

Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Vision: ECEC stakeholders (families, providers, advocates, etc.) feel heard, valued, respected, prioritized, and involved in the Commission's work and see their perspectives and recommendations for systems change reflected in the Commission's information gathering, deliberations, final recommendations, and blueprint for change.

What perspectives does the Commission need to hear?

Families with young children, including those who:

- Pay tuition for early childhood education and care
- Live in rural areas
- Live in Chicago
- Are bilingual
- Have children with special needs
- Struggle to afford care
- Require ECEC services during non-traditional hours

Educators, including:

- Licensed child care lead and assistant teachers (in centers and homes)
- Teachers with Professional Educator Licenses (in schools and belonging to the local union and in community-based organizations)
- Early interventionists
- Home visitors
- Early childhood directors, administrators, and principals

Providers, including:

- School districts
- Schools
- For-profit child care centers and homes
- Family child care homes
- Head Start providers
- Non-profit providers in Chicago

Philanthropy

Business

Early Learning Council

On what subjects does the Commission need more information from stakeholders?

- Funding adequacy assumptions (e.g., the cost of providing or scaling a particular service)
- Overviews of current funding mechanisms and current management & oversight structures
- Perspectives or evaluations on current or proposed future funding mechanisms (e.g., experiences with RFPs, vouchers, formulas, etc.)
- Equity in ECEC service delivery
- Unintended consequences that the Commission should be careful to avoid

- Capacity issues at the local or regional level that the Commission should consider when developing implementation recommendations

What geographic areas should the Commission prioritize in its stakeholder engagement?

- Chicago
- North Chicago Suburbs
- West Chicago Suburbs
- South Chicago Suburbs
- Northern Illinois (suburban)
- Northern Illinois (rural)
- Central Illinois (urban)
- Central Illinois (suburban)
- Central Illinois (rural)
- East St. Louis
- Southern Illinois (urban)
- Southern Illinois (suburban)
- Southern Illinois (rural)
- Areas with strong early childhood collaborations

In what format should the Commission request information?

- Written briefs summarizing data analysis
- Written briefs summarizing policy recommendations
- Written briefs summarizing stakeholder perspectives and firsthand accounts
- Commission Meeting Subject Matter Hearings (structured stakeholder panels with Q&A)
- Commission Meeting presentations
- Optional outside-of-meeting webinars
- Optional outside-of-meeting site visits
- Focus groups
- Public online survey
- Public comment

Any there any timing or sequencing considerations?

- What information do the Working Groups need to propose their initial recommendations to the full Commission?
- What information does the full Commission need when providing feedback and evaluating the Working Groups' recommendations?
- What information does the full Commission need when synthesizing Working Groups' recommendations into a report? Into a legislative blueprint?
- What information does the full Commission need when considering implementation of recommendations?