



Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding

Commission Meeting #5 – Virtual Meeting

April 14, 2020

Commission's Charge

“The Commission shall study and make recommendations to establish funding goals and funding mechanisms to provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for all children birth to age five and advise the Governor in planning and implementing these recommendations.”



Commission Deliverable

- **We need to know “the number.”** There is not enough revenue in the system to support a sufficient, stable supply of providers of high-quality ECEC – how much do we need?
- **We need to assess all funding mechanisms and the management and oversight structures of ECEC.**
 - How should we distribute funds?
 - Who should distribute and monitor the funds?
- **We need to determine how to implement our recommendations.**
 - How will we reach our recommended end state, and over what period of time?

Virtual Meeting - Goals

- Illinois' early childhood system response to COVID-19 and its connection to the Commission's work
- Clarifying the Commission's charge: Survey results on defining "equitable access"
- Our path forward



Today's Agenda

Agenda Item	Time
Roll Call & Introduction	12:00-12:05
COVID-19 Response & Connection to Commission's Work	12:05-12:40
Clarifying the Commission's Charge	12:40-12:55
Public Comment	12:55-1:00

*COVID 19: Early childhood system response
and connection to the Commission's work*

Illinois' Early Childhood Education and Care Response

- **The health and well-being of Illinois' children, families, and our ECEC providers is of utmost importance.**
- The Governor's Office and our state agency partners have suspended or amended policies to ensure the health and safety of providers and to provide financial support for providers.
- We have developed and shared guidance to support our ECEC providers and to ensure that care is provided for the children of essential workers throughout the state.

Specific Actions

Establishment of new rules for child care centers and homes operating during the emergency

- Policies for homes and centers to operate as emergency child care providers, offering care for children of essential workers
- Guidelines for care, including for children with disabilities
- Extensions to training and renewal deadlines

Financial support for Emergency Child Care providers

- Stipend to offset some of the additional costs providers may incur during the emergency
- Increased reimbursement rate for emergency care
- Categorical CCAP eligibility for all Priority Essential Workers

Financial support for ECEC programs

- Simplified waiver process for CCAP 80% attendance requirement for March & April; Parent co-pays reduced to \$1 for April & May
- PFA/PI program funding will not be affected by closure and may be used to meet the child care needs of non-enrolled children of essential workers
- Sharing information on federal relief packages and technical assistance resources

Communications across stakeholders

- GOECD webinars on COVID-19 Child Care Business Practices and Resources
- New websites, guidance, FAQs, etc. all publicly posted and available
- Letters to families
- Dedicated helpline

THANK YOU

- Providers and staff are supporting our essential workers, families, and communities with amazing care, selflessness, and thoughtfulness.
- Responding to the crisis has required a herculean collaborative effort across the Governor's Office, GOECD, IDHS, DCFS, and ISBE.
- Our shared response has required enormous effort, flexibility, and sacrifice across the field.
- There are certainly lessons to be learned, and for now – ***thank you***

Challenges in this process highlight the urgency of the Commission's charge.

- **Inconsistency in continued instructional support** across ECEC while settings are closed (Head Start, PFA, child care, etc.)
- Current **management and oversight system requires multiple conversations with many offices before making ECEC decisions**, even on an urgent timeline
- Inconsistent relationships with community entities (like CCR&Rs and INCCRRA) makes **reopening emergency child care confusing**
- Providers want to know how to access funding and how to stay afloat – but **wide variation in funding** makes this challenging
- Child care is an **essential service**, yet **most ECEC workers would receive more on expanded unemployment insurance**
- Information on **policies from multiple agencies** makes it **challenging to provide consistent messaging and answer questions uniformly**
- Standing the system back up and **rebuilding infrastructure and supports following the pandemic will require even greater effort and collaboration**

Impact on Commission priorities

- **Urgency of Management & Oversight improvement:** creating a streamlined system becomes our biggest priority
- **Funding mechanisms cause confusion:** multiple disconnected funding streams have exacerbated provider decision making challenges
- **Financial ramifications:** funding increases in future year budgets are more uncertain
- **Adequacy still matters:** Poor funding is placing enormous strains on providers and the IL ECEC system. We must focus on long-term wins for adequacy.

