



# **Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding**

Commission Meeting #9

August 18, 2020

# Meeting reminders

- Add your name to your Zoom (click on the 3 dots)
- Consider being on video to help with overall engagement
- Mute self when not speaking
- Use Raise Hand function or Chat for questions (send to everyone)
- Technical issues can happen to anyone – chat privately to Bethany, Carrie, or Katie for any needs
- If you are experiencing an unstable connection - switch to phone call or close other applications
- Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting



# Today's Goals

- Share **perspectives on the direction of recommendations** toward a possible centralized state agency structure and funding system
- Gain more **perspective from stakeholders**
- Commit to a **Commission timeline and plan** between now and January



# Today's Agenda

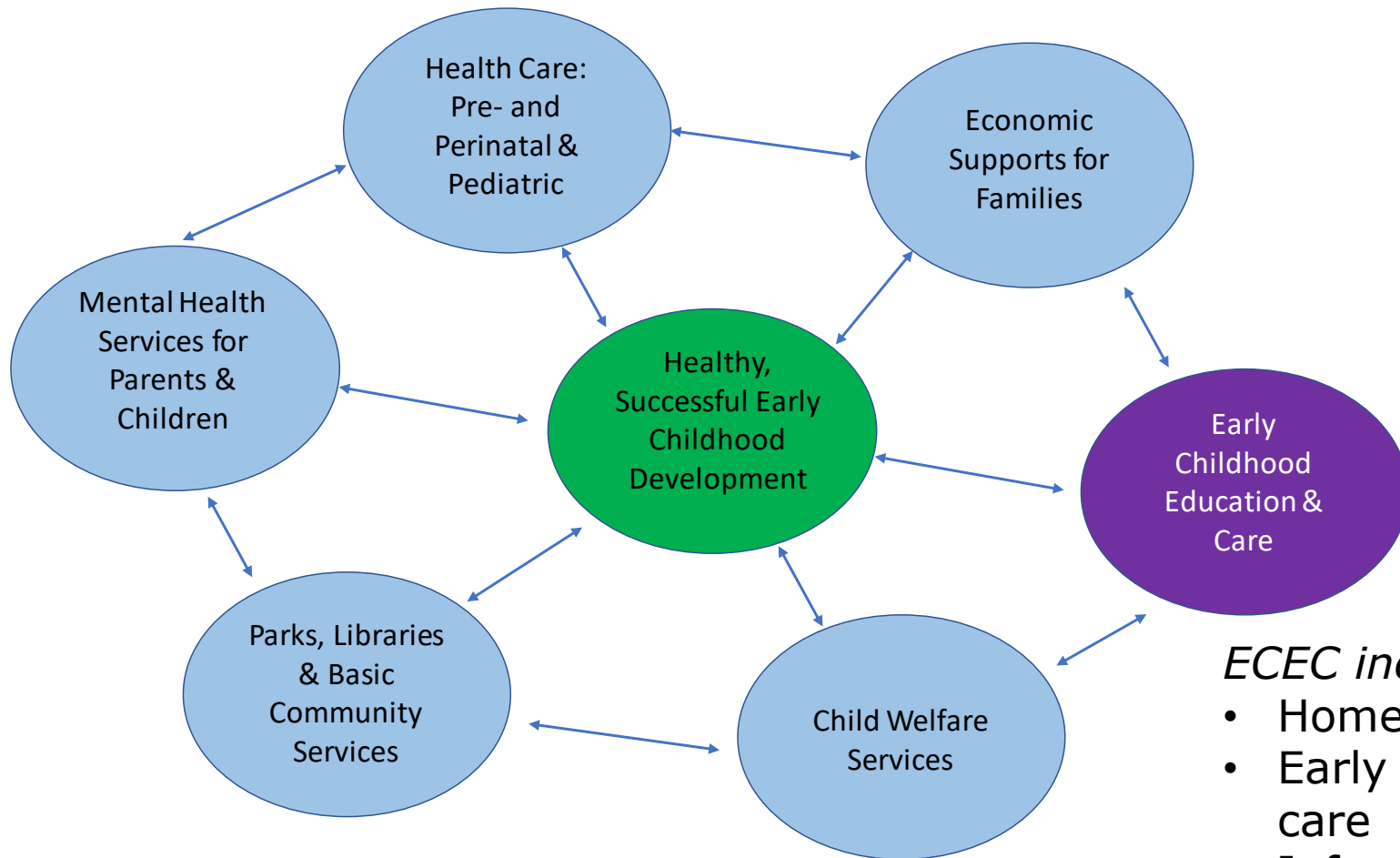
Agenda Item	Time
Roll Call and Agenda	12:00-12:10
Voices from the Field	12:10-12:20
Initial Conclusions: A Centralized ECEC System	12:20-1:20
Commission Planning through January 2021	1:20-1:40
PN3 Strategy Presentation	1:40-1:50
Next Steps	1:50-1:55
Public Comment	1:55-2:00

