

Agency Updates

Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Illinois Board of Higher Education

- ECACE
 - o What's new?
 - Expanding eligibility for the scholarship in fall 2023 to cover freshmen/sophomores at 4-years, post-bac PEL, Masters to earn a PEL/EC endorsement, additional endorsements (post bachelors) such as ESL, Bilingual, ECSE, and the AA degree in limited cases. (ICCB Is working on guidance).
 - Consortium institutions are required to have a plan in place to provide 6 hours of credit to someone with a current CDA in preschool. Some are also already providing this for the Infant Toddler CDA (implementation not required until January 31, 2024).
 - Our next Consortium meeting is April 24th, location TBD.
 - o Program enrollment:
 - We continue to see increases in our scholarship program. Since it's launch in January, over 1400 students have received payment for scholarships as of the end of December.

Illinois Community College Board

- ECACE
 - o What's new?
 - ICCB has provided an updated FAQ related to ECACE Implementation plans.
 - A Community of Practice has been established to support the implementation of the CDA across the consortium.
 - Debt Relief guidance was released to colleges to support enrollment of ECE students.
 - Most community colleges have hired Coaches/Mentors and continue to launch wrap-around supports for students.
 - Approximately 53% of the ECACE budget has been allocated in FY23.
 - Community college continue to work with consortium partner institutions to facilitate the transfer of AAS students to bachelor degree programs.
 - ICCB continues to support community colleges with individual Technical Assistance calls and follow-up for implementing grant agreements.
 - o Program enrollment:
 - Preliminary enrollment in the community college system has increased for fall 2022. A more in-depth analysis of enrollment is being completed by Research and Analytics division. Q1 reports indicate that enrollment across all community

college programs is mixed while overall enrollment in community college ECE programs is up slightly.

Illinois Department of Human Services

- Child Care Assistance Program
 - o **What's New?**
 - In Grant Year 2023, IDHS will receive a \$54M increase in federal CCDBG funds through the FFY23 omnibus appropriations bill.
 - Effective 1/1/23, IDHS is implementing federally-required health and safety training requirements for license-exempt child care center and home providers. Providers who have cared for CCAP children since prior to 10/1/22 must have completed all health and safety orientation requirements by 1/1/23 in order to receive CCAP payments for new or redetermined families; providers who are new to the CCAP system starting 10/1/22 or after must complete trainings within three months of beginning CCAP care in order to continue to receive CCAP to care for children. Federal requirements for health and safety training include completion of First Aid, CPR, Mandated Reporter, and one Health, Safety, and Child Development training.
 - IDHS has adopted rules on 12/20/22 pertaining to sanctions for intentional program violations (adoption of these rules is in response to a previous audit finding). IDHS is in the process of preparing to implement these rules, including drafting policies, training, and messaging.
 - CCAP payments were delayed for providers who entered certificate information between 1/1/23-1/12/23. The technical issue has been resolved and the backlog of payments has been cleared. IDHS is now working to resolve a series of issues that resulted from the larger technical issue: for some affected providers, copayments may have been deducted more than once, union membership dues may not have been deducted, and/or some providers received multiple payments for the same certificate. IDHS is also continuing with work begun in 2021 to modernize its data systems to prevent similar technical issues in the future.
 - o **Program enrollment:**
 - As of December 2022: 110,113 children; 16,119 providers
- Migrant Seasonal Head Start
 - o **What's new?**
 - DEC is preparing to submit the fifth and final annual application of this grant cycle. We are working with our four delegates to gather information. We are also working to identify communities around the state that do not have an MSHS delegate currently but may benefit from MSHS services.
 - o **Program enrollment:** The program remains below funded enrollment.
- Early Intervention
 - o **What's new?**
 - In FFY2023, IDHS will receive an increase in federal IDEA Part C funds through the FFY2023 omnibus appropriations bill.

- IDHS is in the discovery phase (early phase) of the contract with the new EI Data Management System vendor. The vendor is learning about IDHS's EI system so that they can meet IDHS federal and state reporting needs. The new data management system will allow service coordinators, direct service providers, and families of the children we serve to access relevant records and reports.
- IDHS's rate of service delay for EI services continues to rise. The SFY23 year to date service delay rate is 8.2%, compared to 4.6% at the end of SFY22. IDHS is working to address the root causes of service delays and continues to engage with providers to best understand those root causes.
- Program enrollment:
 - FY23 to date (July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022) IDHS has served 27,235 infants and toddlers through the early intervention program. At the end of FY22 we had served 25,125 children. We are on track to far surpass the number of children served last year.
- Home Visiting
 - What's new?
 - The Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Reauthorization Act was signed into law in December and provides for a five-year reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. The legislation retains the core elements of evidence-based policy while making some significant updates and changes, including, for the first time, legislating a formula for distributing state home visiting funds and requiring a state match to draw down funds. This will translate to an estimated \$3 million increase to Illinois MIECHV base funding starting in October of 2023. In addition to the increased base funding, states can draw down additional federal funding via match starting in October of 2024.
 - Program enrollment: SFY23 to date (July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022) DHS DEC Home Visiting has served 2,878 children. This total includes MIECHV, DHS State (formerly Healthy Families Illinois) and Maternal Child Home Visiting (formerly Parents Too Soon). For comparison, in SFY22 these three programs served a total of 3,433 children. This mid-year data indicates that we are on track to meet or exceed the number of children served last year.
- Collaboration and Partnerships
 - What's new?
 - IDHS has finalized a contract with ChildPlus to begin pulling in Head Start data for those Head Start grantees that use ChildPlus and that have signed Data Sharing Agreements with IDHS. IDHS is near finalizing a similar contract with COPA. This will support ILDS efforts to integrate data across CCAP, ECBG, and Head Start.

Illinois Department of Public Health

- Title V

- What's new?

- About to start strategic planning for our next 5-year renewal and will include/request many of stakeholders here for feedback when ready

Illinois State Board of Education

- Preschool For All; Preschool For All Expansion; Prevention Initiative; PDG B-5 Planning Grant

- What's new?

- Illinois received a \$4 million federal grant Preschool Development Grant B-5 planning grant to support and strengthen our early childhood systems. These Funds will improve coordination across the system and strengthen services for Illinois youngest learners. ISBE and the Illinois Department of Human Services will administer the grant.
- In December 2022 ISBE hosted a supplemental doula services webinar to inform PI Home Visiting programs of the requirements for implementation of doula services. There were 40 providers who participated in the webinar and 13 who requested funding to implement supplemental doula services. Awarding funding to these 13 programs will expand supplemental doula services within the prevention initiative program by 46 doulas.
- Additionally in December and January, ISBE hosted 4, FY24 ECBG RFP listening sessions. During these sessions we received feedback from over 500 stakeholders. Thank you to all who participated. Your feedback is valuable and necessary in the ECBG RFP process. We are reviewing the feedback and finalizing the RFPs for PFA, PFAE and PI. Please look for them to be released soon.