Discussion

What questions do you have about the state's response?

How is this playing out in your communities?

How has the Commission's charge come to life or become more urgent for you or your community?



Does this crisis have any impact on our Guiding Principles?

These Guiding Principles reflect the Commission's values and beliefs, guide how it operates, and lay a foundation for decision-making.

High Quality ECEC is a Public Priority

- It should be invested in as such as this is critical to our State's workforce, economy, and welfare of its residents.

Promote Equity

- We will endorse a system that promotes equitable outcomes for children, with intentional focus on race, ethnicity, culture, language, income, children's individual needs, and geography.

Embrace Bold System-Level Changes

- Everything is on the table, including how funding flows, how funding decisions are made, and who makes them, to better serve all children and families.

Build Upon the Solid Foundation

- We will build upon the successes of Illinois' past and current system, its commitment to a prenatal to five system, the lessons from other states, and the expertise and research in the field.

Prioritize Family Perspectives, Needs, and Choices

- We will prioritize families' perspectives, needs, and choices as we make recommendations to improve the system.

Design for Stability and Sustainability

- We recognize our system must provide funding stability for providers, educators, and staff across mixed delivery settings to better serve families.

Require System Transparency, Efficiency, and Accountability

- We see these as necessary conditions for all stakeholders, funding distributors, and funding recipients for any future ECEC funding structure.

Recognize Implementation Realities

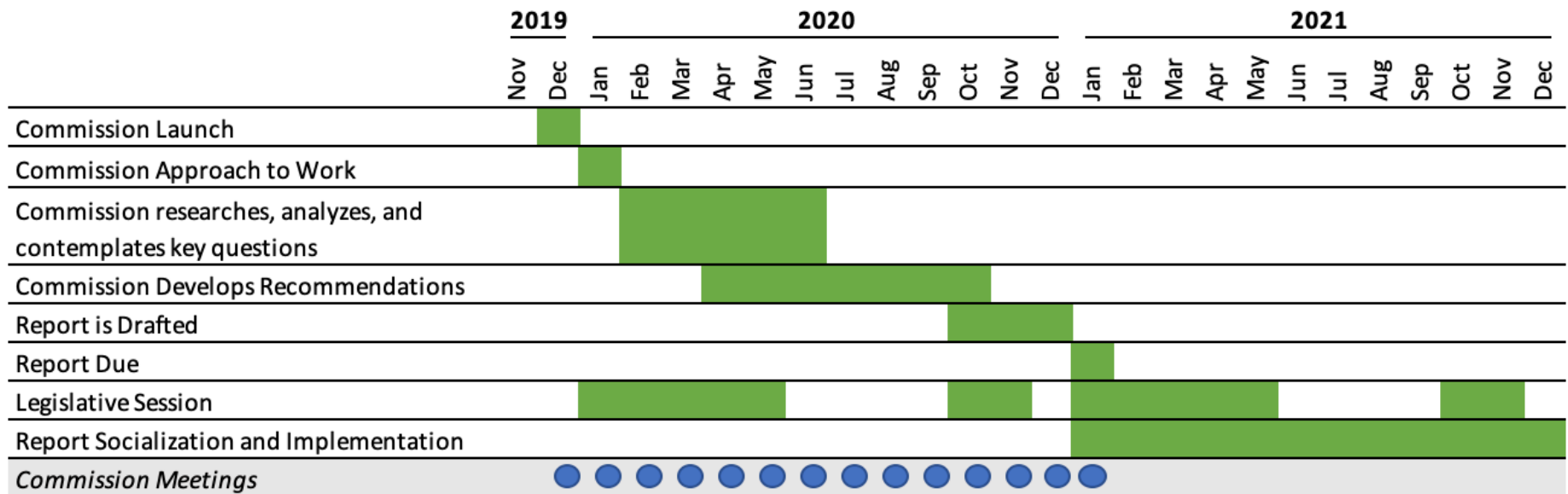
- We will plan for meaningful change over a multi-year time horizon.

