



# **Preschool Development Grant, Birth to Five Renewal Grant, 2024**

Grant Overview and Planning Conversation

05-31-2024

# Welcome!

Here are our virtual meeting protocols for today:

- **We are recording today's presentation** and will post on the GOECD website
- **Mute self** when not speaking
- Use **the Chat feature** for questions or comments
- If you are experiencing an unstable connection - **switch to phone call or close other applications**

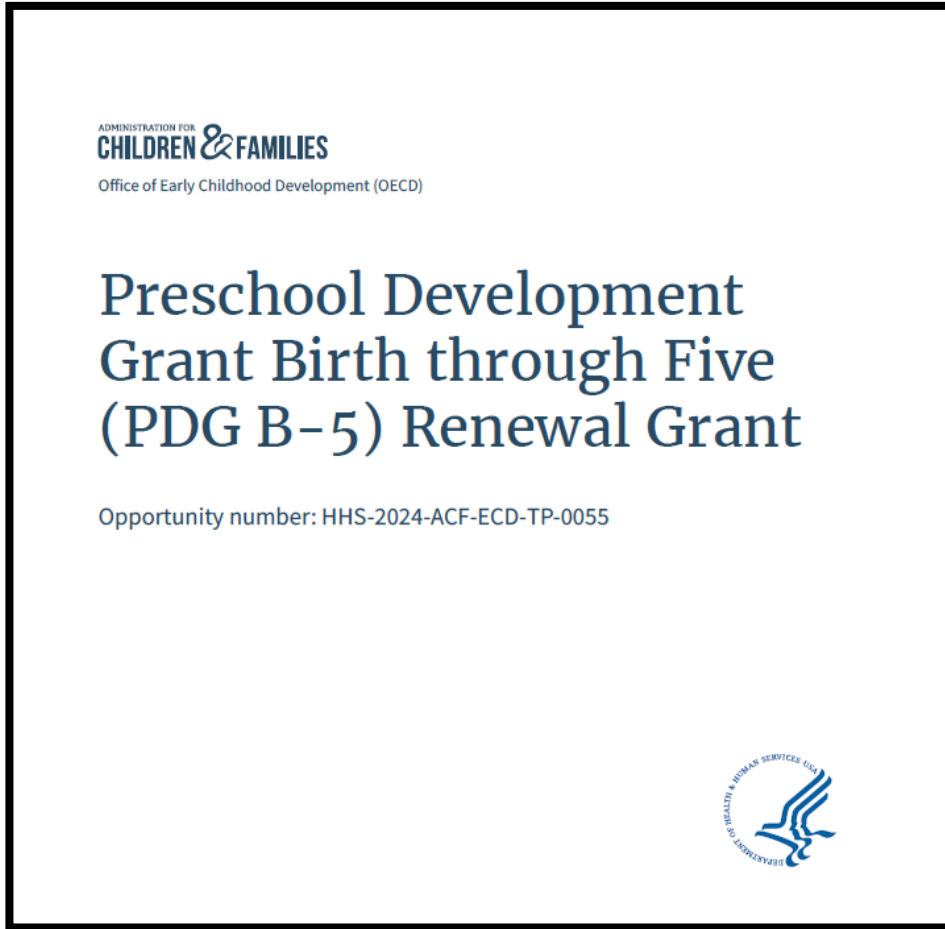
**Materials will be posted** on the GOECD website, under events, on the calendar, under the date of the meeting.



# Today's Agenda

- 1) Provide an overview of Preschool Development Grant B-5 Renewal opportunity, parameters, process, and timeline
- 2) Share Guiding Principles and Questions we will use to inform projects and activities in our application
- 3) Discuss how organizations and individuals may suggest projects for the state to consider to include in the application

