September 26, 2023
Early Childhood Education Town Hall
Welcome
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   Por favor selectar el icono de interpretación.

1. Select English or Spanish audio.
   Elegir audio en Inglès o Español.
Agenda

1. Welcome + Introductions
2. Purpose of Today
3. Message From the Mayor
4. Vision For the Future & Funding Overview
5. Panel Discussion
6. What We Heard From You
7. Strengths to Build On
8. Call to Action
Purpose of Today

To set the stage for a new era of inclusive, innovative and effective governing that fosters transparency, collaboration, and partnership.

We aim to create a space for the voices and perspectives of Chicagoans, in coordinated alignment for community driven policy, for people with people at the center of shared decision making to shape the future of early childhood systems prenatal to five.
Mayor Brandon Johnson
Presenters and Panelists

Cristina Pacione-Zayas
1st Deputy Chief of Staff
Mayor's Office

Candace M. Moore
Director of Early Learning
Mayor's Office

Leslie McKinily
Early Childhood Education Chief Officer
Chicago Public Schools

Cerathel Burgess-Burnett
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Family & Support Services

Madeline Shea
Assistant Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health

Sandy De Leon
Executive Director - CELWS
City Colleges of Chicago

Bethany Patten
Director, Division of Early Childhood
Illinois Department of Human Services
Vision For the Future & Funding Overview
Early/Head Start and Early Childhood Block Grant Slot Distribution

Source: HHS/ACF/OHS PIR 2022; DFSS Press Releases and communication; CPS data portal and communication; Head Start Grantee communication. Please note that numbers reflect a moment in time but the overall market share amongst providers represented here remains helpful in providing a high-level overview of Chicago’s shared landscape.

High-level estimates

- CPS*: 55.4%
- Carole Robertson Center for Learning: 4.9%
- Chicago Commons: 5.6%
- Christopher House: 0.3%
- Easter Seals: 2.5%
- El Valor: 0.8%
- Henry Booth: 3.1%
- Start Early: 7.1%
- DFSS—PFA / PI only: 6.3%
- DFSS—HHS: 14.0%

*There are an additional 7,300 half-day slots funded by local dollars and in part by ECBG.
Funding Distribution Snapshot

Chicago's Public Dollars for EC, $M annually

- City of Chicago Corporate Tax: 1.6%
- CPS Early Childhood School Budgets: 24.1%
- CPS PFA: 16.3%
- DFSS PFA / PI: 10.8%
- CCAP: 22.1%
- Other: 4.9%
- HHS: 20.2%

Chicago Department of Public Health

- **Mission:** To work with communities and partners to create an equitable, safe, resilient and Healthy Chicago.

- **Vision:** Everyone in Chicago thrives and achieves their optimal health and wellness.

- **Key Program Areas:**
  - Health Protection
  - Disease Control
  - Food Protection
  - Immunizations
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Community Health
  - Healthy Chicago 2025
  - Environment
  - Health Equity in All Policies
  - Maternal, Infant, Child & Adolescent Health
  - Maternal & Child Health
  - Adolescent Health
  - Reproductive Health
  - Behavioral Health
  - Mental Health Clinics & Services
  - Substance Use
  - Violence Prevention
  - Syndemic Infectious Diseases
  - HIV, AIDS & STI Resources
  - Hepatitis
  - Tuberculosis
  - Health Data
  - Epidemiological Data & Reports
  - Chicago Health Atlas
  - Data Requests
Family Connects Chicago Goals:

- Scale citywide to offer services to all 28,000 families welcoming newborns in the city
- Fully integrate in Chicago’s prenatal to 5 continuum of care by:
  - building a universal system of support for all families with newborns
  - serving as a bridge to link families with needed resources, particularly early childhood services and longer term supports
2024 Family Connects Chicago Program Funding Estimates

Estimated Annual Total Program Cost: $12,192,844

- Chicago Recovery Plan Allocation
- IDPH MCH Title V Block Grant
- IDHS Chicago Family Connects Grant
- City of Chicago Corporate Funds

NOTE: The $6,291,684 allocation is a non-recurring, one-time CRP investment of ARPA funds - $25M in total through 2026.
Department Mission

Working with community partners, we connect Chicago residents and families to resources that **build** stability, **support** their well-being, and **empower** them to thrive.