While our priorities may shift, our deliverables remain the same

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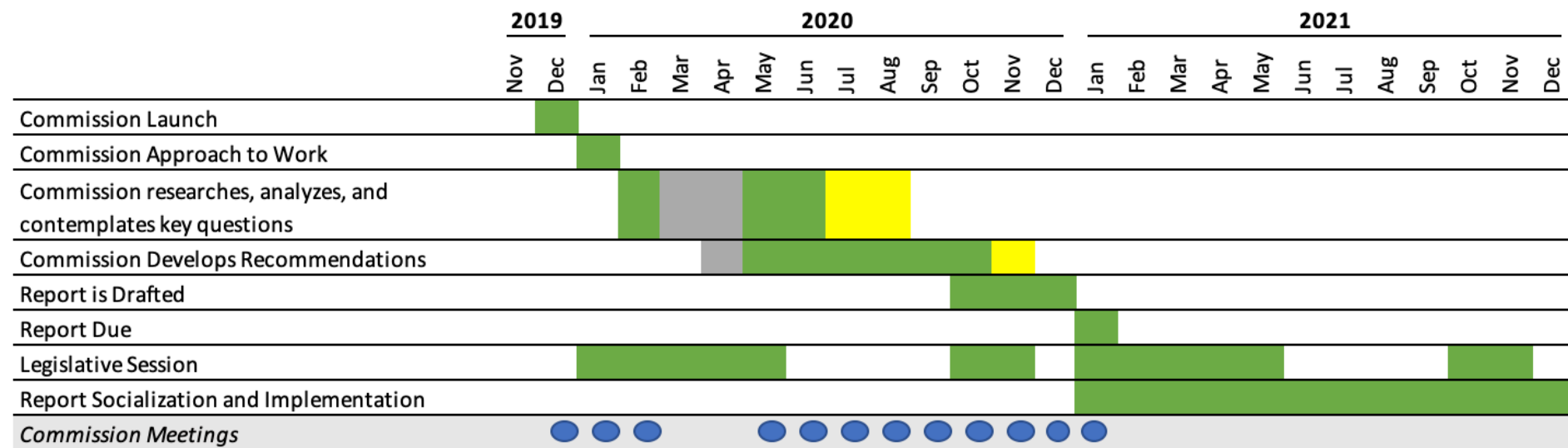
Commission Timeline - *Original*

The Commission will deliver its report by January 2021 with consideration to the Governor's budget address and legislative session timing.



Commission Timeline - *Revised*

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Clarifying the Commission's Charge

Further clarity within the Commission's charge is required for the working groups

- As Working Groups have begun deliberating, it's become clear that we need to **provide more clarity on the Commission's charge**
- Perspectives shared through the Commission survey will **give more specific direction to working groups as they develop "future system" recommendations**

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“The Commission shall study and make recommendations to establish funding goals and funding mechanisms to **provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for all children birth to age five** and advise the Governor in planning and implementing these recommendations.”

Equitable access to publicly funded high-quality services

What factors should determine the availability of public early childhood funds for families, in the long run?

