



**ECACE**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS  
CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY

**August 10, 2022**



**Illinois  
State Board of  
Education**



**Governor's Office of  
Early Childhood Development**





## Agenda

1. Welcome and Housekeeping
2. Employer Spotlight
3. Update and Discussion on the Child Development Associate (CDA)
4. Supporting EC Workforce to Access and Enroll: Experiences of Students, Navigators, and Institutions
5. ECACE Updates
6. Meeting Minutes: Review and Approve
7. Public Comment
8. Next Steps

## Ground Rules/Norms

We recognize both the value of collaborative and systems change work and the difficulty in engaging in this work. As such, we agree to operate per the ground rules below.

- Keep the early childhood workforce and young children and families at the center.
- Listen fully and thoughtfully.
- Commit to candid discussions of diverse ideas in an atmosphere of mutual respect.
- Suspend predetermined positions to allow the collective intelligence to emerge.
- Monitor your personal technology.
- Share your voice; yet monitor your airtime.
- Be solutions oriented.
- Make effort to reach consensus.
- Respect requests for confidentiality – both implicitly and explicitly stated.

# New Member Introduction: Leslie McKinily, CPS Employer Spotlight: Jill Andrews, Kiddie College

# Higher Education Credit for the Child Development Associates (CDA)

# Credit for the CDA

Consortium charged with determining how to **assign college credit** for the National CDA (current and future)

## What is the CDA?

- An assessment of competencies through a portfolio, a standardized test, and 4-hour observation + 120 clock hours of training +480 hours of experience
- A national credential, awarded by the Council for Profession Recognition
- An assessment of a foundational level of competency to work with young children
- In Illinois, with a CDA, someone can serve as a lead teacher, and be alone with children





# FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

## In Brief

- Meaningful credit that can be applied to the next certificate and AAS
- Students do not have to “re-prove” themselves for the competencies they have; institutions recognize and provide credit for this
- The process is transparent to the student
- Standard range or number of credits
- Timely and affordable



# Framework

- 6 credit hours in “early childhood”
- Not contingent on other factors
- A few exceptions, like when students have an AAS or BA already
- Implementation:
  - Preschool CDA – no later than January 31, 2023
  - Infant Toddler CDA – no later than January 31, 2024
  - Some institutions have indicated they will implement both by January 2023.



## Questions

- How can you help get the word out about higher education credit for the CDA?
- How else would you recommend sharing this information?

