

Illinois Preschool Expansion Program Model PFA Forum 2018



Preschool Development Grants



Preschool Development Grant

- \$226 million awarded in Year One, renewable for four years
- Administered by the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services
- Funding awarded to 18 states for either development or expansion



Preschool Expansion in Illinois



Illinois' Preschool Expansion

- In 2017 we began funding PFA-E programs with state money to match federal funds and increase total number of children served in this high quality model.



Head Start and Illinois' State Plan



- Head Start programs are a key part of Illinois' approved plan and an ideal foundation for a successful Expansion program
- 29 out of 40 Expansion compliance requirements generally align to the Head Start Performance Standards
- Head Start requirements for comprehensive services and parent engagement generally exceed Expansion requirements



Preschool for All: A Strong Foundation

Illinois' robust Preschool for All program provides a strong foundation for the Preschool Expansion model, including:

- Screening
- Education program
- Family involvement
- Community collaboration
- Staff qualifications
- Evaluation and PD



Illinois State Board of Education
James T. Steuck, Chairman
Tony Smith, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Education

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Expansion Components

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High-Quality Preschool Program



- Staff qualifications
- Professional development
- Salary parity
- Full-day programming
- Comprehensive Services
- Inclusion and individualized supports
- Social and emotional curriculum

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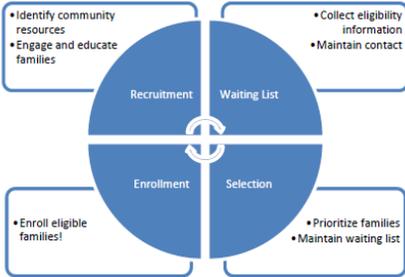
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Eligibility and Priority

- 75 % of children enrolled in PFAE must meet federal eligibility
- Federal eligibility
 - 4 years old by September 1st
 - 200 % < FPL
- Priority Populations
 - Children from homeless families
 - Children from families below 50% FPL
 - Children involved in the child welfare system
 - Children with IEPs
- Mandatory Weighted Eligibility Form



Recruitment Process



Full Day Services

- Salary parity for teachers
- Full day programming and full school year (1st grade equivalent)
- 60 minutes of rest/nap and gross motor required



Key Staff

- Focus on administrative capacity and development of sustainable systems
- Program administrator
- Instructional leader
- Family educator



Instructional Leader

- Qualifications
 - Bachelors in child development or early childhood education
 - Experience in early childhood field
 - Culturally and linguistically competent to the service area
- Professional Development
- Observation and coaching
- Instructional quality



Family Educator

- Qualifications:
 - Experience in child development, ECE, Social Work or related field
 - Culturally and linguistically competent to the service area
- Family engagement/ education
- Eligibility and recruitment
- Attendance
- Facilitating comprehensive services
- Connection to resources



Family Support and Engagement

- Family Support
 - Family assessment
 - Resource referral
 - Goal setting
 - Follow-up and documentation
- Family Engagement
 - Parent Advisory Council
 - Family education opportunities



Comprehensive Services



- Medical and Dental Homes
- Collaborative Partnerships

Mental Health

- Program should contract or collaborate with a qualified mental health provider or consultant. This individual should have experience working with young children and their families.
- Training and education opportunities
- Social emotional screening
- Classroom observation
- Consultation
- Referral

Social and Emotional Curriculum

- SE curriculum should be in addition to comprehensive curriculum
- Should be implemented by classroom teacher, in collaboration with instructional leader, mental health consultant and/or other support staff



Pyramid Model





IL Birth Through Third Grade (B-3) Continuity



B-3 Strategies



B-3 Continuity Project

Supports to Programs

- Program support specialists assist programs in building systems and solving barriers to compliance
- Targeted professional development supports programs in meeting new expectations
- Online resources for program administrative team



Community Impact

Communities across Illinois have used the Preschool Development Grant – Expansion Grant as a catalyst for stronger community collaborations between:

- School districts and Head Start programs
- Early childhood programs within a community
- Programs serving families who are at-risk and early childhood programs



Next Steps



Illinois State Board of Education
James I. Beale, Chairman
Tory Smith, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Education



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IWAS Application

- The number children served on the educational program page should match award letter
- Narrative questions – please be as detailed as possible
- On local match page, please add any expenses not provided by this grant



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IWAS Application - Budget

- 2130 – Mental Health Consultants
- 2210 – Instructional Leaders
- 2540 – Staff for lunch/nap coverage
- 3000 – Family Educators



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Learn More

Visit our Preschool Expansion website for additional information and resources, including:

- Archived webinars
- Upcoming professional development
- Sample job descriptions
- Tools and best practices

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-Development-Grant-Expansion-Grant.aspx>



Thank you for joining us today

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