



2007

Translating Research into Action: Moving Evaluations Beyond the Report

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Recommended Citation

Center for Urban Research and Learning; Kerr, Amy; and Maranda, Michael, "Translating Research into Action: Moving Evaluations Beyond the Report" (2007). *Center for Urban Research and Learning: Publications and Other Works*. 7.

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Participatory Evaluation

- A tool to assist in improving the quality of human services
- Systematic collection of information
- Opportunity to gain insight about services, improve effectiveness and quality and share information about the program
- Utilize information to improve program/field practices, services and policies

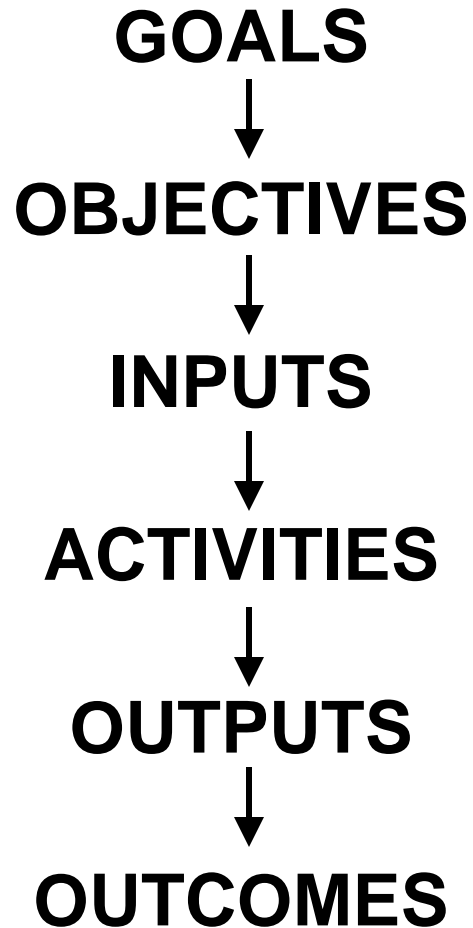
Components of Participatory Evaluation

- An evaluation team should be formed.
- The organization's constituency should be actively involved at every step of the process.
- Constituents/users develop ownership of the evaluation process

Steps in Conducting Evaluations

1. Design the evaluation
2. Conduct evaluation/collect data
3. Report findings and increase utilization

The Outcomes Framework



Planning for Utilization

- Prior to research commencement
 - Decide who reporting to
 - Decide how to report
- Solicit multiple levels of stakeholders for involvement
- Actively involve stakeholders in the dissemination and discussion of findings

Illinois Community Technology Fund

- **Mission:**
 - The Community Technology Fund shall be dedicated to activities which help assure that low-income areas and other underserved populations in urban and rural Illinois have access to advanced telecommunications technologies.

Background

- SBC-Ameritech Merger 2000
- ICTF Board Formation
- Request for Applications (RFAs)
- 2 rounds of funding
 - Maximum \$50,000
- 77 grants throughout IL
 - Non-profit organizations
 - Schools
 - After-school programs

ICTF Evaluation Questions

- Types and Levels of Technology Access
- Educational and Employment Impacts
- Developing Model Programs

ICTF Methods

- Evaluation Team
 - CURL Staff
 - CURL Graduate Fellows
 - ICTF Community Fellows
- 3-level Approach
 - ICTF Board
 - Service Providers
 - Service Users

ICTF Plan

- **ICTF Board Members**
 - Focus Group
- **Service Providers**
 - One-page survey
 - Focus Groups
 - Site Visits
- **Facilitate Stakeholder Dialogue**