Income level

Child age

Special needs

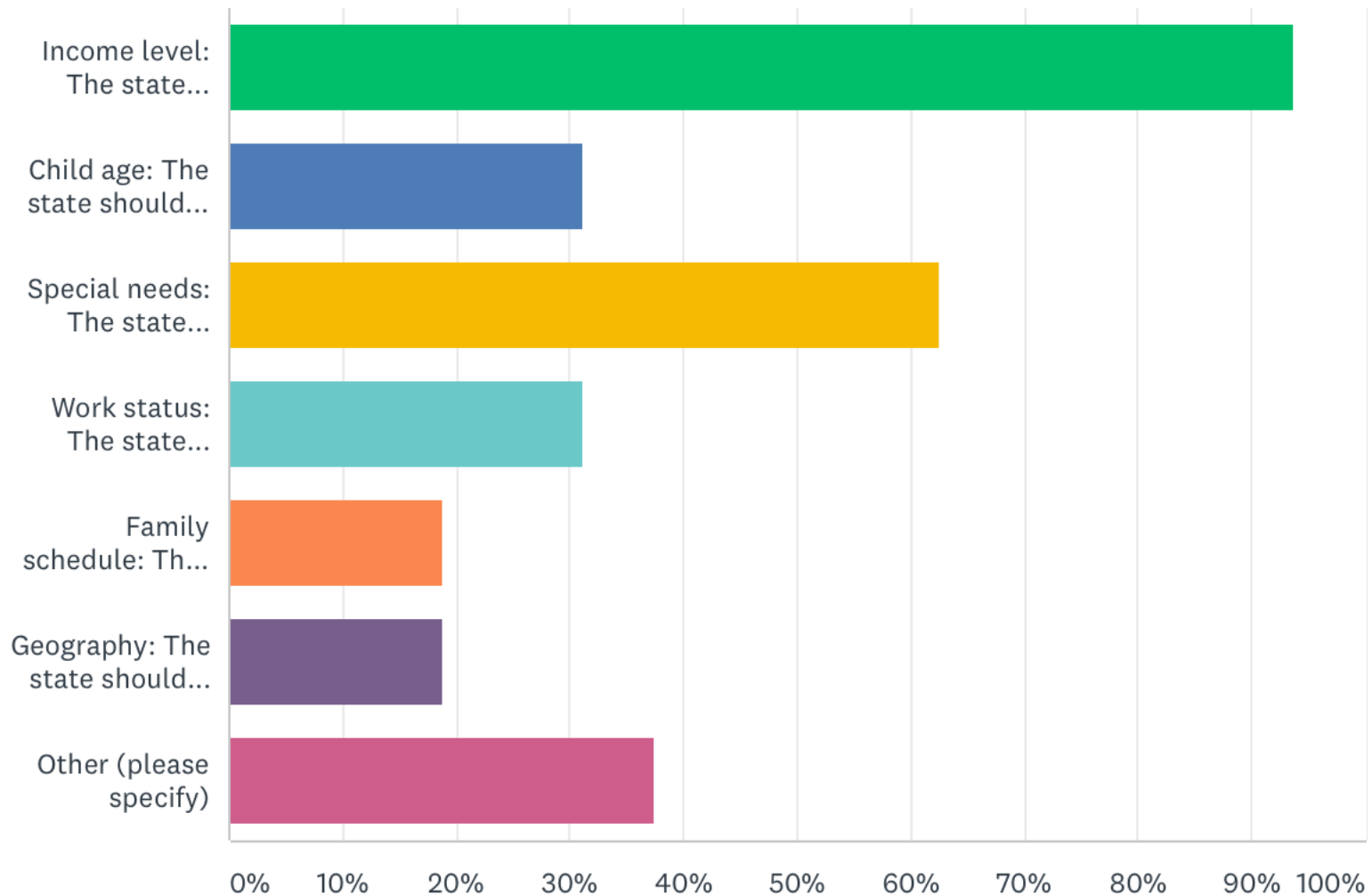
Work status

Family
schedule

Geography

Other

Survey Results: *What factors should determine the availability of state early childhood funds for families, in the long run?*



Defining Equitable Access - *Preliminary Thinking*

- **Income Level:** ECEC services should be ***free for families up to 200% FPL***, with a ***sliding scale tied to income for families above 200% FPL*** (perhaps capped at some higher %FPL)
- **Child Age:** All ***prenatal through 4 years old services*** should be included
- **Service Level:** There should be an assumption of ***high-quality*** services responsive to individual needs
- **Program Settings:** We should prioritize ***mixed income settings***
- **Provider Access:** We must continue to support a ***mixed delivery system***

How does this align with our guiding principles?
What would you question, change, or add?

Our Path Forward

Next steps

- **Working Groups will reengage virtually** 4/27 (Funding Adequacy and Inclusion) and 5/4 (M&O and Mechanism)
- May **Commission Meeting** will remain on **Monday 5/11** (In Person vs Virtual TBD)
- Between **June – August**, Working Groups will begin to bring **preliminary recommendations** to the full Commission for feedback
- *We will **continue to assess the public health crisis and its impact** on our work, our priorities, and our timeline*

Thank You

