



Illinois Early Learning Council Health and Home Visiting Committee

December 11, 2023



GETTING STARTED



If you have a public comment, please send a message directly to Jean Davis via chat.



All participants will be muted upon entry to minimize background noise.



Participants are welcome to post questions in the chat and there will be time to unmute and ask questions. If we are not able to get to your question today, please email your question to Jean.Davis@Illinois.gov after the meeting.

Agenda Review

- Welcome
- Review Equity Definition
- Review and Approve Minutes
- Home Visiting Funding and Alignment
- Home Visiting Compensation
- Agency Updates
- Public Comments

ELC Racial Equity Definition

A racially equitable society values and embraces all racial/ethnic identities. In such a society, one's racial/ethnic identity (particularly Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian) is not a factor in an individual's ability to prosper. An early learning system that is racially equitable is driven by data and ensures that:

- Every young child and family regardless of race, ethnicity, and social circumstance has everything s/he/they need to develop optimally;
- Resources, opportunities, rewards, and burdens are fairly distributed across groups and communities so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately supported and not further disadvantaged; and
- Systems and policies are designed, reframed, or eliminated to promote greater justice for children and families.

Review and Approve Minutes



Home Visiting Alignment



Governor Pritzker Announces Proposal to Create Unified Early Childhood State Agency

- On October 24th, Governor Pritzker signed Executive Order 23-09 to initiate the transition to a unified early childhood agency. These efforts will center racial equity and parent participation.
- The unified agency will address challenges families face with navigating programs housed in three different agencies and provide a more equitable, integrated, and holistic system of services.
- The transition will be over a multi-year timeline, allowing for thorough listening and thoughtful planning. For more information, please see the presentation from the November 27 Full ELC meeting: <https://oecd.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/oecd/elc-full-agenda-june-8/ECE%20Governance%20PPT%2011.27.23.pdf>
- Meanwhile, ISBE, IDHS/DEC and DCFS will continue to administer programs and lead continuous quality improvement.
- The Transition Advisory Committee has been established, and there will be multiple opportunities for stakeholder input: [Gov. Pritzker Announces Illinois' Early Childhood Education and Care Transition Advisory Committee Members](#). See the GOECD website calendar for meeting information: <https://oecd.illinois.gov/>. The first meeting of the Transition Advisory Committee is scheduled for December 14 at 5:30 pm.

ISBE Prevention Initiative planning

See ISBE slides from Full ELC meeting on November 27, 2023

- https://oecd.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/oecd/elc-full-agenda-june-8/ISBE%20Updates%20ELC%2011_27.pptx
- Added 428 PI home-based slots in FY 2024
- FY 2025 ECBG Smart Start PFA, PFAE, and PI Intent to Apply due December 30.
- FY 2025 ECBG RFP to be released early 2024.
- Monthly technical assistance webinars and TA hours.

Smart Start Home Visiting



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SFY24 is focusing on fine-tuning the cutting-edge model already in use and sustaining slots that would otherwise end with federal relief funding.

- Sustain slots expanded with federal relief funds
- Align all grantees with cost model for services
- Invest in infrastructure to support expanded service delivery
- Expand slots
- **Outcome: Solidify model and create approximately 310 additional slots anticipated to serve approximately 440 additional families.**

SFY25 will build on SFY24's foundation by expanding slots into new communities in partnership with ISBE.

- Expand slots across existing and/or new grantees, maintaining gains made in SFY24.
- **Outcome: Build on foundation and serve approximately 500-650 additional families above SFY24 levels.**

IDHS-DEC Plans for Smart Start Home Visiting SFY25

October - November 2023:

Use data to identify priority communities from the 2020 MIECHV Statewide Needs Assessment

March 2024:

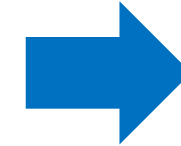
Based on assessment results, issue a SFY25 Expansion NOFO in the selected counties
(contingent on appropriations)

December 2023 - March 2024:

Conduct community readiness assessments in these communities

IDHS-DEC HV Plans for SFY25: Use data to identify priority communities

Indicator	Source
2020 State Risk Rank	2020 Statewide Needs Assessment
% of population - aged 5 and under	IECAM (2022)
# of population - aged 5 and under	IECAM (2022)
% of households - Limited English-Speaking Household	IECAM (2022)
% of Black population	IECAM (2022)
% of Latine population	IECAM (2022)
% Live Births with Maternal Mental Health Condition Recorded	IDPH (2018-2020)
% of Live Births with Maternal Substance Use Disorder Recorded	IDPH (2018-2020)
% of total births with Inadequate Prenatal Care	IECAM (2022)
Level of maternity care –Maternal health care deserts	March of Dimes (2021)
% of Proposed PI capacity	IECAM (2022)
% of Homebased HS Slots	DHS (2023)
% of Homebased EHS Slots	DHS (2023)
% of State and Federally funded HV Slots	DHS (2023)



- Priority Counties:
- Cass-Morgan
 - Cook (Southern)
 - Douglas-Coles-Moultrie
 - DuPage
 - Lake
 - Pope-Hardin-Gallatin
 - Rock Island



