



# **Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding**

Management & Oversight Working Group  
Meeting #4

June 8, 2020

# THANK YOU - AGAIN

---

Thank you for **staying engaged** in this work – our country's racial injustices and the pandemic have highlighted its importance.

Thank you to all of you for **what you are doing for our state and our families** during this time and always.

# Today's Goals

---



Recap on the **progress we have made thus far**, including last month's discussion on coordination vs. centralization

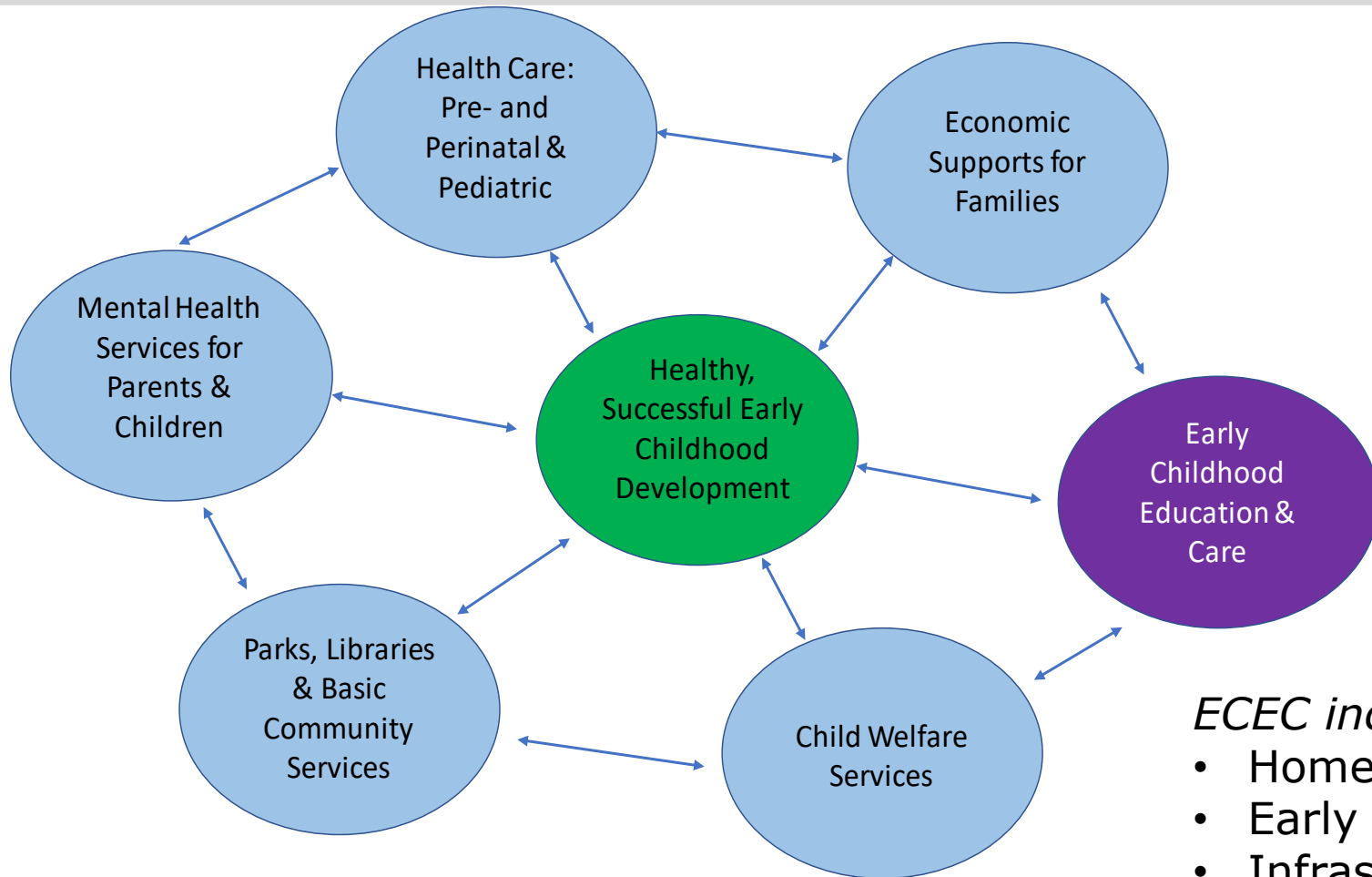


Consider how the placement of **M&O capacities at state level vs. region/local level** will meet our objectives

