



# ECRC Working Group Meeting

June 29, 2021





## **OPENING REFLECTION**

What would you want to see change or improve in the ways that we work together in the Chicago EC community?





## **EVERY CHILD READY CHICAGO VISION**

Every child in Chicago can thrive within well-supported families, effective programs, and well-resourced communities so they grow strong, live joyful lives, and realize their greatest potential.

# EVERY CHILD READY CHICAGO VALUES

- **Equity:** Prioritizing resources for families who have been most impacted by systemic inequities to create the conditions in which child outcomes are no longer predicted by race, zip code, or other social factors
- **Diversity & Inclusiveness:** Ensuring that stakeholders across all roles, identities, and interests have a voice in decision-making
- **Transformation:** Partnering with families and communities to re-imagine a stronger, more equitable early childhood system that brings lasting change
- **Transparency:** Building trust through communication and a clear decision-making process that prioritizes children and families
- **Accountability:** Establishing clear roles, timebound actions, and measurable benchmarks as evidence of progress to be shared with the community





# Community Agreements

- Speak your truth without blame or judgment.
- Listen attentively, with your eyes, ears, and heart.
- Notice moments of discomfort, and stay curious.
- Be open to the experience of this time/space together and to each other.
- Create space so everyone can share.
- Keep information shared confidential.
- Create space so everyone can share (use the parking lot)



# MEETING GOALS

- To introduce Regional Council initiatives and alignment with ECRC
- To share proposed governance structure and solicit feedback
- To elevate any considerations, concerns, or gaps
- To discuss next steps in the development of the ECRC advisory council



# Aligning State Initiative with ECRC





# READY ILLINOIS

## Simpler, Better, Fairer

Recommendations of  
the Illinois Commission  
on Equitable Early  
Childhood Education  
and Care Funding