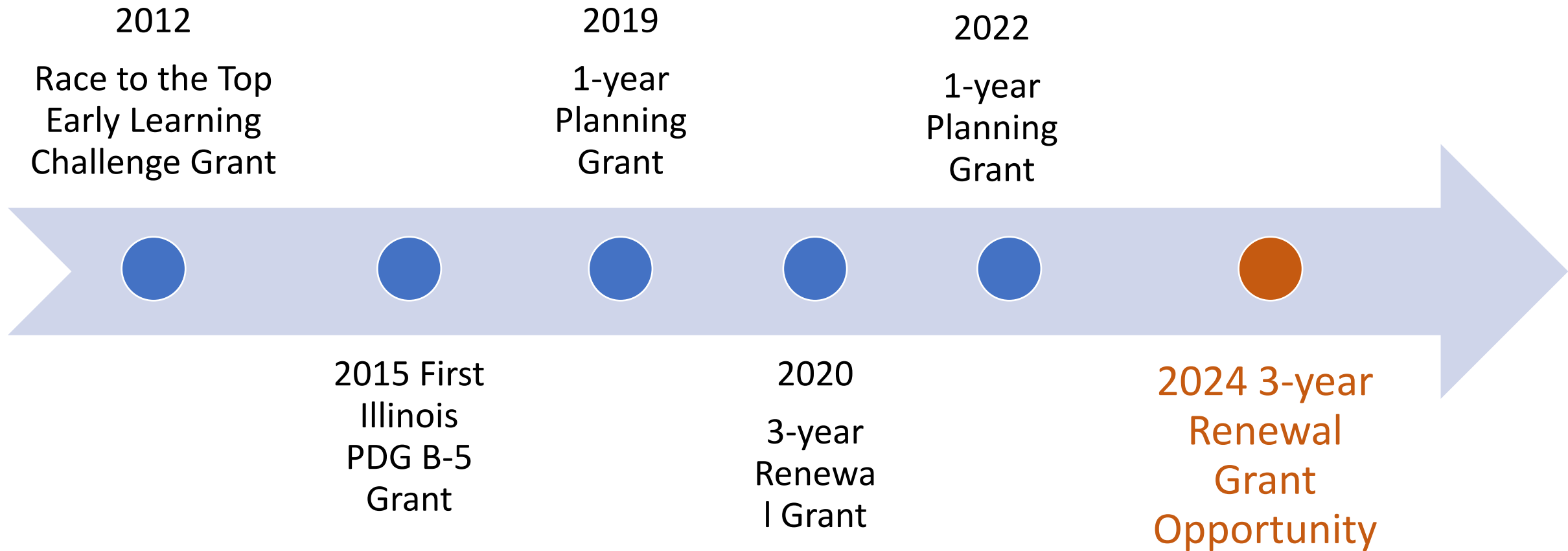
# Program Purpose



## The PDG B-5 Grant:

- Aims to strengthen existing ECE programs in a mixed delivery system across the state and give children access to high-quality early childhood care and education from birth through kindergarten.
- Focuses on the programs and systems that prepare and support underserved children to enter kindergarten.
- Allows states to build to their Planning grant efforts by investing in the early childhood workforce and expanding access to high-quality ECE programs through a mixed delivery system to address ongoing needs in preparing children to enter kindergarten.
- Allows state to make sure that underserved children and their families—including those in high-poverty and rural communities—can access ECE services and support.

# History of Federal EC Grants in Illinois



# 2024 PDG B-5: Three Year Renewal Grant

Illinois has a long history of work to support a strong workforce and mixed delivery system.

The PDG B-5 Renewal Grant provides Illinois an opportunity to:

- **Build on successful early childhood work in the State** (Funding Commission, PDG B-5 Planning Grant, Transition Work, Smart Start, Regional Infrastructure)
- **Innovate, pilot, and research** ideas that otherwise would be challenging

## Funding:

- Federal (ACF), competitive, available to 25 states; anticipate 10 awards

## Timeline:

- Three Years (9/30/24 -9/30/27)

## Maximum Award:

- IL is eligible for up to **\$27m** over three years (\$9M/year)

**Application Due Date:** July 31, 2024

# Grant Structure

*Applicants must:*

- Propose projects in 5 required Activity areas
- Consider 1 Optional and 2 Bonus activities