# Mural: Similar to Jamboard

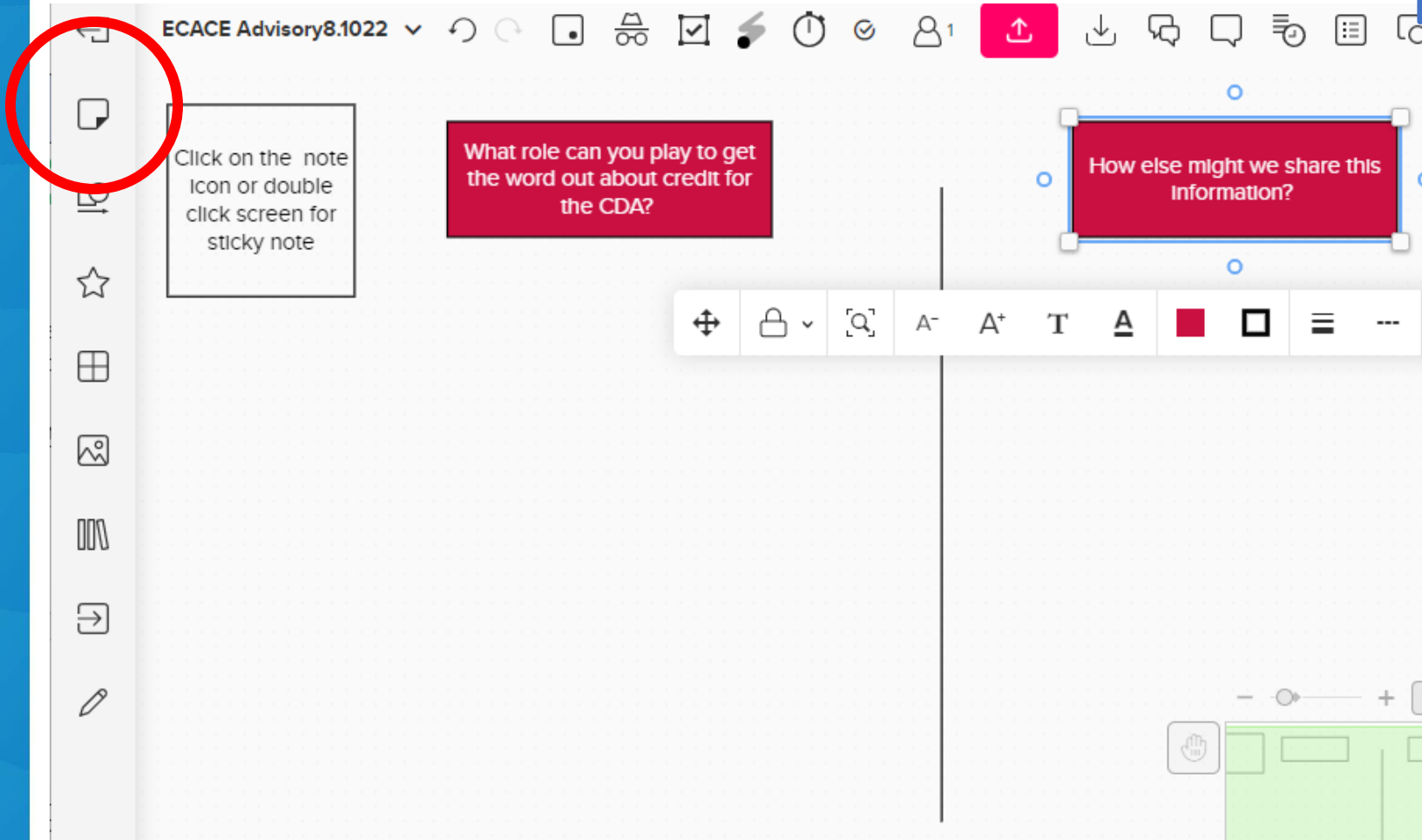
1. Go to the website

<https://tinyurl.com/49w45m9r>

2. Either sign in or Click Join as a Visitor at the Bottom

3. Click on the text box on the left side or double click the white area

4. Create a sticky and enter your response



DCFS has contact information on all providers & could share the information

What role can you play to get the word out about credit for the CDA?

Contact Regional Director Associations - i.e. SIECAT (southern IL providers)

Where might we share this information?

Community College advisors

Contact SEIU and Child Care Advocates United

Notify district staff of this opportunity through website

Contact new Birth to Five Regional Managers to share the information in their areas

Promote through college and university marketing channels including digital media

Use technology to geofence child care providers to reach employees at child care centers

promote to our 60 staff. Also, communicate to community groups I am affiliated with

Colleges need a landing pad- to inform and find folks with the CDA

High School guidance counselors at schools that have the ECE Level 1 program

Mention at all ECE conferences in Illinois

Share this information on the ISAC scholarship page

Navigators should tell students, especially those who are just beginning a degree

Employer notification is key

notify CDA specialists within the area

Notify employers.

As a PD specialist I can inform those who are finalizing thier CDA. As an employer I can connect my employees to my local community college.

I will work with my advisory team to make them aware to take back to their centers

Ensure that information is shared in multiple languages



Notify Directors  
Gateway Registry

Public libraries - these continue to be an excellent community resource for families and educators

Post on Resource & Referral Agency Facebook pages

Post on the Illinois Child Care in Crisis page

Early Childhood Action networks - there are many groups on Facebook made of up teachers and staff

Share with chambers of commerce

Does GOECD have a website? Newsletter?

Add to the existing scholarship page

Share through CEL scholarship website

Info can be shared through Child Care Advocates United

Play a role by updating other state advocates and providers in different settings.

DCFS MAILING

Add to e-newsletter, promote on social handles, include in community events and site visits to EC sites.

IAFC mailing

I will play a major role with my university and partners. I will take some responsibility in sending emails to local schools and community-based organizations, hosting information sessions, and including it in our orientation to Early Childhood majors  
In addition, I will add the information to our website as well as meet with individual departments to inform them about CDA and how to apply the credits

Utilize navigators and mentors

CDA Council Email

social media

social media - yes - concerted sharing of information via all linkages/entities on as many platforms as possible

Governor's office send out another press release

Get more navigators to provide this information.

## Post-Mural: Summary of Ideas

Q: How can you help get the word out about higher education credit for the CDA?

Employer notification  
is key

Provide info  
in multiple  
languages

Promote to  
our staff and  
community groups

Play a role by updating  
other state advocates

I will take responsibility  
in sending emails to local  
schools and add info to  
our website

## Post-Mural: Summary of Ideas

- How else would you recommend sharing this information?