# 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.”



# The Commission is focusing specifically on the Early Childhood Education & Care system



*ECEC includes:*

- Home visiting
- Early learning and care
- Infrastructure for these services

# Commission's 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. System must embrace flexibility to respond to changing circumstances and family needs, and must possess the human and technical capacity to do so.

## 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. We will respond to disruptions in the system to meet the reality of changing needs.

---

## *Perspectives on today's ECEC system*



# Perspectives from ECEC providers

---

## **Mary Reynolds**

Vice President of Children's Services, Casa Central

## **Eunique Drinkard**

Inclusion Consultant, Erikson Institute

*Questions?* Email Bethany Patten at  
[Bethany.Patten@illinois.gov](mailto:Bethany.Patten@illinois.gov)

Virtual Home Visit!  
Parent Educator



Participating Family  
Mama y Francielys,  
Age 2

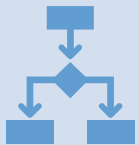




---

## *Initial Conclusions: A Centralized ECEC System*

# Initial Conclusion: A new system of funding



## Centralized System of Funding

**Funding managed upstream** at the state agency level and allocated through a **new, centralized process of funding distributions**



## Funding Distribution & Allocation Mechanisms

**Equity-informed per-child or per-classroom formulas** for education & care and home visiting services

**Targeted, equity-informed grants** for capacity & infrastructure and start-up & incubation

**Minimize reimbursement-based and delayed funding**



## Funding Eligibility & Disbursal

**Targeted, equity-informed RFP** process for new providers to be eligible for state funding

**Multi-year service contracts** for returning providers, with reauthorization based on uniform accountability standards

# Initial Conclusion: ECEC management & oversight in one agency

---

- **Centralization of ECEC management & oversight** has greater potential to fulfill the capacities of a successful management & oversight system than coordination across multiple state agencies.
- Having **ECEC centralized enables deeper collaboration** across other areas of the early childhood ecosystem, public and private