*Must also make efforts to:*

- **Prior Work:** Consider and/or build on lessons learned
- **Funding:** Leverage additional funding to increase impact
- **Data:** Link data across early learning and health systems
- **Performance:** Include a plan for evaluating performance
- **Systems:** Include information about how Illinois will use the grant to strengthen the early childhood system

# Federal Priorities

- 1. Maximize family participation and engagement in the state's mixed delivery system**
  - Ensure meaningful participation of parents and stakeholders
  - Increase access through application and enrollment systems
  - Increase access for infants/toddlers and reach “underserved” children
    - Including children living in rural areas, families with low incomes, in the child welfare system, experiencing homeless, multi-lingual, special needs, and more
- 2. Workforce (**compensation**, pathways, mental health & well being; diversity, support to use inclusive and culturally and linguistically responsive practices)**
- 3. Program quality and alignment**
  - Integrated B-5 ECE system
  - Suspensions, expulsions, and other exclusionary practices
  - Transitions (Infant/Toddler to Preschool to K)
  - **Mental health and well being**
  - ECE program sustainability

Those in **orange** are bonus activities.



# Activities

Needs Assessment  
• (At least every 5 years)

Strategic Plan  
• (At least every 5 years)

Required

Maximize Family Participation

B-5 Workforce

Program Quality and Alignment

Optional, but can earn points

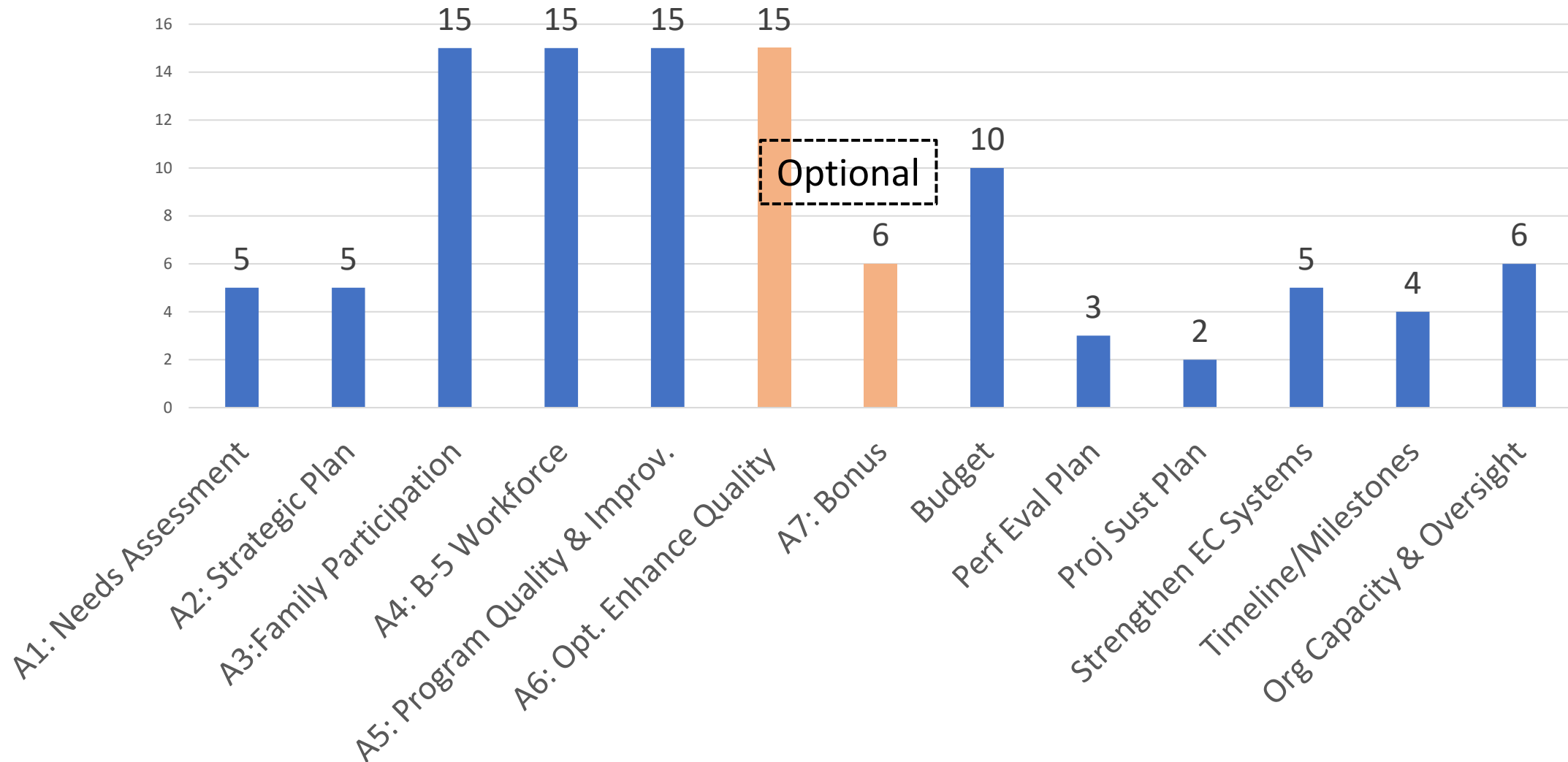
Optional:  
Subaward to Enhance Quality  
(test, pilot, improve)

