

SMART START ILLINOIS

A multi-year plan to transform early childhood education and care for our youngest Illinoisans



THE PLAN

1. Provide every Illinois child with access to preschool
2. Increase funding to childcare providers to raise wages and quality
3. Invest in new early childhood facilities and expand existing locations
4. Reach more vulnerable families with early support and resources

SMART START INVESTMENTS

Smart Start begins with a **\$250 million** investment in early childhood education and care, including:

- **\$75 million** more for the Early Childhood Block Grant to put Illinois on a path to creating more than 20,000 new Pre-K spots
- **\$130 million** for nation-leading Child Care Workforce Compensation Contracts that will stabilize providers and give childcare workers a raise
- **\$40 million** more for Early Intervention
- **\$5 million** to expand DHS' Home Visiting Program



Office of the Governor
JB PRITZKER



ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS



- **\$100 million** in capital dollars for early childhood providers to expand existing facilities and build new facilities
- **\$70 million** for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- **\$12 million** in funding for scholarships and apprenticeships to expand the childcare workforce
- **\$1.6 million** to launch the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a statewide literacy initiative to send free books to children from birth-through age five

FY24 Proposed Budget