

ACF PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT
Illinois State Board of Education PDG B-5 Planning Grant
Quarterly Performance Progress Report
Reporting Period: January 1 - March 31, 2023

Activity 1: Needs Assessment

Activity 1.1: Home Visitor Needs Assessment (INCCRRA)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and INCCRRA was established on April 10, 2023. ISBE has assigned a Project Lead to work with this vendor. The Project Lead will schedule an initial meeting with INCCRRA and will determine a monthly meeting cadence. Activities related to this project are expected to begin by mid-April 2023.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: In Q2, INCCRRA will complete the following deliverables: 1.) identify areas of the state to hold focus groups based on home visitor workforce data collected in the Gateways Registry, and gauge interest from home visitors in those areas, 2.) contract with a consultant to assist in leading the focus groups and providing subject matter expertise to the team at INCCRRA and 3.) analyze home visiting salary data across program models and funding streams.

Activity 1.2: Linking ECCE Workforce Data (NIU)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and University of Illinois is pending. The vendor will begin activities on this project once the contract is established.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

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B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The contract agreement between ISBE and the University of Illinois is anticipated to be finalized in Q2. The deliverables projected to be completed in Q2 include: 1. UIC will review the strategic plan objectives and goals in the context of the needs assessment's new initiatives and develop new metrics for any updated strategies, 2.) expand use of ECPDS and CECIDS by local communities (development of architecture for data sharing; add funding data to ILDS and IECAM; align CECIDS to IECAM) and 3.) develop regional-level reports on ECCE participation.

Activity 1.3: Workforce Portrait Assessment (UIC)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the University of Illinois-Chicago is pending. The vendor will begin activities on this project once the contract is established.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education and the University of Illinois-Chicago is expected to be finalized in Q2. During the next quarter, the University of Illinois-Chicago will conduct an ECCE Workforce Needs Assessment by collecting and analyzing data and engaging stakeholders.

Activity 1.4: Expanded Use of ECPDS and CECIDS by Local Communities (NIU & ICAM)

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B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Northern Illinois University (NIU) is pending. The vendor will begin activities on this project once the contract is established.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The contract agreement between Illinois State Board of Education and Northern Illinois University is expected to be finalized in Q2. During the next quarter, NIU will complete the following deliverables: 1.) link data between ISBE’s Educator Information System and Educator License Information System (ELIS), 2.) create an automated update between the Gateways registry data and IDHS, 3.) link data between the Registry data at IDHS and the ISBE workforce data, 4.) link all of the data to the High School 2 College 2 Career Dataset (HS2C2) and IDES employment and wage data and 5.) work in partnership with state agencies to create a set of easy-to- update reports, dashboard indicators, and interactive reporting tools using the new EC Educator dataset.

Activity 2: Strategic Plan

Activity 2: Update the Comprehensive Statewide B-5 Strategic Plan (ISBE)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: Illinois updated its B-5 Strategic Plan in 2022. Through the PDG B-5 Planning Grant, Illinois will continue to review the Strategic Plan and make updates based on the findings identified in the updated Needs Assessment. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will assign a Project Director to facilitate an initial review of the Strategic Plan with the Early Learning Council and the Family Advisory Committee of the Early Learning Council to identify any of the objectives that must be adjusted to reflect the Needs Assessment focus areas or new/updated data.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

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B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The following deliverables will be completed in Q2: 1.) the Project Director will meet with the Early Learning Council (ELC) and the Family Advisory Committee of the Early Learning Council (FAC) to review the current Strategic Plan and identify areas that need to be adjusted, 2.) develop an inventory of proposed updates, 3.) attend meetings of the ELC and FAC to develop new metrics and measurable indicators for any new or updated strategies and 4.) the Project Director will make any needed updates and produce a revised strategic plan for review and approval by the ELC.