# Today's Time Spent

Agenda Item	Timing
Recap our process and our work thus far	20 min
Assess how state/regional/local M&O roles might achieve our objectives	80 min
Next Steps	15 min
Public Comment	5 min

# The Commission is focusing specifically on the Early Childhood Education & Care system



- ECEC includes:*
- Home visiting
  - Early learning
  - Infrastructure for these services

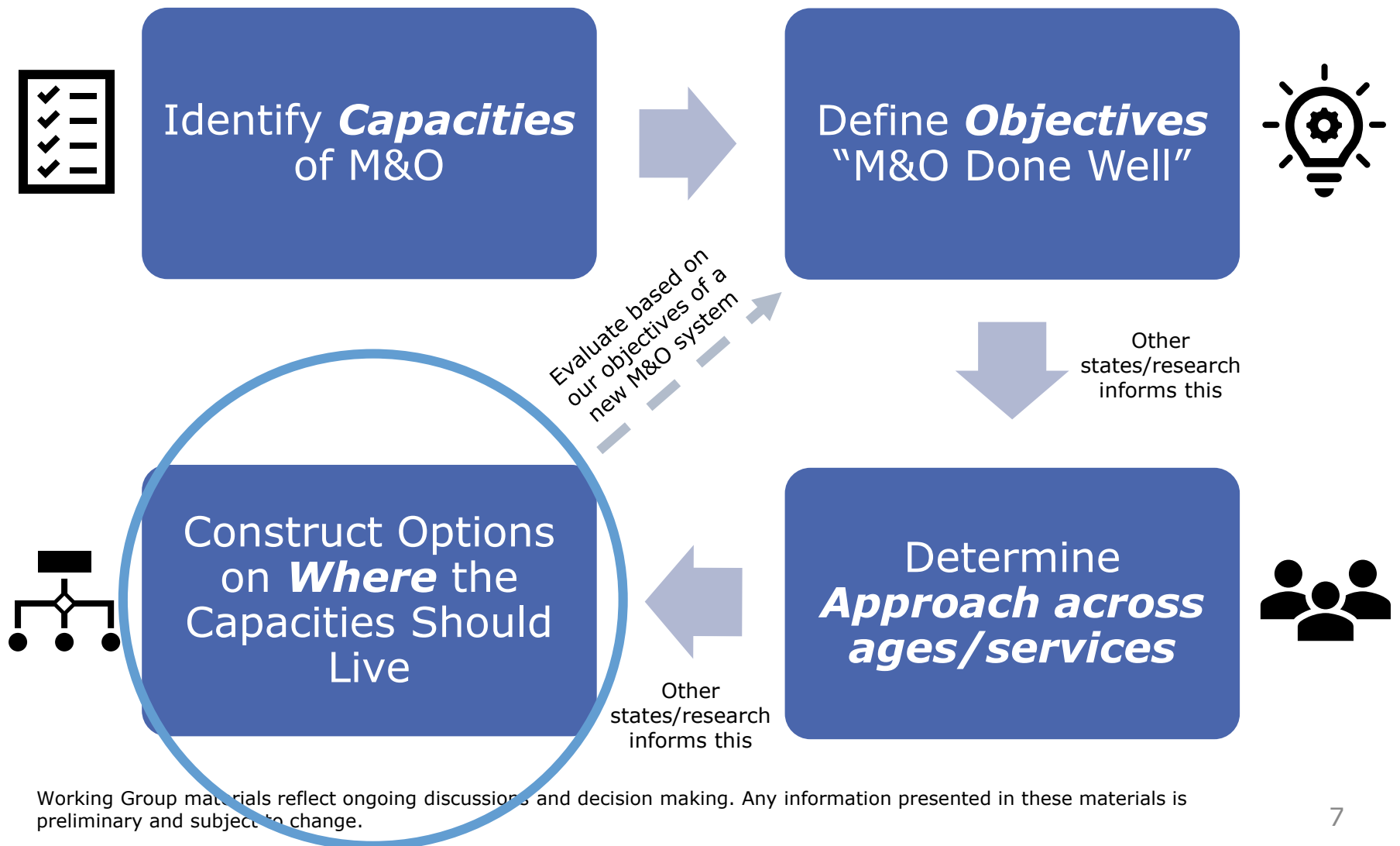
# Management & Oversight Charge

**Goal:** *recommend improved ECEC management structures and responsibilities, in alignment with Guiding Principles*

## **Key Questions to Answer:**

- Who sets the vision and maintains and updates policies and priorities for the overall ECEC system in Illinois?
- Who allocates funds and distributes them?
- Who holds recipients accountable for what they do with funding?

