



Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding

Commission Meeting #15

March 1, 2021

Meeting reminders



- **Add your name** to your Zoom (click on the 3 dots)
- **Consider being on video** to help with overall engagement
- **Mute self** when not speaking
- Technical issues can happen to anyone – **chat privately to Jennifer or Katie for any needs**
- If you are experiencing an unstable connection - **switch to phone call or close other applications**
- Members of the **public will have an opportunity to speak at the end** of the meeting

Today's Goals & Agenda

Agenda Item	Time
Roll Call, Agenda, and Opening Remarks	11:30-11:35
Commission Feedback on Draft Report and Report Updates	11:35-11:45
Commissioner Reflections	11:45-1:15
Next Steps	1:15-1:25
Public Comment	1:25-1:30


Taking stock: *Where are we toward our deliverable? What remains?*

**December
2020**

- Reviewed outline of final report
- Received updated findings from Racial Equity Working Group
- Hosted town halls

**January
2021**

- Working Groups reconvened to consider feedback received on the recommendations to date
- Hosted town halls
- Drafted Commission Report



**February
2021**

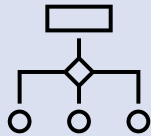
- Feedback on Commission Report
- Finalize planning and implementation priorities
- **Commissioner sign-on to recommendations**
- **Plan and review communications plan and materials**

**March
2021**

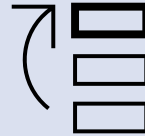
- Give recommendations to the Governor
- Move the work forward

Draft Report Feedback: Common Themes that have been addressed

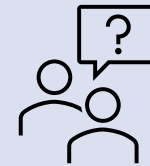
Reference new agency recommendation



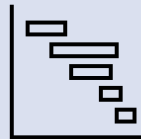
Infant/toddler and geographic priorities



Further study on EL funding mechanisms



Implementation ownership and timeline



Summary of key recommendations



Commissioner Reflections



What happens next?



Communications materials finalized



Plan for sharing with Governor finalized



Report provided to the Governor



Execute on communications plans



Shift gears to implementation planning

Materials Preview

READY ILLINOIS Simpler, Better, Fairer

Recommendations of
the Illinois Commission
on Equitable Early
Childhood Education
and Care Funding

SPRING 2021



*"Illinois will become the best
state in the nation for families
raising young children, with the
nation's best early childhood
education and childcare."*

— Governor JB Pritzker, in his charge to the Illinois Commission
on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding,
December 2019

Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education & Care Funding

SIX STORIES

ROBIN runs the largest infant and toddler program in Southern Illinois offering a range of services that require her to engage with multiple state agencies, some of which are slow with reimbursements, causing frequent cash flow problems.

MARIA is a Spanish-speaking Naperville mom who struggled to find information about preschool programs for her oldest son until a relative finally got her the answers she needed to enroll him in Head Start.

KRISTEN is a Chicago mother of five, two of whom are not yet old enough for school and one of whom had developmental delays requiring extra services. She makes a little too much money to qualify for some programs but not enough to qualify for others.

PATRICIA runs a program in her own home in Southern Illinois. She feels isolated from other providers and laments the low quality of programs serving rural children.

JACLYN is a Chicago-area family support specialist who works with children and parents in their homes, in part because their communities have no quality early learning programs or available slots.

MELISSA is a south suburban mail carrier and the single mother of a child with cerebral palsy and epilepsy. The only sitter she could find to watch her child while she works lives in Chicago, requiring a long commute back and forth each day and making it impossible for her son to get the therapy he needs.

Illinois' Mixed-Delivery System

Illinois' complex and confusing Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system serving infants, toddlers and pre-school age children from birth through five are captured in stories like the ones above. As they show, birth-to-five education and care services are delivered in a variety of settings, including in homes, community-based organizations, and schools, which is known as a mixed delivery system. Services may be part-day, school-day, or full-day in order to accommodate varying family schedules.

Illinois' Commitment

Illinois has been a leader in the ECEC field, becoming one of the first states to make early learning and child-care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers a priority. It was one of the earliest states to establish state-funded preschool and include a zero-to-three set-aside. Illinois also pioneered reforms to improve the ECEC system. Over the years, however, these programs have evolved into a sprawling and complex array of programs and services paid for with a dozen different local, state and federal funding streams, administered by three different state agencies and offering uneven services based on inconsistent rules and policies. The upshot is that only about half the kids in Illinois who need services get them and just one in four children show up to kindergarten ready to learn.

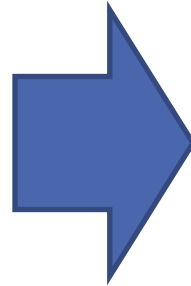
Thank You



Public Comment

The Commission's Report, in response to the charge, will address our 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."



1. Funding Goals: How much **increased investment** is required to reach **funding adequacy** across the state for early childhood education and care
2. Funding Mechanism: How the **system of funding** should be redesigned to promote the Commission's Guiding Principles
3. Implementation: How **management & oversight** should be structured to implement the new system of funding

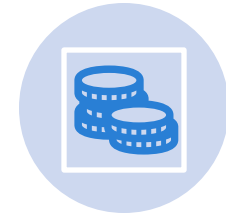
The Commission seeks to address critical challenges in today's ECEC system



INEQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY SERVICES, ESPECIALLY RACE, ETHNICITY, GEOGRAPHY, & AGE



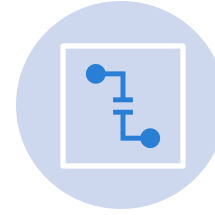
CHALLENGES FOR FAMILIES TO NAVIGATE THE SYSTEM



INSTABILITY OF FUNDING FOR PROVIDERS



INSUFFICIENT DATA TO INFORM EQUITABLE DECISION MAKING AND FUNDING



DISAGGREGATED **ACCOUNTABILITY AND DECISION MAKING**



INADEQUATE FUNDING, INCLUDING WORKFORCE COMPENSATION

The Commission's deliberations have been informed by our 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.

Ensure Equity

- We will endorse a system that ensures 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. System must embrace flexibility to respond to changing circumstances and family needs and must possess the human and technical capacity to do so.

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. We will respond to disruptions in the system to meet the reality of changing needs.