

# Early Childhood Education and Care Transition Listening Session

March 15, 2024  
12:00 – 1:00 pm



# Today's Goals

- ✓ Build a shared understanding of the progress made thus far toward the transition's goals
- ✓ Learn about the FY25 Proposed Budget and Department of Early Childhood Legislation
- ✓ Understand the perspectives of diverse voices from the field

# Agenda

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Welcome and Opening Remarks               | 5 min.  |
| Getting to Know You: Who's in the Room    | 5 min.  |
| Transition Progress Update                | 5 min.  |
| Department of Early Childhood Update      | 15 min. |
| Hearing From You: Feedback and Discussion | 15 min. |
| Public Comment                            | 10 min. |
| Next Steps & Close                        | 5 min.  |

# Welcome & Opening Remarks

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# Getting to Know You: Who's in the Room?



# Poll: Who's in the Room?

## Poll questions:

1. **What voice/perspective are you representing here today?**
2. What region of the state are you located in?



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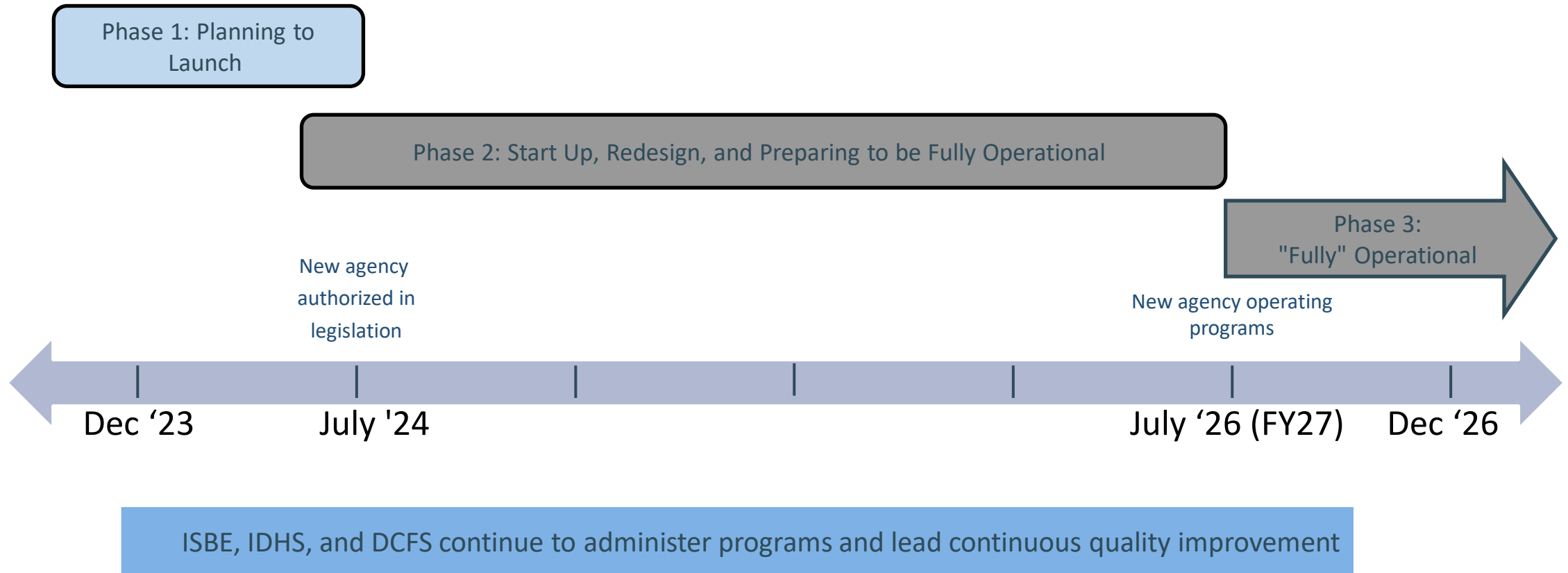


