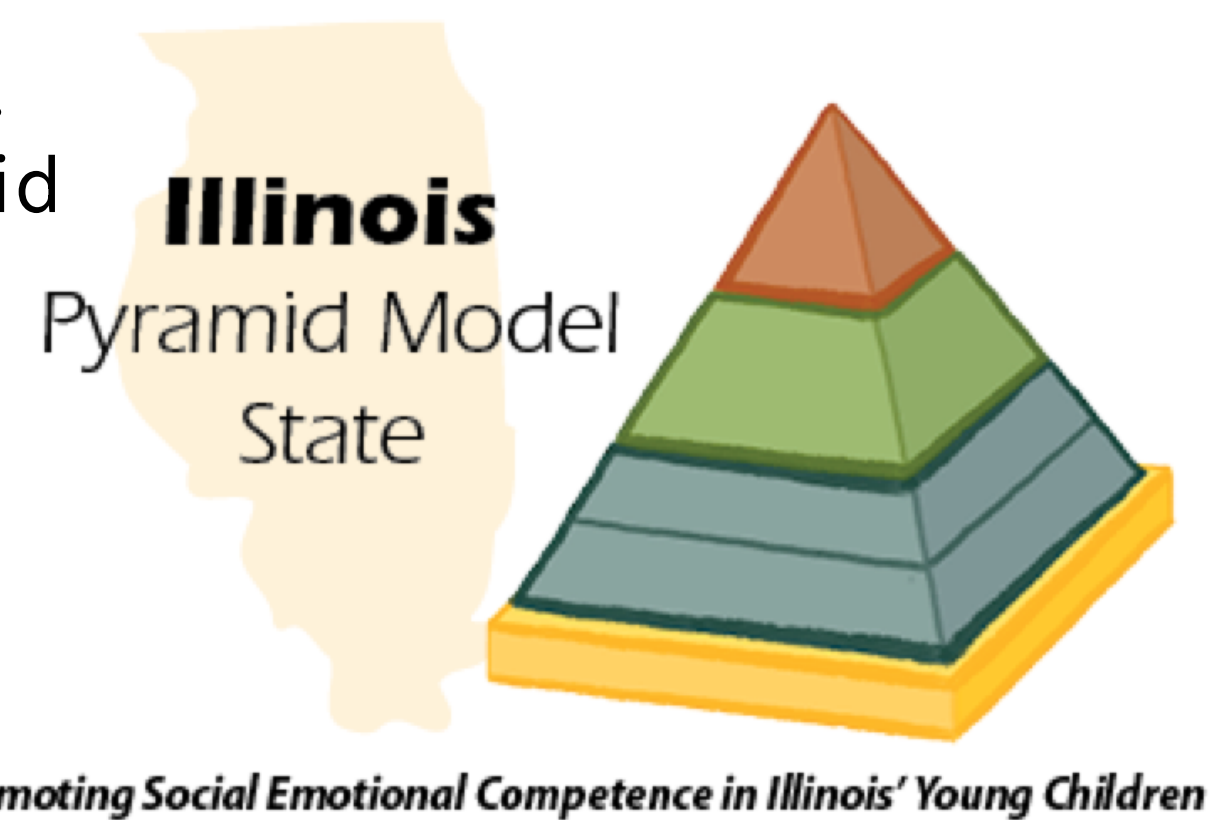




Pyramid Model Implementation in Illinois: Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going

Illinois has been promoting adoption of the Pyramid Model (PM) since 2017, through continued collaboration with the [Pyramid Model Consortium \(PMC\)](#). PMC is a non-profit organization that promotes high-fidelity use of the Pyramid Model through:

- 1) Professional development (PD) sessions and coaching support,
- 2) Capacity building for providers and programs and,
- 3) Resources for implementation and addressing systemic inequities.



COVID-19 Pivot

When COVID-19 hit in 2020 and schools and early childhood education and care programs were forced to alter how they delivered their services, PM Process Coaches reported a need to understand what PM “looked like” during remote learning. The State responded with several *Guide for Re-Opening Programs Train the Trainer* opportunities.

