Welcome to the December 8, 2021, meeting of the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Members of the general public will remain muted throughout the meeting and will have the opportunity to comment during the public comment period.

To make a comment, please leave your name, the organization you represent, and the topic you would like to address in the Q&A section by 4:00 p.m. The Q&A function is in the corner of the screen. We will call on you during the public comment period and ask that you keep your remarks to under two minutes.

If you have technical difficulties during the meeting, please contact David Antonacci at antonacci@ibhe.org or via text to 217-720-5269.

Open Meetings Act

The meeting today is being conducted via video conference pursuant to Public Act 101-0640 and the Governor's Disaster Proclamation dated November 12, 2021. As conveners, we have determined that an in-person meeting is not practical nor prudent due to the disaster.

Consistent with the requirements, I note for the record that Stephanie Bernoteit, IBHE Executive Deputy Director, is physically present at the IBHE office in Springfield. We have posted notice of this meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

In addition, I want to note this meeting is being recorded. Minutes of the meeting will be prepared and, after approval, will be made available to the public on the ECACE website (https://www.ecace.org

Public Comment

- Public Comment
  - Enter your name, organization, and topic
    - Q&A section (lower right corner of the screen)
  - By 4:00 p.m.
  - Remarks under 2 minutes
- If you are on the phone, please enter *3 at the time of public comment to raise your hand and we will add you to the list.

Welcome and Housekeeping

Welcome to members, presenters, state agencies, and the public.

Housekeeping: To engage in discussion

- **Raise your hand:** We will be using this feature throughout the meeting when we have discussion, due to such a large group of representatives.

- Directions to Raise your Hand: If you are a Consortium Representative and wish to speak, please raise your hand via the participant list. The participant list s a bubble, located on the bottom right of the screen. Click the icon at the bottom right of the box that opens. When you are finished, please lower your hand.

  - If you are a representative dialing in only, please press *3 to raise your hand.

- The chat feature will be disabled for this meeting so that all members of the public can access the discussion, even if they are dialing in by phone.

Feel free to let us know you are having technical issues via the Q/A box

Objectives for Today

- Build engagement in the work of the Consortium and each institution's part in its success

- Introduce key pieces of the Consortium infrastructure for feedback

- Provide updates around related work happening at the state and federal level

- Identify key initial priorities of the Consortium and a plan to address these priorities

- Build/strengthen relationships among members

Agenda

- Welcome and Housekeeping

- Consortium Vision

- Guiding Principles for Consortium Operations

- Role of Consortium Representatives and Institutional Teams

- Priority/Time – Sensitive Work

- ECACE Scholarship

- Early Childhood Workforce: Federal and State Landscape

- Updates on Consortium-Related Work

- Next Steps and Future Meetings

- Public Comment

Key Pieces of Work for the Consortium

In addition to standing up the Consortium, the legislation specifically calls for the following. These will be key pieces of work for the Consortium.

- Seamless Transfer of the AAS and Gateways Level 4
- Develop a process for awarding credit for CDA by January 31, 2022
- Meet goals for enrollment, persistence, and completion
- Develop standardized methods for awarding credit for prior learning
- Offer courses across hubs or the full consortium
    - With registration and other functions through the home institution
- Data share agreements to ensure data for reporting
- Develop agreements about securing associates prior to transfer
- Ensure students have the most affordable options for advancing through and attaining degrees or credentials
- Optional – open ed resources, support navigators and coaches, support for state registry to track competencies*

Embodied in P.A. 102-0174

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Consortium Infrastructure Building

The Vision: Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity

Create a consortium to streamline, coordinate, and improve accessibility of degree completion pathways for incumbent early childhood workforce and employers.

- Allow students to take coursework at multiple consortium institutions when and where they need it.

- Transfer community colleges AAS degrees in their entirety to a participating four-year school so that students do not have to retake coursework or extra credit hours.

- Establish seamless processes for students so that they do not have to navigate multiple institutions.

- Recognize the experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities of the incumbent workforce.

Embodied in P.A. 102-0174

Guiding Principles: Strawman

ECACE Consortium Guiding Principles

- Center Student Success

- Share Leadership

- Behave as Equals

- Respect and Accommodate Differences

- Simplify Student Navigation

Guiding Principle #1 (Strawman)

Center Student Success

- The first priority of the Consortium is student success.

- The Consortium serves higher education students at all levels.

- Consortium members operate jointly to provide streamlined paths to degrees.

- The Consortium gives priority focus to the incumbent early childhood workforce.

Guiding Principle #2 (Strawman)

Share Leadership

- All members contribute to and benefit from the Consortium.

- These Principles are the foundation for Consortium policies.

- Consortium governance is shared at all levels.

- Decisions are made considering the interests of all stakeholders.

- The Consortium is a learning community, a forum for creative problem solving and innovative solutions.

- We strive for agreement through consensus building.

- Communication is the first step in resolving conflict.

ECACe
EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS
CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY

Guiding Principle #3 – (Strawman)

Behave as Equals

- Communication among and between members is essential.

- We value the expertise of faculty teaching at all member institutions.

- We recognize and honor the learning and competencies of students.

- Students admitted to ECACE programs are accepted by all members for enrollment in Consortium courses.

Guiding Principle #4 – (Strawman)

Respect and Accommodate Institutional Differences

- Respect and support each member's accreditation and Gateways entitlement.

- Respect and accommodate differences in faculty workload, administrative procedures, and institutional culture.

