

**Access Committee – All Families Served
January 2021**

**Recommendation on the Addition of
Children who are Impacted by Parental Involvement in the Criminal Justice System
to the Illinois Priority Populations List**

Proposal

Nationwide, and in Illinois, increasingly high rates of incarceration—and the disproportionate mass incarceration of Black (African and Black immigrants from other nations, as well as American Descendants of Slavery)¹, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and women— significantly impact communities, families, and the children of incarcerated parents. Even as national and statewide awareness of the impact of parental incarceration on young children grows, additional attention and resourcing are needed to ensure that systems, including early childhood care and education systems, take into account how children are affected by their parents' involvement and to find ways to address their needs.

A joint recommendation by Start Early and the Erikson Institute to the All Families Served Subcommittee, Access Committee asks that the following definition be adopted and recommended to the Early Learning Council to include children who are impacted by parental involvement in the criminal justice system in the list of Illinois priority populations.²

Proposed Definition

Children who are impacted by parental involvement in the criminal justice system: A child meets this criterion if a parent or legal guardian of the child is currently incarcerated in a jail, prison, or immigrant detention center for a sustained or repeated period of time, has been released from a correctional facility within the last year after a sustained or repeated period of time, or is at home on electronic monitoring, or is on mandatory supervision (parole or probation).

¹ From ADOS 101 “ADOS—which stands for American Descendants of Slavery—seeks to reclaim/restore the critical national character of the African American identity and experience, one grounded in our group’s unique lineage, and which is central to our continuing struggle for social and economic justice in the United States.” See <https://ados101.com/about-ados>

² All Families Served Subcommittee: [Recommendation on Priority Populations](#) - Approved February 4, 2019