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State Update

ISBE Request for Proposals and Call for Evaluators

FY2019 ISBE RFP for Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion

FY2019 Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion [have been released](#). Proposals are due in the ISBE offices no later than 4 pm on January 12, 2018. These are open competitive grants with funding beginning in Fiscal Year 2019. Links to data, webinars, and other resources to assist communities, providers, and others in preparing for the FY 2019 re-compete are available.

Please note this opportunity has not been available in many years and communities should think broadly across the needs for children 0-5 and their families. Programs must submit a FY2019 application to continue and expand existing programs or to access new funding to begin new services. If your program has already submitted a proposal for FY2018 PFAE, you must still apply for FY2019 PFAE.

ISBE anticipates releasing the FY2018 PFAE awards in early December.

FY2018 ISBE RFP for Prevention Initiative

FY2018 RFP for Prevention Initiative is still available and due no later than 4 pm on November 29, 2017. Letters of Intent were due to ISBE by October 31. Resources are available on the [ISBE RFP page](#).

For questions on the RFPs, please contact the Division of Early Childhood Education at 217.524.4835 or by email at earlychi@isbe.net.

Call for Evaluators to Review RFPs

ISBE is looking for evaluators to review RFPs for: Prevention Initiative (PI) Birth to Age 3, Preschool for All (PFA) Ages 3-5, Preschool for All Expansion Model (PFAE). To apply, please complete this [survey](#). In submitting this application you are volunteering time and expertise to complete the evaluation of approximately 10 to 20 proposals. Questions may be forwarded to the Early Childhood Division at earlychi@isbe.net.

Legislative Summary 2017

Ounce of Prevention Fund has released a [Legislative Summary](#) for bills passed during the 2017 legislative session that might be helpful to those working with families with young children and low-income families.

Illinois Enacts Early Childhood Expulsion Legislation

[Illinois Public Act 100-105](#), signed into law earlier this summer, aims to limit preventable expulsions due to child behaviors from early childhood programs funded by the Illinois State Board of Education and child care programs licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services. It also ensures children remain in the most beneficial early care and education setting. [Read more](#) about the new legislation and view the [recorded](#) webinar presented by the Ounce and Illinois Action For Children.

Child Care Assistance Program Restoration

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) has been fully restored to the 2015 levels after being impacted during the budget impasse. In August, it was announced the non-TANF education and training would once again be eligible for child care assistance. For assistance in determining child care eligibility and locating providers, visit <https://inccrra.org/about/sdasearch>. Effective October 1, the Illinois Department of Human Services announced raising the income eligibility from 162% to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

To apply for the Child Care Assistance Program or to check eligibility for the program, contact your local [Child Care Resource and Referral Agency](#).

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Federal Update

Budget and Tax Reform

On November 2, the House Ways and Means Committee introduced the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The act makes significant changes to the country's federal tax system. [Analyses show](#) that the plan skews tax cuts toward wealthier individuals and corporations, while failing to improve a number of important tax credits for low-income families (and actually limiting others). Further the plan would increase the national deficit, and an increase in the national deficit would likely lead to heightened pressure to cut key safety net programs. Some of these programs, such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, are already targeted for cuts in budget frameworks passed by Congress. While early childhood programs like Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), have not been targeted for cuts, they would become vulnerable over time if this tax plan were to become law.

MIECHV and CHIP reauthorization

Congress missed the September 30 deadline and failed to extend authorization to the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), both of which provide vital services to children and families across the state. While both House and Senate committees took action on CHIP reauthorization bills earlier in October and there has been progress on MIECHV legislation, the reauthorization process is not complete. Illinois has funding for MIECHV and CHIP for several months, but the delay will cause more immediate problems in a number of other states, and creates unnecessary uncertainty across the country. A [video from the First Five Years Fund](#) highlights the importance of MIECHV in communities. The [Georgetown University Health Policy Institute](#) outlines the harm in delaying CHIP reauthorization.

Health Care

Congress failed to pass the American Health Care Act (AHCA), a plan that would have greatly restructured the Medicaid program. Senators Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray proposed the Bipartisan Health Care Stabilization Act which would provide appropriation for 2019 for cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments, restore a significant portion of the Trump Administration's cuts to marketplace outreach and enrollment assistance, and expand eligibility for high-deductible plans. The bill has not been acted on but the Congressional Budget Office has estimated the bill could save the federal government \$3.8 billion over 10 years. [Read more](#) on the agreement from The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

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Resources, Reports and Other Publications

US Census Bureau Data Report on Income, Poverty and Health

Insurance Coverage

In September, the US Census Bureau released its annual data report, [Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2016](#). Overall, the number of people in poverty decreased in 2016 from 2015 meaning fewer children are living in poverty. The number of uninsured also fell. But even with these gains, there are still risk factors because of threats to programs like Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Earned Income Tax Credits and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs, and the Affordable Care Act. See the [infographic from CLASP](#).