Guiding Principle #5 – (Strawman)

Simplify Student Navigation

- Differences in administrative procedures are transparent to learners.

- Home institutions provide student services for their students.

- Teaching institutions provide services that support students enrolled in their courses (i.e., access to LMS, library, tech support).

- We strive to provide seamless pathways to credential attainment.

Discussion

Questions for Discussion

- What resonated with you?

- What's missing?

- What needs to be changed?

- What questions or wonderings do you have?

Consortium Representative Role and Institutional Teams

Proposed Role of Consortium Representative

- May be Chief Academic Officer, Provost, Dean, Associate Dean, Chair, etc. This will vary by institution.

- Speak for the institution and weigh in on decisions that impact the broader institution during Consortium meetings.

- Build a team at campus and routinely take back work of consortium and socialize on campus; facilitate cross-campus relationships.

- Bring information from meetings to institutions and bring information from institutions to the Consortium.

- Ensure institutional readiness, compliance to agreed upon policies and procedures, and communication across all necessary channels.

Proposed Institutional Teams

- **Department Head.** Ensures state-wide curriculum alignment readiness and acceptance of transfers AAS

- **Faculty Curriculum Early Childhood Representative.** Involved in details of curriculum and learning objectives for credentials/certificates, associates, and bachelors.

- **Campus Coordinator.** Coach/mentor for students through the process, and to assist with course access.

- **Distance Learning Director.** Works with team to ensure quality course development and access to any processes in place to offer courses state-wide or across institutions.

- **Marketing Director.** Works on websites and communications to help market the program.

- **University Registrar.** If a cross-institution registration system is put in place.

- **Finance Officer for the Institution.** Will depend on whether a financial exchange agreement is put in place.

- **Financial Aid Officer.** Will depend on how the work needs to integrate with the scholarship and other financial supports.

Discussion

Questions for Discussion

- What resonated with you?

- What's missing?

- What needs to be changed?

- What questions or wonderings do you have?

Future "Infrastructure" Work

- Building out Consortium Structure, including
  - Finalizing vision and guiding principles
  - Building out Committees, as needed
  - Determining a decision-making protocol

Homework

1) Convene your institutional team and explain the role of the Consortium and the team (we can share slides.)

2) Review full set of Guiding Principles with your institutional team. (To be shared with a small group working on Guiding Principles – more info to come!)

3) Send thoughts and feedback on the Guiding Principles to Chadwick@ibhe.org by 1/10/22.

Time Sensitive Priority Activities

CDA for Credit

By January 31, 2022, the Consortium shall decide how to assign college credit for the incumbent workers who have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and for future workers obtaining the CDA.

- Child Development Associate (CDA): includes requirements for training, experience, a portfolio, an exam, and an observation; awarded through the Council for Professional Recognition.

- Increasingly popular in Illinois due to the workforce shortage

- We need to determine ways to award college credit for attaining the CDA credential

- Some institutions have begun to develop pathways to award credit – either after or along the way.

CDA for Credit, continued

Propose a small (6-8 person) group develop recommendations for the Consortium

Working Group Charge: Bring a recommendation to the broader consortium for consideration

- Begin meeting next week if possible (Thursday 12/16); meet 3-4 times before 1/25/22.

- Members: Consortium representatives or their delegates or potentially other stakeholders
    - Both 2- and 4- year partners

- IBHE/ICCB will facilitate/staff the working group

- Spokesperson will bring recommendations to the broader consortium by ~1/25/22, which will then decide on the approach (or approaches) to assign credit for the CDA.

- ***Process to volunteer***: Email Chadwick@ibhe.org by 12/13/21, and include the person you are recommending (yourself or other), their institution, role, and proposed working group.

AAS Transfer

- Seamless transfer of the AAS from a program entitled to offer a Gateways Level 4, including credit for prior learning.

Proposed Approach:

- A small 10 -12 person cross-institution working group that functions as a Community of Practice as a place to share best practices and ideas
- Includes both 2-and 4-year institutions, either a consortium representative or a delegate (faculty, chair, etc.)
- Opportunity for endorsement of practices by the Consortium
- Will begin meeting in January

Process to volunteer: Same as CDA. Send email to Chadwick@ibhe.org by 12/13/21 with name of volunteer, role, institution, working group.

ECACE Scholarship

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

- Program purpose:
  - To address the shortage of qualified early childhood educators by encouraging the pursuit of credentials and advancement of already-held degrees in early childhood education
  - An aim toward building a strong, well-prepared workforce

- Scholarship recipients are expected to continue or return to teaching or direct services in the early childhood care and education field following completion of their program of study.

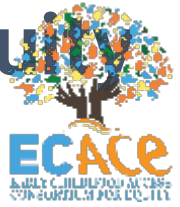# Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

- Awards will be available for undergraduate study at public and non-profit private 2- and 4-year Gateways-entitled and Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity member institutions

- For students attending community colleges and public universities, the scholarship will cover the applicant's total cost of attendance for an academic year (including summer) after other financial aid received

- Students at participating non-profit private institutions may receive an amount no more than the cost of the most expensive program of study in the early childhood education field at an Illinois public college after other financial aid received

