Block Grant Listening Session
December 2023
Welcome

As you join us, please share your name, organization, and a cherished holiday tradition in the chat?
Today's Agenda

- Opening
- Block Grant Overview: Current Administration + Impact of Change
- Clarifying Questions
- Breakout Groups
- Next Steps
- Closing
EQUITY DEFINITION

An outcome and a process that results in fair and just access to opportunity and resources that provide everyone the ability to thrive.

EQUITABLE PROCESSES

Requires a new way of doing business that,

1. Prioritizes access and opportunities for groups who have the greatest need
2. Methodically evaluates benefits and burdens produced by seemingly neutral systems and practices
3. Engages those most impacted by the problems we seek to address as experts in their own experiences, strategists in co-creating solutions, and evaluators of success
Purpose of Today

✓ Gather insights from experts with diverse backgrounds to assist in decision-making related to the Early Childhood Block Grant. This is expected to be completed by January 2024.

✓ Through this comprehensive conversation, we hope to gain an understanding of the needs of all providers. Our priority is to ensure that Smart Start Illinois Investment is allocated equitably.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host 1st community engagement listening sessions</td>
<td>Dec 12 - 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synthesize insights</td>
<td>Dec 14 - Jan 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share insights with ECRC Exec Committee</td>
<td>Jan 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host 2nd community engagement listening sessions (share insights &amp; gather additional feedback)</td>
<td>Week of Jan 17 - 19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final insights report</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jan 24</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions to share final recommendations insight report with ECRC Exec. Committee</td>
<td>Jan 25 - 26</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Finalize Decision for strategy planning</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jan 31</strong></td>
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About the Early Childhood Block Grant

Preschool for All (PFA) and Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE)

- Provides early education opportunities for children between the ages of 3-5
- Priority given to children from low-income families and those who are determined to be socially or academically “at risk” due to other family or community factors
- Offers high-quality comprehensive services including:
  - High-quality Instructional programming to support children’s’ language, literacy, math, physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development
  - Connections to health, mental health, dental, and social services
  - Intensive parent engagement services
  - Targeted supports for positive behavioral and social emotional development
  - Intentional physical activity opportunities
  - Early Childhood expertise in supporting culturally, linguistically, and ability-diverse children
  - Ongoing professional development and support for educator
About the Early Childhood Block Grant

Prevention Initiative (PI)

- Provides coordinated services to at-risk children and their families through a network of child and family service providers
- Promotes the development of at-risk infants and toddlers up to age 3
By statute, CPS receives 37% of the state’s Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) - currently $249M.

The $100M in ECBG allocated to DFSS from CPS includes:
- $49M for PFA (ages 3 to 5)
- $49M for PI (prenatal to age 3)
- $1.5M for scholarships

CPS utilizes $114M in local/other funds to supplement preschool programming.
### Table 1. Number of PFA/PI Eligible Children Birth - Five

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children Eligible Prevention Initiative</td>
<td>82,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children Eligible for Preschool for All</td>
<td>41,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Children Eligible for PFA/PI</strong></td>
<td><strong>124,352</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Population Served

## Table 2. Number of PFA Eligible Children Birth - Five by Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>PFA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant (0-15 months)</td>
<td>20,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool-3 years (3 years on Sept. 1)</td>
<td>20,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool-4 years (4 years on Sept. 1)</td>
<td>20,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler (15 months-3 years as of Sept. 1)</td>
<td>20,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>41,940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Table 3. Number of Unserved PFA Eligible Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>PFA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Eligible Children not Served</td>
<td>20,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Unserved</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Population Served

#### Table 2. Number of PI Eligible Children Birth - Five by Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>PI</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant (0-15 months)</td>
<td>26,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool-3 years (3 years on Sept. 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool-4 years (4 years on Sept. 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler (15 months-3 years as of Sept. 1)</td>
<td>56,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>82,412</strong></td>
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</table>

### Population Not Served

#### Table 3. Number of Unserved PI Eligible Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Eligible Children not Served</th>
<th>PI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Eligible Children not Served</td>
<td>60,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent Unserved</strong></td>
<td><strong>74%</strong></td>
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Smart Start Priorities

Minimize child care deserts, raise child care wages, address the teacher shortages and expand child care quality the investment in Smart Start contracts, apprenticeships, and scholarships.

Stabilize and support Early Intervention, ensuring that children with delays and disabilities received the services needed for healthy development.

Sustain and expand Home visiting, rooted in innovative funding practices.
Should the Early Childhood Block Grant stay with its current Administrator, Department of Family Support Services for oversight?

or

Should the Early Childhood Block Grant return to Chicago Public Schools for administration and oversight?
## Administration Change Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRENGTHS</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DFSS</strong></td>
<td>• Additional layer of government administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Decreased administrative workload</td>
<td>• Difficulty meeting funder deadlines</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Access for CBOs to subject matter experts and support services</td>
<td>• Recipients receiving E/HS funds will have to report to two separate agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• An internal system and mechanism that ensures continuous focus on salary parity</td>
<td>• Small agencies require additional administrative supports</td>
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<td>• Ability for CBO’s to see the total cost of operations and cross allocate funding</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CPS</strong></td>
<td>• CPS will need to increase staffing and build infrastructure to directly manage PI and PFA within both schools and agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Single oversight of all ECBG funding for the city of Chicago</td>
<td>• Time needed to create and launch an RFP for CBO providers</td>
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<td>• Increased opportunity to quickly respond to changing community needs of CBO providers</td>
<td>• Agencies will require contracts with more than one entity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Streamlined procurement process allowing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Opportunity to align district resources across schools and CBO providers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROS</td>
<td>CONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Streamline processes and improve efficiency, leading to increased productivity and enhanced outcomes.</td>
<td>● Requires a mind shifts and necessary training</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Manage data more effectively, leading to better reporting and decision-making</td>
<td>● Impacts the efficiency and effectiveness of other connected systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Improve the recipient experience and support better use of funding for services and supports.</td>
<td>● Migration of data or data collections may impact reporting for measurable outcomes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Change takes time which is not always on our side, people can be resistant to change which has adverse effects on a system</td>
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Community Insights: Practices to Uplift Equity

- Equitable Distribution and Allocation
- Collaboration and Transparent Policies
- Financial Equity and Support for Providers
Community Insights: Shared Experiences

**Center the Needs of Families**
- Develop a continuum of services to meet the diverse needs of Chicago’s children and families
- Expand community-based services available to meet the needs of families
- Acknowledge the diversity of family needs and advocate for flexibility in service delivery

**Uplift the Needs of Community Organizations**
- Implement more equitable funding strategies to prevent staff losses and center closures
- Emphasize the need for CBOs to have timely access to resources that directly benefit families
Community Insights: Smart Start Funding

**Equitable Access and Layered Support:** Ensure families can access services promptly, irrespective of socioeconomic status or home zip code. Implement a layered support system, prioritizing unhoused and disadvantaged children. Maintain a data-driven approach, ensuring resources are accessible, and families have clear access to available funding.

1. **Strategic Advertisement for Inclusivity:** Aim to utilize multiple advertisement platforms to reach both families and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Prioritize strategic timing during the year that aligns with parents' needs, ensuring inclusivity and effectiveness.

2. **Sustainable Investments in Small Childcare Programs:** Extend funding to prevent closures and maintain accessible care options for working families.
Next Steps

- Share your feedback in the survey shared in the chat
- Be on the lookout for the next Listening Session invite (January 2024)