**DFSS priorities include:**
- Delivering and supporting high quality, innovative, and comprehensive services that empower clients to thrive;
- Collaborating with community partners, sister agencies, and public officials on programs and policies that improve Chicagoans’ lives and advance positive systemic change;
- Informing the public of resources available to them through DFSS and its community partners; and
- Stewarding DFSS’s resources responsibly and effectively.

**Children Services Division priorities include:**
- Engage parent, family, and community in activities that support positive early learning outcomes for children and,
- Build awareness of early childhood opportunities with populations that have been historically marginalized by status quo systems.
Four goals were developed and included in 2019. These goals were structured with the intent of ensuring the inclusion of a strong network of Community Based organizations (CBO) and raising quality in early learning settings serving children and families, birth – 5 ensuring children are kindergarten ready.

The overarching desire to ensure that the early learning system in Chicago continues to include both CBO’s and CPS and respects parent choice.

- **Reduction in Family Support Staff Caseloads** to allow for deeper engagement and opportunities to assist parents in achieving goals for themselves, their family and their children.

- **Continuity of Relationships** to ensure children are able to develop trusting relationships that will follow them through birth to three and where possible birth to 5.

- **Increase Staff Salaries / Salary Parity** – Internal process developed to ensure any increase in funding would be allocated with a restriction that CBO’s must first increase salaries.

- **Kindergarten Readiness** – Ensure children who leave early learning programs are K-Ready and able to succeed in kindergarten through 3rd grade.
City of Chicago Corporate Tax Fund Investment in Early Learning ($13M)

High-level estimates

- DFSS: $4,232,860 (32.4%)
- CPS: $2,400,000 (18.4%)
- Citywide: $6,442,140 (49.3%)
Breakout of $6.4M in Citywide investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment Area</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Early Childhood Integrated Data System (CECIDS)</td>
<td>$530,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship (CELWS)</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Public Library</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Needs Assessment</td>
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<td>Family Community Engagement</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Learning Hotline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Child Ready Chicago</td>
<td>$28,687</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Communications and Recruitment</td>
<td>$949,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Investment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,442,140</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Office of Early Childhood Vision

The vision of the Office of Early Childhood Education (OECE) is to ensure all Chicago children and families engage in high-quality early learning experiences that lead to success in early grades and beyond.

- **High Quality Programs**
  - Improve preschool program quality to ensure all classrooms are rated GOLD on ExceleRate IL

- **Attendance and Family Engagement**
  - Increase access to full-day preschool within identified community desserts prioritizing priority populations

- **Access and Enrollment**
  - Align P-2 policies, systems and resources to deliver a differentiated seamless early grade experience for students and families

- **Alignment of P-2 Systems**
FY24 CPS PreK Budget ($363M)

- By statute, CPS receives 37% of the state’s Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) - currently $221M*
- The $90M in ECBG allocated to DFSS from CPS includes:
  - $44.2M for PFA (ages 3 to 5)
  - $44.2M for PI (prenatal to age 3)
  - $1.5M for Scholarships
- CPS utilizes $141M in local/other funds to supplement preschool programming

*Though the state's ECBG has been increased for FY24, these additional dollars have not yet been allocated to CPS for FY24
Nation-Leading Early Childhood

Strengthening and growing early childhood requires field sustaining funding reform and investment in affordability for families.

- Smart Start Illinois will build on federal relief funded innovations and take steps to realize goal of making Illinois the best state in the country to raise young children.

- These investments pair with Preschool for All expansion to set a national model for early childhood services.

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

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

- Sustain and expand Home Visiting, rooted in innovative funding practices successfully tested with relief dollars.
Home Visiting supports pregnant people and parents with young children ages 0-5 who live in communities that face greater risks and barriers to achieving positive maternal and child health outcomes.

**Goals for FY24:**
- Sustain slots expanded with federal relief funds.
- Align all grantees with cost model for services.
- Invest in infrastructure to support expanded service delivery.
- Outcome: Solidify model and **create approximately 310 additional slots** anticipated to serve approximately 440 additional families.

**Goals for FY25:**
- Equitably expand slots (into new communities in partnership with ISBE) across existing and/or new grantees, maintaining gains made in SFY24.
- Outcome: Build on foundation and **serve approximately 500-650 additional families** above SFY24 levels.

Find more information about home visiting services in your community at iGrowIllinois.org.
Today, the cost to provide child care is more than parents can afford, and a provider’s revenues aren’t enough to pay an attractive wage – currently being sustained by limited-time federal relief funding.