ISAC

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

- To be eligible for the program, a student must:
  - be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen (federal definition)
    - A student who falls into one of these categories may be considered an eligible noncitizen: U.S. permanent resident, U.S. national, an individual with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94), or individuals with other specific status documents such as a T-visa.
      - For more information, visit: https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/non-us-citizens
  - be a member of the incumbent workforce, having worked in the early childhood field that serves children from birth to age 5, including:
    - Family child care and center-based care settings
    - Preschool for All school-based settings
    - Head Start
    - Those who are or have been teachers, assistant teachers, directors, family child care providers and assistants
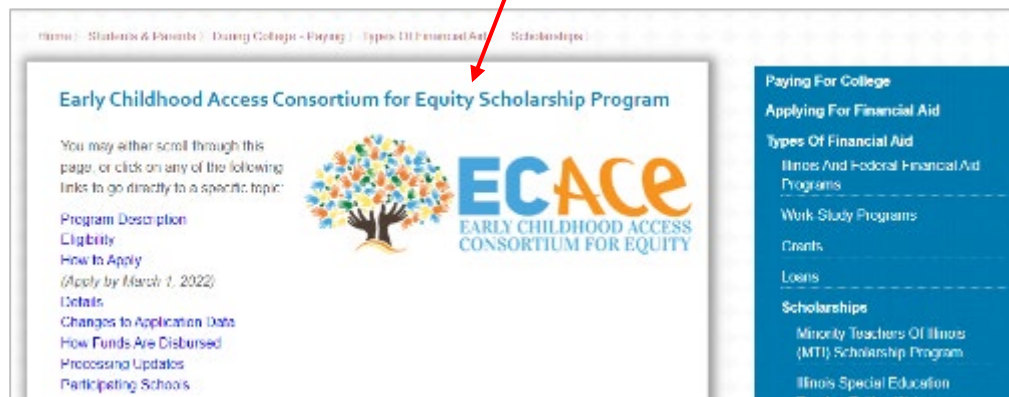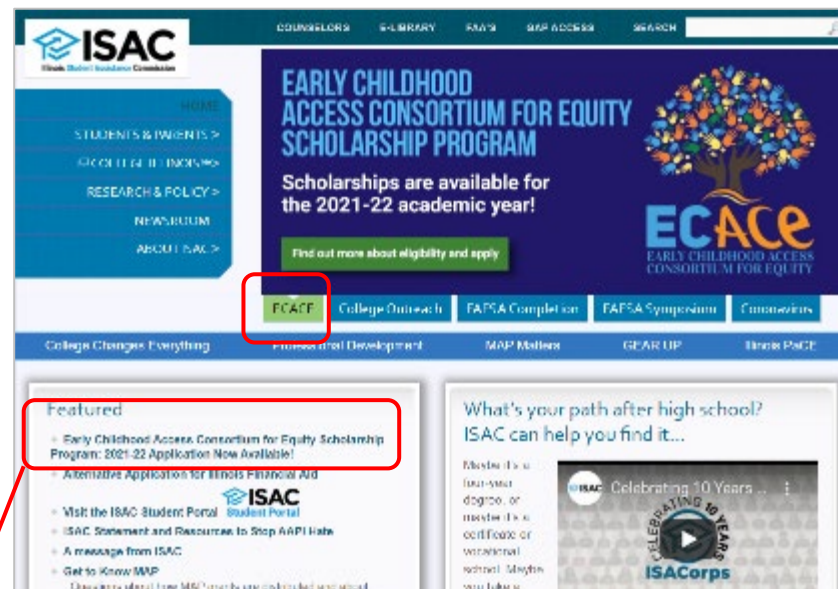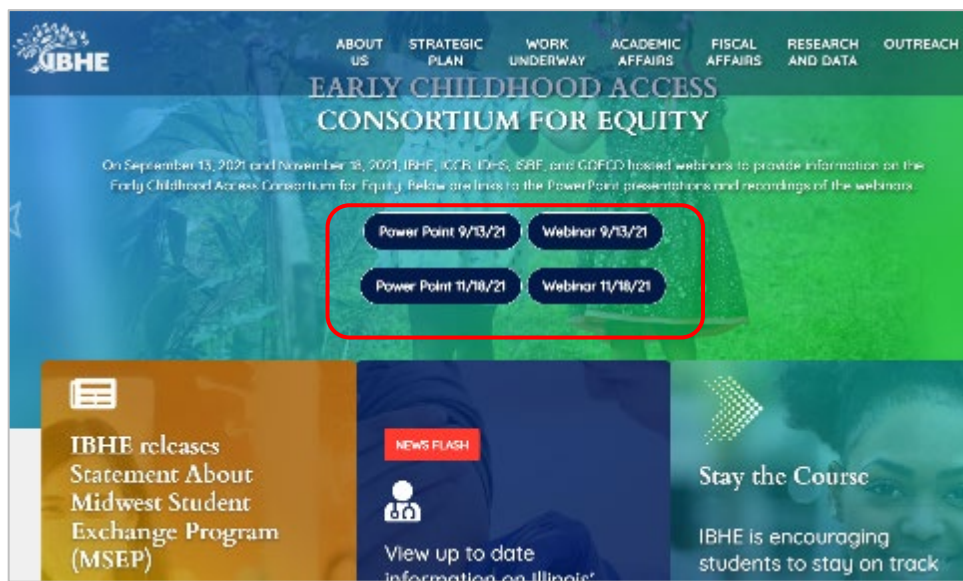
ISAC

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program

- To be eligible for the program, a student must:
  - be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on a full- or part-time (at least 3 credit hours) basis at an ECACE member institution
  - be pursuing an early childhood education major
    - Will be confirmed by the college's financial aid office
  - complete the online application process on or before an ISAC-established priority consideration date by submitting:
    - A complete Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program application, **AND**
    - A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)
      - For the same award year as the Scholarship application
  - provide documentation confirming membership in the Gateways to Opportunity® Registry and employment history in the early child care field as part of the application process