# What is behind the M&O recommendation to centralize rather than coordinate general ECEC?



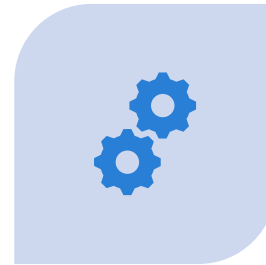
## **POLICY LEADERSHIP**

WE NEED ONE VISION,  
ONE SET OF QUALITY  
STANDARDS, ONE  
AUTHORITY FOR  
PROVIDERS



## **FUNDING & OVERSIGHT**

WE NEED SIMPLIFIED,  
STREAMLINED FUNDING  
ALLOCATION AND  
DISTRIBUTION



## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

WE NEED SYSTEMWIDE  
DATA AND UNIFIED  
EFFORTS ON  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



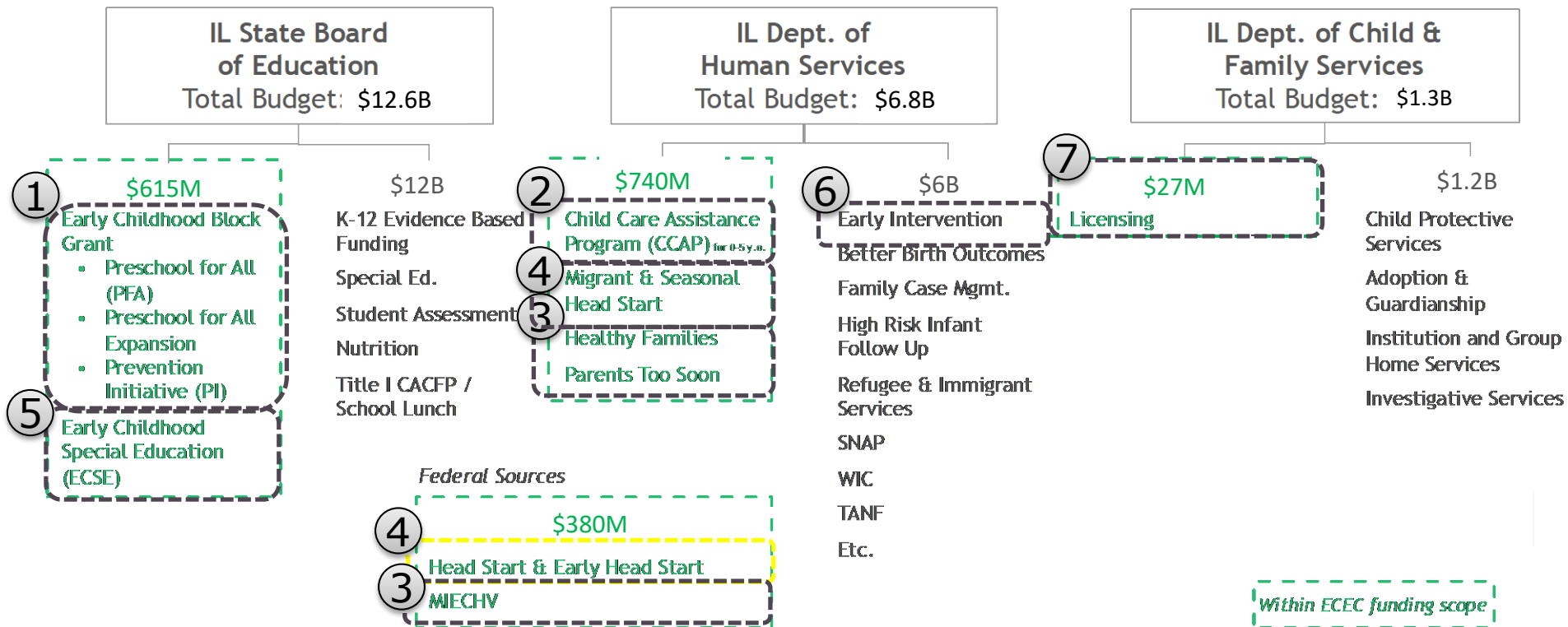
## **COMMUNICATIONS**

WE NEED A CLEAR,  
UNIFIED ABILITY TO  
LISTEN AND ENGAGE

# These **programs** could be part of one centralized ECEC system

1. Early Childhood Block Grant
2. Child Care Assistance Program
3. Home Visiting
4. Head Start Collaboration Office
5. Early Childhood Special Education
6. Early Intervention
7. Licensing