$15.00 per hour wages on average for child care teachers in licensed centers.
Smart Start Child Care can address this with investments programs need to pay attractive wages without raising costs for families.

\[ \text{Revenues: Program A} \]

\[ \text{Revenues: Program B} \]

\[ \text{Revenues: Program C} \]

Private Pay

CCAP Subsidy

Smart Start Contract

$17-19 per hour wages on average for child care teachers in licensed centers.
Smart Start Child Care

2020

Child Care Restoration Grant
Fill COVID-19 revenue gaps with federal relief funds

2021

Strengthen & Grow Child Care
Fill revenue gaps & support workforce investments

2022

ExceleRate Child Care Center Pilot
Resources for wage supplements and quality improvements

2023

Smart Start Transition Grants

2024

Quality Support Program

2025 and Beyond

We are here

Smart Start Transition Grants form the bridge to Smart Start Child Care
• Infant-toddler classroom ($28,000/yr) awards are larger than Preschool awards ($24,000/yr) to account for staffing / operational cost differences.
• Providers must invest 75% of award in personnel, up from 50%.
• Eligible providers qualify for additional funding for quality supports.
IDHS is conducting a series of provider focus groups to seek input on how the grants should be designed. Focus groups are virtual and will be available in Spanish to meet providers’ needs.

- Wednesday, September 27 from 6:30-8pm CST. Click here to register!
- Saturday, September 30 from 9:30-11am CST. Click here to register!

We want to hear from you!

Give your input on new Child Care Workforce Compensation Grants!

¡Queremos escuchar de ustedes!

¡Brinde su opinión sobre los nuevos Subvenciones de Compensación de la Fuerza Laboral de Cuidado Infantil!

IDHS está llevando a cabo una serie de grupos de enfoque con proveedores para recabar opiniones sobre cómo deben diseñarse las subvenciones. Los grupos de enfoque son virtuales y estarán disponibles en español para satisfacer las necesidades de los proveedores.

- Miércoles, 27 de septiembre, de 6:30 a 8 pm CT. ¡Haga clic aquí para registrarse!
- Sábado, 30 de septiembre, de 9:30 a 11 am CT. ¡Haga clic aquí para registrarse!
Early Intervention is a federal entitlement program covering 16 core services including speech, physical, occupational, developmental, and other therapies, plus service coordination.

Goals for FY24:
• Increase rates by 10% to support workforce recruitment and retention and ease service delays. This was completed 7/1/23.
• Release Early Intervention Incentive Payments of up to $1,300 for each EI service provider. This will take place in 2023.

Goals for FY25:
• Early Intervention cost modeling to inform future rate-setting.
• Demonstration projects to test out new methods of providing infrastructural support for families with greater needs.
• Service Coordinator recruitment and workforce development.
• Research into lessons learned from other states.
• Partner with EI service providers to best understand their needs and the supports they need.

Early Intervention services:
• Enhance child development
• Build family capacity
• Minimize future need for special education services

To find your local Child and Family Connections office, call 800-843-6154.
What We Heard From You

- Improved Communication & Transparency
- Alignment, Coordination, & Infrastructure
- Governance, Accountability, & Monitoring
- Equitable Distribution of Funding & Slots
- Actionable and Accessible Data
- Greater access for Families Facing the Most Barriers
- Adequate Support & Compensation for Early Childhood Workforce
Strengths to Build On

1. Family Connects
2. CECIDS
3. Increase in scholarships
4. Increase in equitable pay
5. Illinois First Step
6. Collaboration with Birth to Five
7. Network of community based organizations
8. Collaboration with Head Start
9. SMART Start
Panelist Q&A
Every Child Ready Chicago (ECRC) is a public-private advisory body focused on ensuring that all Chicago children are prepared for kindergarten success.

This collective effort aims to streamline and unite prenatal-to-five systems and support services, creating a cohesive early childhood infrastructure. Building upon Chicago's robust history of investing in early learning opportunities from birth, ECRC strives to establish an equitable and effective prenatal-to-five system to benefit our city's youngest learners.
Call to Action

- **Jamboard** will be open for your comments through **October 2nd** to continue to share your recommendations regarding forecasting how to leverage SmartStart funding and improving the early childhood ecosystem that did not get addressed today.

- **Sign up** to participate in the **ECRC Advisory Committee** as we advance planning and discussion.

- **Complete the survey** to share your feedback around the Town Hall and how we can improve on further communication and experiences regarding the early childhood landscape.

- Check back on the **ECRC website** for the meeting recording and additional information and FAQs.
Thank you for your participation today, and we look forward to future collaboration!