Bonus Activities:  
Workforce Compensation  
Social Emotional and Mental Health (children's)

These activities **should not** overlap with other activities that you are proposing in response to activities 1-6.

# Scoring: Possible Points

106 Possible Points, Including Optional and Bonus



# Federal Resources

The Administration for Children and Families has/is providing resources to support states' applications

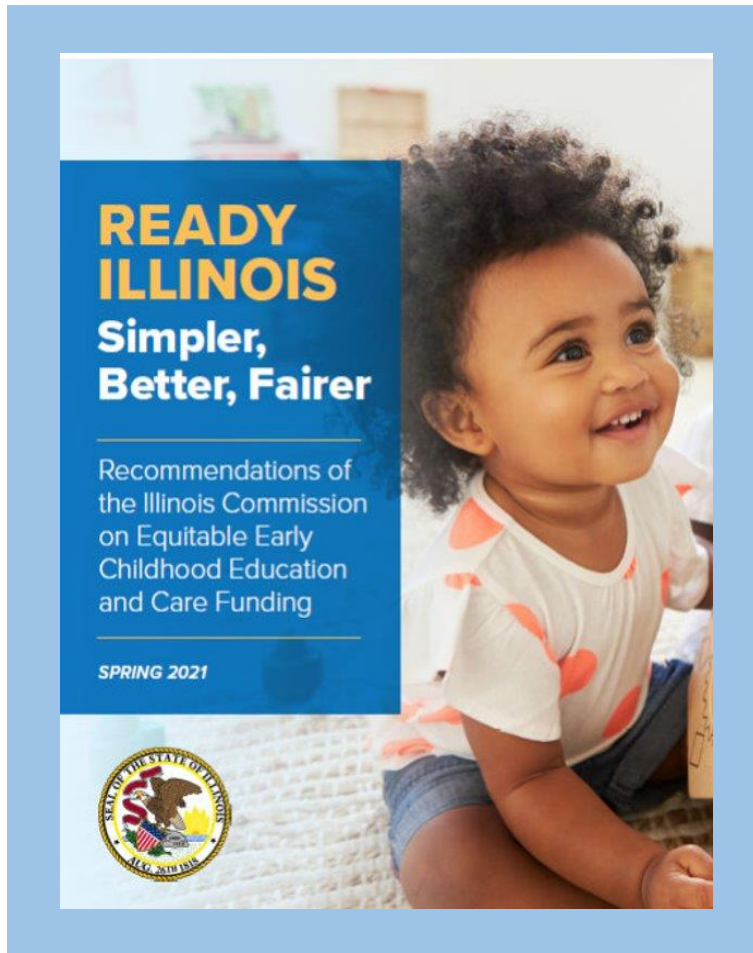
- [Webinar](#), FAQ – will be posted on the same site soon!
- Informational Memorandums (IMs)
  - [Early Childhood Workforce](#): While this was sent to current grantees, the examples from other states may be helpful)
  - [Mental Health and Well-Being of Children, Families, and the Early Care and Education Workforce](#)
- [Series of Articles /Reports](#) on pertinent topics
- [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
  - Opportunity number: HHS-2024-ACF-ECD-TP-0055