ICTF: Quantitative Results

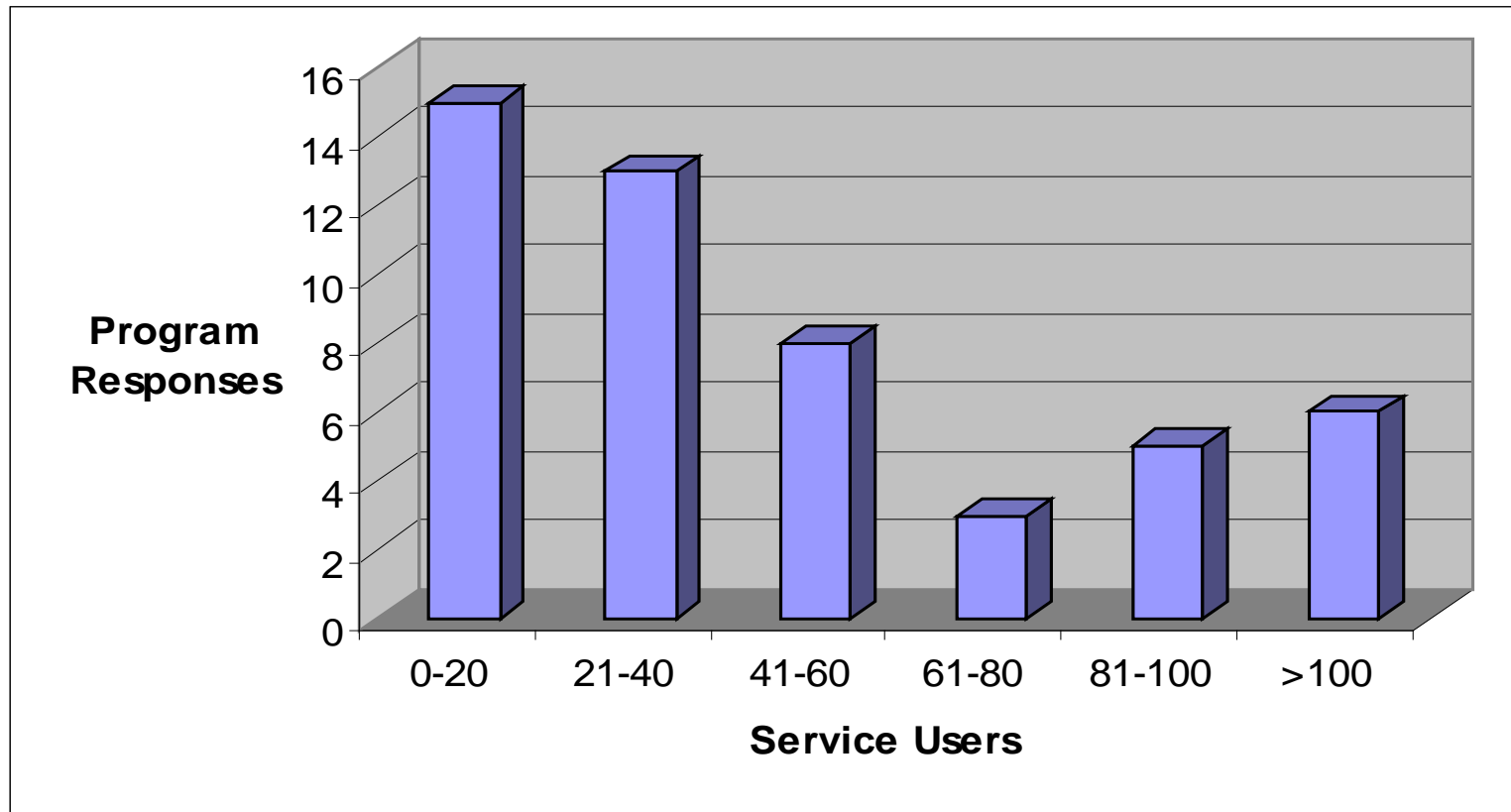
Number of Programs Funded

	Chicago	Outside Chicago
Year 1	20	20
Year 2	15	21

