

Job Posting: Full-Time Preschool Expansion Policy Implementation Director

Position Summary: In partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education, coordinates the implementation of strategic priorities and policies for expansion of publicly-funded preschool education within Illinois, including diffusion of the full-day comprehensive program model. Works with state agencies and their contractors and subgrantees, including school districts, to ensure the successful and equitable implementation of the federal Preschool Expansion Grant. Works with state agencies and cross-system stakeholders in developing a sustainable and well-aligned early childhood education (ECE) workforce pathway, across multiple state agencies and funding streams.

Reports to: Executive Director, Office of Early Childhood Development

Responsibilities include:

- In collaboration with ISBE, guide policy for preschool expansion to fulfill vision developed by the Illinois Early Learning Council as articulated in Preschool Expansion Grant
- Coordinate the implementation of the Preschool Expansion Grant in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education
 - Coordinate with state agencies to ensure alignment within the grant priorities and program implementation
 - Collaborate with all sub grantees to ensure the vision of the grant is implemented
 - Collect success stories and program data for federal reporting
 - Draft proposed guidance and resources to support grantee compliance and quality
 - Maintain and update compliance checklist, weighted eligibility form and other key documents
 - Draft monthly updates to grantees
 - Identify and pursue cross system collaboration opportunities to support communities and programs
 - Assist in the development of federal reports
 - Participate in regular communication with federal officer
- Develop and implement policies to build a strong ECE workforce pipeline, align ECE workforce competencies, and attract and retain well qualified staff, across multiple agencies and funding streams
 - Staff the Workforce group of the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth
 - Develop and monitor the group's action plans and assist with implementation steps
 - Oversee the coordination of ECE workforce data and reporting across state agencies
 - Participate in other related stakeholder groups, such as the Quality Committee of the Illinois Early Learning Council and the Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC)
- Understand and work to operationalize an equity lens, with the goal of eliminating racial inequities throughout the early childhood system. This includes: engaging diverse perspectives; identifying how racial/ethnic and underserved groups are affected by current or proposed policies or procedures; and analyzing how policy or procedures might worsen existing disparities or produce other unintended consequences. Cultivate equitable practices across all aspects of job function.
- Develop communication materials and presentations for diverse stakeholders that includes regular updates, data, and policy barriers and recommendations
- Guide and supervise the OECD Community Systems Policy Director

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of equity and key related concepts including racial disparities, structural inequities, and structural racism.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in early childhood programs or early childhood-related policy work involving multiple streams of early childhood programs (such as child care, Head Start, and preschool).
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in a government related field is preferred.
- Demonstrated experience working with diverse populations and engaging diverse perspectives, including those of populations whose first language is not English.

- Extensive experience managing and reporting on large federal grants, coordinating top level decision makers, and developing multi-program budgets.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills; ability to communicate complex issues to diverse audiences, including state administrators, local programs, and families.
- Master's degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development, Public Policy, Political Science, or Social Work.
- Expertise in quantitative data analysis is preferred.

Send Cover letter and Resume to: Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development c/o

GOV.OECD@Illinois.gov.