



Illinois State Board of Education

FY 2025 Early Childhood Block Grant Prevention Initiative & Preschool for All Family Child Care Home Model Overview & Listening Session

Carisa Hurley-Davis
Early Childhood Development Director

Mary Kestel
Early Childhood Development Principal Consultant

Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community

Session Overview

- Raising Illinois Intro and Poll
- Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Prevention Initiative(PI) and Preschool for All (PFA) Purpose
- Entities Eligible to Apply for Funding
- The Family Child Care Model
- Current Provider View
- Guiding Questions Discussion
- Next Steps

ECBG PI and PFA Purpose

- The Prevention Initiative and Preschool for All program supports Illinois students entering school with a foundation of knowledge and skills that enables them to be prepared for kindergarten and to receive the necessary supports to be reading at or above grade level by third grade.



Entities that are Eligible to Apply

- Regional Offices of Education
- Public school districts
- University laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education
- 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

DCFS-licensed family child care homes are eligible to apply in joint applications with an administrative agent from a Local Education Agency (LEA) or other eligible applicant.

Joint Applications

- Joint applications for funds may be submitted by any combination of eligible applicants.
 - An administrative agent shall be designated.
 - A school district or other eligible applicant shall only participate in one proposal for a specific program.
- DCFS-licensed family child care homes are eligible to apply in joint applications with an administrative agent from a Local Education Agency or other eligible applicant.

Prevention Initiative Guidelines

- Follow guidelines within the Prevention Initiative Compliance Checklist.
- Serve a minimum of 12 children under one grantee – this could be multiple homes, with multiples teachers.
- The PI program must have set hours and be implemented continuously for a minimum of 2.5 hours each day, five days a week.
- The program may either:
 - Maintain a visiting teacher who meets the qualifications as specified by the PI Compliance Checklist, or
 - The home child care provider has the qualifications as specified by the PI Compliance Checklist, and there is a second person caring for the children who are not age eligible or not qualified for the PI program.



Prevention Initiative Guidelines

- Family child care homes must be licensed through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).
- Teachers must meet at minimum the DCFS requirements for early childhood teachers in a child care center.
- Allowable use of grant funds:
 - Research-Based Curriculum
 - Assessment Tool
 - Staffing
 - Supplies
 - Equipment
 - Professional Development

Preschool For All Guidelines

- Follow the Preschool for All requirements as specified within the PFA Compliance Checklist.
- Serve a minimum 12 children under one grantee – this could be multiple homes and teachers.
- Teachers must hold a current Professional Educator License (PEL) with an early childhood education endorsement or proper temporary approval, which includes a Gateway Level 5 credential.



Preschool For All Guidelines

- Currently licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.
- Allowable use of grant funds:
 - Research-Based Curriculum
 - Assessment Tool
 - Staffing
 - Supplies
 - Equipment
 - Professional Development



CURRENT PROVIDERS VIEW

SAL Community Services Prevention Initiative Family Child Care Home Overview



GUIDING QUESTIONS -- The Model

If you considered applying before,
why didn't you?



GUIDING QUESTIONS -- The Model

Are there parts of the model that are confusing?



GUIDING QUESTIONS -- The Model

Are there changes to the model that would make it easier or more appealing for you to implement it?

GUIDING QUESTIONS -- The RFP Process

Are there ways we can improve the application process?



GUIDING QUESTIONS -- The RFP Process

What kinds of support do you need to find partners?



GUIDING QUESTIONS -- The RFP Process

Would it be helpful if we organized local sessions to match up providers?

GUIDING QUESTIONS -- The RFP Process

Would it help to have training modules on how to budget and staff the model?



GUIDING QUESTIONS -- The RFP Process

Is grant writing a barrier for you in applying?



Other Thoughts

What else would you like to tell us?



Next Steps

Prior to the RFP release ...

- Grant Writing 101 workshops.

RFP release and throughout open window ...

- Engaging the Birth to Five regional teams to assist with outreach.
- Recurring technical assistance webinars.
- Technical assistance office hours.



Questions

For more information, please visit the [ISBE Early Childhood Development Department webpage](#).

ISBE Early Childhood Development Department

217-524-4835

earlychi@isbe.net

Use "Family Child Care" in the subject line.