# Transition Progress Updates

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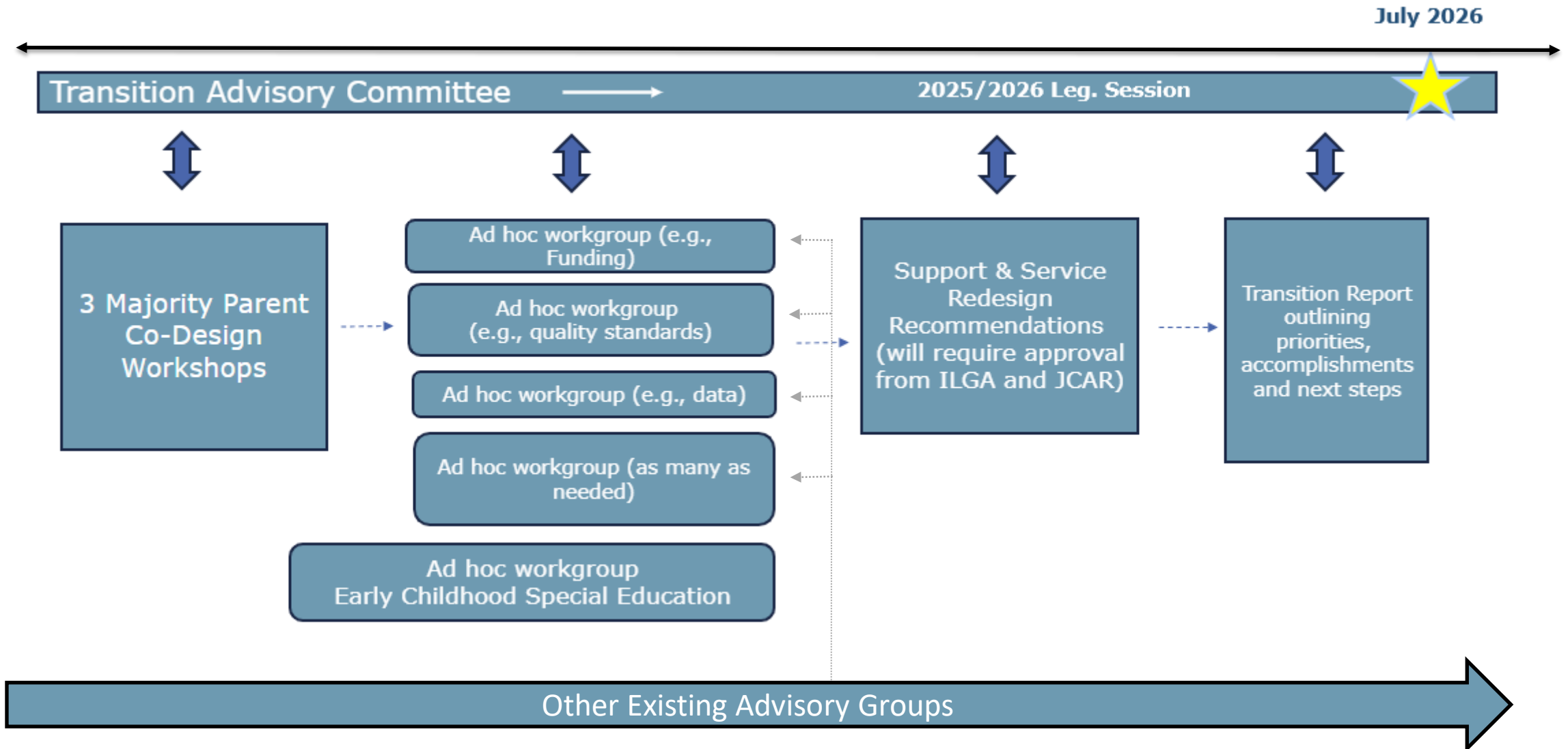


