

# RACE TO THE TOP – EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT INITIATIVE

## SUMMARY

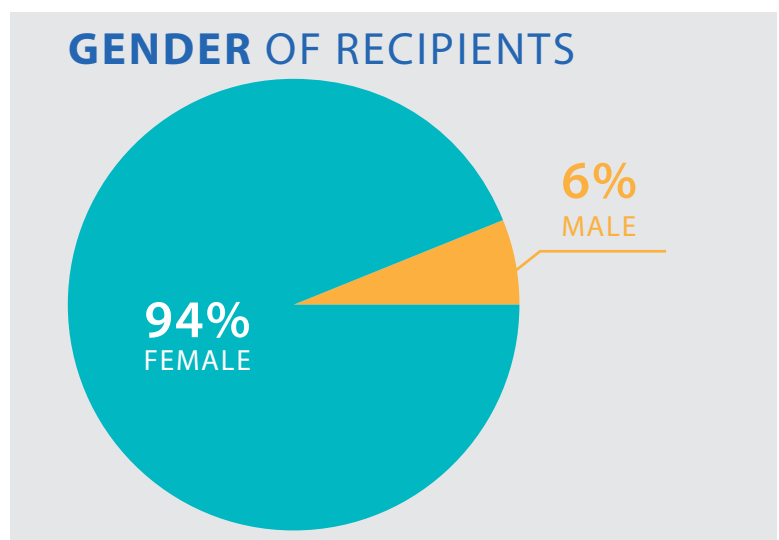
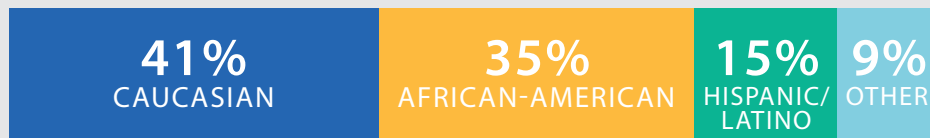
**A DIVERSE AND QUALIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE** continues to be a high priority in Illinois. With this frame in place, the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD), in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA), developed and implemented a time-limited education reimbursement program for early childhood professionals.

This initiative, supported by the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant (RTT), helped to identify effective targeted support to all early care and education professionals experiencing financial barriers to advancing their degree or credential. Applications were accepted from January 2017 through April 2017. As a result, reimbursements totaling over \$455,000 were distributed to nearly 250 professionals for tuition, fees, and outstanding student debt. The average disbursement was over \$1,800.

Recipients responded to a survey as part of their applications. Questions regarding the reimbursement and how they perceived it would encourage them to continue or complete their formal education were asked. See the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Educational Reimbursement initiative flyer for survey results.

## RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

### PRIMARY RACE OF RECIPIENTS



FEBRUARY 2018

# RACE TO THE TOP – EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT INITIATIVE

The Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT) grant provided the opportunity to provide education reimbursements to nearly 250 early care and education professionals. All recipients responded to a survey as part of their applications. The results will be reanalyzed in 2019.

## 91%

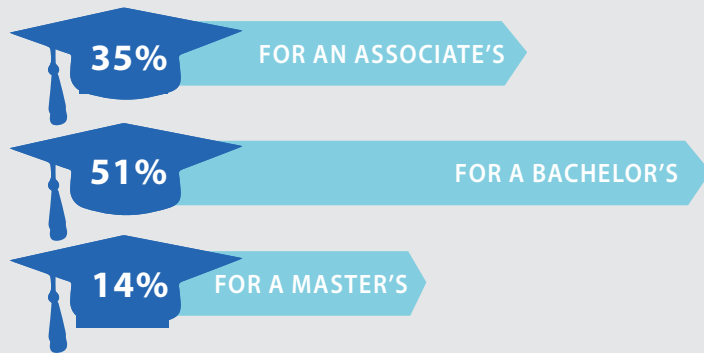
OF RECIPIENTS WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THEIR **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT**

APPROXIMATELY **97%** OF RECIPIENTS WILL BE ABLE TO (RE)ENROLL IN ECE/CD COURSEWORK LEADING TOWARD A DEGREE



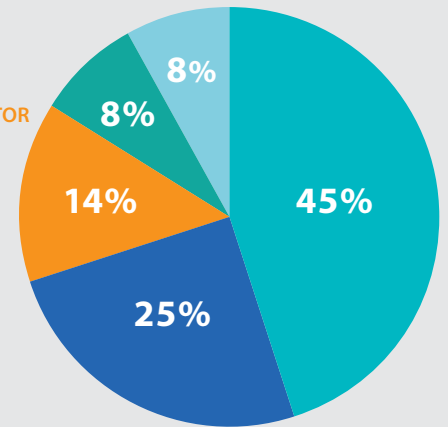
39% AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE 61% AT A UNIVERSITY

THE MAJORITY OF RECIPIENTS HAVE THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO **COMPLETE A DEGREE**. SPECIFICALLY:

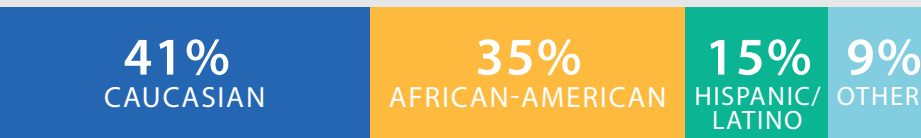


## ROLES OF RECIPIENTS

- TEACHER
- ASSISTANT TEACHER
- DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATOR
- FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER
- OTHER



## PRIMARY RACE OF THE RECIPIENTS



## 23%

OF RECIPIENTS IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS BILINGUAL EDUCATORS

FEBRUARY 2018