



Early Childhood Block Grant

Family Child Care Model

(Prevention Initiative and Preschool for All)

Family child care and family child care group homes licensed by the Illinois Department of Child & Family Services (DCFS) can apply in a subcontracted effort with administrative agents from a Local Education Agency or another eligible applicant for the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG). A school district or other eligible applicant can participate in only one proposal for an ECBG initiative.

Eligible applicants that may partner with a family child care home include:

- 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 entity with experience in providing educational, health, social, and/or child development services to young children and their families

Non-school district applicants must be operating at the time grant funds are awarded. A facility subject to DCFS licensure requirements must hold the appropriate licensure in accordance with that agency's rules to be eligible to host or operate an ECBG program. [\(See 89 Illinois Administrative Code, Chapter III: Department of Children and Family Services, Subchapter e: Requirements for Licensure.\)](#)

Applications for funds may be submitted by any combination of eligible applicants, as described in 235.10 (b) of the [Early Childhood Block Grant Administrative Rules, Part 235, Subpart A.](#)

Funding is not available to applicants in Chicago District 299. Applicants interested in offering services for children and families within the Chicago city limits must contact the Chicago Public Schools' [Office of Early Childhood Education](#).

Prevention Initiative Guidelines

- The Prevention Initiative (PI) Center-Based model serves children ages birth to 3.
- Grantees will follow the PI Center-Based requirements as specified in the Request for Proposal (RFP) and guidelines within the [Prevention Initiative Compliance Checklist](#), including having a research-based curriculum, professional development plans, monitoring, and continuous quality improvement.
- Grantees will follow the adult-to-child ratio that is set by [DCFS Family Child Care Home Licensing Standards](#).
- Administrative agents may add additional slots to their programs by partnering with one or more DCFS-licensed family child care home.
- Additional staffing may be needed to provide care for children who are not age eligible for the PI program. [DCFS adult-to-child ratio guidelines](#) must be followed.
- The PI program must have set hours and be implemented continuously for at least 2.5 hours each day, five days a week.
- Program Teaching Options:
 - Visiting Teacher: Must be hired by the administrative agent who meets the qualifications as specified by the [PI Compliance Checklist](#); or
 - Family Child Care Home Educator: Must have the qualifications as specified by the [PI Compliance Checklist](#) and there must be a child care assistant meeting DCFS requirements to care for children not eligible for the PI program.
- Program Teaching Credential Requirements:
 - Teachers must meet at minimum the DCFS qualifications for early childhood teachers in a child care center. Staff must hold or be working toward obtaining an [Illinois Gateways](#) Infant Toddler Credential level 2 or beyond.
- Family child care homes must be licensed through DCFS, adhering to all requirements set forth in the Illinois Administrative Code [Title 89: Social Services Chapter III: Department of Children and Family Services Subchapter e: Requirements for Licensure Part 406 Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes](#). Family group homes must adhere to [Illinois Administrative Code Title 89: Social Services Chapter III: Department of Children and Family Services Subchapter e: Requirements for Licensure Part 403 Licensing Standards for Group Homes](#).
- Grant funds would be used to support implementation of PI as specified in the [PI Compliance Checklist](#) and within the suggested activities of the research-based curriculum and assessment, including expenditures for staff, equipment, supplies and professional development.

Preschool for All

- The Preschool for All (PFA) program serves children ages 3 to 5 years old.
- Grantees would follow the PFA requirements as specified in the RFP and guidelines within the [Preschool for All Compliance Checklist](#), including having a research-based curriculum and assessment, participating in professional development, monitoring, and continuous quality improvement.
- Grantees will follow the adult-to-child ratio that is set by [DCFS Family Child Care Home Licensing Standards](#).
- Administrative agents may add additional slots to their programs by partnering with one or more DCFS-licensed family child care home.
- Additional staffing may be needed to provide care for children who are not age eligible for the PFA program. must be followed.
- The PFA program must have set hours and be implemented continuously for at least 2.5 hours each day, five days a week.
- Program Teaching Options:
 - Visiting Teacher: Must be hired by the administrative agent who meets the qualifications as specified by the [Preschool for All Compliance Checklist](#); or
 - Family Child Care Home Educator: Must have the qualifications specified by the PFA Compliance Checklist and a child care assistant who meets the DCFS qualifications to care for children not eligible for the PFA program.
- Program Teaching Credential Requirements:
 - The lead teacher: A traveling teacher or family child care educator must hold a current Professional Educator License (PEL) with an early childhood education endorsement or an Illinois Gateway Level 5 credential while pursuing a PEL or a proper temporary approval.
- Family child care homes must be licensed through DCFS, adhering to all requirements set forth in the Illinois Administrative Code [Title 89: Social Services Chapter III: Department of Children and Family Services Subchapter e: Requirements for Licensure Part 406 Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes](#). Family group homes must adhere to [Illinois Administrative Code Title 89: Social Services Chapter III: Department of Children and Family Services Subchapter e: Requirements for Licensure Part 403 Licensing Standards for Group Homes](#).
- Grant funds would be used to support implementation of PFA as specified in the [PFA Compliance Checklist](#) and within the suggested activities of the research-based curriculum and assessment, including expenditures for staff, equipment, supplies and professional development.