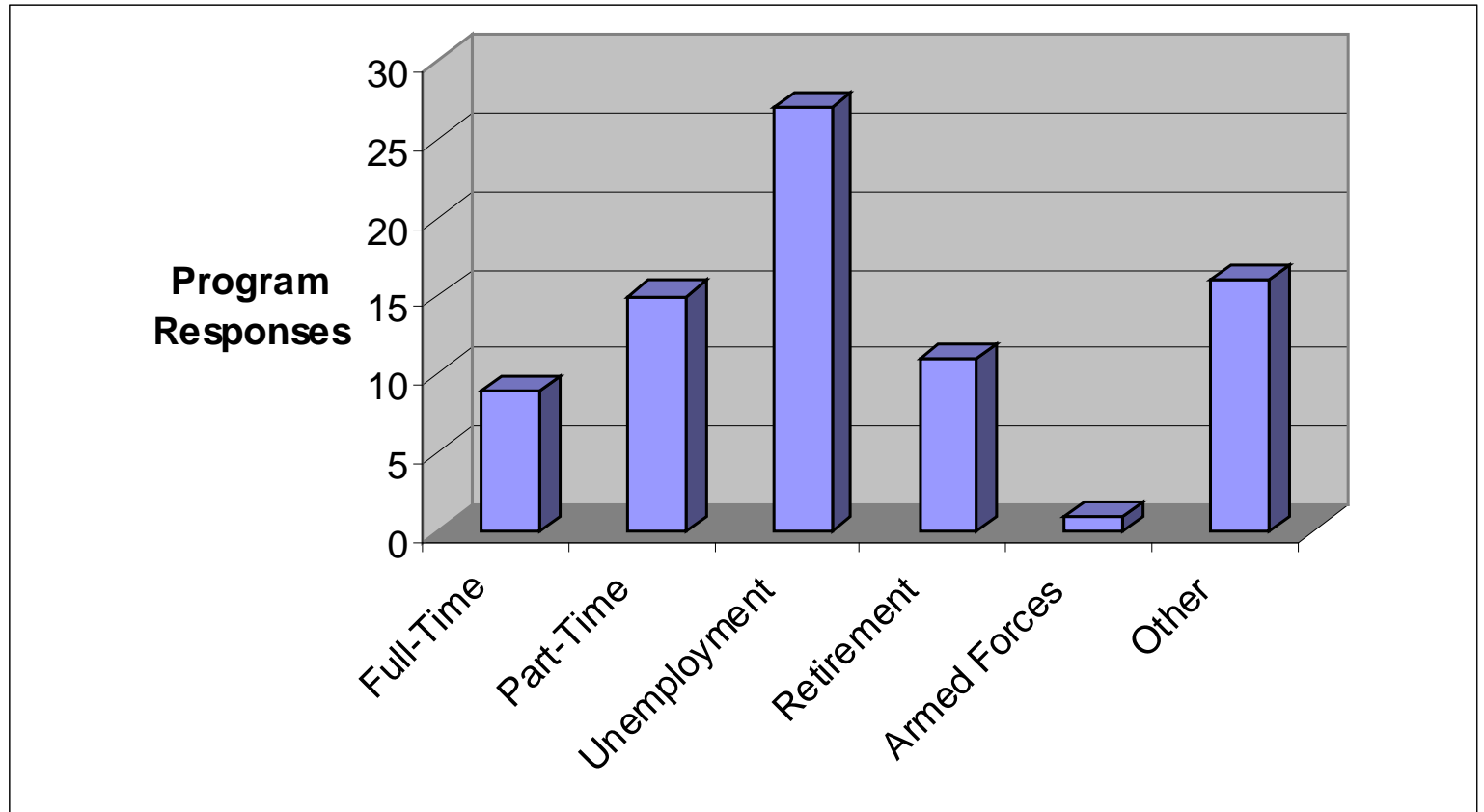
Amount of Funded Grants

	High	Low	Average
Year 1	\$50,000	\$10,862	\$35,629
Year 2	\$49,925	\$10,527	\$39,595