SPRING 2021

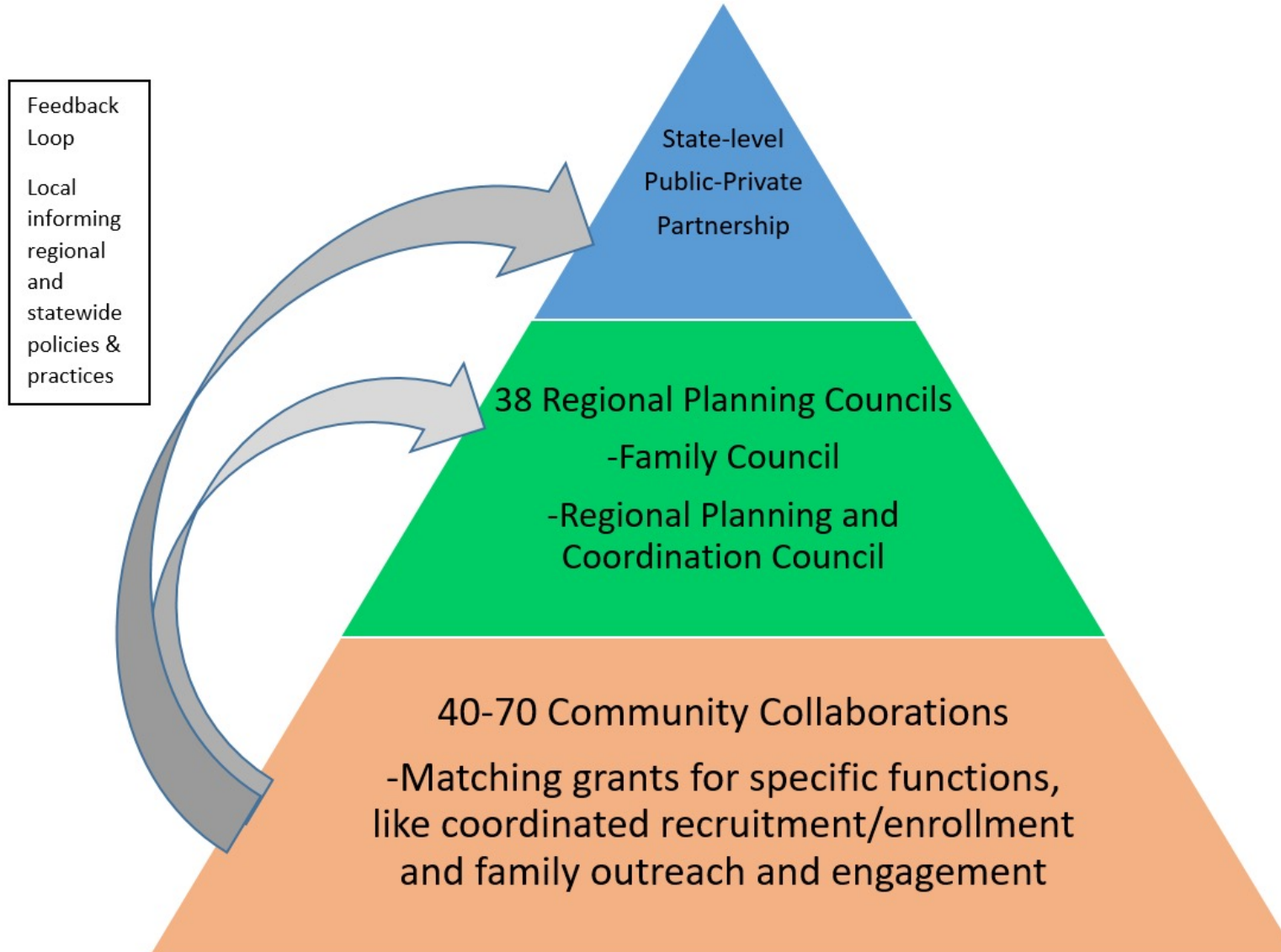


# Transformation

- Established Illinois' Early Childhood Transformation Team within the Office of Governor J.B. Pritzker
- Established in partnership with Northern Illinois University (NIU) to leverage more public/private partnership for long-term sustainability
- Prioritize the Commission's recommendation to transform the State's ECE Financing structure
  - Transform the early childhood system through a racial equity lens
  - Establish a regional and community systems infrastructure to embed equity in how we fund ECE services and supports.



# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS – WHAT?





# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS – WHY?

## Current State of ECE:

- The state has limited information about needs in local communities
- Resource distribution is based on RFPs that gathers incomplete information about need
- The state has limited ability to spur creation of additional programs where there appears to be need
- Communities miss out on expansion opportunities because they have not planned for it—identifying space, providers, etc.

## Desired State for ECE:

- Statewide comprehensive planning for ECEC expansion
  - Engaging wide range of stakeholders
  - Ensuring readiness for expansion
- Uniform approach to data to better understand local and regional need for services for children 0-5
- Mechanism to inform the state's investment and [equitable] distribution of resources/funding
- Build capacity for expansion of ECE when funding/resources become available





# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS – HOW?

## Regional Council Structure

- **38 Regions**
  - Aligned with ROEs
- **Reports to State Director**
  - Housed at INCCRRA
  - Priorities & Oversight driven by EC Transformation Team
- **Proposed staffing for each Regional Council**
  - Director
  - Data Specialist
  - Community Engagement





# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

## Role of Local Collaborators

1

Engage with families and understand their needs and preferences

2

Build out and facilitate “no wrong door” approaches to ensuring families are connected to the services they need

3

Build connections among all types of service providers that work with families—health, mental health, early learning and care, social services

# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

## Focus of the Regional Teams

1

Focus on planning for needed services

- Responding to needs identified in local communities

2

Coordinate supports for providers

- Bringing coherence to the state's system of training, technical assistance and other supports

3

Ensure engagement of civic leadership around early childhood issues



# REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

## Focus of the State Team

1

Support the regional and local levels, serving as statewide backbone for this work

2

Ensure alignment with the state's priorities

3

Partner with CS3 for training and technical assistance

# **PROPOSAL: ECRC Advisory Council serve as Chicago Regional Council**

## **ECRC Advisory = Regional Council for the City of Chicago**

- Facilitate greater cooperation and coordination between city and state
- Align ECRC Structure and Goals with State's ECE priorities as recommended by the Funding Commission
- Better support the shared work by robust staffing by R&CSD funds and City of Chicago
- Establish continuity for the work by investing state and city resources to lift-up shared priorities
- Building on already existing local collaborations in the City of Chicago

### **Some details still need to be figured out**

- Committed to process evaluation so we can adjust as we move through this process
- Engaging local collaborations, ELC and other bodies to continue to inform our work
- Partner, Plan, Act at IAFC informing and supporting this work through T/TA for regional councils.





# PROPOSED GOVERNANCE MODEL



# PURPOSE OF THE ECRC Advisory Council

Public and Private stakeholders who represent the diversity of Chicago's families and communities

1. Support the creation, implementation, coordination, accountability and communication for strategic plan
2. Support an integrated and aligned strategy to improve systems and expand services that meet the needs of children and families
3. Foster ongoing engagement and collaboration of a diverse group of ECE stakeholders and family-serving systems
4. Direct line of communication to MO and city agencies; Inform and elevate policies and programs for systemic improvements, act as a sounding board to consider new initiatives and promote innovation.