# The Transition has a multi-year timeline with three phases.

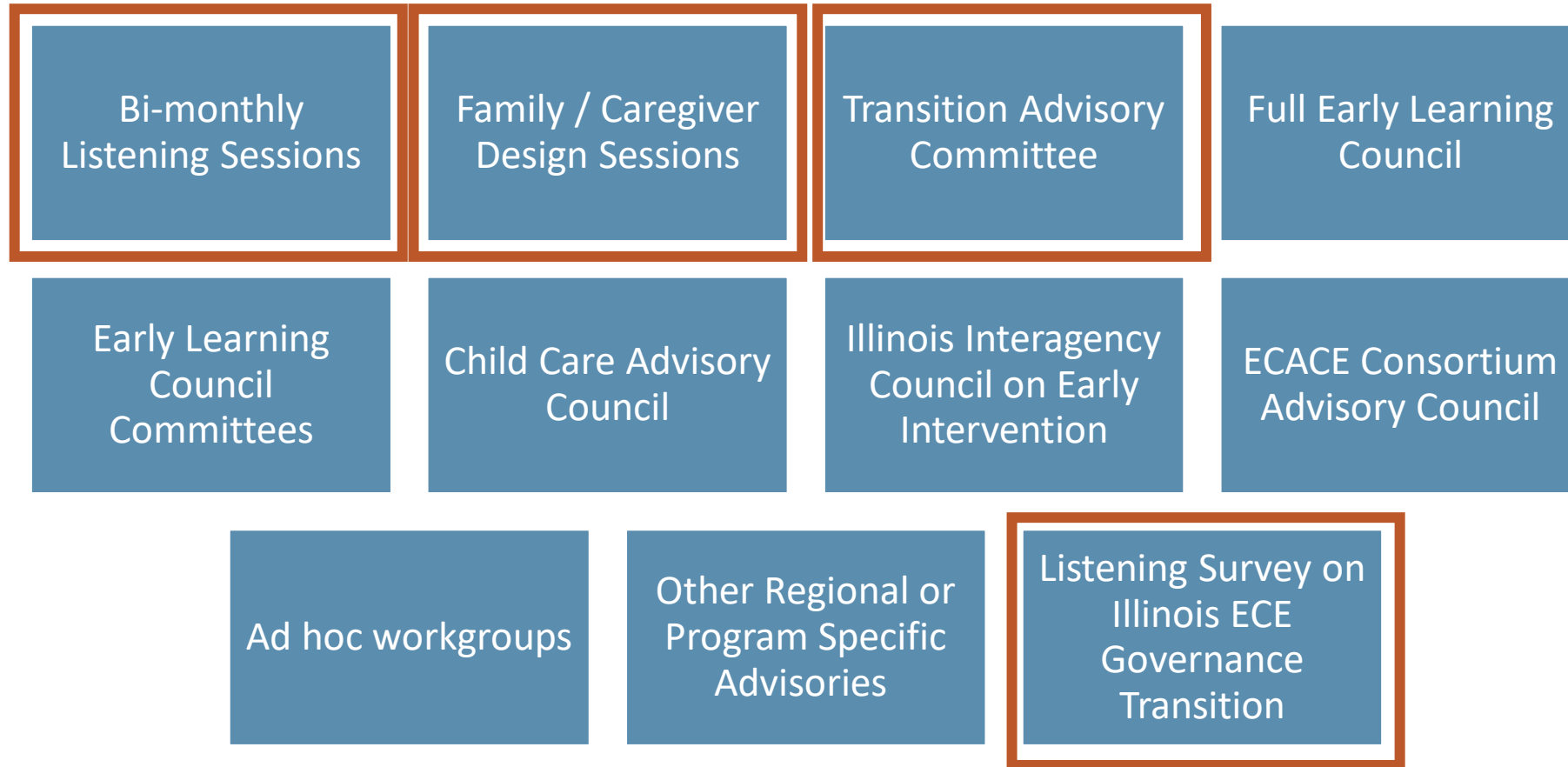




# Phase 2 Approach to Redesign & Engagement



# There are multiple opportunities to engage and gather input from diverse voices and perspectives



 New opportunities to engage specifically around Transition and EC Governance

# Early Childhood Transition Updates

- Transition Advisory Committee
- Stakeholder Design Workshops (ChiByDesign)
- Data & Learning: Learning Sessions
  - Learning Series Session #1: ChildTrends' Equity Data Framework: Friday, February 23, 2-3 pm
  - Learning Series Session #2: South Carolina's First Steps Parent Portal: Friday, March 8, 9-10 am
  - Learning Series Session #3: Using Analytics for More Equitable EC Policy: A panel discussion with Massachusetts, Washington & Georgia
    - Friday, April 19, 2024, 1-3pm