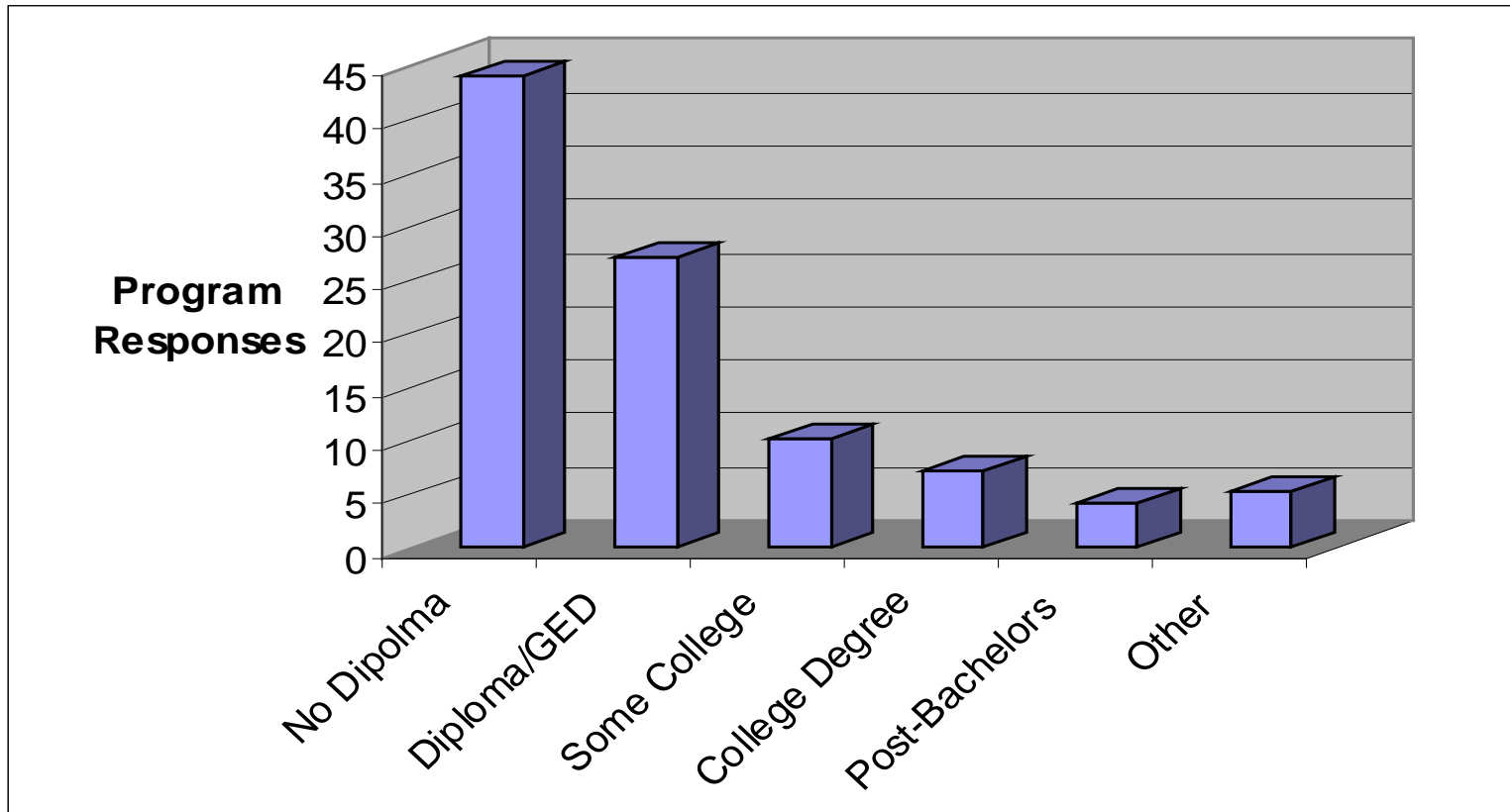
Service Users per Week