Community readiness assessments

- Facilitated by Illinois Action for Children, in partnership with IDHS
- Collaborative process with local stakeholders, including:
 - home visiting programs
 - other early childhood programs
 - prenatal to 5 services
 - local and regional community collaborations, including AOK Networks and Birth to Five Action Councils and Family Councils
- Follows the process described in [Community Readiness: A Toolkit to Support Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Awardees in Assessing Community Capacity \(hhs.gov\)](#)
 - knowledge of family needs and home visiting
 - community climate
 - community leadership
 - community resources

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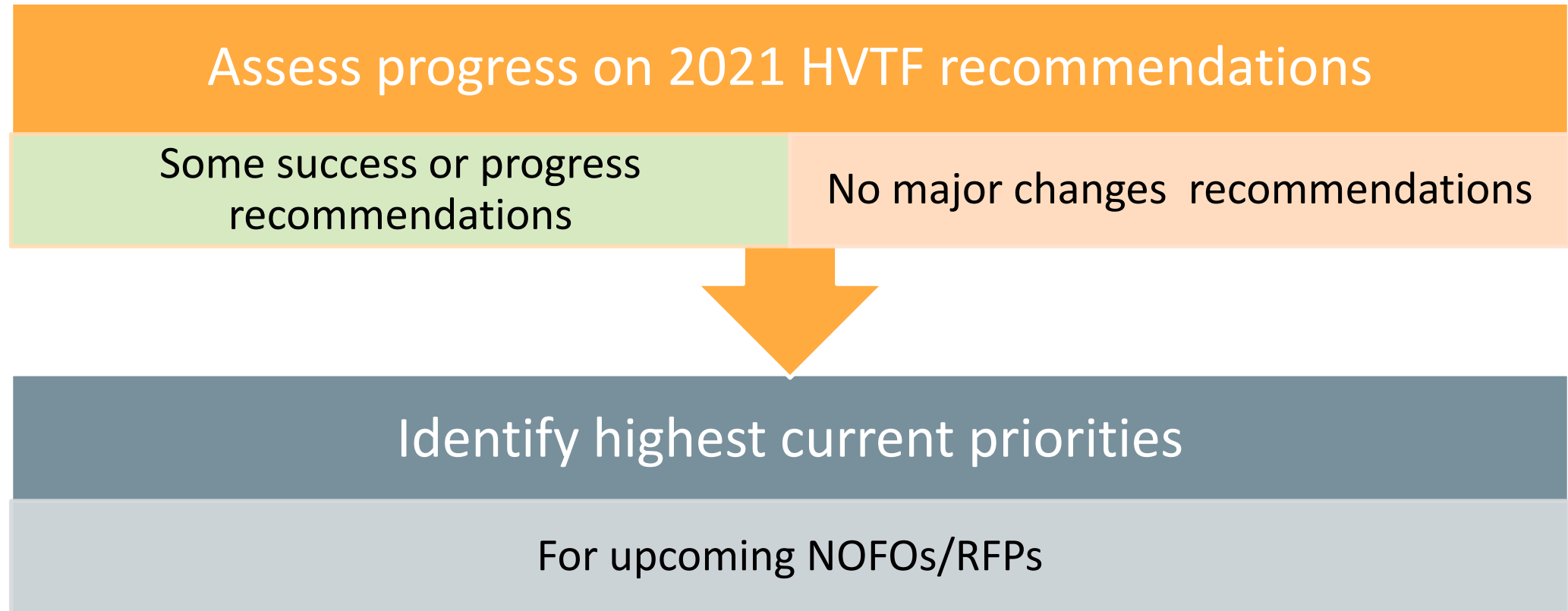
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HVTF Funding Alignment Recommendations (2021)

- ELC Home Visiting Task Force made recommendations to encourage coordination on future funding opportunities and alignment of program administration.
- Recommendation Structure
 1. Coordinated assessment and prioritization of community risk and capacity
 2. Preparatory support for programs
 3. Application requirements, rubrics, and reviewers
 4. Funding allocation and adequacy
 5. Approach to priority populations and racial equity
 6. Community collaboration
 7. Approach to promising practices

HHVC Funding Alignment Recommendations (2023)



HHVC Recommendations: Coordinated Assessment and Prioritization of Communities

IDHS-DEC and ISBE PI should leverage the same data on community risk and current reach of home visiting, to eliminate existing home visiting deserts and ensure applicants receive support to access that data for their applications.

IDHS-DEC and ISBE PI should proactively work with IECAM to ensure that this data can be made available to the field ahead of application deadlines. This will require that IDHS and ISBE publish an updated list of current home visiting slots, across both home visiting and doula.

HHVC Recommendations: Funding Allocation and Adequacy

- IDHS-DEC and ISBE PI should:

Implement the same salary floor for home visitors

Adopt parallel funding and programmatic standards for Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation IECMHC

Adopt parallel funding and programmatic standards for doulas.