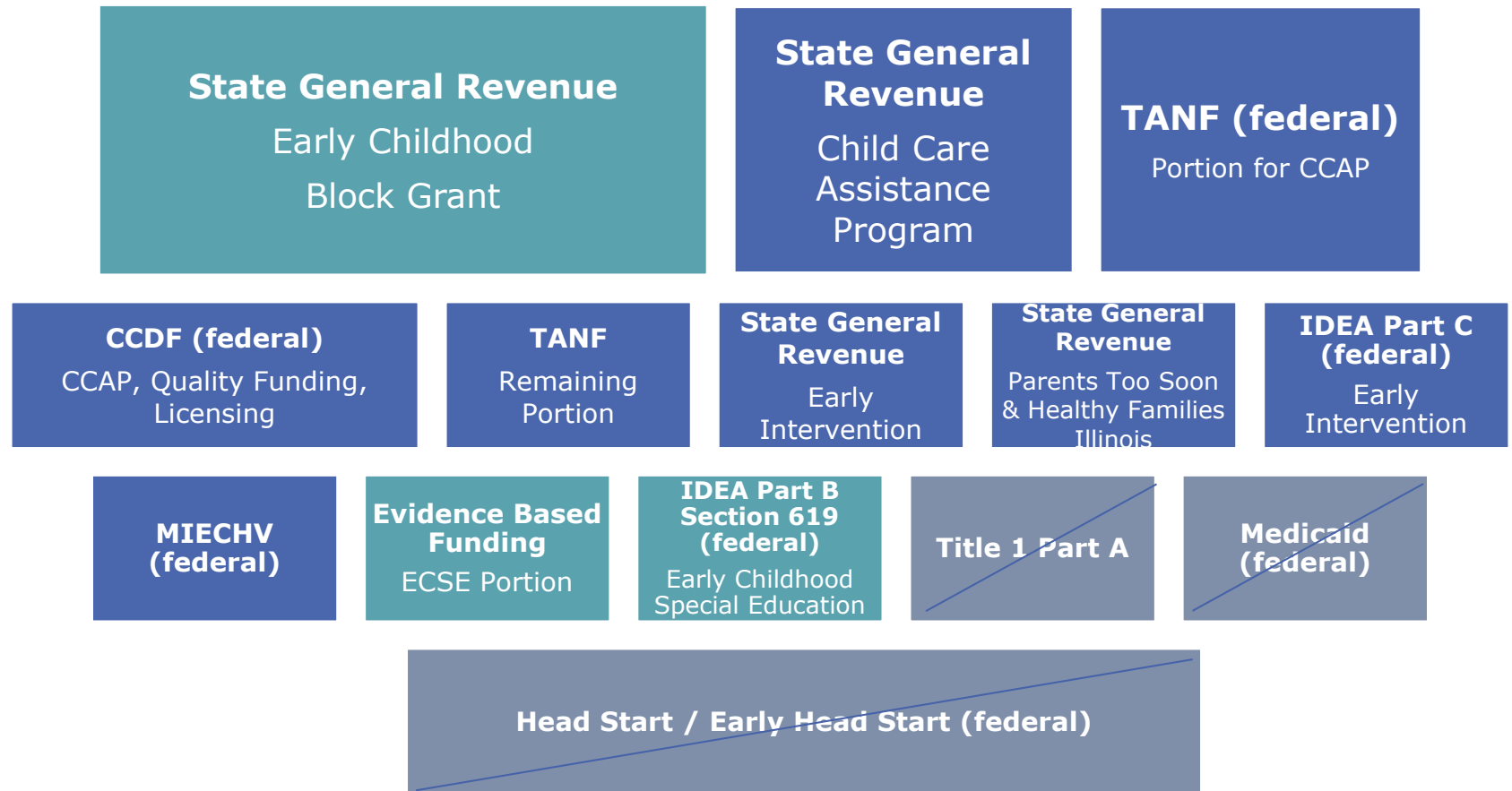
2020 allocations



Source: IL FY 2017 Budget; assuming funding spread evenly across 0-5 y.o., 6-12 y.o.