# Process: How We Get to End State M&O



# Management & Oversight Capacities

REVISED 3/5/20



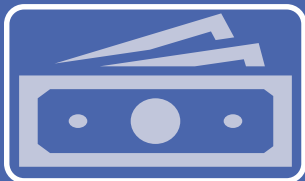
**What are the state and regional capacities that a successful ECEC management and oversight system must possess?**

## Policy Leadership



- Set & maintain statewide vision, goals, and priorities
- Set quality and early learning standards and guidelines
- Develop and implement system policies, rules, and regulations (including budget) based on family, community, and provider perspectives and needs in response to gaps
- Engage policymakers
- Partner and coordinate with other child- and family-serving state agencies and ECEC system advisory bodies

## Funding & Oversight



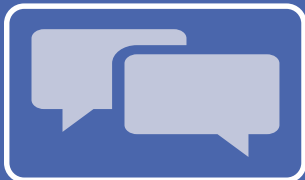
- Use data and community perspectives to inform the budgeting process
- Make funding allocation decisions
- Administer funding distribution
- Conduct monitoring and compliance oversight

## Infrastructure



- Develop leadership capacity to implement improvements to the ECEC system
- Collect, analyze, and evaluate systemwide data
- Manage system level continuous quality improvement
- Administer professional development and workforce development

## Communications



- Report systemwide data
- Provide stakeholders with clear information and engage stakeholders in the decision-making process
- Create opportunities for input from families and providers



# Management & Oversight Objectives

REVISED 3/5/20



**A management and oversight structure that possesses the previously described capacities will meet the following objectives:**

## Plan Cohesively for Sustainable ECEC

- Unify vision, decision making, communication
- Unify the definition of quality
- Design program models and funding streams to respond to family and community needs and system gaps and inequities
- Meet regulatory requirements
- Navigate political and administrative changes

## Improve Access to High Quality & Ensure Equitable Outcomes

- Ensure sufficient capacity at regional/local level
- Use data to inform decisions on resource allocation to meet system and community goals, and prioritize resource distribution to achieve equitable outcomes for children
- Fund and incentivize high quality ECEC services

## Improve System Transparency, Accountability & Efficiency

- Unify monitoring, data collection & reporting
- Send funding allocations to providers with time to plan
- Implement systems to support simplified funding distribution and reduce duplication of effort

## Respond to Family Need and Earn Public Trust

- Unify family engagement and community systems strategies
- Implement accountability that is focused on family perspectives and data

Working Group materials reflect ongoing discussions and decision making. Any information presented in these materials is preliminary and subject to change.

