It’s amazing what they absorb before they’re five.
Today’s Agenda

- State Update
- Federal Update
- Advocacy Opportunities
- Q&A
State Update

Early Childhood Advocates’ Budget Asks

Increase and protect early childhood funding that includes:

• A minimum of $150 million increase to the Early Childhood Block Grant (Illinois State Board of Education)

• A minimum of $4 million increase to voluntary home visiting programs (Parents Too Soon and Healthy Families budget lines—Department of Human Services)

• Increase funding for Early Intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays by at a minimum of $25 million

• A minimum of $100 million increase to the Child Care Assistance Protection Program
State Update

Governor’s Budget Proposal

• Governor J.B. Pritzker gave his FY2021 budget address on February 19. The proposed budget includes:
  – $50m Early Childhood Block Grant– which will help to reach more preschool aged children during critical learning years.
  – $100m increase in funding to the Child Care Assistance Program to increase income-eligibility for low-income, working families
  – $2m increase for evidence-based home visiting programs funded by the DHS as part of an $4.25 million overall home visiting increase
  – $7m increase to funding for Early Intervention for infants and toddlers with developmental delays
State Update

Legislation

• HB4 (HA2): Expand the state’s Medicaid program to reimburse for doula, home visiting services

• HB3984/SB2317: Increase appropriation for DHS-funded home visiting programs by $4 million in FY21

• HB2191/SB1316: Increase reimbursement rates for providers in the Early Intervention program by 4% in FY21, FY22

• HR755/SR1051: Urges the General Assembly to increase investments in early childhood programs to strengthen the workforce in a range of settings

• Support legislation to create the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program
Governor's Early Childhood Funding Commission

In December 2019, the Governor established the Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding ("Early Childhood Funding Commission"). The Commission shall study and make recommendations to establish funding goals and funding mechanisms to provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for all children birth to age five and advise the Governor in planning and implementing these recommendations. The Commission will submit these recommendations to the Governor on or before January 15, 2021.

Click here to read a release from Governor Pritzker's Press Office on the launch of the Commission.

Membership

Click here to view a list of Commission members.

Click here to view bios for each Commission member.

Meeting Schedule

Click here to view a list of upcoming Commission meetings (updated 2/20/20). All Commission meetings are open to the public, and a designated time for public comment will be available on all Commission agendas.

Meeting Materials

https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Pages/Governor's-Early-Childhood-Funding-Commission.aspx
Federal Update

Budget

• The FFY2020 government spending bill included a $1.1 billion increase in funding for federal early learning and care programs
  – $550 million increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
  – $550 million increase for Head Start & Early Head Start
• Preschool Development Grant (PDG) awarded to 26 states
• White House FY2021 budget request
  – Proposed $1 billion in one-time funding to build child care in underserved populations
  – Proposed level funding for CCDBG, Head Start and Early Head Start, and IDEA parts B and C
Federal Update

Regulations

• **Public Charge**: Supreme Court allows income based restrictions on immigration

• **Medicaid**: administration releases plan where states can apply to treat Medicaid as a block grant.
  - states would be underfunded in the event of an unexpected surge in demand – natural disaster, public health crisis, etc.
  - States are encouraged to spend less on Medicaid in order to avoid federal oversight

• **Family First Transition Act**: new guidelines for how funding can be spent, temporary suspension of the title IV-E prevention program requirement that 50% of expenditures be for “well supported” practices
Advocacy

Opportunities

• Early Childhood Advocacy Day is **Wednesday, April 29**
  – Wyndham Springfield City Centre, Springfield, IL
  – Training available

• Advocacy throughout the year

• Advocacy Action Center
  – Advocacy Toolkit, talking points and sample letters

• Primary elections
  – March 17, Illinois primary election
  – Illinois Board of Elections: [https://www.elections.il.gov/](https://www.elections.il.gov/)
Resources

Websites

• Find your Legislator
  – www.theounce.org/advocacy

• Early Childhood Advocacy Day Registration
  – www.theounce.org/advocacyday
Questions?

Contact us!

• advocacy@theounce.org

• Advocacy Action Center
  – www.theOunce.org/advocacy

• Social media
  – Twitter: @theOunce
  – Facebook: www.facebook.com/ounceofpreventionfund