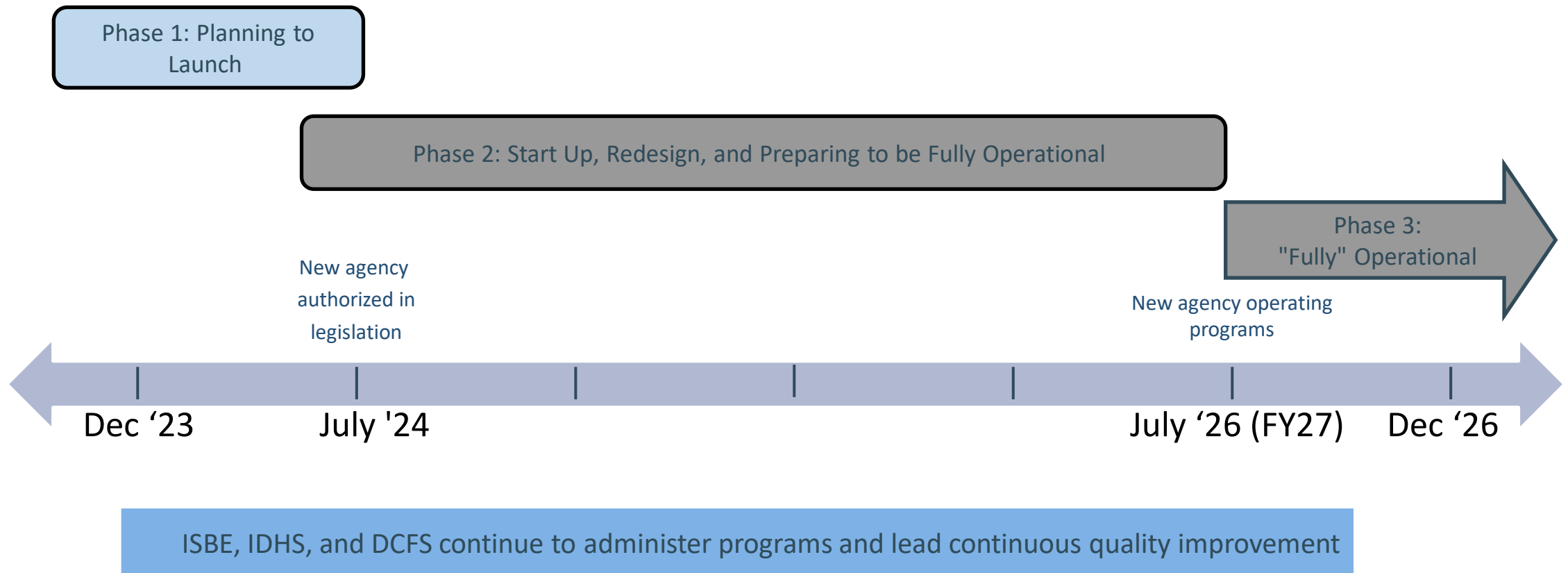


# Department of Early Childhood Legislation Update

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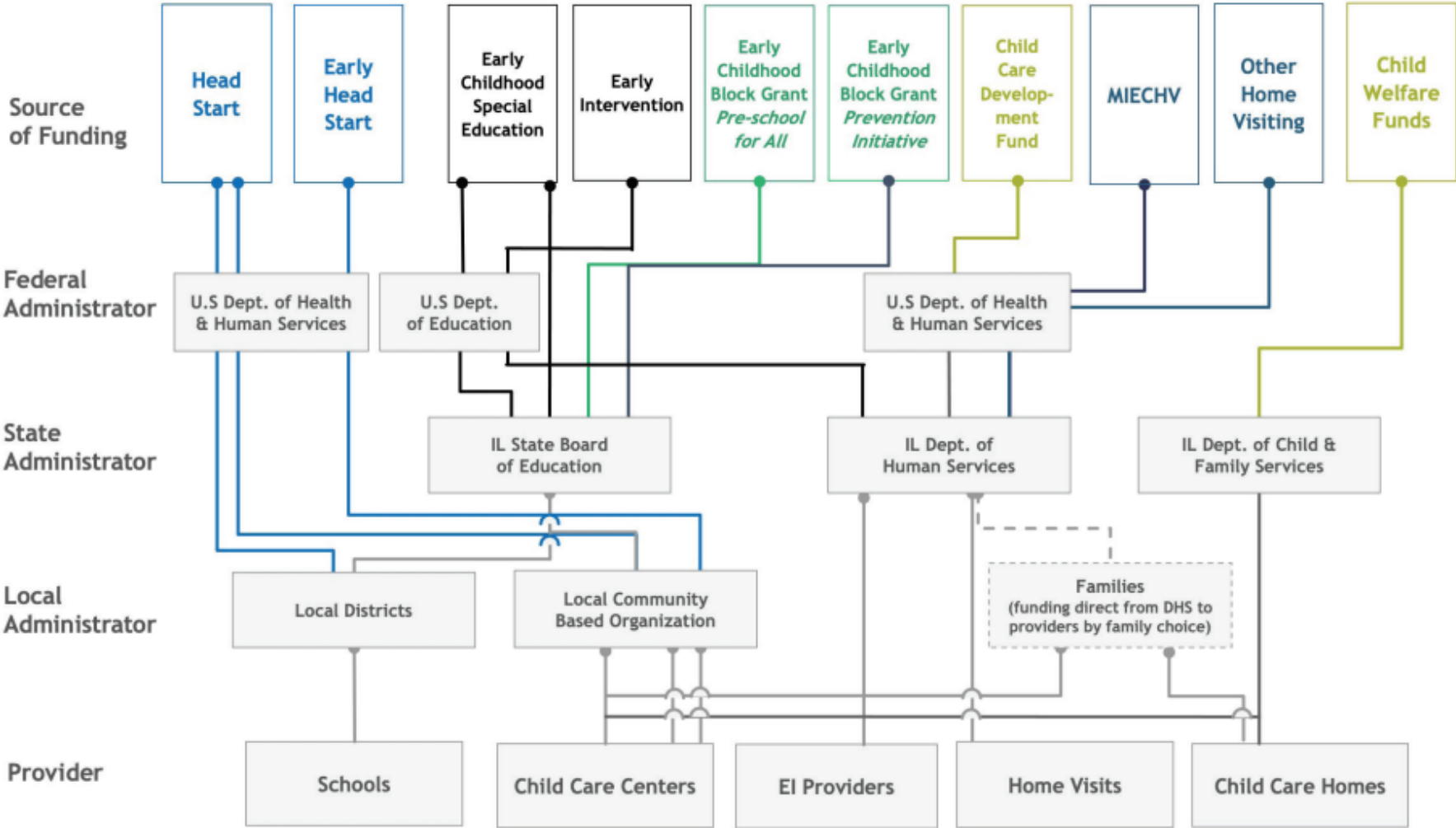