## Desired Outcomes

Effective Representation

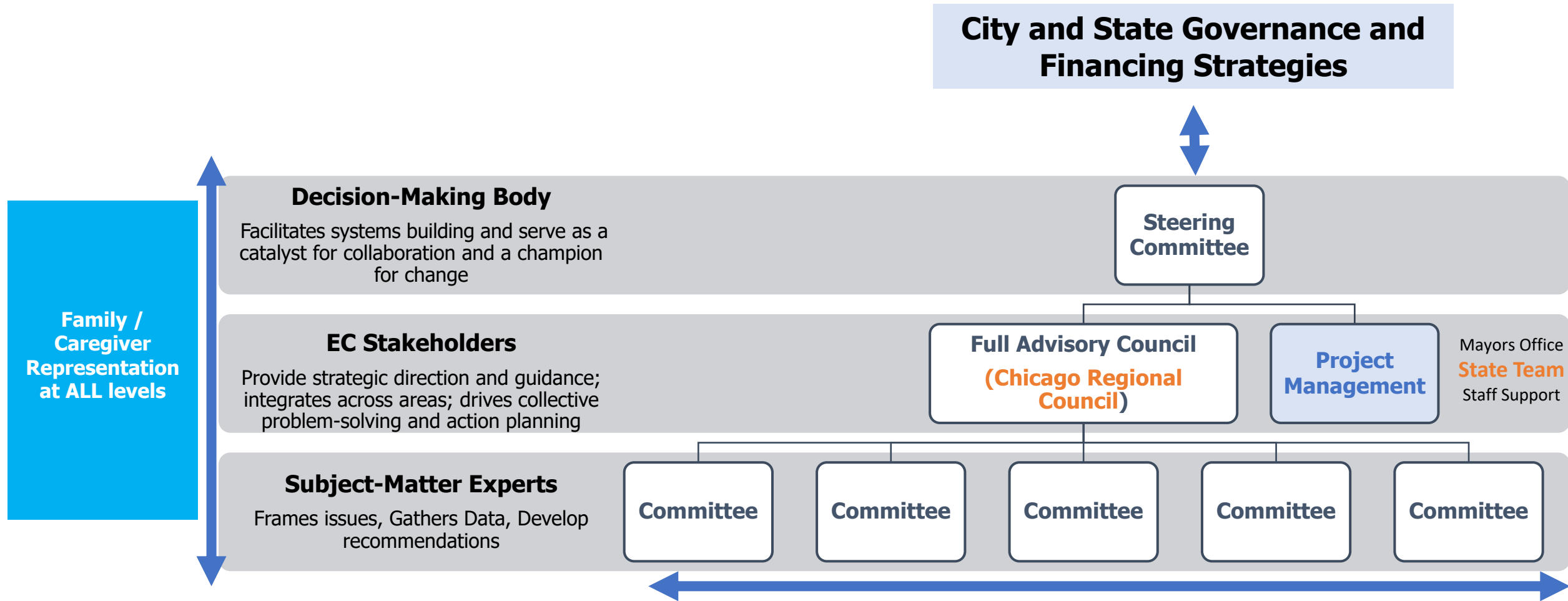
Increase Transparency and Collaboration

Alignment and Not Duplication

Responsive to both to the Moment and Long-term Needs



# Proposed Governance Structure



# Representation On the ECRC Council



## Key Stakeholders

- Family Child Care (Licensed and Licensed-Exempt)
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Center-based child care
- Home Visiting
- Early Intervention/ EC Special Education
- Maternal/Child Health
- Social services
- For-Profit childcare
- Government Agencies Representatives (DCFS, CDPH, IDHS, CPS, DFSS, etc)
- Professional Development for EC Workforce
- Community Collaborations
- Family/Caregiver Representatives
- Data and Research
- Advocates
- Philanthropy

## The ECRC Council will....

- Adhere to Open Meetings Act
- Center Inclusive Approaches: take extra steps to ensure broad participation – leverage technology to increase opportunities
- Be Realistic and Useful: Cadence of meetings that makes problem-solving feasible (not too often) and relevant (often enough)
- Open to establishing Ad-Hoc Committees (as needed)
- Recommendation to have Chairs for each committee



# Family Engagement Strategy Process

- Collect input from community organizations and families on how they would want to see their voices centered in the work; funds available for organization and family compensation
- Convene a committee of interested partners to synthesize information and gaps to form a family and community engagement strategy for ECRC's on-going partnership
- Target work to occur over the summer; strategy to be presented in September



