

**IHSA Advisor**  
**February, 2020**



## **ISBE ECBG RFPs for FY 21 Available**

FY21 Request for Proposal opportunities for Preschool for All (PFA), Preschool for All-Expansion (PFAE) and Prevention Initiative (PI) funds are available. Proposals are due in the ISBE offices no later than 4 p.m. March 23, 2020.

Please take a look at the RFP information. Here is the link: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx>

There are some changes this year. For instance, Licensed Family Childcare Homes are eligible if they partner with an administrative agency such as an LEA or another Early Childhood agency.

In addition, for PFA and PFAE, there is a new resource document this year called the PFA/PFAE Community Classroom Data resource. This document lists every school district in the state and, using a formula, cites how many more slots are needed to serve at least 80% of the eligible children in the school district. I recommend you check out your school districts since HS slots were supposed to have been included in the data calculations. Please let me know if the data seems incorrect for your area(s). Or feel free to email ISBE at [earlychi@isbe.net](mailto:earlychi@isbe.net) and let them know. Here is a link to the Data Document: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/PFA-PFAE-Comm-Classroom-Data.pdf>

Tier 1 and Tier 2 school district areas are once again given priority this year as they were last year.

Recommended costs per child are included in the RFPs for all models.

Keep checking the ISBE RFP website. There may be a Frequently Asked Questions section if ISBE receives questions that are not answered in the webinars.

I highly recommend that programs write for more slots if there is a need in your service area. You may be especially interested in Prevention Initiative. I would think it would be very easy to operate it as you would federally funded EHS. In fact, the webinar for PI specifically says EHS programs may apply for Prevention Initiative to increase their slots.

## **PDG Renewal Grant**

GOECD announced in mid-December that from 2020 through 2022, Illinois will receive \$13.4 million per year from the PDG B-5 Renewal Grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education. Activities proposed in the three-year grant will expand upon work conducted in 2019 through the Initial PDG B-5 grant and will enable Illinois to increase access to quality programs in multiple settings and to strengthen programs' support of children's social/emotional development, kindergarten transitions, the early childhood workforce, cross-system data, and family voice in the system.

The amount of \$13.4 million per year is a reduction from the \$15 million the GOECD asked for. Thus far we do not know what has been changed from the original budget or what activities in the grant have been changed or eliminated.

As far as HS/EHS involvement with this Renewal grant, here are a few ways we or IHSA will be involved:

- IHSA will be working on 3 new topics for the Parent Cafés. The grant currently states we hope to reach 1000 families with the Parent Café model;
- There will be more Pyramid Model work with 70 programs (HS/EHS and PFAE);
- Data sharing agreement work to improve sharing of HS data;
- FAN training for HS and EHS programs (and other ECE programs);
- Trauma-informed approach training for HS/EHS (and other ECE programs); and
- Coordinated Intake pilot with 2 HS/EHS sites as well as 3 CCRR sites.

We do need to keep abreast of the rural pilot for infant toddler classrooms that is part of the grant. This pilot is part of a revised ExceleRate focused on CQI. The hope is to assist Childcare centers with funding up front so they can raise staff salaries, improve the children's environment and their teaching while working on CQI. The grant states the center will then be able to blend and braid funding with PI or EHS

We also need to watch how the GOECD implements the part of the grant that talks about assisting parts of the state who need ECE programs with writing their grant applications (page 33). The Renewal grant states that many communities do not fully understand how to apply or understand the funding streams; lack the infrastructure for community-wide planning; or have inadequate facilities. (DE: I am sure these are not all the reasons—lack of timely payments from ISBE for a PFA program for example.) Action for Children will manage this part of the grant. They are supposed to have a list of under-served communities, largest slot gaps, and percentage of unserved children by mid-February, 2020. IHSA or IECAM may need to contact you for input on this. Somehow HS/EHS service areas are never correct on IECAM. Please read the full grant (remembering that it is no longer \$15 million but \$13.4 million for each of 3 years) noting where your program may have the chance to be involved. It can be found here: [https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/File%201%20Project%20Description%20ILLINOIS%20Renewal\\_Public.pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/File%201%20Project%20Description%20ILLINOIS%20Renewal_Public.pdf)

## **Early Childhood Funding Commission**

On Monday, December 16, 2019, Governor J.B. Pritzker launched the Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding (Early Childhood Funding Commission). The Commission will study and make recommendations to establish funding goals and funding mechanisms to provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for all children birth to age five and advise the Governor in planning and implementing these recommendations. The Commission will submit these recommendations to the Governor on or before January 15, 2021.

Our own, George Davis, of Rockford, is one of the co-chairs. For more information on the Commission follow this link - <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/Governor's-Early-Childhood-Funding-Commission.aspx>

The meetings will be held monthly and are open to the public to attend. Also the public may sign up to make comments to the Commission at each meeting.