# The Transition has a multi-year timeline with three phases.



# Illinois' early childhood system is too complex.

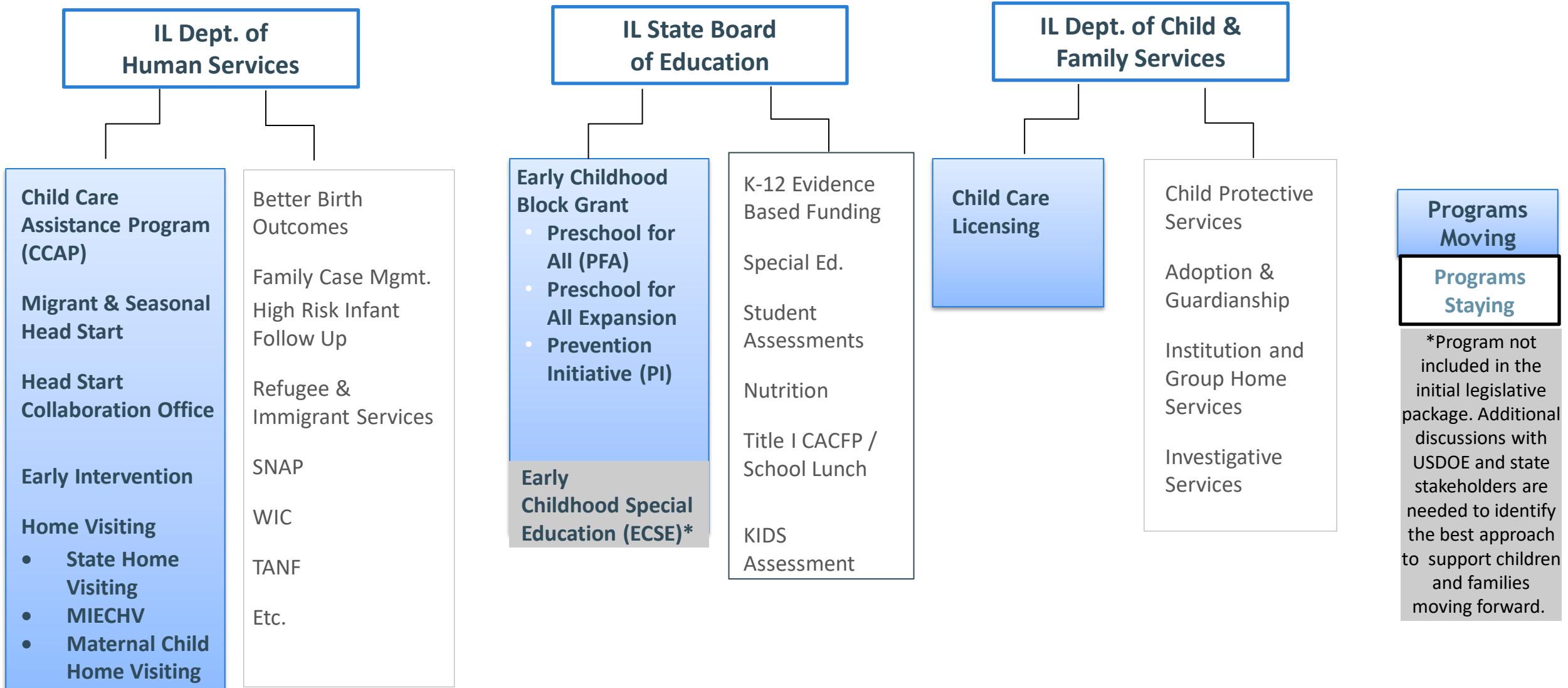
## A better structure is needed to advance equity and access.