ISAC

ECACE Scholarship Program

- For more information on the Consortium, visit ibhe.org or isac.org

ECACE 2021-22 Scholarship Application Process

- Students must complete the online ECACE scholarship application
  - Available at isac.org
  - Student must create an ISAC Student Portal account to start the process
  - Application is signed and submitted electronically
  - Priority application date is March 1, 2022
- Students must complete a 2021-22 FAFSA®
  - Must include an Illinois school so that ISAC receives the student record from the FAFSA® processing system
  - To determine eligibility for the scholarship, the ECACE-participating college at which the student plans to use the award must be listed on the FAFSA
- Students must be registered with the Gateways to Opportunity Registry
  - Applicants must provide their Gateways registration ID number on the ECACE application
  - An Eligibility Verification Form confirming employment history in the early child care field obtained from the Registry must be uploaded to the ECACE scholarship as part of the application process

ISAC

Gateways to Opportunity Registry

- A Registry account can be set up at https://registry.ilgateways.com/
  - Applying online is the quickest option

- The Eligibility Verification Form can be accessed by logging in to the user's Registry Dashboard
  - Instructions on how to access the form are available on ISAC's ECACE information page in the How to Apply section
    - isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/ecace.html

- Applicants cannot proceed through the ECACE Scholarship Application without the required Gateways Registry information
  - It is recommended that applicants obtain the information before starting the scholarship application.
  - It can not be obtained through the ECACE application process
    - The ECACE application will time out after 30 minutes of inactivity and cannot be saved

ISAC

Accessing ECACE Scholarship Eligibility Verification Form

1 Go to **www.ilgateways.com**. Click the **Registry Member Login** button. Log into the Gateways Registry Dashboard with your **username** and **password**.

REGISTRY MEMBER LOGIN

Login Credentials

User Name	User Name
Password	Password

+) Login

- Don't have an online user?
- Forgot your password?
- Forgot your username?

2 Click the **My Registry** Portal. Then click the **Plan** section. Next click the **Reports** section.

MY REGISTRY	PLAN	REPORTS

3 Click the **Reports** tab. Then click **Get Report** under the ECACE Scholarship Eligibility Verification Form.

ECACE Scholarship Eligibility Verification Form

This form is required to be uploaded during the ECACE Scholarship Program application process. For more information about the scholarship, please visit the ISAC website. This report can take several seconds to run. Please be patient until it appears.

⬇ Get Report

ISAC

Sample ECACE Application Screens

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

① ——— ② ——— ③ ——— ④ ——— ⑤

Academic Year

The complete application must be submitted on or before March 1, 2022 for priority consideration.

WARNING: Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or misrepresentation on this application shall be subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

Before completing this application, be sure you have reviewed all eligibility requirements, and other information provided on our website.

Select the academic year for which you are applying

- Select -

BACK   NEXT

ISAC

Enter Personal Information

*indicates required field

*First Name

Middle Initial

*Last Name

Prior Last Name (if applicable)

*Date of Birth

IMPORTANT: Please note that your Social Security number (SSN) is needed for identification, verification and processing purposes in furtherance of your request for financial aid.

*Social Security Number

*Confirm Social Security Number

Phone Number

*Citizenship (select one)

○ U.S. Citizen

○ Federal Eligible Noncitizen 🖼

○ Not a U.S. Citizen or Eligible Noncitizen

*State of Legal Residency (select one)

[IL ▼]

If you update your e-mail address on your application, ISAC recommends that you also update the e-mail address on your Student Profile. While not required, doing so may help avoid confusion because it ensures that all communication about your application is directed to the same e-mail address.

*E-mail

*Confirm E-mail

The questions below are OPTIONAL and the answers used for research purposes only. The awarding of fina does NOT depend on whether or how you answer the questions. This information allows ISAC to continue to optimize the work it does in serving students. Your an will NOT be shared with your school or third parties.

What is your gender?

○ Male

○ Female

○ Non-binary

○ Not listed

Phone Number

*Permanent Address (line one)

Permanent Address (line two)

*City

*State

[IL ▼]

*ZIP Code

○ Not listed

What is your racial or ethnic identity? (Mark all that Apply)

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black/African American

☐ Hispanic/Latinx

☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

☐ White

☐ Prefer not to answer

BACK   NEXT

ISAC

Employer Information

*indicates required field

ALL APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

*Are you currently or were you employed in the early
childhood care and education field?

○ YES

○ NO

From: [   ]   To: [   ]

*Gateways Registry Member ID Number:

[   ]

*Gateways Registry Valid Dates:

From: [   ]   To: [   ]

*Position Code

[- Select -   ▾]

College Information

*indicates required field

*Are you or do you plan to be enrolled as an undergraduate student during the 2021-2022 academic year?

○ YES

○ NO

*I will be attending...

Same college for each term
Different college for different terms

BACK   REVIEW APPLICATION

College Information

Academic Year I am applying for

2021-2022

I will be attending...