# Questions?



# Preparing Illinois' Proposal

# Goals of the Renewal Grant



**Goal for Illinois is to leverage grant funds to move towards a more equitable and coherent system**

## **Simpler, Better, Fairer**

- Aligns to the vision of the new Department of Early Childhood
- Supports families' choice and strengthens the IL's ECEC mixed delivery system for children birth to five across the state
- Ensure a strong B-5 workforce
- Ensure services for IL's hardest to reach populations, including families with young children with special needs and families with multi-lingual learners
- Supports the mental health and well-being of children, families, and the workforce

# Guiding Principles for Selecting Projects

All proposals are welcome!!!

This proposed project....

- 1. Centers equity for families with young children and advances equity, and diversity in providing services**
- 2. Aligns with transition to goal for the Department of Early Childhood: A simpler, better, fairer system for families with young children**
- 3. Builds upon current continuous improvement/innovative work when possible**
- 4. Includes a focus on underserved populations (income, home language, rural, etc.) and/or Illinois Priority Populations and/or populations identified in the draft TAC equity framework**
- 5. Are individual projects reasonable to complete, considering time it takes to execute contracts, hire staff or contractors, etc.**
- 6. Fewer larger projects**

# Guiding Principles for Selecting Projects

## Guiding PDG Principle

This proposed project....

## Guiding Questions

**1. Centers equity for families with young children and advances equity, and diversity in providing services.**

- How does the proposal use data to understand unique parent hopes for care and services?
- How is the proposal addressing equity in the delivery of services, not just in services?
- How does the proposal expand or improve access for those least well served by the current system?
- Does this approach bias one particular provider type in the short term or long-run?
- How are you centering the voices of parents, workforce and providers in the project proposal?

**2. Aligns with transition to goal for the Department of Early Childhood: A simpler, better, fairer system for families with young children**

- Does this proposal make access to services simpler and fairer for families with young children who the state least well serves today?
- For example, the state has the hardest time serving families with young children with special needs and multi-lingual families with young children?
- Does the proposal address the necessary conditions to support a simpler, better, fairer system – like a strong workforce pipeline?

**3. Builds upon current continuous improvement/innovative work when possible**

- How does this project build upon previous successful projects (or lessons learned) during the planning period or work informed by work done during the planning period



# Guiding Principles for Selecting Projects

## Guiding PDG Principle

This proposed project....

## Guiding Questions

**4. Includes a focus on underserved populations (income, home language, rural, etc.) and/or Illinois Priority Populations and/or populations identified in the draft TAC equity framework**

- How does the proposal expand or improve access for those least well served by the current system?
- How does the data/information support a greater understanding of the current context of the challenge and does this proposal address these challenges?

