

Early Childhood Block Grant Family Child Care Model

DCFS family childcare homes are eligible to apply in joint applications with an administrative agent from a Local Education Agency (LEA) or another eligible applicant. A school district or other eligible applicant can participate in only one proposal for an Early Childhood Block Grant initiative.

Eligible Applicants that may partner with a family childcare home include:

- Regional Offices of Education
- Public school districts
- University laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- 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. If the program is operated in or by a facility subject to licensure requirements of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), then that facility must hold the appropriate licensure in accordance with rules promulgated by DCFS. [\(See 89 Illinois Administrative Code, Chapter III: Department of Children and Family Services, Subchapter e: Requirements for Licensure.\)](#)

Joint 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.](#)

- 1) If a joint application is submitted, then an administrative agent shall be designated.
- 2) A school district or other eligible applicant shall only participate in one proposal for a specific program.

Prevention Initiative Guidelines

- Grantees will follow the Prevention Initiative requirements as specified in the RFP and guidelines within the Prevention Initiative Compliance Checklist, including having a research-based curriculum, participating in professional development, monitoring, and continuous quality improvement.
- A minimum of 12 children to be served 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 that are not age eligible or not qualified for the PI program.
- Family childcare homes must be licensed through the Department of Children and Family Services, 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.

- Teachers must meet at minimum the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services qualifications for early childhood teachers in a childcare center. Staff hold or are working toward obtaining an Illinois Gateways Infant Toddler Credential level 2 or beyond.
- Grant funds would be used to support implementation of PI as specified in the Prevention Initiative 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/Preschool for All Expansion Guidelines

- Grantees would follow the Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion requirements as specified in the RFP and guidelines within the Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion Compliance Checklist, including having a research-based curriculum and assessment, participating in professional development, monitoring, and continuous quality improvement.
- A minimum of 12 children to be served under one grantee – this could be multiple homes, with multiples teachers.
- The PFA/PFAE program must have set hours and be implemented continuously for a minimum of 2.5 hours for PFA and a minimum of 5 hours for PFAE, each day, five days a week.
- The program may either:
 - Maintain a visiting teacher who meets the qualifications as specified by the PFA/PFAE compliance checklist ; or
 - The home child care provider has the qualifications as specified by the PFA/PFAE compliance checklist and there is a second person caring for the children that are not age eligible or not qualified for the PFA/PFAE program.
- Family childcare homes must be licensed through the Department of Children and Family Services, 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.
- 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.
- Grant funds would be used to support implementation of PFA/PFAE as specified in the Compliance Checklist and within the suggested activities of the research-based curriculum and assessment, including expenditures for staff, equipment, supplies and professional development.