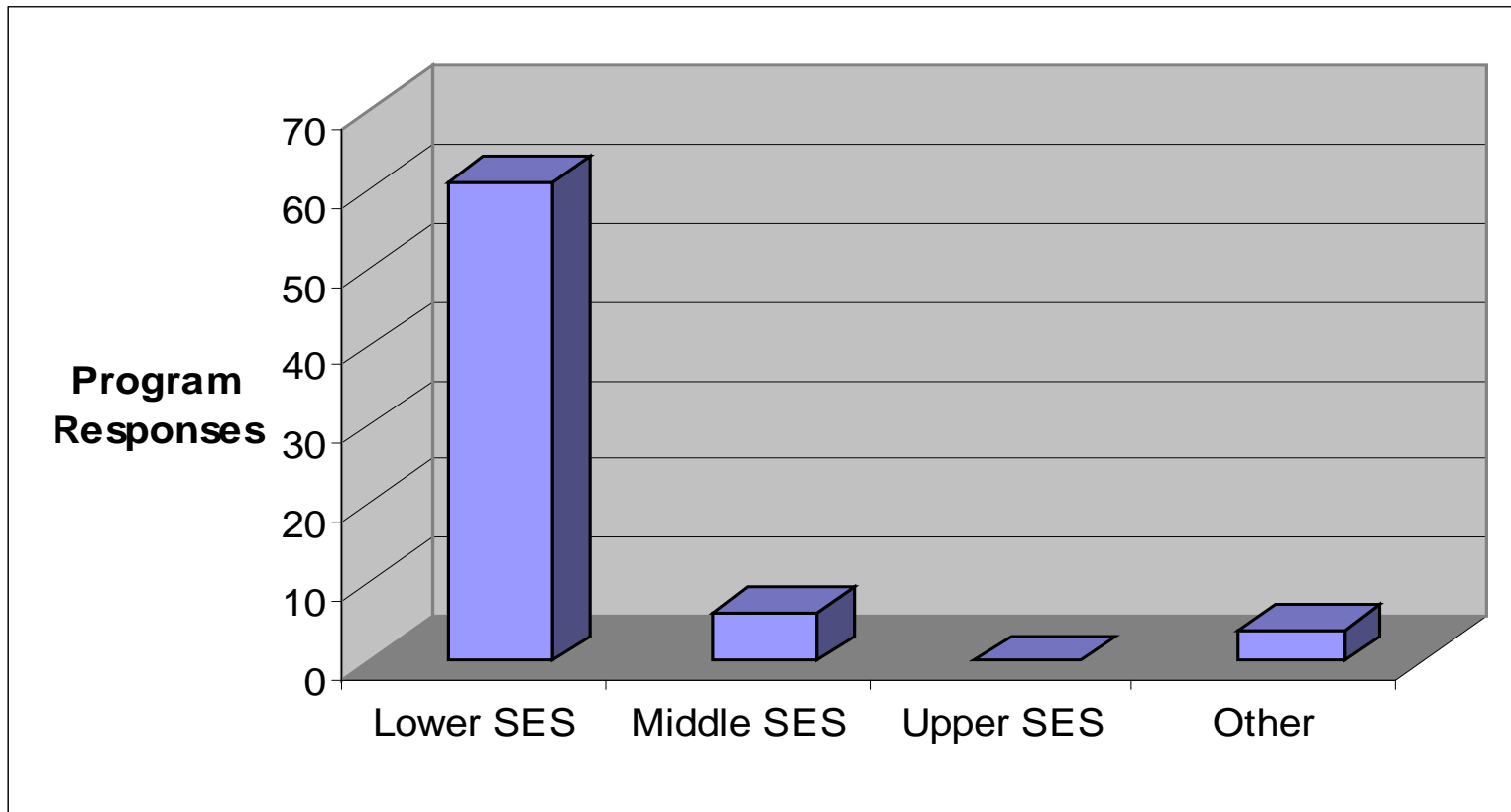
Employment



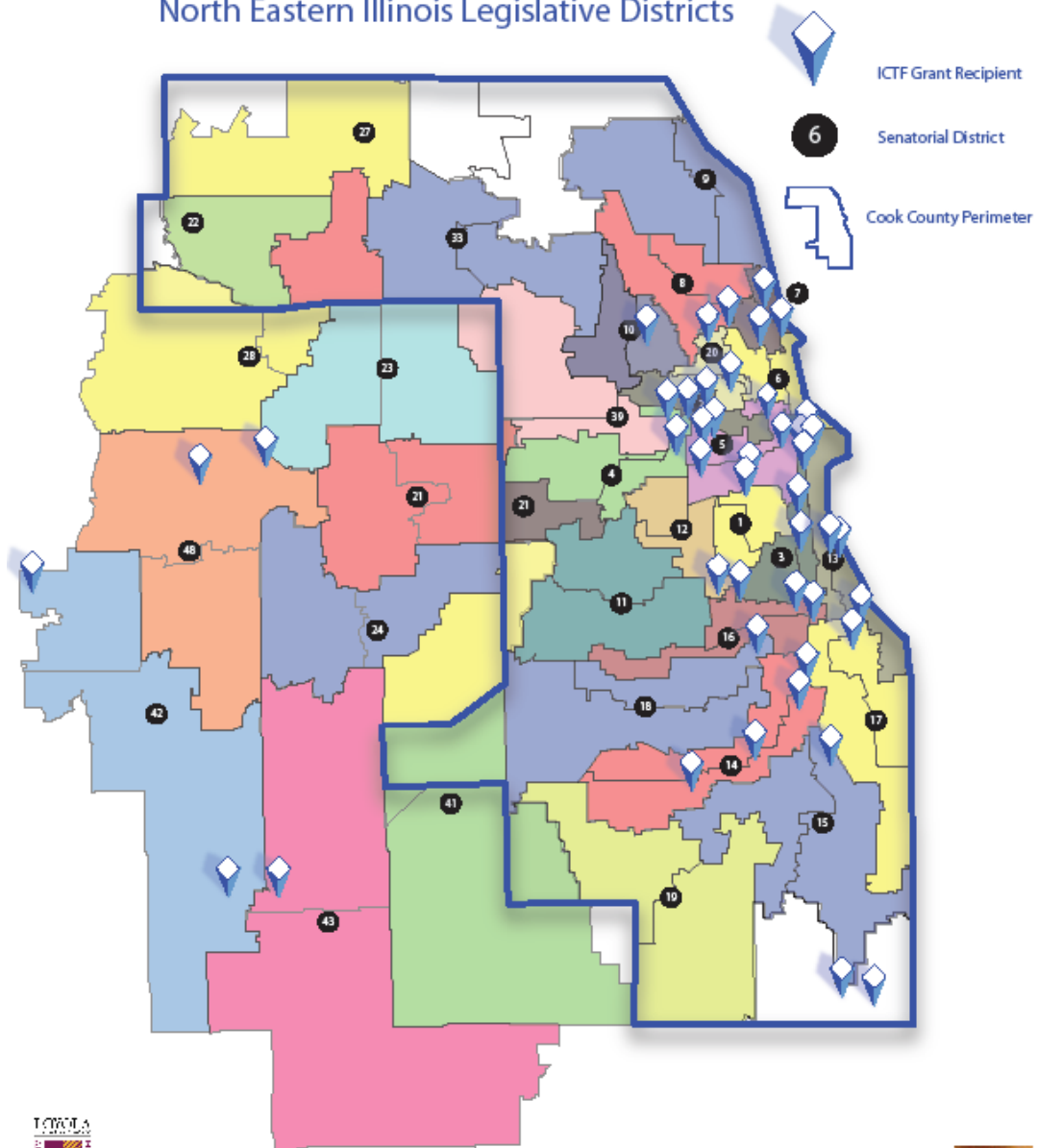