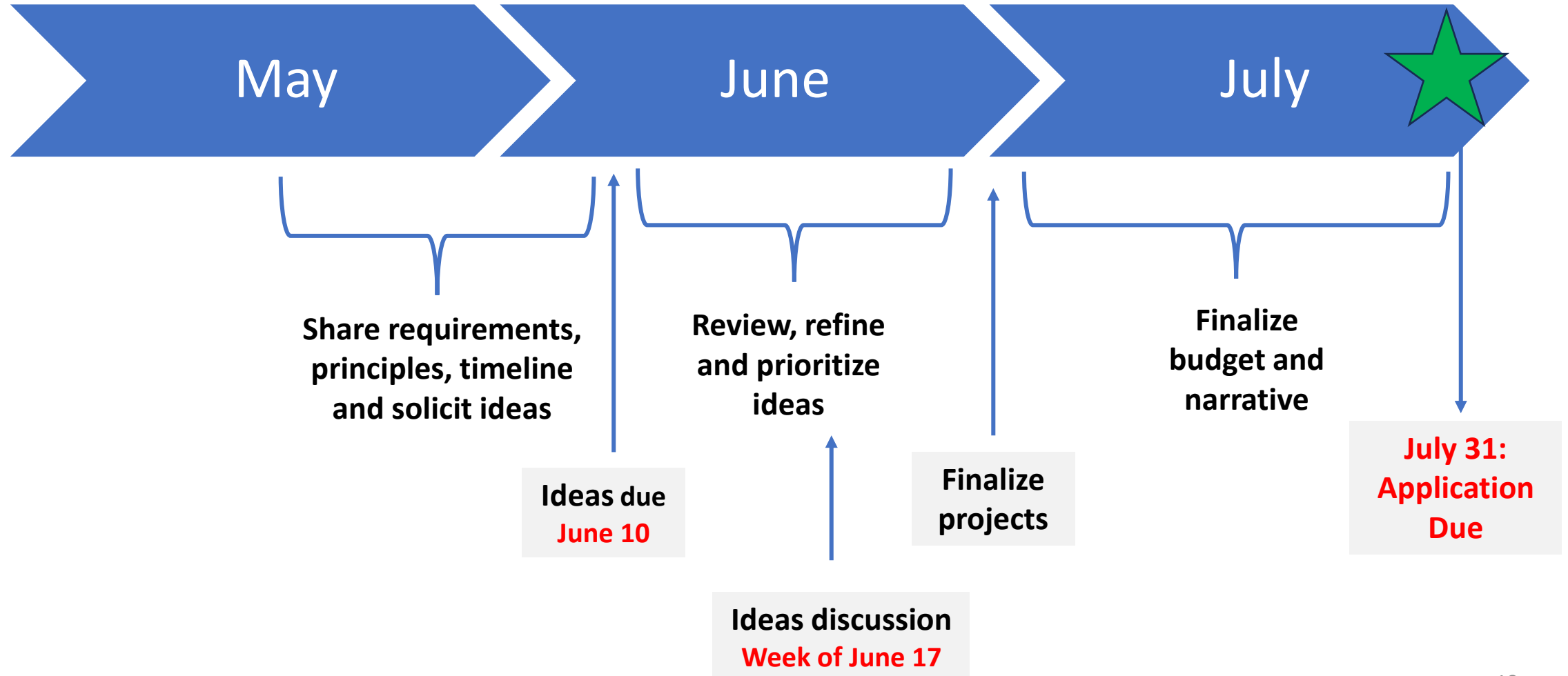
**5. Are individual projects reasonable to complete, considering time it takes to execute contracts, hire staff or contractors, etc.**

- Can deliverables in the proposal be attained within 3 years?
- If not, does it make substantial progress?

**6. Fewer larger projects**

- What portfolio of projects will have the most impact, are collectively achievable, are manageable, and have the most potential to be successful?

# Illinois Application Development Timeline



# Current Work: IL PDG B-5 Planning Grant

Area	Activities
Activity 1: Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home Visiting Workforce Needs Assessment</li><li>• Integrate Gateways Registry Data into ILDS</li><li>• Linking Workforce Data</li><li>• Expand Use of ECPDS and CECIDS by Local Communities</li><li>• ECEC Workforce &amp; Community Data</li><li>• Workforce Portrait Assessment</li></ul>
Activity 2: Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update Statewide B-5 Strategic Plan</li></ul>
Activity 3: Maximize Parent and Family Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff the ELC Family Advisory Committee</li><li>• Assess &amp; Align Capacity of Intermediary Structures Developing Framework to Integrate Family Voice in Policymaking</li><li>• Uplifting the Voice of Families</li><li>• Family and Stakeholder Engagement</li></ul>

