

Early Childhood Funding Commission

Racial Equity Working Group

Working Group Charge

This Working Group will be charged with evaluating the Commission's draft recommendations using a racial equity lens and sharing findings with the Commission to inform their deliberations and any revisions to the recommendations prior to submitting them to the Governor in January 2021.

The purpose of this Working Group is threefold: to conduct initial analyses of the Commission's recommendations using a racial equity lens; to develop guidance and recommendations on how to inject accountability into implementation of the recommendations and hold accountable those entities responsible for implementation of the recommendations; and to build a foundation for future, more in-depth racial equity analyses within state-level early childhood policymaking.

The Working Group will satisfy its charge by conducting an analysis inspired by the Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) tool. First, Senior Fellows from Chicago United for Equity (CUE) will convene to analyze the Commission's recommendations through a racial equity lens and will share their findings with the Working Group. Second, CUE Senior Fellows will facilitate a stakeholder focus group in which participants will apply the latter phases of an REIA to the recommendations: A) measuring benefits and burdens associated with the recommendations and to whom those benefits and burdens accrue, and B) evaluating the potential impacts of the recommendations and creating accountability guidance for implementation. Third, a Racial Equity Working Group composed of Commission members and external stakeholders will also apply the latter phases of an REIA to the recommendations.

Deliverable

The Racial Equity Working Group will present collective findings across all analyses to the Early Childhood Funding Commission at their November and December Commission meetings, submitted as recommended guidance to be included in the Commission's final report.

Facilitation

Chicago United for Equity, a nonprofit organization with experience conducting Racial Equity Impact Assessments in Illinois, will facilitate the REIA-inspired process.

Work Plan

- Assemble Racial Equity Working Group: early October
- Prepare for analyses and focus groups: mid-October
- Chicago United for Equity Senior Fellow Analysis, Racial Equity Working Group analysis, and stakeholder focus groups: mid- to late-October
- Synthesize findings across analyses and prepare for presentation to Early Childhood Funding Commission: late-October
- Present findings and recommendations to Early Childhood Funding Commission: November 10