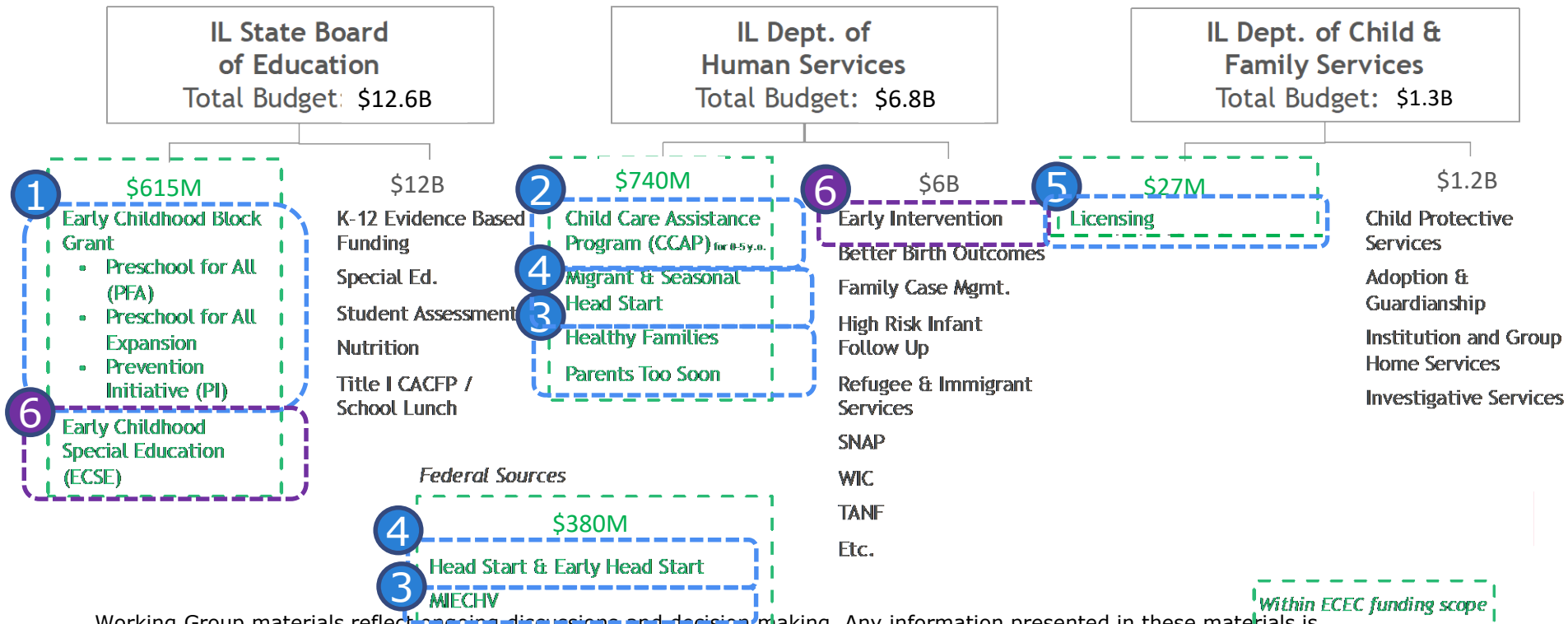
**Reminder: anything we create for recommendations will be assessed using these objectives.**

# Reminder: Current governance situation across three agencies



1. Early Childhood Block Grant
2. Child Care Assistance Program
3. Home Visiting
4. Head Start
5. Licensing
6. Inclusion

2020 allocations



Working Group materials reflecting ongoing discussions and decision-making. Any information presented in these materials is preliminary and subject to change.

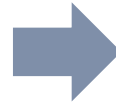
Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois State Board of Education, across 0-5 y.o., 6-12 y.o.

# Last working group meeting's discussion



*A Framework for Choosing a State-Level Early Childhood Governance (BUILD 2013):*

- 1. Coordination among agencies**, where administrative authority is vested in multiple agencies that are expected to collaborate with each other
- 2. Consolidation**, in which multiple programs are administered by the same agency, particularly state education agencies; and
- 3. Creation**, the creation of a new agency focused on early education and care



Regarding administration of ECEC M&O capacities:

**At the state level, should this capacity be coordinated or centralized for all ECEC services?**

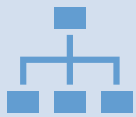
If centralized, within a current agency or a creation of a new one?

# Outcomes of the last working group meeting

---

- ✓ **Centralization of ECEC management & oversight** has greater potential to fulfill the capacities of a successful management & oversight system than coordination across multiple agencies
- ✓ Having **ECEC centralized enables deeper collaboration** across other areas of the early childhood ecosystem, public and private

# Our working group's remaining work



## State / Region / Local roles

Identify which components of each M&O capacity are best implemented at the state or regional/local level.



## State agency determination

Determine agency centralization as (1) creation of a new agency or (2) consolidation into an existing agency

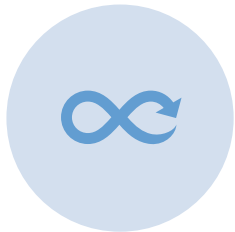


## Implementation considerations

Determine and discuss implementation considerations and phase-in priorities

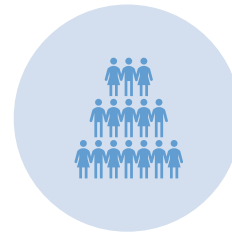
# Why we need to explore region/local vs. state roles in management & oversight

In our last meeting, we determined the **importance of a strong, centralized state agency**. Exploring **regional/local influence** (*whether through formal entities or dedicated staffing*) is directly tied to our M&O objectives.