# Current Work: IL PDG B-5 Planning Grant Cont.

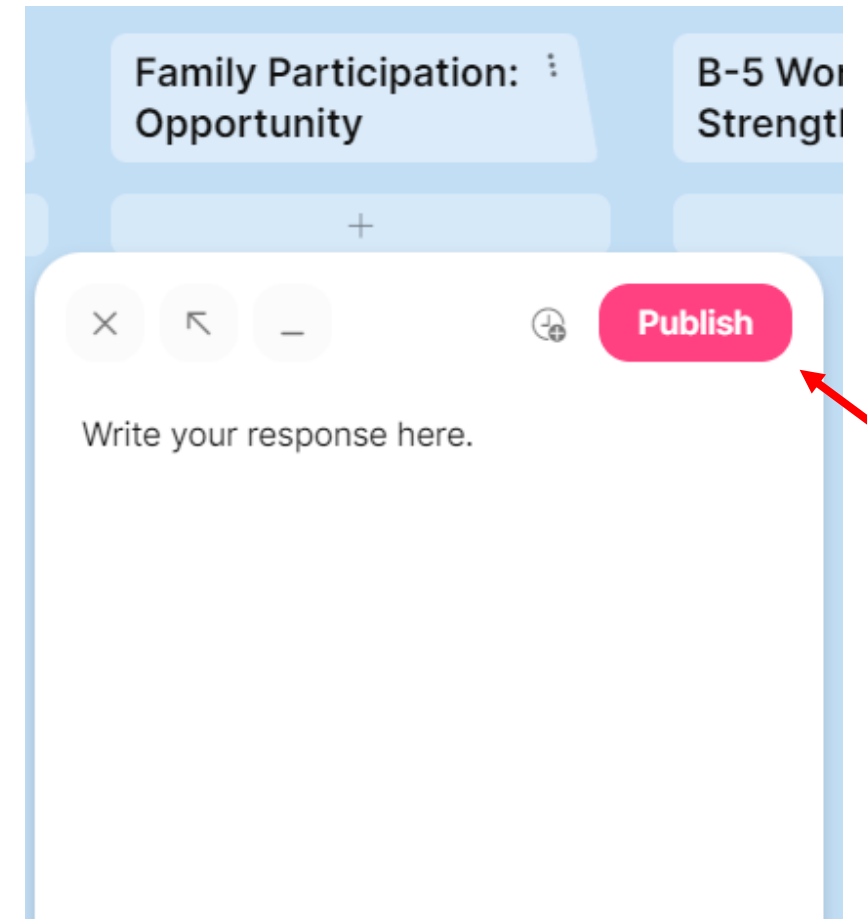
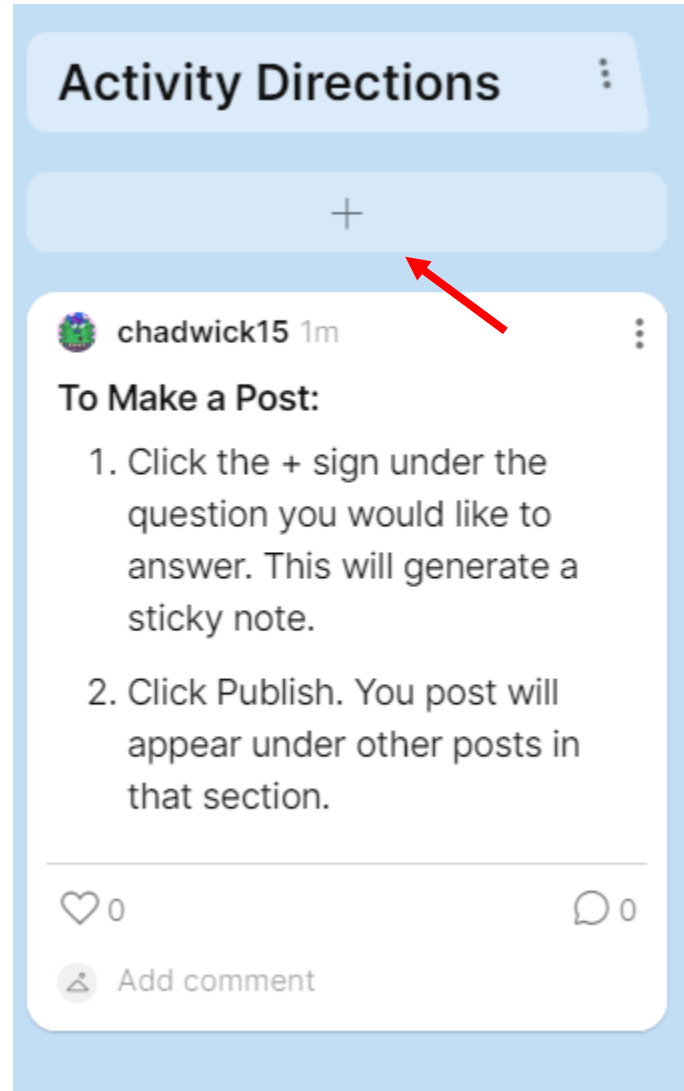
Area	Activities
Activity 4: B-5 Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)</li><li>• Preventing Suspension and Expulsion</li></ul>
Activity 5: Program Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pilot Strategies for Inclusive Community-Based ECSE</li><li>• Developing a Common Framework for Identifying English Learners</li></ul>
Supplemental Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data &amp; Learning Infrastructure</li><li>• Capacity Building for a Sustainable Comprehensive Early Childhood Ecosystem</li></ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance Evaluation</li></ul>

