



PARENTS & CAREGIVERS SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

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 early childhood services, supports, and responsibilities from three separate departments into one new agency: the Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC). This is a service delivery design project and 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
Aug 16, 2025

**PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS,
WE WANT TO UNDERSTAND YOUR JOURNEY!**

We are looking for parents and 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 and 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.

PROJECT GOALS

ChiByDesign will conduct a total of 45 virtual interviews and one workshop in each phase to -

- 1 Bring together a diverse group of parents, caregivers, providers, state employees, and other relevant stakeholders (e.g., educators, specialists) to understand their experiences with early childhood services.
- 2 Co-design approaches that reshape service delivery for families and providers in early childhood services.

If you have questions, please reach out to Fredo:

fredo@chibydesign.com

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Participation Details

Participants will be contacted to sign up for 1-1.5 hour interview slots based on their availability. If needed, translators will be provided.

1-1.5 hour virtual interviews throughout

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER



Interview Focus

During the interview, we want to learn about your experience and any barriers to accessing and receiving early childhood services.

YOUR EXPERIENCE

with Early Childhood Services



Stipend

Your perspective is essential to this work. As a thank you for your participation, you will receive a stipend for your contributions and time.

\$50

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

How are virtual one-on-one interviews conducted? How do you plan to maintain the privacy of the information shared?

You will participate in a 1-1.5 hour virtual interview via Zoom with two design team members and a translator (as needed) to share your experiences seeking out early childhood services in Illinois.

During sign-up, you will receive a consent form explaining all details for information gathering and use. **Your identifiable information, including information you share will be kept private and not shared with anyone outside the project team.**

What will I be asked during these interviews?

You will be asked to share your experiences, needs, and challenges navigating early childhood services in Illinois. If you've interacted with state agencies and intermediaries (e.g., Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Center or regional Child and Family Connections (CFC)), your insights can help us improve how families access early childhood services across the state.

What is the final outcome?

Your voice is at the center of this project. The ChiByDesign team will develop a report that highlights key insights, recommendations, and proposed service delivery strategies based on interviews with you, parents and caregivers, and system stakeholders. These insights will directly support the transition and overall alignment of early childhood services for all Illinois families.

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