State Early Childhood Data Systems

Ounce of Prevention Fund published [An Unofficial Guide to the Why and How of State Early Childhood Data Systems](#), to help early childhood policy leaders ensure that their state builds and leverages a unified early childhood data system.

Building Inclusive State Child Care Systems

Ounce of Prevention Fund, together with the Division for Early Childhood (DEC), and Child Care Aware® of America created a [joint resource](#) to support stakeholders in leveraging the opportunity for full inclusion of young children with disabilities in early care and education programs. Statements issued in the past couple of years by the US Departments of Education and Health and Human Services affirm that all young children with disabilities should have access to high quality early childhood programs. The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 reinforced existing and included new provisions that are specifically designed to further inclusion in child care.

Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness

Ounce of Prevention Fund and the US Department of Human Services Administration for Children and Families released the [Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness](#). This tool is specifically designed for child care, Head Start and Early Head Start, and public pre-k programs as a guide for welcoming and supporting families and children experiencing homelessness into these programs. The tool has recommendations in five key areas to better serve families experiencing homelessness.

School District Leaders Surveyed on Early Childhood Education

Earlier this year, Gallup [surveyed](#) a sample of district leaders and more than three-quarters of public school superintendents felt that early childhood care and education meant "a great deal" to children's future success. Yet, most district leaders felt states were not investing enough in this sector.

Child Care Instability and Social Adjustment

Researchers from Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute released [Child Care Instability From 6 to 36 Months and the Social Adjustment of Children in Prekindergarten](#). This research reveals that disruptions in child care negatively affect children's social development as early as age 4. Researchers noted that changes to household income, availability of transportation, secure employment and other factors can result in children moving into and out of different child care settings.

State Policy Update

Ounce of Prevention Fund released the [State Policy Update: October 2017](#). This update provides a snapshot of early childhood care and education budget and policy changes in the state during the 2017 legislative sessions as of September 2017.

Indispensable Policies & Practices for High-Quality Pre-K

New America released [Indispensable Policies & Practices for High-Quality Pre-K](#), which summarizes policies and practices that are essential for high-quality teaching and

learning in pre-k. As pre-k expands nationally, there are often uneven standards for program quality, variable hours of coverage, eligibility requirements and competing demands. This report highlights six themes that emerged from meta-analyses necessary to building high-quality pre-k.

National Demographics on Dual Language Learners (DLLs)

The Migration Policy Institute released a series of factsheets that offer state profiles, [Dual Language Learners: A National Demographic and Policy Profile](#). The profiles document DLLs under the age of 8 with at least one parent who speaks a language other than English at home.

Education Inequalities at the School Starting Gate

The Economic Policy Institute issued a new report, [Education Inequalities at the School Starting Gate: Gaps, Trends, and Strategies to Address Them](#). Using data from two academic cohorts, 1998 and 2010, the study reviews the relationship between children's socioeconomic status and both cognitive and noncognitive skills when starting school. While the achievement gap has not grown, the gap has not narrowed either. The report recommends greater investments in pre-k programs and encourages school districts to provide comprehensive services for the whole child, including academic, nutritional and emotional supports while including meaningful engagement with families and the community.

Rent Is Affordable to Low-Wage Workers in Exactly 12 US Counties

The National Low Income Housing Coalition issued a new report, [Out of Reach 2017: The High Cost of Housing](#). The report profiles how much a person needs to earn to afford a modest apartment in all 50 states based on hourly wages. The cost of housing has soared while wages have not matched the increased housing expenses. In 2017, a worker would need to earn \$21.21 an hour to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment where both housing and utilities cost no more than 30% of a person's annual income.

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News and Announcements

Open Enrollment: Affordable Care Act

[Open Enrollment](#) for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is open, running from November 1 through December 15, 2017. Now is the opportunity to sign-up for health insurance in 2018! You can find free, local, in-person help by visiting the [Illinois Coalition for Health Access](#).

Healthy Chicago 2.0

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) had town halls and an online comment period for the Healthy Chicago 2.0 plan. CDPH released a new [Healthy Kids Report](#) featuring public policy recommendations based on community feedback.

Illinois Pyramid Model Partnership

Illinois has embarked on the Pyramid Model Partnership, coordinated by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. The Pyramid Model is a conceptual framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children's social and emotional competence and for preventing and addressing challenging behavior. There are six broad goals of the Illinois Pyramid Model Partnership: addressing workforce capacity and training, partnering with families, increasing children's pro-social skills and reducing challenging behaviors, and preventing and severely limiting expulsion and suspension in early childhood settings. For more information, contact [Donna Nylander](#), Project Manager.