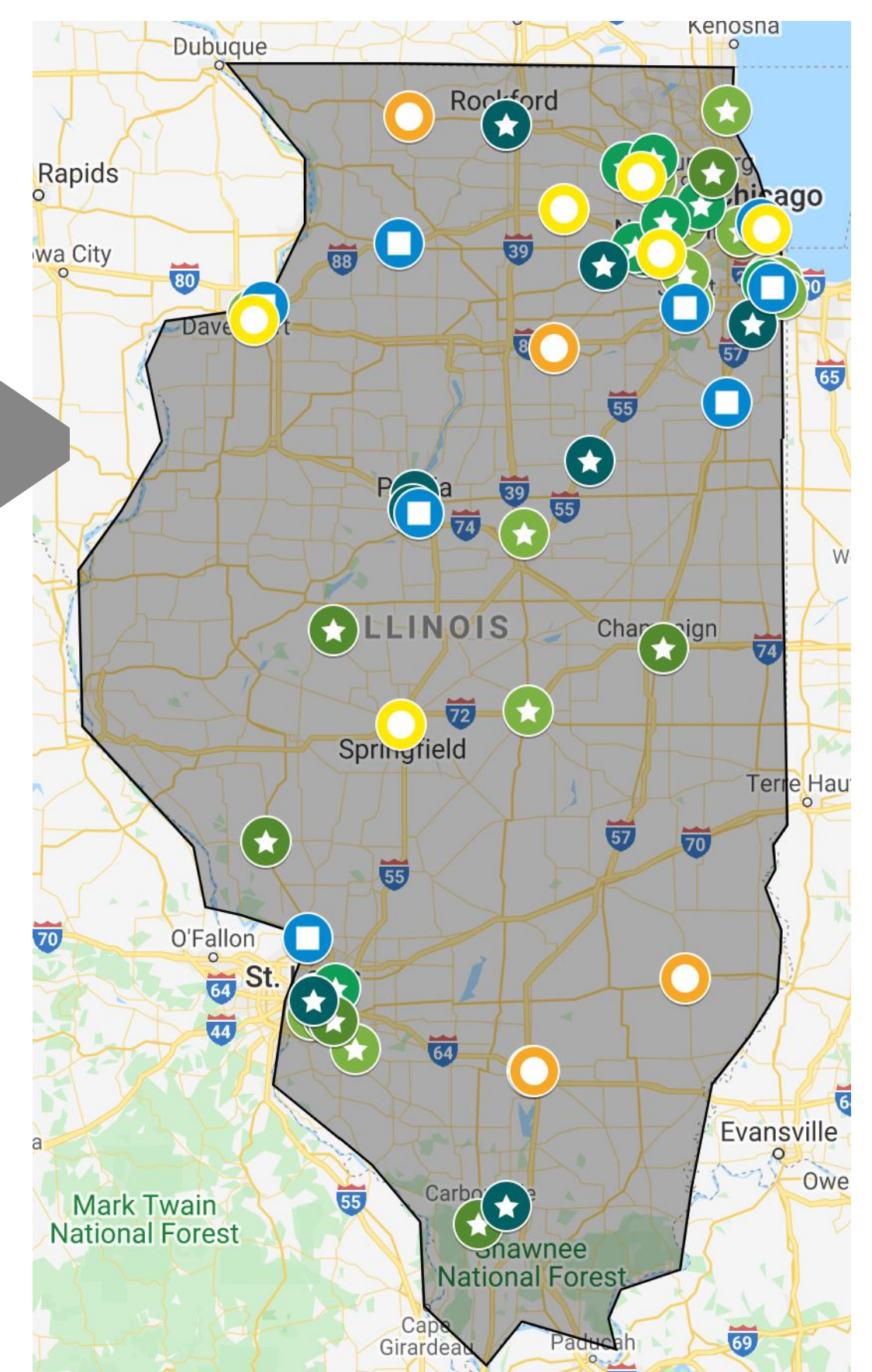
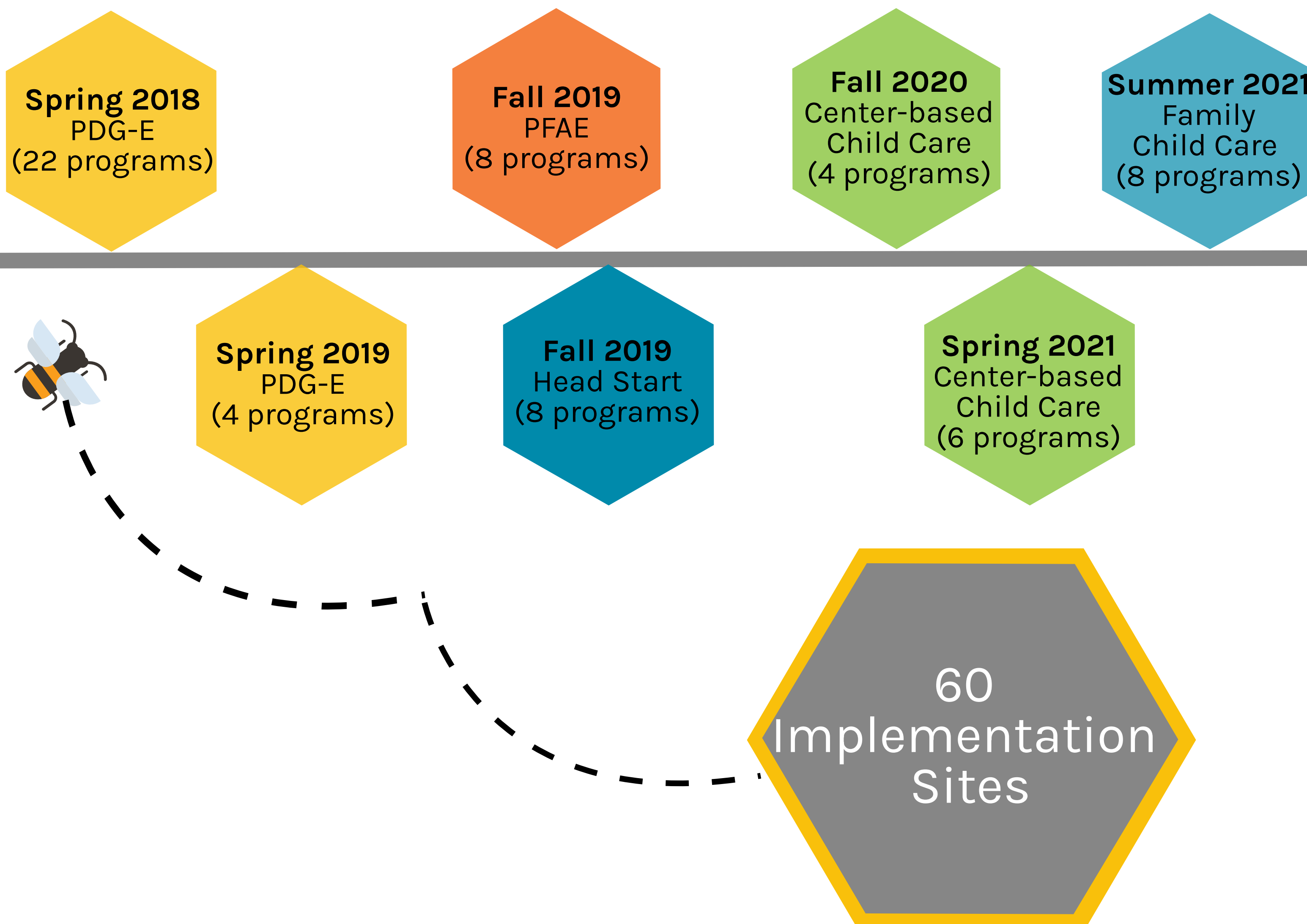
The training provided PM professional development providers with resources and guidance on how to reopen programs safely, with an eye towards social-emotional well-being (e.g. strategies for staff wellness, building relationships amid COVID-19, considerations for classroom environments when appropriate, and promoting social-emotional skills with masks and social distancing). This session, and its associated [guide](#), are full of practical strategies and supportive resources that were developed at the [National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations](#).

