Responding to the Preschool for All (PFA) Request for Proposals (RFP) FY2010 Sections on "Statement of Need" and "Population to Be Served"

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for funds from the Preschool for All Children program requires that proposal writers prepare sections on "Statement of Need" and "Population to Be Served" for proposals. If you are writing a proposal to become a new Preschool for All grantee, or if you are applying for Preschool for All funds to expand your services, information from the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) and other sources will be useful in completing these sections of your proposal.

How do I get the information from IECAM?

To get to the information about the area you plan to serve, go to the IECAM home page at:
http://iecam.crc.uiuc.edu/

From the home page, you can click on the link to **read the instructions** or go to the **GIS search page** (Geographic Information System, i.e., map page). Or you can go straight to the **Instruction page** at:
http://iecam.crc.uiuc.edu/gis-user-guide/help_RPF_PFA_FY2010-std-report.pdf

Click on the "**Search Data**" link in the menu bar near the top of the page. This will take you to the introductory map search page. In the lefthand sidebar on this page, you will see a box with "**Tasks for 2008**." One of the options in this box is "**Create Standard Report**." Click on this feature and the Create Standard Report window will open. There is a drop-down list at the top of this window in which you can "Select Report." From this menu, select the standard report:
Response to PFA Request for Proposals

This standard report provides some of the information you need to address the "Statement of Need" and "Population to Be Served" sections of the proposal; and provides links to other sources of additional information needed for those sections.

What Information Does IECAM Provide?

The information in this standard report is available at the following regions:
Counties, townships, municipalities, zip codes, IL state house and senate districts.
(A few exceptions to this availability by region are indicated in the report.)

If you want to use township but don't know your township, first click on the "Help Find Regions" button. A new window will appear that shows a map of Illinois and a "Select Region" box. Select either your county or your municipality. The map redraws to the county or municipality, and indicates the townships within the county or surrounding the municipality. You can then use the township name in your Standard Report.

This standard report provides the following data:

• Population (2005 estimates) Number of children 3 and 4 years
• 100% Federal Poverty Level (2005 estimates) number of children 3 and 4 years
• 185% Federal Poverty Level (2005 estimates) number of children 3 and 4 years
• 400% Federal Poverty Level (2005 estimates) number of children 3 and 4 years
  (available by county and township only)
• Number of households speaking Spanish at home that are linguistically isolated
• Number of households speaking other non-English languages at home that are linguistically isolated
• ISBE PreK/PFA (FY2008) proposed capacity
• Head Start (FY2008) funded enrollment

Who Is Intended to Be Served by Preschool for All?

As Preschool for All expands and makes the transition from the previous State Pre-K program that served only at-risk children, first priority in awarding grants must be given to applicants that propose to serve primarily children who have been identified as being at risk of academic failure. At-risk children are those who, because of their home and community environment, are subject to such language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages that they have been determined, as a result of screening procedures, to be at risk of academic failure. A disproportionate share of all children considered to be at risk come from low-income families, including low-income working families, homeless families, families where English is not the primary language spoken in the home, or families where one or both parents are teenagers or have not completed high school. However, neither a child's membership in a certain group nor a child's family situation should determine whether that child is at risk.

Second priority in awarding grants must be given to applicants proposing to serve primarily children whose family's income is less than four times the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2) (see Appendix B for 2009 HHS Poverty Guidelines). For each child whose participation is based on the family's income, the successful applicant must collect evidence of family income levels.

For purposes of the RFP, "programs serving primarily at-risk children" are defined as those programs which:
1. Have 51 percent or more of the enrolled children identified as at risk;
2. Prioritize at-risk students over non-at-risk students when making enrollment decisions; and
3. Have taken specific, proactive measures to ensure that parents of potentially at-risk children in the community are aware of the availability of the opportunity for preschool education through the program.

Applicants are asked to define the risk factors that they will address in their program, based on the needs of their communities.

What Other Information Sources Will I Need to Consult?

In addition to the information that IECAM provides, you will need information from other sources to complete these sections of your proposal. Your local public library can be helpful to you and may be able to suggest sources specific to your community. Your local or nearby Head Start program conducts a community needs assessment for its Head Start grant proposal every three years and updates it annually, and may also have additional information that you can use. Keep in mind that Illinois does not want to lose federal Head Start dollars and that PFA proposals can benefit by demonstrating awareness of and collaboration—not competition—with nearby Head Start programs.

The Web sources listed below will provide you with much of the information required in the RFP on a variety of topics.

Education levels of parents

Educational level of population—not specifically parents—by city or county:
> *http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en*

Enter your city and state on this Web page to receive a "fact sheet" on social, economic, and housing characteristics. For larger cities (65,000 or more), data will be for an average of 2005-2007; for smaller cities, the data will be the 2000 Census data.

Illinois Department of Public Health Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
> *http://app.idph.state.il.us/brfss/countydata.asp*

Choose "Demographics" and your county to retrieve 2007-2009 data.

Rates of infant mortality, birth trauma, low birth weight, or prematurity

Illinois Department of Public Health "Health Statistics"
> *http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infant/infmort0305.htm*

The number of Illinois infants who died before their 1st birthday and the mortality rates per 1,000 live births by state and county are contained in a table for 2003 - 2005.

Birth Defects and Other Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in Illinois 2001-2005: A Report on County-specific Incidence (PDF format). Epidemiologic Report Series 07:06 Springfield, IL: Illinois Department of Public Health, June 2007.
http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/epi/pdf/report05.pdf
Information is provided in this report about congenital anomalies (birth defects) and other serious neonatal conditions by counties in Illinois, including low birth weight and birth defects.

You may also want to contact your local Public Health District office to ask if they have or can direct you to additional or more up-to-date information.

The district's rate of dropouts, retention, truancy, teenage pregnancies, and homeless students

Interactive School Report Card Web site:
http://iirc.niu.edu/default.aspx?tsource=home
Choose school district, "About Students," and "Educational Environment" to find data on parental income, truancy, and dropout rates. If you plan to serve a larger area than one school district, be sure to look at the data on all the districts in the geographic area in which you are interested.

Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs.
http://app.idph.state.il.us/data/CommunitySummary.asp?menu=1
County and township level data, including high school dropout rates, are included on this site. Unfortunately, some data on this site are fairly old.

Illinois Department of Public Health. "Total number of babies born to Illinois teenagers, by state and county" table.
http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0506.htm
This site provides information on births to teenagers by county for 2005-2006.

Rates of child abuse and neglect

Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics
http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/CANTS2007.pdf
Look for statistics by county on page 9, Table 7.

The prevalence of homelessness

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC)
Homeless Assistance Programs – Illinois
http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/local/index.cfm?st=il
Click on a CoC number that includes your county.
Click on 2006 Homeless Assessment Data
Call your local school district to ask if they have additional information about numbers of homeless students.

Information regarding drug/alcohol abuse

Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (including alcohol-related risk) by county
http://app.idph.state.il.us/brfss/countydata.asp

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Illinois County Profiles, including drug arrests and seizures
http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/index.cfm?metasection=forms&metapage=CountyProfiles
Choose your county and click on "View PDF" to see the report for 2004.