Same college for each term

Different college for different terms

1st Semester / Quarter

SELECT A SCHOOL

2nd Semester / Quarter

SELECT A SCHOOL

3rd Quarter

SELECT A SCHOOL

Summer

SELECT A SCHOOL

BACK   NEXT

Student Certifications

Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program Certification Statement and Consent to Release of Information

By submitting this application for the Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program,
I hereby certify under penalties of perjury as provided by law:

- that I have read and understand all sections of this application;
- that I meet the program eligibility requirements itemized within the Program Eligibility Requirements section of this application;
- that I do not owe a refund on a federal or state grant and that I am not in default on any federal student loan or, if in default, I understand that I must establish satisfactory repayment arrangements;
- that if I receive the Early Childhood Education Scholarship,

  - I will continue or return to teaching in the early childhood education industry in Illinois; and,
  - I will respond to information requests from the scholarship provider or administrators regarding such employment; and,

- that to the best of my knowledge, all of the information and certifications I have provided in this application and in the required documentation are true, accurate and complete.

And, I hereby give my consent to the higher education institution in which I am enrolled or accepted for enrollment, to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and to Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) to release and share information concerning my application status, eligibility and required employment for the Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program.

I, the undersigned, complete this application and make the foregoing certifications with the understanding that any person who, by means of any false statement, willful misrepresentation, or through other fraudulent device obtains or attempts to obtain or aids or abets any person in obtaining student aid from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to which the person is not entitled, will be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor and the award obtained by such means will be recoverable in a civil action. (110 ILCS 947/120)

☑ I agree to the certification statement

SUBMIT APPLICATION

ISAC

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Awarding ECACE Scholarships

- ISAC will continue to accept applications until the announced priority consideration date for the first round of awarding
  - Both the application and the FAFSA® must be submitted by the priority date to be considered in the first round of awarding
- Applicants do not have to demonstrate financial need to receive the scholarship, however, applicants will be prioritized by EFC for awarding purposes
- After the March 1 priority date has passed, awarding will take place and eligibility information will be provided to colleges in ISAC's secure online portal − GAP Access
- Applications will continue to be accepted after March 1 and future rounds of awarding may take place

ISAC

Financial Aid Packaging

- Colleges will be able to see a list of students who have submitted a complete Scholarship application in GAP Access

- In general, ECACE will be considered last payer after all other financial aid has been applied to the student's cost of attendance

- ECACE award amounts will vary by student
  - Enrollment hours, institution type, other aid, etc. will all factor into the award amount
    - For example, a community college's cost of attendance is typically less than the cost of attendance at a four-year institution

ISAC

Disbursing Funds to the Student

- Once the awarding process has started after March 1, colleges will certify eligibility for each student in the system and submit a request for specific benefit amounts on behalf of each student
- Funds will be disbursed to the colleges and they will credit the awards to students' accounts
  - In cases where a credit balance is created, funds will be disbursed to the student by the college according to their usual financial aid processes
- ISAC will monitor the appropriation balance and additional rounds of awarding will occur if funds remain until the close of the academic year

ISAC

Reference Information

GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®
Illinois Professional Development System

Be A Member ▾ | Be A Trainer ▾ | Be A Consultant ▾ | Be An Organization ▾ | Find Training | Find Consultants | Dashboard Login

Select Language ▾

Be A Member ▾ | Be A Trainer ▾ | Be A (

Registry Membership

Renew My Membership

Professional Development Record (PDR)

PDR Training Categories

Registry FAQ

Home Visitors

Director Portal

Find Trainings

Find Trainers

https://registry.ilgateways.com/

Get Started
So you're not already a Gateways Registry member? Start here by creating an online account!

Free Training Online
The Gateways i-learning System has more than 85 trainings that Registry Members can take online for free!

Gateways Resources
Check our main website if you want more information about Gateways Credentials, Great START, or the Gateways Scholarship Program.

Online Help Center
Access our online help center for answers to common questions, step-by-step instructions, videos, and more.

Welcome to the Gateways to Opportunity Registry!

A Gateways Registry Membership offers a quick and easy way to track your training and education online, and meets Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) licensing requirements.

The Gateways to Opportunity Registry includes:

Gateways Registry Membership

Gateways Training Calendar

Professional Development Record

ISAC

⊙ Help

Be A Member ▾ | Be A Trainer ▾ | Be A Consultant ▾ | Be An Organization ▾ | Find Training | Find Consultants | Dashboard Login

Select Language ▾

You are here: Home | Be A Member | Registry Membership

Registry Membership

With a **free** Gateways Registry Membership, your education, credentials, and all Registry trainings you have attended will be tracked in the Registry database. You can access this information at any time by viewing your Professional Development Record (PDR) online through a secure section of this website.

Joining the Gateways Registry is EASY! You can either:

- Complete and submit the application online, or
- Print and mail the application

If you apply online it can take up to 2 business days (but during business hours, it is typically within 10 minutes) for your user account to be approved before you can complete your online application. Once your application is complete you have access to i-learning and your Registry Portal immediately.

If you print and mail your application, within 30 days you will receive an email with login information to the Registry portal.

From the Registry portal you can print a membership ID card and view your PDR. Check out a sample PDR.

E-Mail Address:

someone@somewhere.net

Username:

Username

Password: **Confirm Password:**

Password   Confirm Password

First Name: M.I.:   **Last Name:**

Given Name   M.I.   Family Name

Previous Last Name

Previous Family Name

Home Address:

Street Address

City: **State:**   **Zip:**   **County:**

City Name   -select-   99999   -select-

Home Phone:

(999) 999-9999

[ ] I'm not a robot
reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

🖅 Submit User Request   ✖ Cancel User Request

ISAC

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Eligibility Verification Form

- For instructions on how to access the Eligibility Verification Form on the Registry, visit the How to Apply section on ISAC's ECACE information page:
  - isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/ecace.html

How to Apply

The ECACE Scholarship Program interactive application may be accessed online via the Program Applications & Status Checks area of the ISAC Student Portal. The online application has built-in edits to prevent errors, and we will send immediate confirmation to your e-mail address that your application has been received at ISAC.