These trainings, conducted in Fall 2020, were met with overwhelming positive feedback (82%) from participants.

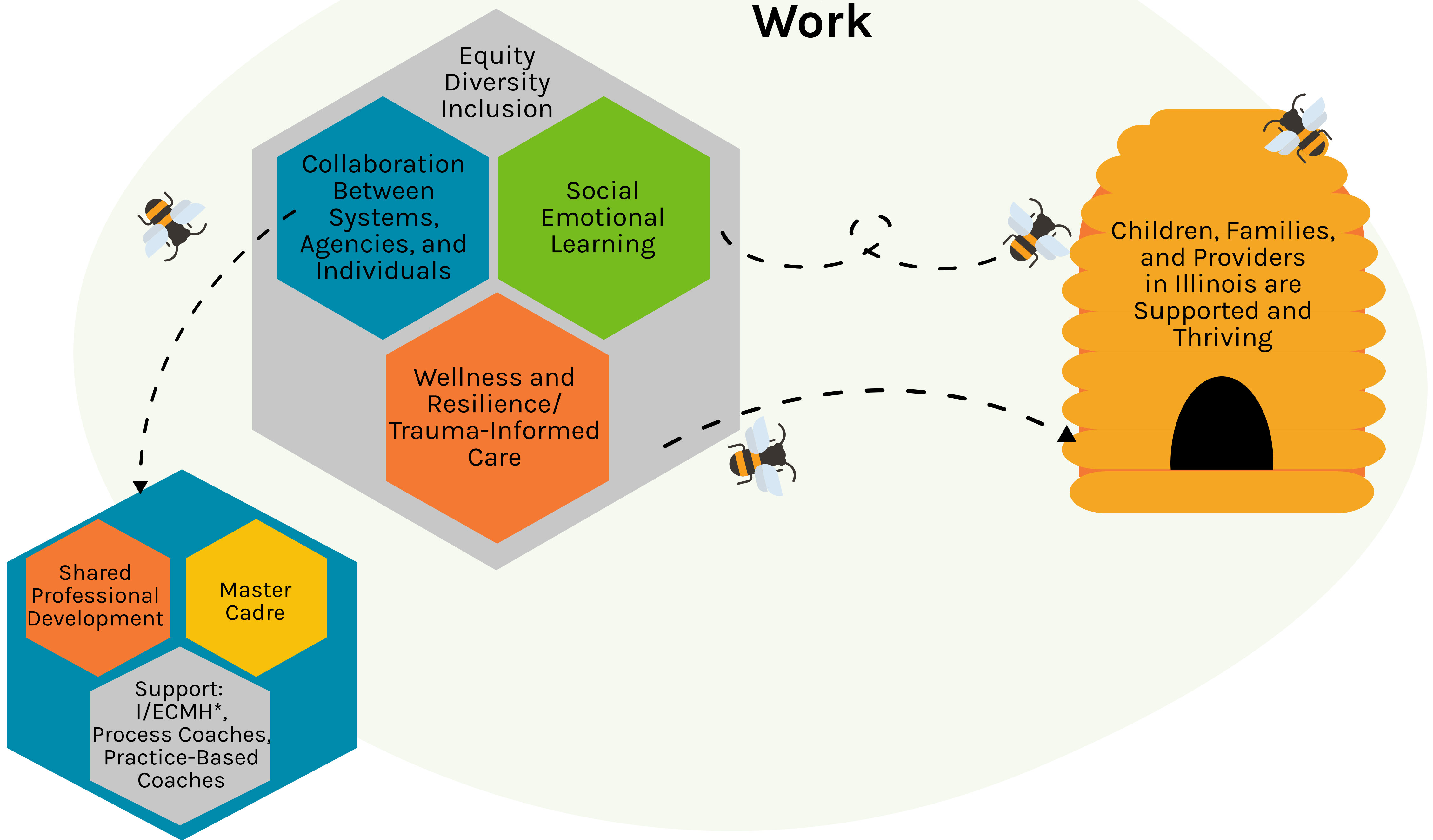
While programs had to adapt in unique ways based on their individual contexts, data from coaches and trainees indicated a positive trend toward supporting families with resources. These included family coaching, family training, and ongoing partnerships that allowed coaches and providers to best support families amidst challenging times.



Implementation Timeline



Cross Systems Work



Key Findings

Educator wellness has emerged as an essential feature of the work moving forward in Illinois.

- ▲ In Illinois, the Pyramid Model framework is implemented with diverse educators to support educator wellness through professional development and coaching. The Pyramid Model equips educators with tools and interventions which ensure positive framework outcomes.
- ▲ Educator wellness is also tied to the educator's ability to support individualized interventions for children with significant social, emotional, behavioral needs. The data shows the need for more support in professional development and coaching in *Prevent-Teach-Reinforce for Young Children* and *Prevent-Teach-Reinforce for Families* with specific attention to functional behavior assessments and behavior intervention plan development.

Based on past and current success, and combined with a focus on scaling-up and sustaining program wide implementation, the Pyramid Model leads to positive outcomes for children and families as well as increased equity, recruitment, retention, and compensation within the workforce in Illinois.