



PARENTS & CAREGIVERS COLLABORATE WITH US

TO CO-CREATE A BETTER EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE FOR ALL ILLINOIS FAMILIES

To address the longstanding challenges parents and providers face, the State of Illinois is consolidating services, supports and responsibilities from three separate departments into one new agency: IDEC. This project will be conducted in two phases.

PHASE 1

Understanding the **parent and caregiver journey** in accessing early childhood services.

PHASE 2

Understanding the **provider journey** in providing early childhood services to families.

JOIN US (VIRTUALLY)



SCAN THE QR CODE TO COMPLETE
THE INTEREST FORM

REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL
JUNE 15, 2025.

We are looking for parents or caregivers (e.g., aunts, uncles, grandparents, chosen family) who are caring for children aged birth to 5 and have sought out early childhood services in Illinois in the past 2-3 years. This includes services like home visiting, daycare centers, home-based care, school-based programs, or early intervention. If you faced challenges during this process, we invite you to guide our project by sharing your lived experience.

All parents or caregivers who fit the above categories are invited to fill out the interest form. **Black, mixed-race, immigrant, multilingual, and culturally diverse families** are especially encouraged to participate.

Virtual Design Training included.

PROJECT GOALS

ChiByDesign will conduct virtual interviews and one workshop in each phase to achieve the project goals.

- 1 Bring together a diverse group of parents, caregivers, and providers to understand their experiences with early childhood services.
- 2 Co-design approaches that reshape service delivery for families and providers by early childhood services.

If you have questions, please reach out to Kendell:

kendell@chibydesign.com

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Project Timeline

The project is 15 months, ending August 2026. To ensure a holistic approach, it is divided in two phases.

PHASE ONE (2025)

**APRIL -
DECEMBER**

PHASE TWO (2026)

**JANUARY -
AUGUST**



Time Commitment

Exact meeting slots for projects will be determined based on co-design collaborator* availability.

10

hours per week

60

weeks



Participation

All project meetings and activities will be conducted virtually, with the exception of two in-person design workshops. (Pending exact location)

90%

Virtual

10%

In-Person



Stipend

Only for parents and caregivers.

\$30/hr

10 hours per week

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

How many co-design collaborators will join the design process?

We are looking to onboard **three parents/caregivers and three state liaisons** as co-design collaborators* on the project with the ChiByDesign team.

* A co-design collaborator is a contributor to the team and process through firsthand lived experience and knowledge.

Am I required to have any prior design experience? How will I be equipped to be a part of the design process?

No design experience needed. Your lived experience is what matters most. We value your unique perspective and insight as a parent or caregiver.

To support your role, ChiByDesign will provide **virtual trainings** over the course of one month to help build confidence and skills in design.

Do I need to be on the project for all of 15 months?

Ideally, yes—we hope our co-design collaborators can stay involved throughout the entire project. Your ongoing participation strengthens the impact of the work we do together.

If circumstances change and you can't continue after phase 1, please inform us during your sign-up process.

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