# White Board Activity

LINK <https://bit.ly/4c2CGu6>

Within the federal priority areas:

- What is the state's greatest strength(s)?
- What is our greatest area (s) of opportunity and need?



# Reminder: Federal Priorities

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  - **Mental health and well being**
  - ECE program sustainability

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# Illinois Stakeholder Input Form

Area	Information to Include
Proposed Activity #	Which activity does this project address?
Proposed Project	Please provide a brief description of the project, including the goal and work to be completed. Describe how this project aligns with the Guiding Principles and state priorities (if applicable)
Equity	How does the project address equity of input, process, and outcome?
Target Population	Please describe the population that this project aims to support. (e.g., B-5 child care workforce, children with special needs).
Timeline	What is the proposed (estimated) timeline for the work? When might the work begin and when might it be completed?
Cost:	Please provide an estimated cost of the project (if possible).
Implementation	If known, please list potential partners who might support implementation.
Prior Work	If applicable, please describe how the project builds upon current continuous improvement/innovative work/lessons learned (at the state or local level).

# Submitting a Proposal

- **To Submit:** Please use the Illinois Stakeholder Input Form posted on the GOECD website to submit proposed projects for Illinois' PDG B-5 Application.
  - Submit 1 form per project/idea. Submit as many as you would like.
  - Send the project form to [awhalen@isbe.net](mailto:awhalen@isbe.net)
  - Due by close of business **June 10, 2024**
- Please be sure your ideas and recommendations align with those of the state and grant.
- Projects should not be something that benefits a single organization. Ideally projects are things that can be used to build, scale, test, or pilot new ideas, since they will be funded with one-time federal funding.
- Projects will be finalized through an iterative process. We will reach out to those who submit potentially viable projects with a request for more specific information including potential partners, a detailed budget, etc.



# Engagement and Project Idea Input: Estimated Timeline

Dates	Activities
May 28-June 3	Stakeholder Engagement
June 10	Project Proposals/Forms Due
June 11-28	Iterations and Outreach
Week of June 17	Public Meeting: Updates & Discussion
June 28	Final Decisions on Projects
July 19	Drafting Complete
July 22-26	Final Review
July 31	<b>Submit IL's Application!</b>

We anticipate decisions around the end of August 2024

# State Resources

- Current PDG B-5 Planning Application and Supplementary Projects– [here](#)
- [Guiding Principles for Potential Projects](#) – will be posted
- Governor’s Early Childhood Funding Commission [Recommendations](#)
- Definitions:
  - Early Learning Council’s [Priority Populations](#)
  - Transition Advisory Committee’s [Draft Equity Framework](#)

# Questions?

