



Illinois Early Learning Council Health and Home Visiting Committee

March 18, 2024



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 and Doula Alignment
- Partner Updates
- Medicaid Reimbursement for HV and Doulas
- 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 and Doula Alignment

Illinois State Board of Education Updates

Smart Start IDHS Home Visiting



DIVISION OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD

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 will issue a SFY25 HV Expansion NOFO in selected communities

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 communities
(contingent on appropriations)

7 Priority Communities:

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

December 2023 - March 2024:

Conduct community readiness assessments in these communities
(Illinois Action for Children)



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

Methodology: Communities were selected using 14 indicators, with additional weight* placed on equity, maternal health, and program capacity.

Indicator	Source
2020 State Risk Rank	2020 Statewide Needs Assessment
% of population - aged 5 and under	IECAM (2021)
# of population - aged 5 and under	IECAM (2021)
% of households - Limited English-Speaking Household*	IECAM (2021)
% of Black Population – Age 5 and Under*	IECAM (2021)
% of Latine population – Age 5 and Under*	IECAM (2021)
% 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 (2021)
Level of maternity care –Maternal health care deserts*	March of Dimes (2021)
% of Proposed Prevention Initiative Home Visiting capacity*	IECAM (2022)
% of Head Start Home Visiting Slots*	IECAM (2022)
% of Early Head Start Home Visiting Slots*	IECAM (2022)
% of State and Federally funded Home Visiting Slots*	DHS (2023)

Methodology: Seven communities were selected and then assessed on four readiness dimensions.

Communities

1. Cass & Morgan Counties
2. Cook County South*
3. Douglas, Coles, & Moultrie Counties
4. DuPage County
5. Lake County
6. Pope, Hardin, & Gallatin Counties
7. Rock Island County

Readiness Dimensions

1. Community Knowledge of Family Needs and Home Visiting
2. Community Climate
3. Community Leadership
4. Community Resources

Methodology: Data Collection

1. Combed reports and websites related to home visiting programs and services for each of the seven communities.
2. Identified home visiting programs in each community using iGrow and IDHS databases.
3. Identified key stakeholders in each community, including community leaders, social service agency leaders, early childhood collaboration leaders, and home visiting program leaders and staff.*
4. Invited key stakeholders to participate in a 45-60 minute semi-structured interview to share their home visiting knowledge and experiences. Interviews occurred in January and February 2024.
5. Collected survey responses from key stakeholders, including community leaders, home visiting program leaders and staff, coordinated intake staff, and families and caregivers. Surveys were open from January to March 2024.

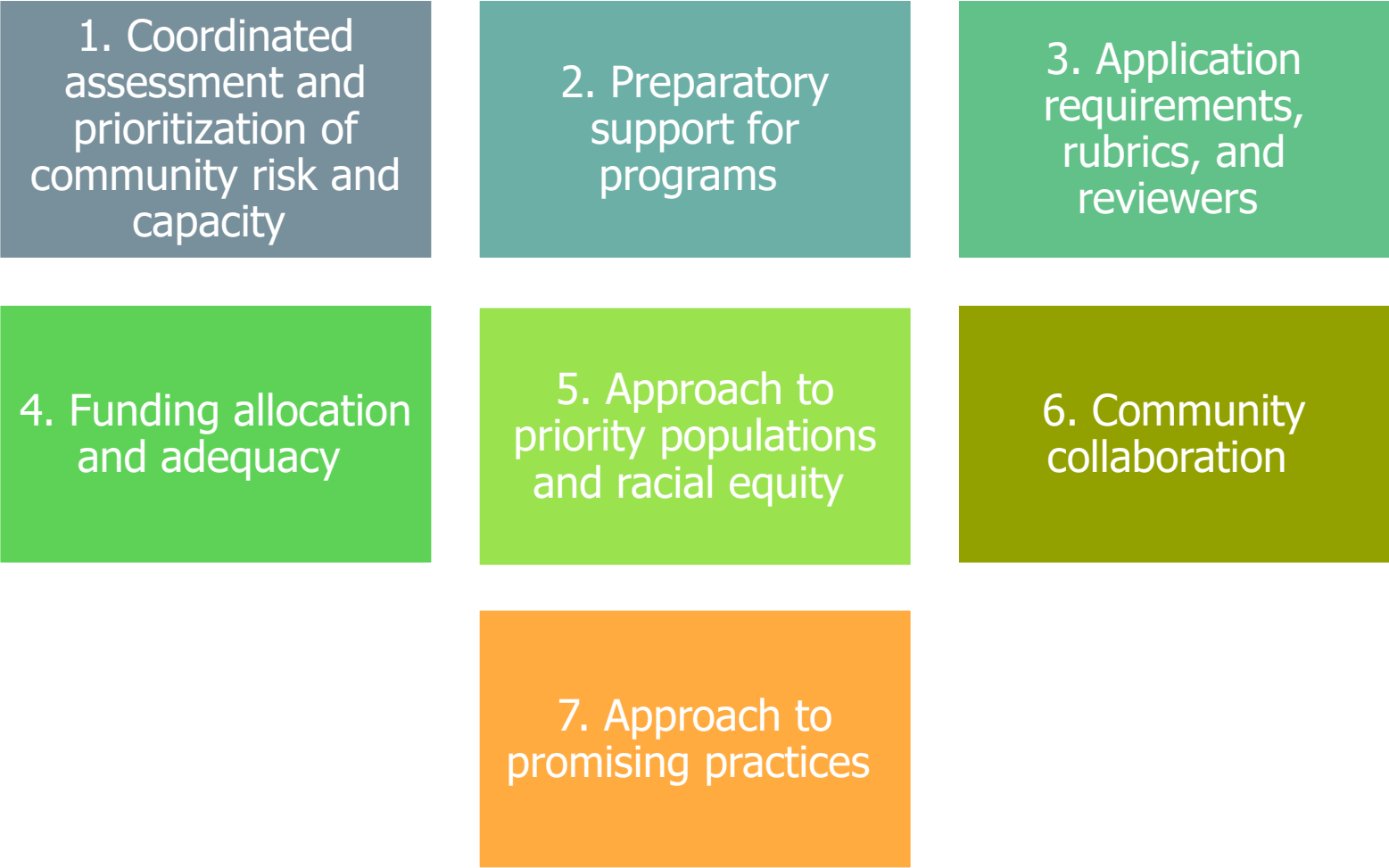
Over 70 stakeholders across the state of Illinois shared their home visiting knowledge and experiences.