Activity 3: Maximizing Family and Community Engagement

Activity 3.1: Staff the Family Advisory Committee of the Early Learning Council (Illinois Action for Children)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Action for Children was established on April 10, 2023. ISBE has assigned a Project Lead to work with this vendor. The Project Lead will schedule an initial meeting with Illinois Action for Children and will determine a monthly meeting cadence. Activities related to this project are expected to begin by mid-April 2023.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: In Q2, the following deliverables will be completed: 1.) Illinois Action for Children will hire and orient staff, 2.) partner with COFI to provide monthly training opportunities for the Family Advisory Committee (FAC), 3.) IAFC and COFI will partner to train and support FAC member mentors, 4.) Illinois Acton for Children will

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support the FAC Co-chairs with convening FAC meetings to maximize parent and family engagement in the ECEC system (total of six FAC meetings for the year), 5.) Illinois Action for Children will monitor, track and distribute parent and mentor stipends based on evidenced participation and 6.) support the FAC links to local communities and stakeholder engagement in project activities.

Activity 3.2: Assess and Align Capacity of Intermediary Structures (Wendy McCullough)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Wendy McCullough, LLC, was established on April 10, 2023. ISBE has assigned a Project Lead to work with this vendor. The Project Lead will schedule an initial meeting with Wendy McCullough and will determine a monthly meeting cadence. Activities related to this project are expected to begin by mid-April 2023.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The following deliverables will be completed in Q2: 1.) develop and execute a facilitation model for addressing priority #1 of the Integration and Alignment Committee: review functions of ROEs, B-5 Action Councils, CCR&Rs and other regional intermediaries to identify efficacies, efficiencies, and alignments for T&TA, supports, resource and referral, including supply and demand analysis, etc., 2.) strategize and plan regularly with committee co-chairs (and, as needed, state agency staff) to revise and update plans, resolve challenges that arise, prepare for external meetings, etc., and 3.) synthesize meeting proceedings, prepare for and revise upcoming meetings based on previous discussions, construct straw man options for consideration, analyze relevant data as needed.

Activity 3.3: Developing Framework for How the State will Integrate Family Voice in Policymaking (NORC)

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B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and NORC at University of Chicago is pending. The vendor will begin activities on this project once the contract is established.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education and NORC at University of Chicago is expected to be finalized in Q2. The following deliverables will be completed in Q2: 1.) develop and implement a stakeholder engagement process (including focus groups and interviews) to authentically engage and elevate the voice of parents, providers, and communities in developing recommendations that prioritize equity as foundational to ECCE systems-building within Illinois, 2.) develop discussion guides and probing questions using a culturally responsive lens for the interactive focus group protocols and interviews with parents, providers, and communities (e.g., each discussion guide will be customized for each audience – parents, providers, and communities), 3.) submit the draft discussion guides for parents, providers, and communities for review and approval to the Office of Early Childhood at ISBE and 4.) schedule a series of interactive focus groups and interviews with parents, providers, and communities in partnership with the Office of Early Childhood at ISBE.

Activity 4: Support the B-5 Workforce and Disseminate Best Practices

Activity 4.1: Implementation of the Prior Learning Assessment System (INCCRRA)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and INCCRRA was established on April 10, 2023. ISBE has assigned a Project Lead to work with this vendor. The Project Lead will schedule an initial meeting with INCCRRA and will determine a monthly meeting cadence. Activities related to this project are expected to begin by mid-April 2023.

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B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: In Q2, INCCRRA will use data from piloting/testing in 2022 to refine and modify Prior Learning Assessment scenarios as needed. INCCRRA will also refine and modify assessment rubrics/indicators as indicated. Inter-reliability data from piloting/testing in 2022 will be used to retrain faculty assessors as needed. During Q2, the Prior Learning Assessment will be accessible to both English and Spanish speaking incumbent workforce members at designated Illinois higher education institutions from January thru June 30, 2023. Up to 8 higher education institutions will be selected including two- and four-year, public, and private entities and a minimum of three institutions must have Spanish capacity.

Activity 4.2: Sharing Best Practices for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion (Pyramid Model Consortium)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Pyramid Model Consortium was established on April 10, 2023. ISBE has assigned a Project Lead to work with this vendor. The Project Lead will schedule an initial meeting with Pyramid Model Consortium and will determine a monthly meeting cadence. Activities related to this project are expected to begin by mid-April 2023.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