Education



Socioeconomic Status



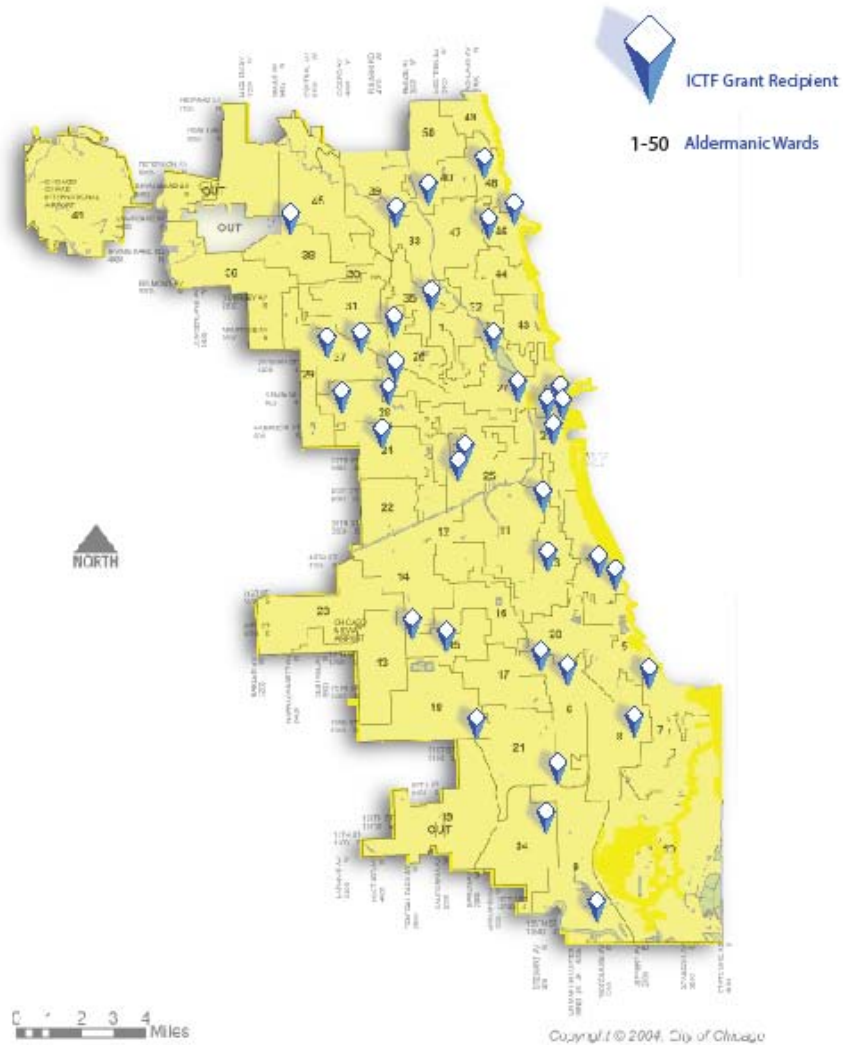
ICTF Grant Recipients According to North Eastern Illinois Legislative Districts