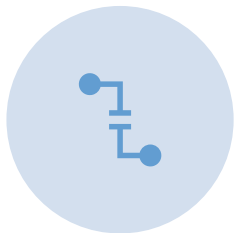
## **Plan for sustainable ECEC services:**

Incubate capacity, address services gaps, build quality



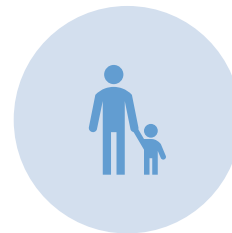
## **Equitable access and outcomes:**

Creating equity requires local input and approaches.



## **Transparency, efficiency, and accountability:**

Integrate and align services and accountability



## **Respond to family needs and earn trust:**

Reflect local context and differences in parent choice in services, capacity and supply, community infrastructure, etc.

# Two Questions

---

Which components of these M&O capacities are best accomplished at the **state level and regional/local level?**

What **organizational relationship between a centralized state agency and regional / local resources** could fulfill M&O capacities and achieve our objectives?

# State vs. Regional/Local Framing

---



## **State Resource Attributes**

- Compliance with state law or policy
- Consistency and uniformity
- Economies of scale
- Capacity and infrastructure

## **Regional / Local Resource Attributes**

- Community context
- Speed and flexibility
- In-person presence



# Two Primary M&O Capacities to Explore



Policy leadership / accountability



Funding allocation decisions

# Policy Leadership / Accountability



SET **QUALITY STANDARDS**



SET **EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

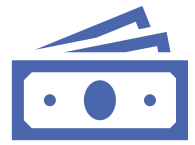


DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT **SYSTEM POLICIES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS**

Which components of these M&O capacities are best accomplished at the **state level and regional/local level?**

What **organizational relationship between a centralized state agency and regional / local resources** could fulfill M&O capacities and achieve our objectives?

# Funding Allocation Decisions



- State makes a regional funding allocation and regions make provider level allocations



OR

- State makes provider level allocations



Which components of these M&O capacities are best accomplished at the **state level and regional/local level?**

What **organizational relationship between a centralized state agency and regional / local resources** could fulfill M&O capacities and achieve our objectives?

---

# Next Steps

# Working Group Member Reflections

---

- How do you feel about **today's discussions**?
- How can we **explore our recommendation** on state-level centralization and the role of regional/local influence **with the full Commission in the** next meeting?
- What feels most important to you for this group to **tackle before our next meeting**?

# Working Group Decision Points

Anticipated Key Topics	Full Commission	Funding Adequacy	Management & Oversight	Funding Mechanisms	Inclusion
<b>June</b>	M&O and/or Funding Mechanism initial recommendations	Cost Model Validation	State vs. Regional Capacities  State Agency: Consolidation vs. Creation	Mechanisms appropriate for key services	Current M&O and Mechanisms Pros & Cons
<b>July</b>	Funding Adequacy initial recommendations	Cost Model Validation  Process to periodically re-evaluate adequacy		Full Mechanism System Build-out	M&O / Mechanisms Inputs
<b>August</b>	Inclusion, M&O, and/or Mechanism recommendations	Funding sources	Future M&O / Mechanisms System Build-out		Funding Adequacy Input
<b>Sept/Oct</b>		<i>Iterations and responding to Commission feedback as needed</i>			

# Next Steps

---



## **Commission Meeting:**

Centralization and the role of region/local resources



## **July Working Group:**

State Agency Decision: Creation vs. Consolidation

---

# Public Comment



---

# Supplemental Slides

# Commission's Charge

"The Commission shall 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."



# Commission Guiding Principles

These Guiding Principles reflect the Commission's values and beliefs, guide how it operates, and lay a foundation for decision-making.

## High Quality ECEC is a Public Priority

- It should be invested in as such as this is critical to our State's workforce, economy, and welfare of its residents.

## Promote Equity

- We will endorse a system that promotes equitable outcomes for children, with intentional focus on race, ethnicity, culture, language, income, children's individual needs, and geography.

## Embrace Bold System-Level Changes

- Everything is on the table, including how funding flows, how funding decisions are made, and who makes them, to better serve all children and families.

## Build Upon the Solid Foundation

- We will build upon the successes of Illinois' past and current system, its commitment to a prenatal to five system, the lessons from other states, and the expertise and research in the field.

## Prioritize Family Perspectives, Needs, and Choices

- We will prioritize families' perspectives, needs, and choices as we make recommendations to improve the system.

## Design for Stability and Sustainability

- We recognize our system must provide funding stability for providers, educators, and staff across mixed delivery settings to better serve families.

