

EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT PREVENTION INITIATIVE AND PRESCHOOL FOR ALL FAMILY CHILD CARE MODEL

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can family child care providers apply for the Prevention Initiative or Preschool for All programs without an approved administrative agent?

Answer: No. Family child care providers must apply for either the Prevention Initiative Grant or the Preschool for All Grant with an administrative agent.

2. Can play-based curriculum be used in the Prevention Initiative (PI) and Preschool for All (PFA) programs?

Answer: Yes. There are several play-based curricula that align with the [Illinois Early Learning Guidelines](#) and with the [Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards](#). Please refer to [ExceleRate Illinois](#) to see a list of curricula that may align with the program standards.

3. Do the grant funds go directly to the family child care provider or to the partnering administrative agent?

Answer: The administrative agent will receive and manage the grant funding. Partnering programs should create a contract together to determine responsibilities and funding amounts going directly to the family child care provider.

4. How many days must the PI and PFA programs be in operation?

Answer: PI programs operate for 2.5 hours per day, five days a week, and may be year-round. PFA programs must operate for at least 2.5 hours per day, five days a week, 165 days per year.

5. Can family child care providers still charge for child care assistant payments?

Answer: Yes, providers may charge outside of the PFA and PI hours.

6. What age group of children does the PFA program serve?

Answer: Children ages 3 to 5 years old are eligible for the Preschool for All program.

7. What age group of children does the PI program serve?

Answer: Birth to 3-year-old children are eligible for the Prevention Initiative program.

8. Are there eligibility requirements for the PI and PFA programs?

Answer: Yes. Family child care providers with the Prevention Initiative Program will follow the Prevention Initiative center-based model. Preschool for All programs follow the PFA compliance Checklist. Please refer to the eligibility requirements on the [PI Compliance Checklist](#) and [PFA Compliance Checklist](#).

9. If a family child care provider cannot apply for the FY 2025 RFP on their own, who can the provider apply with?

Answer: A family child care provider can partner with Regional Offices of Education; public school districts; university laboratory schools approved by ISBE; charter schools; area vocational centers; public or private not-for-profit or for-profit entities with experience in providing educational, health, social, and/or child development services to young children and their families.

10. Can an administrative agent hire a traveling teacher with the appropriate teaching credentials to serve the children in a family child care provider's home if the child care provider does not have the appropriate credentials?

Answer: Yes. It is expected that the administrative agent will hire a traveling teacher unless the family child care provider holds the appropriate credentials. Review the PI Credentials and PFA Credentials in the [PI Compliance Checklist](#) and the [PFA Compliance Checklist](#).

11. Can a family child care provider be the teacher of the program if they have the required teaching credentials?

Answer: Yes. Please review the compliance checklists for [PI](#) and [PFA](#) for teacher qualifications.

12. If the family child care is a group home with 12 children, can the provider be the assistant to the traveling teacher if the provider has a paraprofessional license?

Answer: Yes. All 12 children must be eligible for the PFA program.

13. Is an itinerant teacher or home visitor ever an option with the intent to coach and develop the family child care provider if they do not have the qualifications for this model?

Answer: The itinerant teacher or home visitor would need to hold the appropriate credentials and/or certifications. Please review the compliance checklists for [PI](#) and [PFA](#) for teacher qualifications.

14. Can we enroll children with disabilities?

Answer: We encourage inclusive classrooms. Family child care providers/administrative agents would work with the local school district on a child's Individual Education Program or with the early intervention team to support the child's Individualized Family Service Plan.

15. If I have the PFA program in my family child care home, can I include infants and toddlers in the preschool instruction time?

Answer: No. Infants and toddlers are not age eligible for the PFA program, which is designed for children ages 3 to 5 years old.

16. Does the traveling teacher have to meet Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) guidelines and regulations?

Answer: Yes. All documentation and background check information requested by DCFS will be required to be on file at the family child care home.

17. What happens if children enrolled in the program move out of the area or switch to another care provider?

Answer: Another eligible child may be enrolled.

18. If I partner with a local child care center, then who hires a teacher with a Professional Educator License (PEL)?

Answer: The child care center would be considered the administrative agent and would hire a traveling teacher with the PEL.
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19. Would a master's degree in early childhood qualify for the grant?

Answer: A master's degree in early childhood would meet the required PI program credentials. PFA teachers must hold a current PEL with an early childhood education endorsement or proper temporary approval, which includes a Gateway Level 5 Credential.

Please email questions to earlychi@isbe.net.