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B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The following deliverables will be completed in Q2: 1.) identify and select an additional 20-25 sites to participate in the pilot, with a focus on Family Child Care within the current 9 SDAs implementing Pyramid Model, 2.) offer Professional Development to new and existing sites (Topics include: Foundational Pyramid Model practices, Trauma Informed Care and Wellness), 3.) provide access to ePyramid on-line learning modules to sites, 4.) provide Monthly Coaching to new implementation sites, 5.) offer monthly support to the Process Coaches supporting the selected sites, 6.) provide access to the national Pyramid Implementation Data System (PIDS) for process coaches and new and existing sites, 7.) support inputting of data within the system, 8.) provide guidance to coaches and implementation sites to maximize use of the reporting systems embedded within PIDs to enhance data-based decision making, 9.) engage in relevant meetings to ensure cross-systems integration of PIDS data within other critical data systems within the state, 10.) provide facilitation and support to all relevant Pyramid teams within Illinois, including the State Leadership Team, Implementation Workgroup, Data/Evaluation Workgroup and Professional Development workgroup, 11.) ensure coordination of Pyramid Model within the context of key professional development providers within the state (e.g., STARNET, ECPL, EITP, Head Start TTA and 12.) Support the continued integration of Pyramid Model in relevant initiatives, including IL Birth – 5, IECMHC, and other community-based initiatives.

Activity 5: Support Program Quality Improvement

Activity 5.1: Pilot Strategies for Inclusive Community-Based Early Childhood Special Education (SASED)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and SASED was established on April 3, 2023. ISBE has assigned a Project Lead to work with this vendor. The Project Lead will schedule an initial meeting with SASED and will determine a monthly meeting cadence. Activities related to this project are expected to begin by mid-April 2023.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

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B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The following deliverables will be completed in Q2: 1.) pilot strategies for Inclusive community-based early childhood special education (create public awareness materials based on key recommendations from the Public Consulting Group (PCG) report; select appropriate models for testing; engagement partners), 2.) create fact sheets, webinars, and other public awareness materials from PCG report, 3.) identify communities to participate in community conversations, 4.) convene six community teams and vet and test models recommended from the prior work in the PCG report; disseminate stipends to three communities to pilot models and provide consultation and training, 5.) focus on understanding implementation of various models, including fiscal needs, 6.) gather feedback on the recommended models, 7.) connect work to cost model needs for funding high quality early childhood services (recommendation from Funding Commission), 8.) hold “road show” of up to six community conversations to vet assumptions in the PDG report, 9.) Identify up to three communities to participate in local pilot planning, 10.) identify up to three communities to participate in local pilot planning and 11.) convene advisory body, evaluate outcomes, share data with state, and integrate into strategic plan (advisory group will be continued from the PCG inclusion project. Identify policy changes needed to implement recommendations from PCG).

Activity 5.2: Multi-State Research on Early Intervention Models (IDHS)

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract between Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Human Services is pending. Activities will begin on this project once the contract has been established.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The contract between Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Human Services is expected to be finalized in Q2.

Activity 5.3: Developing a Common Process to Identify English Language Learners (IRC (Illinois Resource Center))

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B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and The Center: resources for Teaching and Learning was established on April 10, 2023. ISBE has assigned a Project Lead to work with this vendor. The Project Lead will schedule an initial meeting with The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning and will determine a monthly meeting cadence. Activities related to this project are expected to begin by mid-April 2023.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The following deliverables will be completed in Q2: 1.) develop resource and protocols to identify English Learners, 2.) work with ISBE to obtain needed data on PFA CBO programs and sites, 3.) provide training on English Learner identification process, 4.) provide an introductory training on high quality programming for PreK ELs, including IELDS Goals 28-29 and first language (L1) development, 5.) identify sites with willingness to do on-site testing (this project would provide testing supplies and online training for those meeting requirements) and 6.) expand and review data and referral processes using needs assessment strategies.

Program Performance Evaluation

B-01 - Major activities and accomplishments during this period: The contract agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the University of Illinois-IWERC is pending. The vendor will begin activities on this project once the contract is established.

B-02 - Problems: N/A

B-03 - Significant findings & events: N/A

B-04 - Dissemination activities: N/A

B-05 – Equity-related activities: N/A

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B-06 – Other activities: N/A

B-07 – Activities planned for next reporting period: The following deliverables will be completed in Q2: 1.) analyze needed improvements to current PDG programming, 2.) examine progress of current programs (e.g., ILDS, Family Engagement) in relation to benchmarks, 3.) survey stakeholder awareness of current programming, 4.) alert grant leaders to key improvements, 5.) establish evaluation criteria for new projects, and 6.) develop draft criteria.