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Events

Illinois State Board of Education FY2019 Budget Hearings

Each year the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) hosts hearings around the state and community members can influence the Board's budgeting process. There is one session remaining: Friday, November 17, immediately following the Board Meeting or 1-3pm at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Conference Room 16-503 Chicago. ISBE requests that participants complete and submit the [FY2019 Budget Hearing Form 00-20](#) in person or by [email](#). The Ounce drafted [talking points](#) on early childhood programs.

Regional Public Policy Caucus

Illinois Action for Children is hosting its annual [early childhood public policy caucus](#) throughout the state. During the event, advocates can learn about upcoming state and federal priorities as well as updates on the Preschool expulsion legislation, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Child Care For Working Families Act. The dates and locations are as follows: Wednesday, November 15 in Springfield; Thursday, December 7 in Schaumburg; and Thursday, December 14 in Chicago. Questions can be sent to advocacy@actforchildren.org.

Outstanding Practices in Inclusion Recognition Informational Webinar

Learn more about the [Outstanding Practices in Inclusion \(OPI\) Recognition](#) meant for programs that implement high-quality inclusive practices during this webinar on Thursday, November 16 at 9am. Interested programs can learn more about the application which will be administered by Early CHOICES, as the Illinois State Board of Education Preschool Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Initiative, along with the Early Childhood LRE Stakeholders Consortium will administer the recognition of Outstanding Practices in Inclusion Recognition.

The Future of Justice

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law is hosting a summit, [The Future of Justice](#), on December 1 at the Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago. The event will examine the future of justice for workers, families and communities across the country. The keynote speaker will be Dorian T. Warren, President and Vice President of the Center for Community Change Action.

Immigration Webinar

In response to recent anti-immigrant policies, rhetoric and uncertainty, early childhood and immigrant advocate organizations are partnering to present a webinar geared toward the early learning provider and administrator community. Join the Ounce of Prevention Fund, Illinois Action for Children, Latino Policy Forum and Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) to learn about the current immigration landscape, know your rights, "sensitive locations" policy, effects on young children and families, and resources and recommendations to best support families. Register for the December 5, 2017 webinar in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Seminario web sobre la inmigración

Lamentablemente, política anti-inmigrante, retórica e incertidumbre están impactando más y más el bienestar y el desarrollo de niños pequeños y familias viviendo en Illinois y el resto de la nación. Por esta razón, agencias de abogacía especializadas en la infancia temprana e inmigración se han unido para presentar un seminario web dirigido a la comunidad de proveedores y administradores de la infancia temprana. Únase a The Ounce, Illinois Action for Children, Latino Policy Forum y Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) para aprender información actual relacionada a la inmigración, sus derechos, la política de "lugares delicados", el efecto en niños pequeños y familias, recursos y recomendaciones para mejor apoyar a familias. El seminario web se ofrecerá el 5 de diciembre, 2017 en [español](#).

Seventh National Home Visiting Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs

Register for the [Seventh National Home Visiting Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs](#) on January 31-February 2, 2018 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC. The [2018 conference agenda](#) is now available. Registrants can now select from a diverse array of sessions, including 28 workshops, 3 communities of practice and 4 plenary sessions. The Ounce of Prevention Fund looks forward to convening over 700 fellow researchers, advocates, policymakers, and practitioners in the joint pursuit of advancing the home visiting field. Session space is limited so don't miss the opportunity to register and secure your session seats today.

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Parent and Teacher Resources

Infographic: Telling the Difference Between a Screening and an Assessment

Ages and Stages created a [new infographic](#) to explain the difference between a screening and assessment. There can be confusion about the difference as both tools are used in early childhood settings to gauge childhood development.

Immigration Resources

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law created a resource, [A Guide for Parents in Illinois who are Undocumented: Planning for your Children in Case of Detention or Deportation](#), to provide guidance to families who are undocumented and face fears of detainment and deportation and have questions about what could happen to their children, many of them US-born. A Spanish-version of the toolkit is forthcoming.
- The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights have released a [Know Your Rights Card](#), with a summary of basic rights and the family support line, which offers reliable and immediate information, referrals to legal, ministry and social services. The Card is available in English, Spanish, Korean and Polish.

Leading the Way: A Guide for Business Engagement in Early Education

The US Chamber Foundation released a new toolkit, [Leading the Way: A Guide for Business Engagement in Early Education](#), that provides resources to enable the business community to advance access to high-quality, affordable childcare to support employees, the broader community and the country. This includes key facts and an elevator speech on childcare, a tactical guide with tangible ways that the business community can make an impact, and case studies that illustrate best practices and lessons learned for how to engage.

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