Use a standard cost per slot/child/family

Fund the top scoring applicants at 100% of their requests until funds run out (rather than fund a larger number of applicants at a partial rate)

Avoid funding additional slots in saturated areas

HHVC Recommendations: Preparatory Support for Programs

IDHS-DEC and ISBE PI should both offer multiple TA opportunities for applicants, including TA office hours and running FAQs to provide swift answers to questions that arise during the application process.

HHVC Recommendations: Approach to Priority Populations and Equity

IDHS-DEC and ISBE PI should require that if there are open slots in the program, the program must accept all referrals of model eligible families with child welfare involvement and model-eligible families experiencing homelessness, regardless of family income.

IDHS-DEC and ISBE PI should encourage applicants to describe how they will prioritize serving families who meet ELC priority populations criteria.

Discussion and Next Steps

- Please review and send comments to Kayla Goldfarb (kgoldfarb@startearly.org) and Jean Davis at Jean.Davis@Illinois.gov by December 18, 2023
- ISBE and IDHS can reach out to HHVC leadership with questions
- In 2024 continue discussions with funders

Home Visiting Workforce



Importance of Compensation

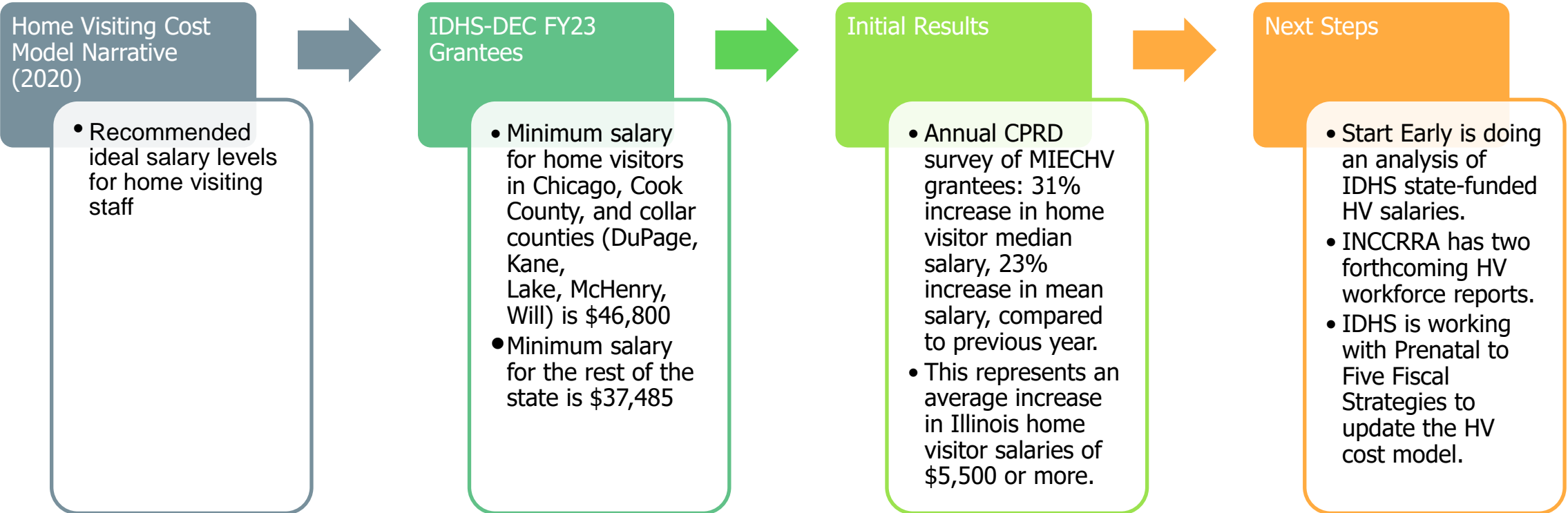
- Low salaries were listed as one of the biggest work challenges that cause stress and the second highest reason for why home visitors consider leaving.
- Low salaries were listed as making it harder for staff to do their jobs.
- Supervisors experience stress when they are unable to raise staff salaries with limited grant funds.
- Supervisors are aware that low compensation contributes to staff turnover, which impacts family recruitment and retention.

Hourly Wage by Position

Position	Mean	Median	n
Home Visitor	\$24.72	\$20.73	872
Home Visitor Supervisor	\$32.45	\$27.34	134



IDHS-DEC Home Visiting Compensation



State Updates



Town Hall: 2023 Year in Review

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

- Please join DEC to learn more about
- DEC Strategic Plan
- Program Updates
- Smart Start Update
- 2023 Legislative Updates
- Program Enrollment
- A look ahead

- To register: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



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Public Comment

Submit request
in chat to Jean
Davis



Stay Connected

Contact jean.davis@illinois.gov to:

Be added to email list for notice of future meetings

Submit agenda items, questions

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped short-sleeved shirt and dark green pants, is sitting on a stack of colorful children's books on a carpeted floor in a library. He is holding an open book and looking down at it intently. The background shows blurred bookshelves filled with books. On the right side of the image, there is a large white text overlay.

**Thank you
for joining
us today!**