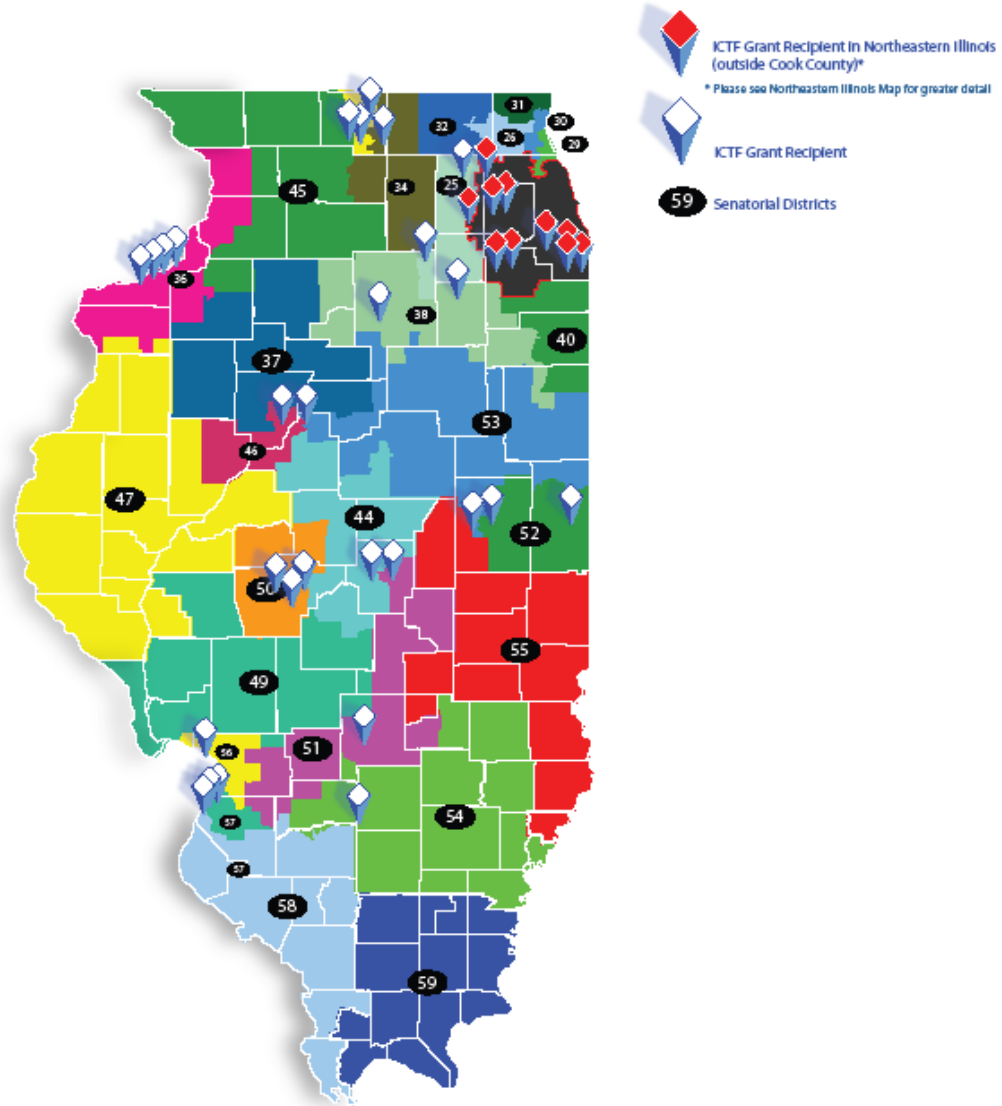
For more information on the Illinois State Board of Education, please visit www.isbe.net.



ICTF Grant Recipients According to City of Chicago Aldermanic Wards



Statewide ICTF Grant Recipients according to County and Senatorial Districts



ICTF: Qualitative Results

- Themes
 - Funding
 - Sustainable, Program-Focused Funding
 - Integration of Technology and Organization Ideology
 - “Technology as a Means Rather than an End”
 - Staffing
 - Support for Planning Time
 - Level of Financial Support
 - Triangle of needs

ICTF Products and Dissemination

- Funder
 - Technical Report
- Government Agencies
 - Research Brief
 - Maps
- Philanthropy
 - Workshop
- Service Providers
 - Research Brief
 - Partner information

Information to Disseminate

- Brief Look at Technology Uses
- Call for Adequate & Appropriate Funding
- Call for More Research
 - Needs Assessment
 - Expanded Networking/Sharing

Acknowledgements

The presenters wish to acknowledge the input and assistance from the following organizations and individuals:

- Center for Urban Research and Learning, Loyola University Chicago
 - Philip Nyden, Ph.D., Director
 - David VanZytveld, Assistant Director
 - Aparna Sharma, University Community Research Coordinator
 - Allan Araujo, Undergraduate Fellow
 - Tanya Kellam, ICTF Community Fellow
 - Kristie Baumgartner, ICTF Community Fellow
- Illinois Community Technology Fund Board of Directors