

Early Childhood Governance Working Group

Scope of Work

December 2018

Overview

On November 2, 2018, Illinois submitted its application for the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five. This submission presents a prime opportunity for us to revisit the way in which our state agencies and public and private partners currently provide early childhood care and education services to more than 940,000 of Illinois' youngest learners. As such, the Office of the Governor has convened an Early Childhood Governance Working Group to study and develop recommendations on best practice-based models of early childhood care and education governance. These recommendations will ultimately be used to inform potential reorganization of Illinois' early childhood services and programs. The Working Group has been asked to submit an outline of its planned work by December 31, 2018.

Working Group Charge

Purpose

To study and develop recommendations on best practice-based models of early childhood care and education governance to inform potential future reorganization of Illinois' early childhood services programs.

Deliverables

By December 31, 2018, an outline of planned work that includes but is not limited to a meeting schedule, research plan, and list of external stakeholders to be consulted. By July 1, 2019, a final report containing options and recommendations for a governance entity. Both deliverables are to be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly.

Scope

The Working Group will:

1. Review Illinois fiscal and governance data and state and national reports on topics including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Administration of state-funded preschool
 - b. Administration of services funded through the federal Child Care Development Block Grant
 - c. State collaboration with services funded by the federal head Start Act
 - d. Administration of home visiting services
 - e. Licensure and regulation of early childhood care and education services
 - f. Research initiatives and performance measurement of early childhood development governing entities
 - g. Policymaking and systems development authorities
2. Identify governance models that would be most applicable to the context, opportunities, and constraints of the Illinois climate and administrative systems. Such a model would:
 - a. Lead efforts to ensure cross-system collaboration and alignment across agencies and policies, including inclusion in any work to develop program policies, budgets, funding

- opportunities and state plans that intersect with or across core early childhood programs.
- b. Set a framework of common outcomes and accountability measures around which all programs and services, regardless of administering agency, are organized and annually measure progress towards those outcomes.
 - c. Gather data on both the reach of early childhood services and the need of children and families; in partnership with other agencies as appropriate, use this data to better align state resources.
 - d. Manage funding and policies for early childhood components that transcend more than one agency including community systems development, professional development, monitoring, early childhood mental health consultation, and inclusion support.
 - e. Regularly convene stakeholders to get input on state approaches.
 - f. Emphasize the importance of and facilitate the inclusion of family voice in state decision-making.
 - g. Regularly seek to support innovations and serve as the disseminator of the information gained from these innovations.
3. Construct comprehensive implementation proposals for pursuing the recommended governance entity models

Working Group Structure

Membership

- Senior Advisor, Governor's Office (Chair)
- Director, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
- Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services
- Director, Illinois Department of Public Health
- Superintendent, Illinois State Board of Education
- Executive Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development
- Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- Early Learning Council (two members)
- Illinois House of Representatives Democratic Caucus (one member)
- Illinois House of Representatives Republican Caucus (one member)
- Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus (one member)
- Illinois Senate Republican Caucus (one member)

Staff support will be provided by the Education Office within the Governor's Office

Meeting Schedule

The working group will first meet in December 2018 by phone to discuss and affirm the scope of work. Afterwards, the working group will meet regularly to execute the research plan below. Ideally the working group will receive substantial staffing support from the Governor's Office so that meetings will only need to take place monthly, however additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Research Plan

Months 1-2: Research and Planning

- **Stakeholder Engagement**

- Develop a plan for initial and ongoing stakeholder engagement.
- Validate below research through stakeholder engagement.
- **Review and Synthesis of Data and Analysis**
 - Gather available data to describe Illinois' early childhood funding streams, policy levers, administrative and fiscal structures, and access barriers.
 - Review and synthesize analysis of Illinois' and other states' models of governance, completed by Illinois state agencies, and state or national partners for:
 - Administration of state-funded preschool
 - Administration of services funded through the federal Child Care Development Block Grant
 - State collaboration with services funded by the federal head Start Act
 - Administration of home visiting services
 - Licensure and regulation of early childhood care and education services
 - Research initiatives and performance measurement of early childhood development governing entities
 - Policymaking and systems development authorities
- **Planning and Context**
 - Identify Illinois' goals for the planning and administration of primary early childhood programs and funding streams, relating to the improvement of coordination and collaboration among programs, the improvement of service delivery for children and families in existing programs, and an increase in participation in high-quality early childhood services across the system.
 - Identify Illinois' contextual features that will be used to shape design of an effective structure in month four, to include values, principles, opportunities, and constraints of the Illinois climate and administrative systems.

Month 3-4: Design

- Using Illinois' goals and contextual features to guide decision making, design an effective structure of state planning and administration of primary early childhood programs and funding streams to achieve previously identified goals. This will include brainstorming, prototyping, and identification and testing of assumptions.
- Seek input and feedback on draft structure from stakeholders.

Month 5: Implementation Strategy

- Develop implementation plan to pursue the recommended governance entity structure, including the parties responsible for implementation and progress monitoring.
- Seek input and feedback on draft implementation plan from stakeholders, including discussion of unintended consequences and equity.

Month 6: Finalize

- Complete report and submit to Governor and General Assembly.

Stakeholder Input

This working group will seek stakeholder input from the following sources:

- Family and community organizations

- Early childhood education providers and provider organizations
- Early childhood educators and educator organizations
- Institutions of higher education, educator preparation providers, and organizations of early childhood teacher educators
- Early Head Start and Head Start grantees and the Illinois Head Start Association
- Schools and school districts
- Immigrant and immigrant community organizations
- Child welfare advocates
- Early childhood special education service providers, advocates, and organizations
- Home visiting service providers
- Infant and early childhood mental health service providers and the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership
- Researchers of the above topics
- Early Learning Council members