GOECD Briefing

September 16, 2021

Governor's Office of
Early Childhood Development

Early Childhood Transformation Team

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

In partnership with the Office of the Governor

GOECD Quarterly Briefing

An Overview of the ECTT

purpose, structure and priorities

Sept. 16, 2021

Goals for Today's Presentation

What is the purpose of the Early Childhood Transformation Team?

What are our priorities, and how do they relate to the Funding Commission?

How you can be engaged

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Who we are

- Theresa Hawley, Director
- Sessy Nyman, Senior Policy Advisor
- *Coming Soon*, Policy Analyst
- *Coming Soon*, Racial Equity Data Analyst
- *Coming Soon*, Statewide Regional and Community Systems Director (at INCCRRA)

Our EC Transformation Board

- Dr. Jamilah Jor'dan
- Superintendent Carmen Ayala
- Secretary Grace Hou
- DCFS Director Marc Smith
- FADG, Education Martin Torres
- FADG, HHS Lizzy Whitehorn

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Governor Pritzker's Goal:

Make Illinois the best state in which to raise a young family, with the nation's best early childhood system

Our Transformation Priority:

Provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for all children birth to age five in Illinois

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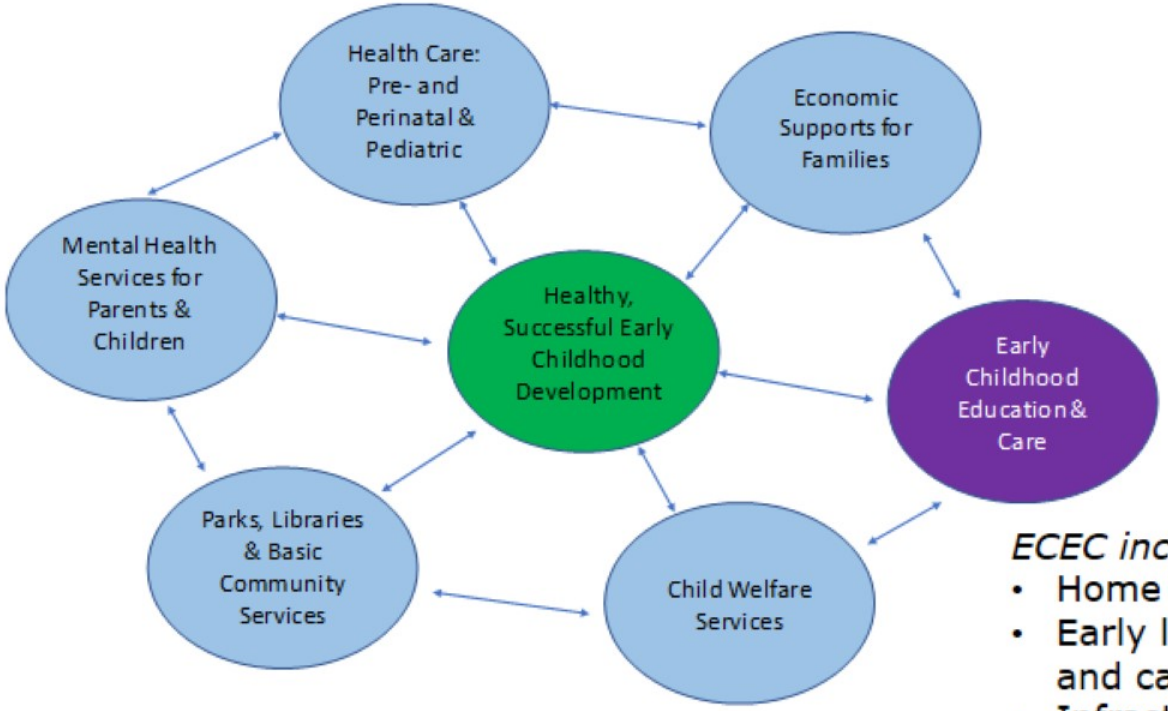
Like the Funding Commission, the ECTT is focusing on the Early Childhood Education & Care system, as one critical component of a comprehensive EC system



ECEC includes:

- Home visiting
- Early learning and care
- Infrastructure for these services

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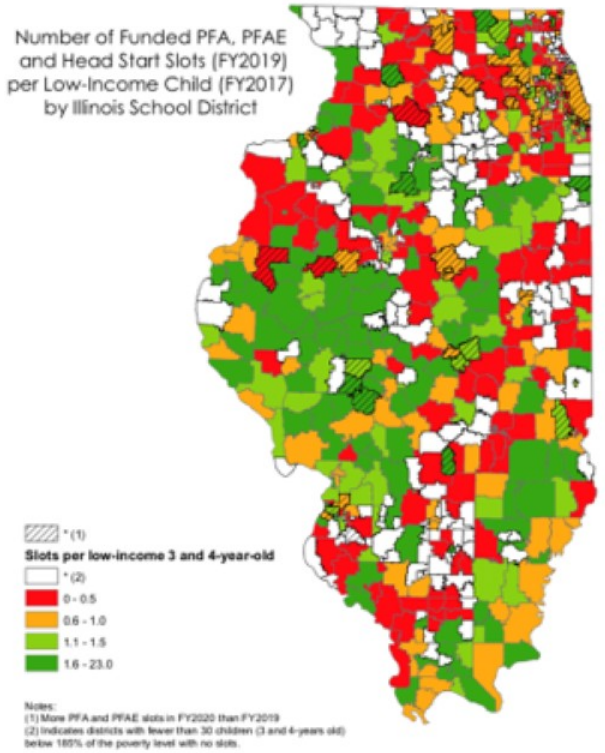
Our Priority Requires Transformation

Our current approach to funding ECEC programs is not producing equitable access to services.

The federal landscape is changing with the potential of the American Families Plan - and we have to prepare our system for transformative change directed *and funded by* Congress.

We need to build the funding approach that will produce equity, and then fund that approach.



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The Funding Commission made bold recommendations to make our ECEC system **simpler, better and fairer.**

- To advance equity and quality, use a long-term funding goal in policy-making.
- To make sense of the system, coordinate ECEC funding.
- To make it easier for parents and providers, centralize ECEC programs into one state agency.

The Early Childhood Transformation Team is charged with leading the next steps toward these objectives.

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Equity
Equity
Equity
Equity
Equity

Equity in the inputs

Parent, provider and community voice in developing the policies and programs

Equity in the outcomes

Eliminating gaps in kindergarten readiness

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Early Learning Council Racial Equity Definition

Adopted July 2018

- A racially equitable society values and embraces all racial/ethnic identities. In such a society, one's racial/ethnic identity (particularly Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian) is not a factor in an individual's ability to prosper.
- An early learning system that is racially equitable is driven by data and ensures that:
  - Every young child and family regardless of race, ethnicity, and social circumstance has everything s/he/they need to develop optimally;
  - Resources, opportunities, rewards, and burdens are fairly distributed across groups and communities so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately supported and not further disadvantaged; and
  - Systems and policies are designed, reframed, or eliminated to promote greater justice for children and families.

Early Learning Council Racial Equity Priorities

Adopted July 2019

- Align and standardize race/ethnicity data collection and reporting
- Evaluate and identify whether processes for distributing resources exacerbate racial disparities, including agency contracting
- Address racial/ethnic disparities in terms of workforce compensation and advancement
- Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities for children participating in all programs that contribute to school readiness and life success by addressing racial disparities in enrollment in preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and in prenatal to age 3 services.

We are transforming Illinois' Early Childhood Education and Care system to:

1. Ensure ECEC policy is influenced by community voice and data
2. Ensure equitable and transparent allocation of current and anticipated ECEC funding
3. Redesign our funding streams so they are stable, predictable, and consistent for providers

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Our Commitment—Our Strategies

Ensure	ECEC policy is influenced by community voice and data
Build	a structure for equitable allocation of current and anticipated ECEC funding
Redesign	our funding streams so they are stable, predictable, and consistent for providers

- Create local and regional community systems
- Compile and analyze racial, social, and geographic data on funding and high-quality access, providing information the state has never had for its funding policy decision-making
- Use this new data to ensure equitable distribution of existing and new funding, including federal relief dollars, child care rates, early childhood block grants
- Devise strategies for more timely, predictable funding for providers
- Structure provider contracts to tie quality standards to funding allocation
- Devise approaches to a centralized/coordinated funding allocation method for education and care services
- Advise on the coordination of interagency operations and authorities as funding allocation and distribution becomes more centralized

How you can be engaged in the Transformation

- Participate in our funding relief programs—they are helping us build towards the system we need!
  - Child Care Restoration Grants
  - Child Care Workforce Bonuses
  - Coming soon: Early Childhood Scholarships
- Answer surveys and join town halls—we want to hear your questions and ideas
- Look for the start of Regional Early Childhood Planning Councils in the coming months, and get involved locally
- Watch what is happening at the national level with potential early childhood funding, and let your federal representatives know what you think

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Thank You!

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