

During the spring of 2003, after the pilot test of eCornerstone, the system "roll-out" will begin. Because of the number of youth service and juvenile justice programs, it is anticipated that roll-out will take several months to complete. With full implementation, the following programs will be utilizing eCornerstone: **Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services, Unified Delinquency Intervention Services, Communities for Youth, Delinquency Prevention, Release Upon Request, Homeless Youth, Title V Delinquency Prevention/Station Adjustment/Secondary Intervention and Juvenile Justice Delinquency Intervention.**

Modernizing Cornerstone will **benefit service recipients**, system users and program administrators. Immediately, the new architecture will provide long desired capabilities such as **real-time data access** and agency-wide information sharing and reporting. **System security** will be immeasurably strengthened with the introduction of digital signatures. Finally, in the long run, a revitalized Cornerstone will continue to foster **integrated service delivery** which has demonstrably **reduced infant and early childhood morbidity and mortality** for DHS customers. Extending Cornerstone into the realm of youth services, the Department expects comparable **improvements in youth related risk factors, namely, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and juvenile crime.**



Division of  
Community Health and Prevention



# Cornerstone in the 21st Century

A management information system is being developed for youth services and juvenile justice programs in Illinois. The new system will be part of the Illinois Department of Human Services' Cornerstone system.

Cornerstone supports essential programs for Division of Community Health and Prevention within the Department of Human Services. It is crucial to the delivery of services and effective program management. **Of the 10 programs currently supported, eight are provided mainly to mothers, infants and children.** Cornerstone operates at over 330 sites for about 175 local agencies across Illinois. Begun in 1989 as a WIC only information system, it has evolved to include many additional programs and functions. The system now supports the WIC, Family Case Management, Healthy Families Illinois, Healthy Start, Prenatal, Pediatric Primary Care, Immunization, Early Intervention-Part C, Diabetes Control and Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention programs. On a daily basis, the system processes approximately 200,000 transactions and is the repository for individual service files for 450,000 WIC clients, 200,000 Family Case Management clients and 2,000,000 immunization recipients. The system is central to the mission of DHS in that it enables the delivery of integrated family oriented services, promotes prevention and quantifies performance.

Cornerstone was built according to industry standards of the time using a distributed DOS-based architecture. Since its inception, the system has continued to evolve, as many additional programs and functions have been added to Cornerstone. Although the system has continued to evolve programmatically and functionally, it remains primarily a DOS-based system, at least at the local level. DOS-based languages are no longer used or supported by manufacturers and the computer industry. **Clearly, Cornerstone's service integration, community-based design and present day functionality have outpaced the system's technical architecture.**

**Bringing Cornerstone into the 21st century is now a critical objective of the Department of Human Services.** New architecture will allow access from the Internet. Using a browser, the process will build on the effective business logic and database structure underlying the current Cornerstone system. Cornerstone is becoming "eCornerstone".

Perhaps the most important feature of eCornerstone to youth services and juvenile justice providers is its assessment function. The **Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI)**, as developed by Orbis Partners, will be incorporated into the system. YASI is a computerized tool that assesses the risk level and protective factors of youth. Results of the assessment will serve as a guide to the development of a service plan.

Because of the Web-based nature of eCornerstone, **confidentiality is of the essence.** All data will be protected so that only the people with authorization to view that information will have access. Technology and policy will protect clients' confidentiality.

Many technologies are being relied upon to protect confidentiality, including firewall technology. The **security in place is likened to security found in online banking** and online shopping applications. The development team in Springfield continues to work with consultants who have experience in web-based technology and security so that users will be able to utilize eCornerstone without fearing breach of confidentiality. **The eCornerstone system will require the use of a log-in name and password, which will enable an encrypting mechanism.** Therefore, all information that travels from the provider to the Central Office in Springfield will be encrypted, rendering it unreadable to a third party.

eCornerstone will be modeled after existing policies and laws regarding information sharing. **The system will allow providers to distinguish between youth clients for whom parents/legal guardians have consented that information may be shared and those clients for whom no consent was obtained.** The system will prevent information for children without consent from being shared with any other service provider.