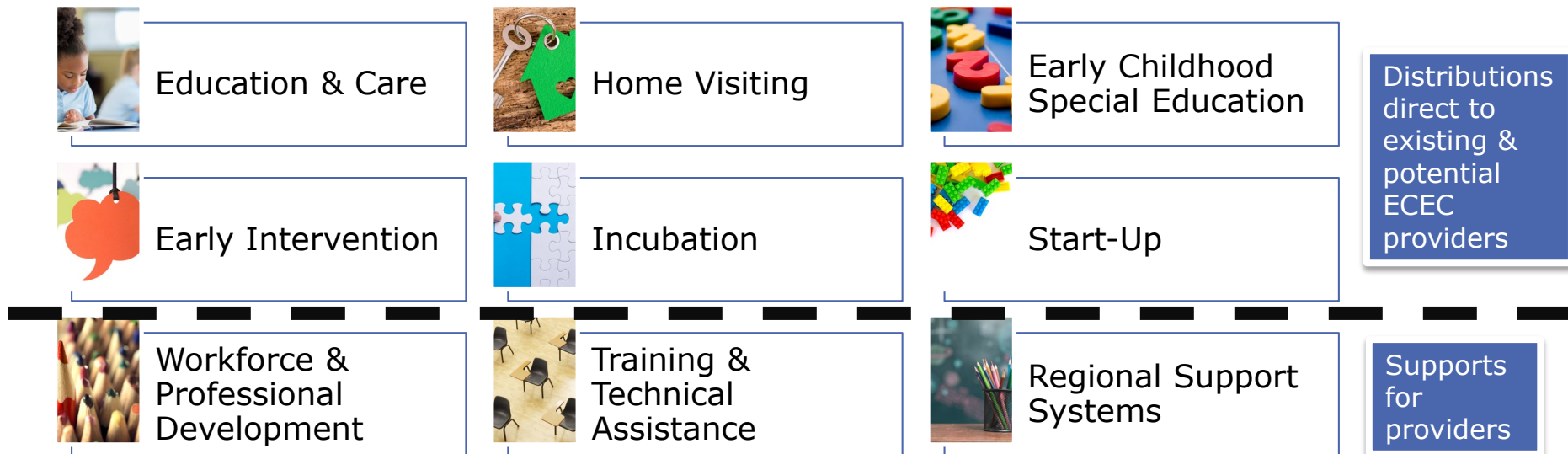


# These **funding sources** could be administered by an ECEC agency in a centralized process



# These **funding distributions** could be the new services that are funded

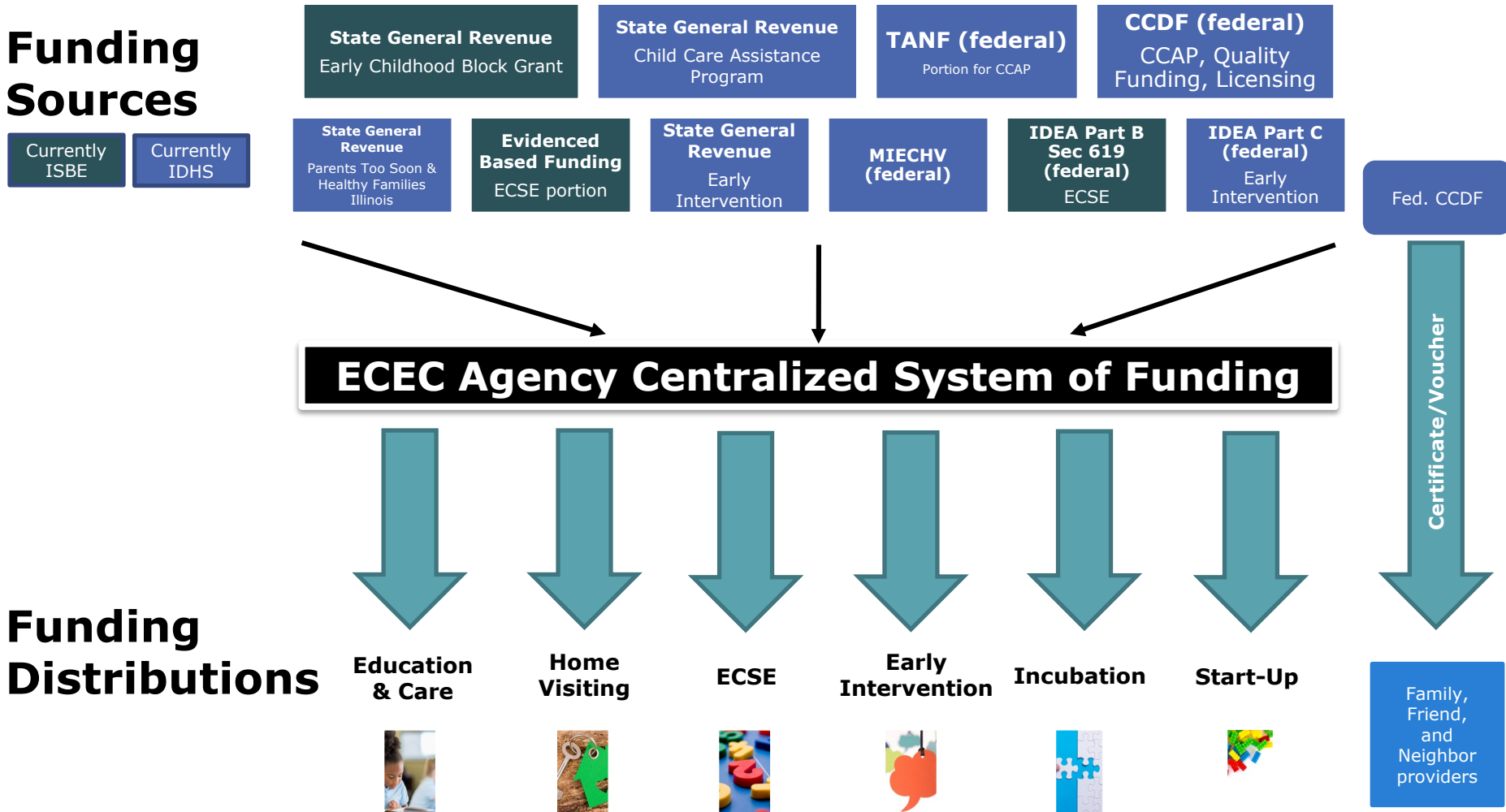
Services above the line could be part of the ECEC agency's centralized funding distribution process to existing & potential ECEC providers



Supports below the line are envisioned as part of the agency's budget to conduct all management & oversight capacities

# Funding sources to funding distributions

## Funding Sources



# Centralizing funding sources upstream could mean...

---

- Changing the **use designation of state general revenue and certain federal funds** for some or all of ECBG, CCAP, PTS, HFI, EI
- Providing those state general revenue and federal dollars to the ECEC agency to **distribute in a new, centralized system**

# An example ...

## TODAY

Provider may receive:

- 1) CCAP
- 2) Preschool for All
- 3) Prevention Initiative for center-based care



## NEW SYSTEM

Provider may receive:

Formula-based disbursement for education & care services\*

\*could be weighted for age of children, level of service, need designation, region, etc.

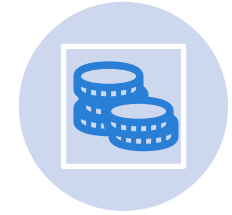
# As a reminder, some of the problems we hope a new system will address include:



**INEQUITABLE ACCESS** TO HIGH  
QUALITY SERVICES, ESPECIALLY  
RACE, ETHNICITY, GEOGRAPHY, & AGE



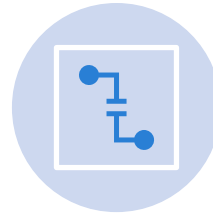
**CHALLENGES FOR FAMILIES**  
TO NAVIGATE THE SYSTEM



**INSTABILITY OF FUNDING**  
FOR PROVIDERS



**INSUFFICIENT DATA** TO INFORM  
EQUITABLE DECISION MAKING AND  
FUNDING



DISAGGREGATED  
**ACCOUNTABILITY AND  
DECISION MAKING**



**INADEQUATE FUNDING,**  
INCLUDING WORKFORCE  
COMPENSATION

# Why your input matters right now

---

Provide **feedback on direction**  
before the funding mechanism and  
management & oversight working  
groups conclude

Inform the **technical working  
group**'s priorities

# In your breakout groups, answer these questions

---

What gives you **hope** about this possible system?