An ECACE Scholarship application must be submitted for each academic year in which benefits are to be used. Applicants are also required to complete the FAFSA for the same academic year that you are applying for the scholarship. To determine your eligibility for the scholarship, the ECACE-participating Illinois college at which you plan to use the award must be listed on your FAFSA. The FAFSA results will be used to prioritize awarding, although you do not need to demonstrate financial need to receive the award.

If you haven't filed an online FAFSA before, you will first need to create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov/fsa-id to login and use as your electronic signature. Once you access the online FAFSA, you will be asked to choose the school year for which you will be completing the FAFSA. This will need to be the *same year* as the ECACE application you are submitting. For example, if you are filling out an ECACE application for the 2021-22 school year, you must also complete the 2021-22 FAFSA.

Both the ECACE application and the FAFSA must be completed and submitted on or before the priority consideration date. The priority consideration date is announced each year when the application is made available. The priority consideration date for the 2021-22 application is March 1, 2022. Applications received after that date will be given consideration if funding remains available after all timely, qualified applicants have been awarded.

On the ECACE application, you will be asked to list the college you plan to attend. If you are undecided, list your first choice; if necessary, the college of record can be changed after your application has been submitted.

The application process requires proof of employment as part of the incumbent workforce. Incumbent workforce is defined as having worked in the early childhood industry (in either a licensed or license-exempt facility), including family child care and center-based care settings, Preschool for All school-based settings, and Head Start, that serves children from birth to age 5 and includes teachers, assistant teachers, directors, family child care providers and assistants.

An Eligibility Verification Form from the Gateways Registry must be downloaded and/or printed and then uploaded when completing the application. You will not be allowed to proceed through the application without uploading the required documentation, so it is recommended to obtain and print your verification form before starting the online application. Registry members will enter through the Dashboard Login to access the form. Follow these instructions to access your Eligibility Verification Form. If you're not already a member, you can complete your registration on the site and then obtain your verification form. The Eligibility Verification Form contains members' employment history, with assigned position codes. For award consideration, at least one of the position codes must be an eligible code*.

*Eligible position codes – **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23**

Accessing ECACE Scholarship Eligibility Verification Form

1 Go to **www.ilgateways.com**. Click the **Registry Member Login** button. Log into the Gateways Registry Dashboard with your **username** and **password**.

Login Credentials

User Name   [User Name]

Password   [Password]

+❙ Login

- Don't have an online user?
- Forgot your password?
- Forgot your username?

REGISTRY MEMBER LOGIN

2 Click the **My Registry** Portal. Then click the **Plan** section. Next click the **Reports** section.

MY REGISTRY   **PLAN**   **REPORTS**

3 Click the **Reports** tab. Then click **Get Report** under the ECACE Scholarship Eligibility Verification Form.

ECACE Scholarship Eligibility Verification Form

This form is required to be uploaded during the ECACE Scholarship Program application process. For more information about the scholarship, please visit the ISAC website. This report can take several seconds to run. Please be patient until it appears.

⬇ Get Report

⮢ISAC

EC Workforce: State and Federal Context

Build Back Better & EC Transformation
What it means for Higher Education in Illinois
December 8, 2021

Governor Pritzker's Goal:

Make Illinois the best state in which to raise a young family, with the nation's best early childhood system

Our Transformation Priority:

Provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for all children birth to age five in Illinois

Early Childhood Transformation Team
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The EC Transformation Team is focused on

Governance

- Establishing regional Early Childhood Planning Councils that will inform state resource distribution
- Recommending potential changes in state-level governance

Funding Mechanisms

- New contract structures that combine Preschool for All/Prevention Initiative with Child Care Assistance
- New Child Care contracts
- Potential changes to how Preschool for All funding is distributed
- Child Care Covid relief funding design
- New federal funding streams—designing Illinois' approach to distributing funding

The EC Funding Commission was charged with recommending improvements to early childhood education and care services

"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."

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The Commission's Guiding Principles were built on a set of values

| High quality | Equity | Bold change | Build on past success |

| Family choice | Stability and sustainability | Accountability | Implementation realities |

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Commission Findings

The Commission did a deep review of our current early childhood system and found the system to be overly complex and substantially under-funded. In particular, they noted that:

- Illinois' underspending on ECEC burdens everyone

- Having three agencies share governance of ECEC has resulted in confusion and makes designing for equity difficult

- Our mechanisms for funding programs haven't been driving the equitable access we seek

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These challenges limit system-level strategic design and accountability

Lack of comprehensive data hinders strategic decision making

Opaqueness across funding streams limits ability to design smart funding initiatives

Systemic transparency challenges impede the design of a data-driven, equitable, accountable system

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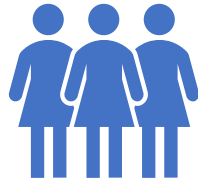*In partnership with the Office of the Governor*

We can reshape our system to provide equitable access to quality ECEC

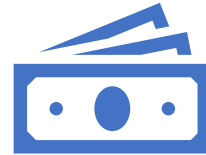Driving more equitable access to quality ECEC will require:

1. More ***equitably distributing funding*** to those that need it most

2. Lowering ***burden on providers*** to access and use funding

3. Building ***capacity to serve our children*** across the state

4. Simplifying our ***governance and management*** structures to build accountability and enable integrated support for ECEC

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Much greater investment will be needed to create a *high quality, equitable* experience for children and families that includes...

