



# SHAPE THE FUTURE

## Improving How Illinoisans Use and Access Birth to Three Services (with a Focus on Early Intervention)

The Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC) is working with ChiByDesign to understand the barriers families face when trying to get birth to three services for children from birth to age three. This work will help us suggest policies that make it easier for children and families across Illinois to get the support they need. Together, we will create new ideas and solutions to address the challenges that limit access to zero to three services in underserved communities.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1 Identifying the challenges that make it hard for underserved children to receive early intervention services.
- 2 Co-designing ways to better support access and delivery of early intervention services to underserved children and families.
- 3 Providing recommendations to IDEC to improve early intervention services and help more families get access to them.

### WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

Individuals with personal or professional experience with zero to three services to participate in four co-design workshops. We're looking for parents and caregivers who have engaged with birth to three services within the past three years, as well as intermediaries and providers (early intervention, early education, and healthcare) who live in or work with communities in the following Chicago neighborhoods or Illinois counties:

#### CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS

Auburn Gresham  
West Garfield Park  
South Austin

#### ILLINOIS COUNTIES

Henry  
Stark  
Peoria  
Tazewell  
Woodford





## CO-DESIGNER PARTICIPATION

We're recruiting participants for two groups: one based in Chicago and another made up of people from select Illinois counties.

### COHORT 1

Auburn Gresham  
West Garfield Park  
Sout Austin

### COHORT 2

Henry County  
Peoria County  
Stark County  
Tazewell County  
Woodford County



## PARTICIPATION LOCATION

Participants will join in-person and virtual co-design workshops to share their experiences and help shape solutions.

### IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

**1**

per cohort

### VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

**3**

per cohort



## PARTICIPATION DATES

We're looking for participants who can join four monthly workshops, over the course of four months.

**JULY THROUGH  
OCTOBER 2025**



## COMPENSATION

Parents, caregivers, and home care providers who participate will receive compensation for their time. Although we won't be able to compensate our other stakeholders, we do truly value their input and contributions to creating a more equitable early childhood system for families across Illinois.

**\$50/HR**



SCAN QR CODE  
TO FILL OUT THE  
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If you have any questions,  
please reach out to Mikayla Buford:  
[mikayla@chibydesign.com](mailto:mikayla@chibydesign.com)

### EARLY INTERVENTION:

*A collection of services to help children between the ages of birth to three with disabilities or delays, to learn and grow.*