



# Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Planning Grant

June 2023

Early Learning Council Executive  
Committee Meeting

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## Activity IV- Support the Birth through Five Workforce and Disseminate Best Practices

The Pyramid Model Consortium:

- Implements a conceptual framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children's healthy social and emotional development
- Provides system supports by providing interdisciplinary professional development to support coaches and trainers.
- Builds upon the Pyramid Model approach through the expansion of a pilot of Pyramid Model implementation sites to additional family child care homes.

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## Activity IV- Support the Birth through Five Workforce and Disseminate Best Practices

The Pyramid Model Consortium (PMC) collaborated with INCCRRA to select 22 additional sites to participate in the pilot:

- **YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral of Chicago (SDA4):** Serving DuPage, Kane, and Lake counties. There are four family child care programs participating in the pilot.
- **Illinois Action for Children (SDA6):** Serving Cook county. There are five family child care programs participating in the pilot.
- **Community Child Care Connection: (SDA13):** Serving Christian, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morang, Sangamon, and Scott counties. There are eight family child care programs participating in the pilot.
- **Project CHILD: CCR&R (SDA15):** Serving Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Richland, Wabash, and Wayne counties. There are five family child care programs participating in the pilot.

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## Activity V- Support Program Quality Improvement

School Association for Special Education in DuPage (SASED):

- Develop multiple models to improve early childhood special education program delivery in community-based programs.
- Help district-level leadership and early childhood special education staff to better understand their responsibility to serve children in inclusive environments.

Early CHOICES, the State's technical assistance hub for early childhood special education, will lead this work, including selecting and supporting pilot sites to "pressure test" the models; soliciting and documenting real-time feedback from district-level and community-based early childhood special education staff and refine the models as needed.

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## **Activity V- Support Program Quality Improvement: *Pilot Strategies for Inclusive Community-Based Early Childhood Special Education***

- The School Association for Special Education in DuPage (SASED)- Early CHOICES will use \$75,000 of PDG B-5 funds to disseminate stipends to three communities to pilot Inclusion models and provide consultation and training. Each community will be awarded \$25,000.
- The Community Inclusion Team Application was released on May 12, 2023.
- Early CHOICES hosted a webinar on May 16, 2023, to provide an overview about the application process for Community Inclusion Teams to apply for a stipend to support the implementation planning.
- Application closed on June 2, 2023
- Selections will be made on June 12, 2023

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## Program Performance Evaluation

Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC) at University of Illinois is conducting the Program Performance Evaluation.

IWERC has a 10-part evaluation plan that is focused broadly on:

- Developing metrics to evaluate success (now and in the future) of the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Planning Grant's major planning activities.
- Analyzing the current state and usefulness of data elements and systems in the early childhood space for Illinois (held at or for the state).
- Producing materials that will help build a collective memory around early childhood efforts in Illinois (at the state level), including a searchable database of commissioned studies and task force reports.
- Examining community/caregiver understanding of the state's early childhood systems and alignment of that understanding with project activities.

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## Ways the Early Learning Council can support the PDG B-5 Planning Grant Program Performance Evaluation...

- Send questions about data elements and systems related to Illinois' early childhood education and care mixed delivery system.
- Send any reports (e.g., from studies, commissions, task forces, previous PDG activities) related to Illinois early childhood programs and services that you would like to be part of a collective database.

Please send materials or questions to Meg Bates, Director of IWERC at [megbates@illinois.edu](mailto:megbates@illinois.edu).

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## Status of PDG B-5 Planning Grant Contracts

To date, the following contracts have been executed:

- Northern Illinois University- Early Childhood Participation Dataset (ECPDS) & Regional/Local Data Reports-Contract signed 5/19/2023.
- Illinois Action for Children- Support the Family Advisory Committee of the Early Learning Council. Contract signed 4/10/2023.
- Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA)- Prior Learning Assessment, Assessment of Home Visiting Workforce Needs & Integrating Data into the Illinois Longitudinal Data System. Contract signed 4/10/2023.
- Wendy McCullough, LLC- Regional Intermediary Structures Review & Panning. Contract signed 4/10/2023.
- School Association for Special Education in DuPage (SASED)- Early Childhood Special Education in Community-Based Settings. Contract signed 4/03/2023.

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## Status of PDG B-5 Planning Grant Contracts continued:

To date, the following contracts have been executed:

- Pyramid Model Consortium- Pyramid Model Implementation Support Project. Contract signed 4/10/2023.
- The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning- English Learner Identification. Contract signed 4/10/2023.
- University of Illinois-IWERC- Program Performance Evaluation. Contract Signed 5/23/2023.

### Pending Contracts

- National Opinion Research Center at University of Chicago (NORC)- Developing Framework for How the State will Integrate Family Voice in Policy-Making.
- University of Illinois-IECAM-Developing Regional Level Reports of ECCE Participation.
- University of Illinois-Chicago- ECCE Workforce Portrait
- Illinois Department of Human Services- Early Intervention Model Development

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