More staff per children in classrooms; especially for children from households under 200% FPL
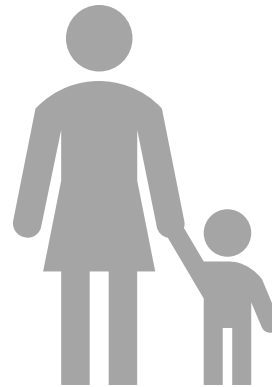
Appropriately paid staff

Consultative services and family engagement

Supports for special education needs & multilingual learners at their location

Smaller group/class sizes than today; especially for children from households under 200% FPL

Supportive infrastructure and administration

Choice of full-day, school-day, part-day care

Availability at the location of family choice

Mental health supports

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Build Back Better accelerates our shared work

Many of the requirements of the B5 Child Care and Early Learning Entitlement Act (in its current draft form) reflect the recommendations made by the Commission, requiring:

✓ Eligibility for most children for child care and all children for preschool,

✓ Quality standards, and supports for providers to meet these standards,

✓ Mixed delivery system that includes schools, child care centers, Head Start and licensed child care homes,

✓ Robust infrastructure, including aligned data systems, scholarships for staff, and resources to help families navigate the system,

✓ Requirements for staff to receive appropriate compensation, similar to K-12 staff with similar qualifications,

✓ Stable, contract-based funding,

✓ Funding for programs based on cost estimation models rather than market rates, to ensure adequate resources, and

✓ Tight coordination across funding streams to maximize federal funding drawdown and ensure equitable funding.

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The Child Care provision in BBB will:

Dramatically reduce child care costs for most families	Increase rates paid to providers	Drive increased compensation for EC professionals	Increase quality
• In 2025, over 90% of Illinois families with children under six will be income-eligible for subsidized care • Co-payments will not exceed 7% of family income	• Costs must be set using cost estimation models, rather than market rates • Payment rates will be tied to tiered quality standards	• BBB will allow the state to implement strategies to ensure that child care staff are given <u>much</u> better wages and benefits	• The State must provide access to high quality (with staff qualifications at least as rigorous as Early/Head Start) for all children by 2027 • We will need MANY more teachers with degrees and credentials!!

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The Universal Preschool provisions in BBB will:

Expand preschool availability across Illinois for all 3 & 4 yr olds

- Eligibility will be based only on the child's age
- Programs will be full-school-day
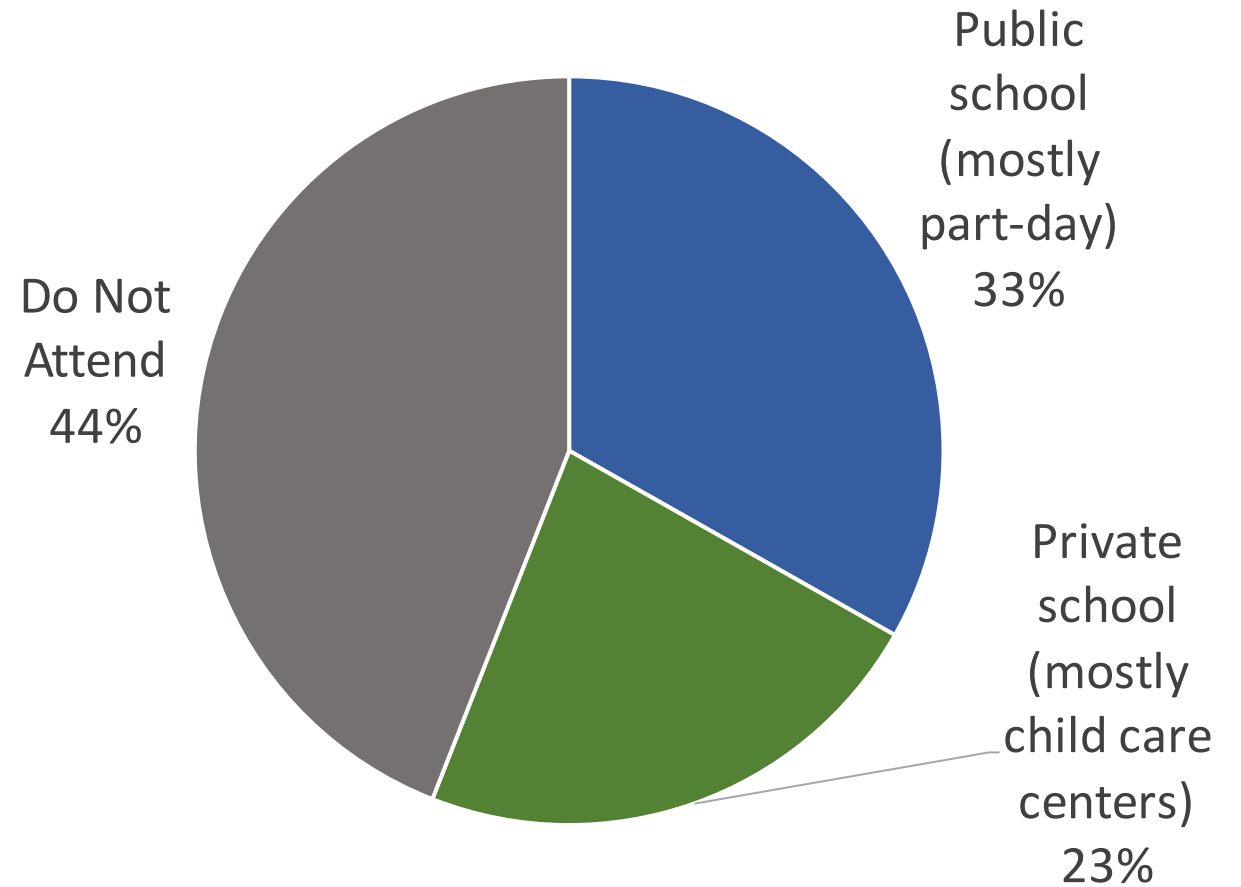
Maintain a commitment to quality