□ Early Childhood Block Grant  
 □ Head Start  
 □ Child Care Subsidies  
 □ Home Visiting  
 □ ECSE / EI



# Early education and care services will move, and broader family and school support will remain at home agencies.



# 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
- ✓ Requires 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)

## 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)

# FY25 Budget Request for the Department of Early Childhood



- Fiscal Year 2025 \$13 million lump sum
  - Projected cost factors include:
    - Staffing 30 FTE, plus social security and operations costs (e.g., facilities, computers)
    - Analysis of current processes and workflows in existing agencies
    - Support for ongoing engagement of parents, providers, and other stakeholders in the design of a new system
    - Evaluation, planning, and feasibility studies for the data and learning infrastructure needed for an efficient and equitable operation of programs and services
    - Financial planning and modeling to support the analysis of how to braid and blend multiple funding streams and disbursement mechanisms in a way that is efficient, equitable, and less bureaucratic for providers and parents to navigate
      - Training and support for the New Agency Team
- We estimate a fully staffed agency for FY27 has between 350-400 FTE



# Q&A

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What questions do you have about the Department of Early Childhood Legislation?

# Hearing from you

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# Initial Feedback from External Stakeholders

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## People are excited about...

- **Streamlined** communication and processes that **reduce the burden** for ECE providers and other system partners.
- A system that is **simpler** and **easier** for families to access.
- Increased collaboration that results in more **consistency**.
- Increased **respect** and **value** for the ECE field.
- **Participating** and providing input for the creation of the new agency.
- Centering **equity** for the workforce and for families.

## Areas of opportunity...

- **Lack of consistency** and collaboration between the various agencies that work in ECE and a need for clearer communication.
- Challenging for families to **access** needed services, specifically addressing both the **complexity** and **timeliness** of services.
- Need more support for providers and workforce:
  - Supporting programs and providers to meet requirements
  - Strengthening the workforce through fair **compensation**

# Stakeholder Discussion

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- Facilitators will elevate themes and questions to discuss with the large group.
- Click the Padlet link in the chat to share your thoughts.
- There will be three minutes for individual reflection.
- To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.

# Stakeholder Discussion

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**How can we ensure the voices of those farthest from opportunity are included in the transition process?**

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**What priorities would you like the state to focus on to manage change effectively throughout the transition?**



# Stakeholder Discussion

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**Question 1: How can we ensure the voices of those farthest from opportunity are included in the transition process?**

To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.



# Stakeholder Discussion

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**Question 2: What priorities would you like the state to focus on to manage change effectively throughout the transition?**

To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.



# Public Comment

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# Additional Opportunities for Engagement and Communication

## Transition Advisory Committee

- Thursday, December 14, 2023, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, January 9, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 12, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 7, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm

## Bi-Monthly Listening Sessions

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

## 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

# Next Steps & Close



- Transition Advisory Committee
  - Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Please complete and share the Listening Session Survey on Illinois' ECE Governance Transition
  - you can also indicate here if you want to receive more information on an ongoing basis about the Transition and new agency.
- Please contact Ann Whalen ([Awhalen@isbe.net](mailto:Awhalen@isbe.net)) if you have any questions.
- Next Meeting:  
**May 17, 2024, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm**

**Thank you!**