High school guidance  
counselors that have ECE  
Level 1 programs

Public libraries,  
Chambers of Commerce

ISAC Scholarship page

Social media platforms  
& Facebook groups

Governor's office  
press release

# From the Field: What's working & Challenges

## What's Working

- Building a relationship w/programs and mentors
- Contacting students in multiple ways
- Word of mouth
- Alleviate pressure on the director and “do the work” for them
- Support the student through enrollment and handoff
- Come at naptime with laptops (if there is classroom coverage)
- Email blast from INCCRRA
- Finding those excited directors and staff—they are out there!

## Challenges

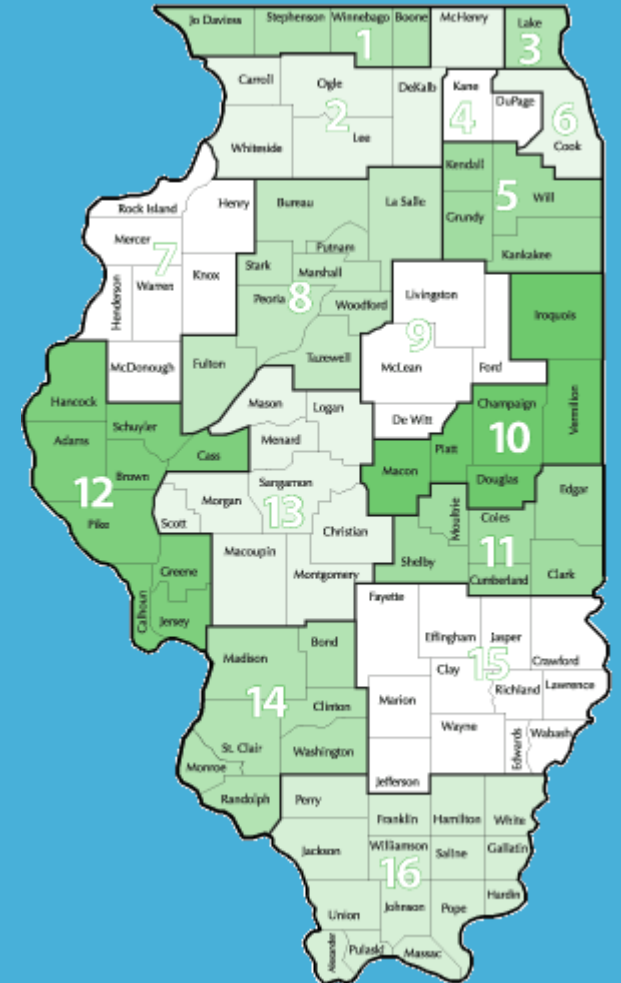
- Programs are struggling to keep classrooms open, and for directors it may be challenging to find time to engage staff around upskilling
- Directors concerned staff may leave the program after upskilling
- Directors may not know the navigators – yet.
- Workforce is tired – challenging work + pandemic – and may not be able to consider going to school
- Short-term nature of this scholarship

- DISCUSSION

# Navigators

**Goal:** 32 regionally-based navigators at 16 CCRRs

- Backgrounds in higher education, early childhood, community organizations, former ISAC Corps
- Role: To provide personalized assistance to students to access higher education and provide a warm handoff to institutions
- Example supports:
  - Scholarship and FAFSA applications
  - Finding and applying to an institution
  - Attaining transcripts
- **To Access a Navigator:** [tinyurl.com/4b4em9zw](https://tinyurl.com/4b4em9zw)





## ECACE Scholarship

To apply or for more information  
<https://www.isac.org/ECACEscholarship>

**Funding:** Includes tuition & fees\*, and funding for up to the full cost of attendance (room and board, transportation, etc.)

**Undergraduate** (prioritized attaining Gateways Credentials, Associate and/or Bachelor's Degree) at a Consortium Institution

**Work Setting:** Must work or have worked w/children birth to five in child care, preschool, family child care, Head Start, Preschool for All, etc. (Eligible on day 1)

**Eligible Positions:** Teachers, assistants, aides, floaters (if w/0-5), and others (see ISAC website for full list); Positions must be documented in **Gateways** Registry

**AY2022 (Fall 21 – Summer 22)** ~1000 applications, ~500 scholarship students

**AY2023 (Fall 22 – Summer 23)** – Open since June and already >1000 applications



\*Tuition capped at highest tuition at a public institution.





# Institutions

Colleges and universities deeply engaged in Consortium Work

- Mentors as a “guide on the side” to support students to enroll, persist, complete
- Program/curriculum redesign, online course development
- Supports for student success (e.g., tutoring, content test support)
- Funding for the release of financial holds

## Next Meeting

- November 10, 1:00 pm