

# Online Resources – ECBG Supports

This document includes suggested online resources on the following topics:

1. Preschool Program Design
2. Data-Driven Community Planning
3. Community Systems Approach
4. Enrolling Priority Populations
5. Comprehensive Services

## 1. Preschool Program Design

### Overview:

Resources available on the [Preschool Development Grant – Expansion Grant website](#) provide guidance to build systems and program infrastructure that support implementation of new quality elements, particularly:

- Sample role descriptions for a [parent educator](#) and [instructional leader](#)
- Full day preschool [sample schedule](#)
- Possible approaches to [program models and structure](#)

### Preparing for a Full Day Program:

- Federal funding from the [National School Lunch Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) can support meal and snack requirements.
- The [Child Care Assistance Program](#) can support working families who need additional services beyond the length of the program day.
- Guidance from the [Consumer Products Safety Commission](#) supports development of safe playground and gross motor spaces.

### Supporting the Needs of Children

- [Resources](#) for supporting preschool English Language Learners
- Guidelines for excellence in [inclusive practices](#)
- [Research and resources](#) from Early Choices to promote services for children in their least restrictive environment

### Instructional Leadership to Support Excellence in Teaching

- The Lead Learn Excel [resource library](#) for instructional leaders
- An [overview](#) of the Illinois Director Credential
- McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership [resources for leaders](#)
- [Illinois Early Learning Project](#)
- ExceleRate Illinois resources on [curriculum and assessment](#)

### Social-Emotional Learning and Mental Wellness:

- The [Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence](#) is an intervention and support framework early educators can use to promote young children’s social and emotional development and prevent and address challenging behavior. The model uses a multi-tiered system of supports model, beginning with a universal level of supports to promote social-emotional competence for all children. [Training modules and resources](#) are free and accessible online.
- A [Reflective Practice Guide](#) from the Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership supports programs in implementing a reflective approach in their work with children, families and staff.
- The [Early Childhood Knowledge and Learning Center](#) offers a set of early childhood mental health resources for programs.

- The Illinois Early Learning Project has developed a series of [social-emotional learning tip sheets](#).

## 2. Data-Driven Community Planning

### Data:

- [IECAM](#) (Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map) provides data on early childhood slots and priority populations by school district, community, and county.
- [Chapin Hall](#) provides data on early childhood slots and priority populations by Chicago community area.

### Community Partners:

**[Early Childhood Program Inventory](#):** The Illinois Early Childhood Program Inventory provides a brief profile of state-funded Illinois early childhood programs. This inventory is intended to help communities determine what resources they have in their community—what stakeholders to reach. This list includes state and federal programs that support Illinois’ children (from birth through age 8) and their families.

**Early Childhood program videos:** A series of animated 2-minute videos provide brief overviews of the following programs:

- [Early Head Start/Head Start](#)
- [Early Intervention](#)
- [Child Care Assistance Program](#)
- [Child Welfare](#)
- [Home Visiting programs](#)
- [Preschool](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [TANF, \(Temporary Assistance for Needy Families\), WIC \(Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children\), and Family Case Management](#)

### Community Planning:

To identify local, regional, and statewide entities that can be helpful in bringing community partners together, please utilize the following resources:

- **Local Early Childhood Community Collaborations:** The Partner Plan Act website includes [a listing and brief description](#) of more than 50 early childhood community collaborations in Illinois, along with a [map](#) of these collaborations.
- **Regional resources:** If your community has no local early childhood collaboration, or if you are seeking assistance in reaching a particular sector of providers, please contact the following:
  - **Child Care:** There are 16 Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) providers throughout Illinois that serve as a point of contact for applying for child care assistance and can help families find a child care provider. Each county has an assigned CCR&R; click on this [link](#) to find your local CCR&R.
  - **Early Intervention:** There are Child and Family Connections (CFC) providers throughout Illinois that serve as a point of contact for Early Intervention and the Local Interagency Councils that bring together local stakeholders around developmental screening. Each county has an assigned CFC; use the [DHS Office Locator](#) to find your local Early Intervention provider (CFC).
  - **Head Start and Early Head Start:** The Illinois Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) is the state point of contact for information about Illinois Early/Head Start. The HSSCO facilitates Early/Head Start collaboration, coordination and planning at the State and local levels in order to help develop a comprehensive system of early childhood services for low income families with young children. Please contact [Anika Todd](#), Director, or [Donna Emmons](#), Associate Director.
  - **School Districts:** Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) and the Cook County Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs) provide a variety of technical assistance and training services to school districts within their regions. A directory of ROE and ISC contacts can be found [here](#).

### 3. Community Systems Approach

- **What is systems-building?** To get started, view a 2-minute animated [video](#) on systems building from the BUILD Initiative. BUILD also offers a community systems development [toolkit](#).
- **How can communities come together to build systems that improve outcomes for children and their families?** Visit the [Partner Plan Act website](#) for information, resources and toolkits. Each of the following tabs provide a quick overview of how to:
  - [Partner](#)
  - [Plan](#)
  - [Act](#)
- The [ABLE Change Framework](#) helps communities achieve transformative results in addressing significant social issues affecting children, youth and families.

### 4. Enrolling Priority Populations

The following [toolkits and brief webinars](#) show how Illinois' 11 Early Childhood Innovation Zones worked to enroll and serve the highest-need children in high quality early learning programs:

- **Creating An Enrollment Pipeline:** Building a pipeline of committed partners is your first step toward developing a "community system" that includes health and social service providers.
- **Moving Toward Enrollment:** Effective strategies for enrolling children from priority populations.
- **Understanding Behavior: Designing for Action:** Having a solid understanding of the motivations, interests and needs of your perspective partners will help you develop meaningful and engaging relationships.

### 5. Comprehensive Services

#### Providing Comprehensive Services through Community Partnerships:

- DCFS has developed a [Statewide Provider Database](#) to connect providers across education, social services, mental health and other sectors to over 23,000 services offered in their communities.
- Housing Assistance Resources
  - [Early Childhood resources](#) from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
  - HUD offers a [Resource Locator](#) to identify housing and homeless services resources in local communities
  - IDHS provides a list of [emergency and transitional housing providers](#) in Illinois
  - DCFS and Heartland Alliance created the [Illinois Housing Empowerment Handbook](#)
- The [DCFS Extended Family Support Program](#) assists relatives, such as grandparents, caring for children on a short-term basis. The program can support these relatives in obtaining guardianship and enrolling children in school.
- [Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) lists programs and resources by county across Illinois.

#### Supporting and Empowering Families

- The Illinois Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership [Family Engagement and Communication Tool](#)
- [Competencies for the Parent Educator role](#) from the Gateways Family Specialist Credential
- [Professional Development Guides](#) for Implementing Parent, Family, and Community Engagement
- A [sample template](#) for helping families set and achieve ambitious goals
- Head Start and Early Head Start [Relationship-Based Competencies](#)
- The [Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition](#) offers resources to help programs identify and respond to childhood exposure trauma and violence.
- Resources for supporting family financial literacy and capability:
  - [Increasing Family Financial Security through Financial Capability Services](#)
  - [Family Service Workers and Financial Empowerment: Steps and Resources](#)
  - [Strategies for Increasing Parent Participation in Financial Education Activities](#)

## Strategies for Family Engagement

- Materials and an overview of the [ISBE Family Engagement Framework](#)
- A [webinar](#) exploring the ISBE Family Engagement Framework
- [Involvement or Engagement?](#)