## Require System Transparency, Efficiency, and Accountability

- We see these as necessary conditions for all stakeholders, funding distributors, and funding recipients for any future ECEC funding structure.

## Recognize Implementation Realities

- We will plan for meaningful change over a multi-year time horizon.

# Management & Oversight Charge

**Goal:** *recommend improved ECEC management structures and responsibilities, in alignment with Guiding Principles*

Key Questions to Answer	What could these questions include?
1. Who sets the vision and maintains and updates policies and priorities for the overall ECEC system in Illinois?	<i>Example:</i> Licensing, quality rating and improvement, reimbursement rates, regulations, research and data analysis, professional development, etc.
2. Who allocates funds and distributes them?	<i>Example:</i> Implementing funding mechanism determined by Funding Mechanism Working Group; Setting funding priorities over time, setting population priorities over time, funding allocation for quality improvement and expanded access, etc.
3. Who holds recipients accountable for what they do with funding?	<i>Example:</i> Implementation of quality and accountability regulations determined above

# Key Conclusion from Funding Mechanism Working Group

---

**There is value to blending funding sources upstream at the system level.**

# Pandemic challenges highlight the urgency of the Commission's charge

- **Inconsistency in continued instructional support** across ECEC while settings are closed (Head Start, PFA, child care, etc.)
- Current **management and oversight system requires multiple conversations with many offices before making ECEC decisions**, even on an urgent timeline
- Inconsistent relationships with community entities (like CCR&Rs and INCCRRA) makes **reopening emergency child care confusing**
- Providers want to know how to access funding and how to stay afloat – but **wide variation in funding** makes this challenging
- Child care is an **essential service**, yet **most ECEC workers would receive more on expanded unemployment insurance**
- Information on **policies from multiple agencies** makes it **challenging to provide consistent messaging and answer questions uniformly**
- Standing the system back up and **rebuilding infrastructure and supports following the pandemic will require even greater effort and collaboration**

# Policy Leadership

## State leads, regions implement



Set & maintain statewide vision, goals, and priorities.

*Set, maintain, implement*



*Inform, implement*

Set quality and early learning standards and guidelines.

*Set*



*Inform, implement*

Develop and implement system policies, rules, and regulations (including budget) based on family, community, and provider perspectives and needs in response to gaps.

*Develop, implement*



*Inform, implement*

Engage policymakers.

*Unified legislative affairs*



*Share data with local policymakers.*

Partner and coordinate with other child- and family-serving state agencies and ECEC system advisory bodies.

*Coordinate with ECEC advisory body, state agencies, their advisory bodies*

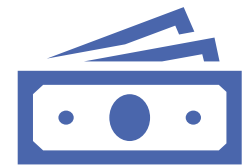


*Coordinate with regional entities across other systems*

Multiple Group materials reflect ongoing discussions and decision-making. Any information presented in these materials is preliminary and subject to change.