# Large Group Discussion

- *What are your thoughts on combining the regional and ECRC councils?*
- *Does the proposed governance structure meet our desired outcomes?*
- *Family Council and/or Full Inclusion – pros and cons?*
- *What are the challenges you anticipate and what mitigation might you propose?*
- *Other concerns or considerations?*



# Recap: Alignment between Regional & ECRC Council Structures

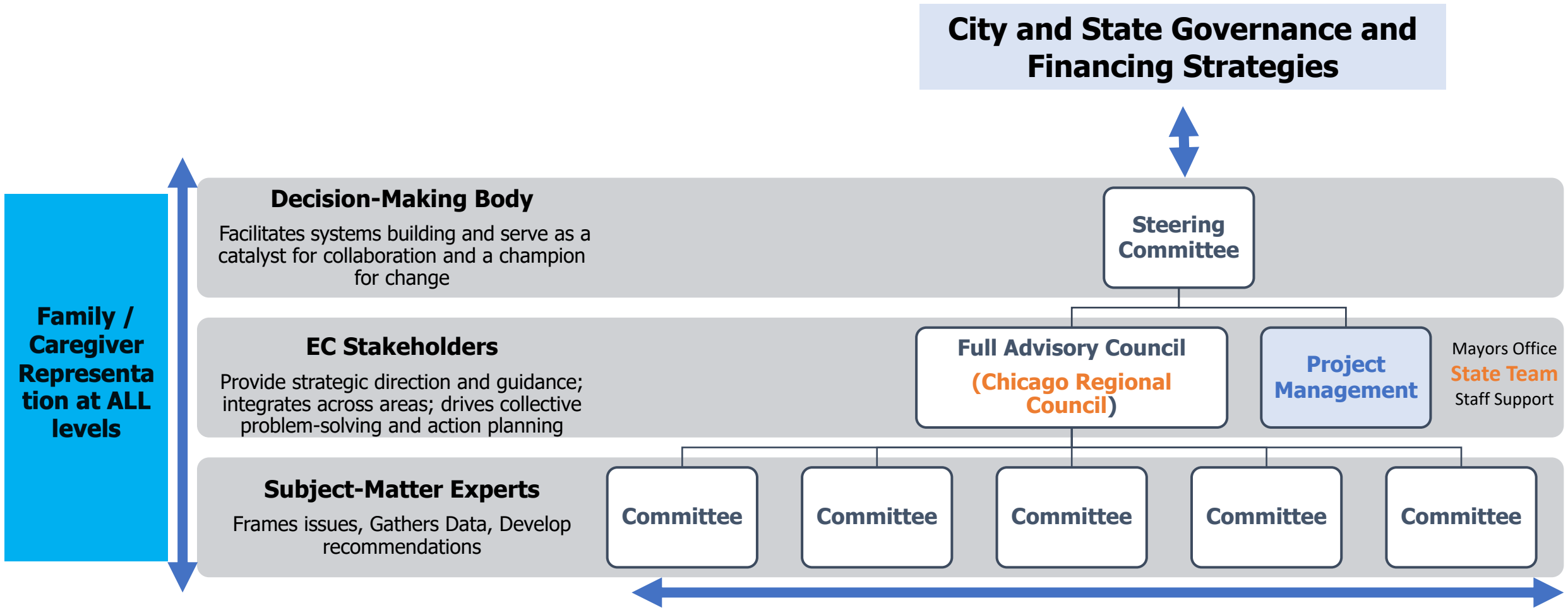
## Statewide Regional Council

- Focus on planning for needed services
- Coordinate supports for providers
- Ensure engagement of civic leadership around early childhood issues
- Engage with families and understand their needs and preferences
- Build out and facilitate “no wrong door” approaches to ensuring families are connected to the services they need
- Build connections among all types of service providers that work with families—health, mental health, early learning and care, social services
- Coordinate local and regional data to inform statewide governance and financing of ECE

## Every Child Ready Chicago

- Develop a strategic plan focused on needs of children, families, and the Chicago EC system
- Coordinate supports for providers
- Develop a council and steering committee to engage leaders around early childhood issues
- Develop a family engagement strategy that centers family and community needs and preferences
- Include access as a strategic priority
- Leverage existing collaborations and create necessary committees and networks to connect all types of service providers and to inform the work and decisions
- Build a cloud-based platform and governance structure for efficient, timely analysis and reporting of integrated EC data

# Proposed Governance Structure



# Next Steps

- **Call to Action**
  - Respond with interest and capacity in participating in creation of family & community engagement strategy
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Planning Meeting – TBD
  - Next Working Group Meeting: Governance Structure – 7/28
  - Strategic Priorities and Committees, Launch of ECRC Council – 8/26

