



Chicago and Rockford Program Sites Awarded Grants to Participate in Illinois Autism Program

January, 2008 – Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago and Easter Seals Rockford participated in a formal RFA process and were each awarded a \$200,000 grant from The Autism Program, Illinois' statewide program for autism services. This will allow ESMC to begin implementation of Regional Service Centers in Chicago and Rockford. The primary mission of Regional Service Centers is to provide direct service and support by implementing, evaluating and refining evidence-based programs for diagnosis, treatment, education, training, consultation, resource and support.

These centers will include:

- Family / Community Resource Rooms
- Developmental Screening
- New Diagnosis Family Orientation Program
- Daycare / Respite Training
- Provider Training in Diagnostics Evaluations
- Diagnostics
- Family Focused Consultation (Functional Assessment for Treatment Planning)
- Social Skills Groups
- Community Planning

Family and Community Resource rooms will contain free visual supports and ideas as well as maintain a large catalog of games and learning aids that can be loaned to parents and providers across the regions.

The Autism Program, headquartered at the Hope Institute for Children and Families, is supporting the development of 12 regional service centers and a variety of workforce development initiatives across the state. Easter Seals Metro Chicago and Rockford are proud to have obtained this affiliation as formal network partners for Chicago and Rockford and look forward to continuation of the project for years to come.