# Funding & Oversight

## State budgets, allocates, disburses



Use data and community perspectives to inform the budgeting process

*Collect, analyze, leverage*



*Collect, feed up, use locally*

Make funding allocation decisions

*Make decisions*



*Support providers, inform decision*

Administer funding distribution

*Disburse funding*



Conduct monitoring and compliance oversight

*Use the data to inform accountability process*



*Conducts, shares findings with State*



# Infrastructure

## State leads, regions implement



Develop leadership capacity to implement improvements to the ECEC system



Manage accountability process to ensure high quality programs

*Design, share results*



*Implement, share findings with State*

Collect, analyze, and evaluate systemwide data

*Collect, receive, analyze, evaluate, leverage, share*



*Collect, feed up, use locally*

Manage system level continuous quality improvement

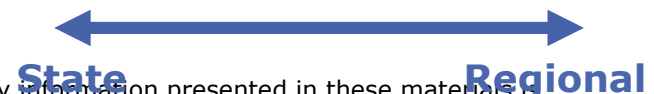
*Design, implement*



*Implement, provide support*

Administer professional development and workforce development

*Determine requirements, award qualifications*

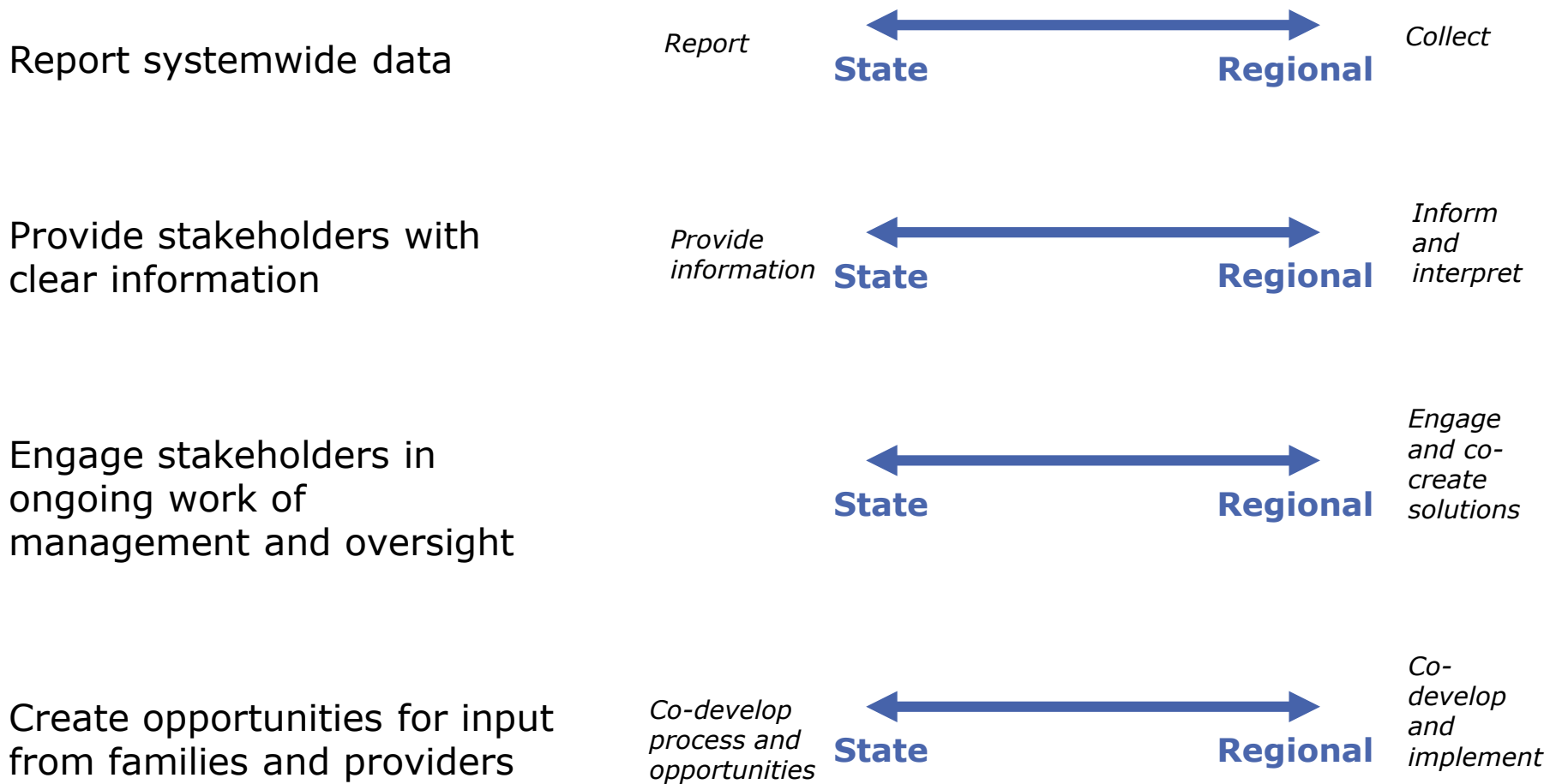


*Administer*

Use of the word "infrastructure" is not intended to imply that the information presented in these materials is preliminary and subject to change.

# Communications

## State informs, regions engage



# Scope of our Final Deliverable

## What it is

- ✓ Strategic blueprint for the future system
- ✓ Detailed enough to inform a legislative package
- ✓ Thoughtful on major implementation issues
- ✓ Directional understanding of future system costs

## What it is not

- ✗ Detailed implementation plan for future system
- ✗ Bill language
- ✗ Detailed enough to inform administrative code
- ✗ Summation of unique individual provider costs

# Commission Timeline - *Revised*

The Commission will deliver its report by January 2021 with consideration to the Governor’s budget address and legislative session timing.