The next meeting will be February 11, 2020, held in Chicago and Springfield at ISBE's V-TEL rooms. I hope conference call access will also be available.

## **Parent Cafés**

IHSA, as part of the PDG B5 (This past year's grant which was extended to the end of February, 2020), hosted Parent Café Leader training. Some of you provided your parents with the application information. We received 48 applications as of January 1, 2020. We selected 13 Parent Leader candidates for the Chicago area and 8 for the Mt. Vernon area. We did not receive as many applications for central or southern Illinois as we did for the Chicago and northern Illinois area.

The Parent Leaders have all expenses paid plus a stipend for training and hosting the Parent Cafés. The training was January 9 and 10, 2020, held in Springfield at the IHSA office.

### **Dates for the actual Parent Cafés were:**

Mount Vernon - January 23rd - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm and January 24th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Chicago - February 4th - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm and February 5th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

All travel, hotel, child care, food and training expenses were paid for the Parent Leaders.

Thank you all for your help as we recruited parents to attend the Cafes. We will provide you with a summary of the successes and challenges we experienced. Lisa Russell is our "Parent Mentor/Coach." Michele Jolivette from the Chicago area was contracted to put together the Parent Leader Guidelines or Manual for hosting the Parent Cafés. She also did the training for the Parent Leaders.

## **Illinois PN3 Initiative**

Illinois is not officially part of the Pritzker Children's Initiative or PCI but due to private funding from various foundations, Illinois has a similar initiative happening called the PN3 or Prenatal to 3 years Initiative. Luckily Illinois is able to access the numerous resources that the PCI states have access to.

For the PN3, Illinois wants to develop a strategic policy agenda and implementation plan focused on prioritizing the expansion of high quality services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families, beginning prenatal to age three to get children on track for school success by age three. The policy agenda and implementation plan will seek to provide services to an additional 25% of Illinois' infant/toddler population (50,000 more infants and toddlers) by 2023, and an additional 50% of low-income infant/toddler population by 2025 (100,000 low-income infants and toddlers).

The PN3 Coalition of ECE stakeholders and its work groups have had many meetings this past fall and early winter. Work groups were formed to create strategies for Early Intervention, Home Visiting, Child Care and Center-based Care, Cross Systems Initiatives and Infrastructure, Family Economic Security, and Prenatal/Birth. Each group created at least 3 strategies or goals that are to be integrated into a Strategic Plan for Illinois by the end of January, 2020.

This work will be combined into the PDG Renewal grant work and the ECE Finance Commission work.

Here is a link to more information about the PN3 work:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/PN3.aspx>

## More Resources for Working With Families Experiencing Homelessness

As part of their work with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Early Learning Project has added a new tool kit, [Supporting Families with Young Children Experiencing Homelessness](#), as a resource to help early childhood, school, and community professionals understand how they can support families who may be experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. They also created a [Resource Directory for Illinois Families with Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Housing Insecurity](#) and updated and added to their [When Children Are Homeless or Housing Insecure: How Preschool Teachers and Caregivers Can Help](#) resource list. Check it out!!



### Lessons Learned from the EHS-CCP Initiative:

[A report](#) from the Ounce of Prevention Fund highlights the results achieved and lessons learned from implementation of the Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership initiative.

**Some toddlers are chronically absent from preschool. A text message can help!** Read this article about reducing absenteeism in Head Start centers!

<https://qz.com/1768042/text-messages-can-help-reduce-absenteeism-in-head-start-centers/>

### Upcoming Conferences and Trainings

Collaboration for Early Childhood Symposium, Feb. 23, Oak Park, IL, <http://collab4kids.org/symposium/>

ILASCD Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Conference, March 4–6, Schaumburg, IL,  
<https://illinoiascd.org/professional-learning-opportunities/pre-k-and-kindergarten-conference>

Oakton Infant Toddler Conference, Des Plaines, IL, March 7, 2020

\*Illinois Head Start Association Annual Conference, March 11 – 13, Springfield, IL  
\*Pre-Conference, March 9 – 11, on Parent, Family, Community Engagement

\*Practice Based Coaching Training Institute, March 25 – 26, Springfield, IL

Leadership Connections National Conference, April 29–May 1, Wheeling, IL,  
<https://mccormickcenter.nl.edu/leadership-connections-national-conference/>

**SAVE THE DATE “Equity from the Start: Shifting from Intention to Outcomes,” Partner Plan Act Conference, June 11-12, 2019, Bloomington, IL**

\*For the conferences or meetings marked with an asterisk, please register at the IHSA website!  
<http://ilheadstart.org/>