Trafficking
  - Trauma Informed Response
  - Vicarious Trauma
  - Risk Assessment





# Community Awareness

- Local FVCCs collaborate to organize community awareness events and activities such as:
  - Walk a Mile
  - Clothesline Project
  - Child Abuse Pinwheels
  - DV Awareness Walk
  - In Her Shoes
  - Take Back the Night
  - and many more...



# Funding



- State of Illinois – General Revenue
- US Department of Justice – Office of Violence Against Women: Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program

# Successful FVCCs

- Strong Judicial Involvement
- Well-connected FVCC Coordinator
- Members take an active role
- Supportive Resources
- Diverse Funding
- Problem-Solving Attitude - positivity



# Challenges in Rural Jurisdictions

- Large Geographic Area
- Limited Funding
- Limited Resources
- Transportation/Travel
- Circuits with diverse areas – urban and rural





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Mary Ratliff

Program Director

528 S. 5th Street, Suite 200

Springfield, IL 62701

(217) 524-4745

[mary.ratliff@illinois.gov](mailto:mary.ratliff@illinois.gov)

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us/ifvcc>