Community Name	Number of Stakeholder Interviews Completed*	Number of Stakeholders Invited to Interview & Declined	Number of Stakeholders Invited to Interview & No Response
Cass & Morgan Counties	2	2	6
Cook County South	13	1	10
Douglas, Coles & Moultrie Counties	17	1	1
DuPage County	14	4	9
Lake County	10	1	4
Pope, Hardin, & Gallatin Counties	5	0	2
Rock Island County	7	6	1
Statewide Stakeholders	3	3	3
TOTAL	71	18	36

*Number of interviews by stakeholder group: Home Visiting Program Leaders and Staff = 36; Community Leaders = 30; Coordinated Intake Leaders = 6; and Home Visiting Program Participants = 1.

HHVC Funding Alignment Recommendations*

Cover 7 Categories



*Approved by the ELC Executive Committee 2/5/24

Doula Alignment with Raising Illinois Perinatal Supports Workgroup

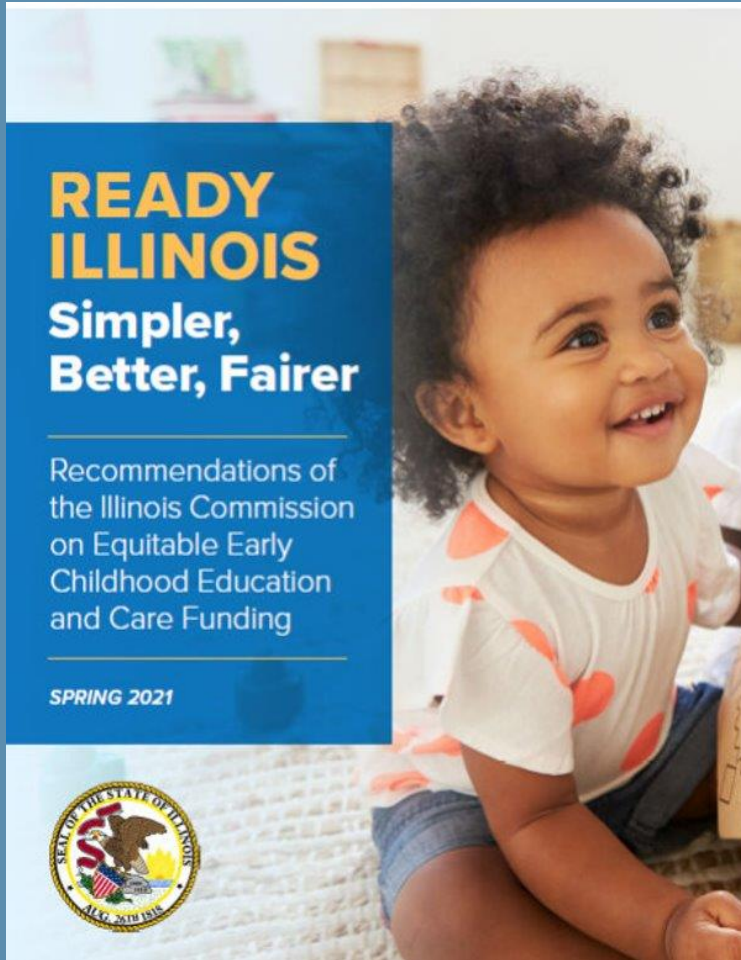
Partner Updates



The Department Of Early Childhood - The Multi- Year Path to a New State Agency

Update March
2024





A single agency for Early Childhood will be:



Easier for parents

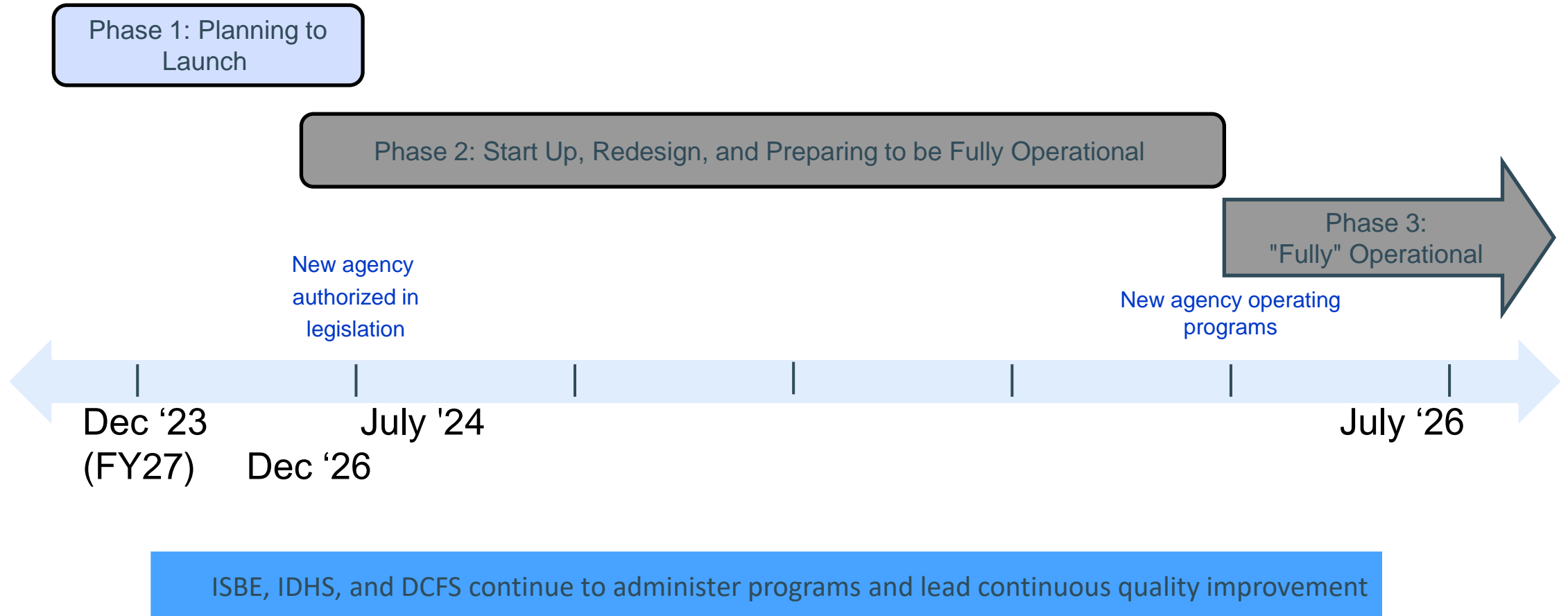


Simpler for providers



More cohesive and streamlined for the state

The transition to a new agency is on a multi-year timeline with three phases.



Initial Legislation Overview (SB1 and HB5451)

What the initial legislation does...

- ✓ Does propose the establishment of the new Department of Early Childhood on July 1, 2024
- ✓ Does propose to move early childhood programs and services from legacy agencies to the Department of Early Childhood on July 1, 2026
- ✓ Does propose to add the Department of Early Childhood to applicable State advisory councils
- ✓ Does propose the new Department to designate a body by 7/1/26 to advise the Department on an ongoing basis
- ✓ Does propose to add the Department of Early Childhood to applicable Illinois code (e.g., Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, etc.)

What the initial legislation doesn't do...

- Does not propose any policy changes to existing programs or services
- Does not propose any implementation changes to existing program or services (other than to move them to the new agency in 2026)
- Does not make any substantive adjustments to advisory groups or committees (e.g., Early Learning Council, Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention)

Additional opportunities for engagement and communications

Transition Advisory Committee

- Thursday, December 14, 2023
- Tuesday, January 9, 2024, from 5:30-7pm
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 5:30-7pm
- Tuesday, March 12, 2024, from 5:30-7pm
- Tuesday, April 9, 2024, from 5:30-7pm
- Tuesday, May 7, 2024, from 5:30-7pm
- Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 5:30-7pm

Bi-Monthly Listening Sessions

- Friday, January 19, 2024, from 12:00 – 1:00pm
- Friday, March 15, 2024, from 12:00 – 1:00pm
- Friday, May 17, 2024, from 12:00 – 1:00pm
- Friday, July 19, 2024, from 12:00 – 1:00pm

Website & Surveys

- Currently, in the short term, Transition information and materials are posted on the ELC website.
- There are open surveys for stakeholders to share ongoing feedback and questions they have about the Transition and the TAC meetings.

Medicaid Updates



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 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!**