- The state must set high quality standards, including well-qualified staff

Ensure expansion in both schools and community-based programs

- BBB requires a "mixed-delivery" system, including child care centers and family child care

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While Illinois has one of the highest overall rates of preschool enrollment for 3 and 4-year-olds nationally, we will need to grow capacity significantly—both in schools and in community-based settings—to achieve universal access.

Current 3 and 4 Year Old Children "Nursery School" Attendance in IL

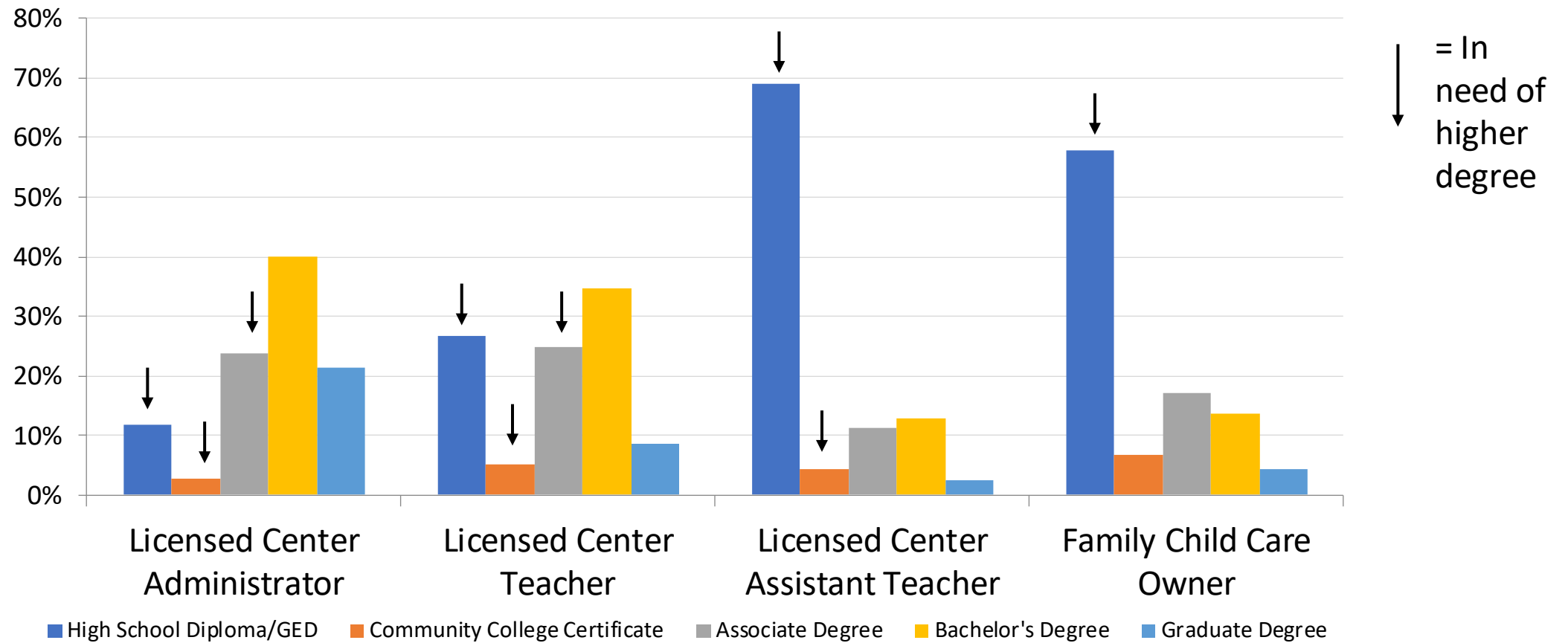Public school (mostly part-day) 33%

Do Not Attend 44%

Private school (mostly child care centers) 23%

Source: American Community Survey, 2019

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Implementing BBB will create thousands of well-paying jobs for teachers, aides, family child care providers, and child care center directors across the state

The majority of the early childhood workforce is in need of upskilling to meet the educational needs of children

Source: IBHE analysis, May 2021

The Consortium's must move quickly to strengthen degree pathways and support the incumbent workforce to attain credentials

Thank you

For questions and comments:

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Updates on Consortium Related Work

- Navigators

- Advisory Committee

- Institution Grants

- Outreach and Enrollment

- Regional Hubs

Updates on Consortium Related Work

- Questions, comments?

Next Steps and Next Meetings

Reminders:

- Send names for CDA for Credit, Seamless AAS Transfer, and Guiding Principles Working Groups (12/13) – if possible. We are getting things started.

  - We will send a reminder after this meeting

- **Homework**: Convene your team and send feedback on the Guiding Principles to Chadwick@ibhe.org

Future Meetings

 - TENTATIVE – January 25th

 Bi-monthly thereafter (March, May, July)

Public Comment

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