What **concerns** you about this possible system?

What questions and issues should be **further explored**?



---

## *Commission Planning through January 2021*

# Priorities through year-end

---

As we shift from research and analysis into decision-making, our **priorities for the second half of the Commission's year** of work are to:



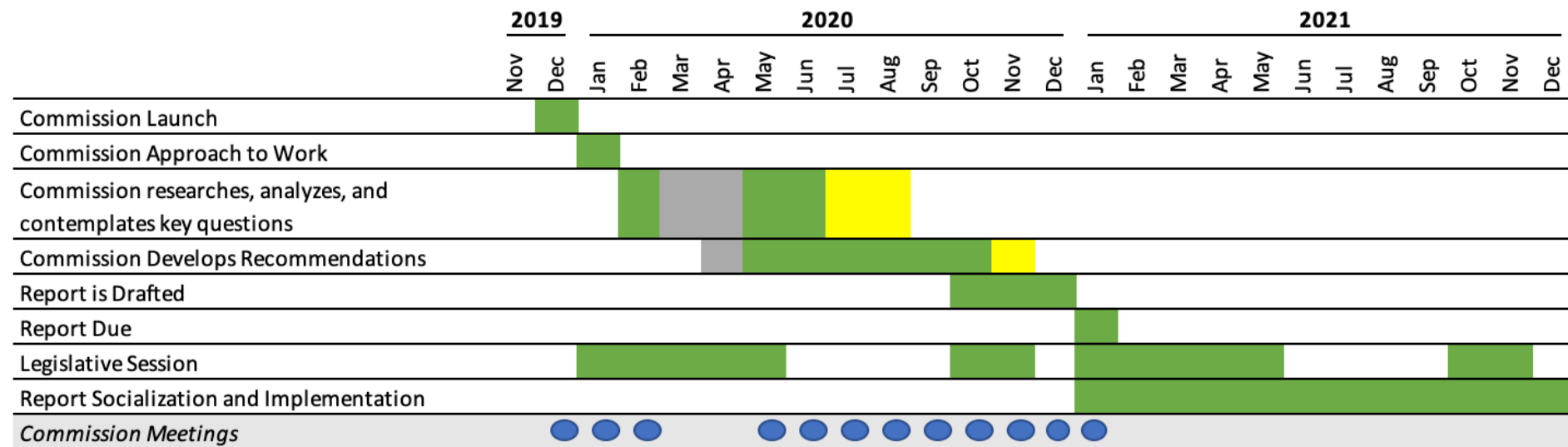
Solidify **recommendations** with the feedback from the racial equity impact and technical working groups



Thoroughly engage **key stakeholders** for feedback

# Commission Timeline

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



# Scope of our Final Deliverable

## What it is

- ✓ Strategic blueprint for the future system
- ✓ Detailed enough to inform a legislative package
- ✓ Thoughtful on major implementation issues
- ✓ Directional understanding of future system costs

## What it is not

- ✗ Detailed implementation plan for future system
- ✗ Bill language
- ✗ Detailed enough to inform administrative code
- ✗ Summation of unique individual provider costs

# Commission Meeting Planning

September  
2020

- Discuss the Commission's collective set of draft recommendations
- Identify areas of question, concern, and need for more information

October  
2020

- Review finalized funding adequacy outcomes
- Engage with national expert panel on draft recommendations
- Identify additional areas for inquiry on draft recommendations

November  
2020

- Receive recommendations from Racial Equity Working Group
- Discuss areas for revision of draft recommendations

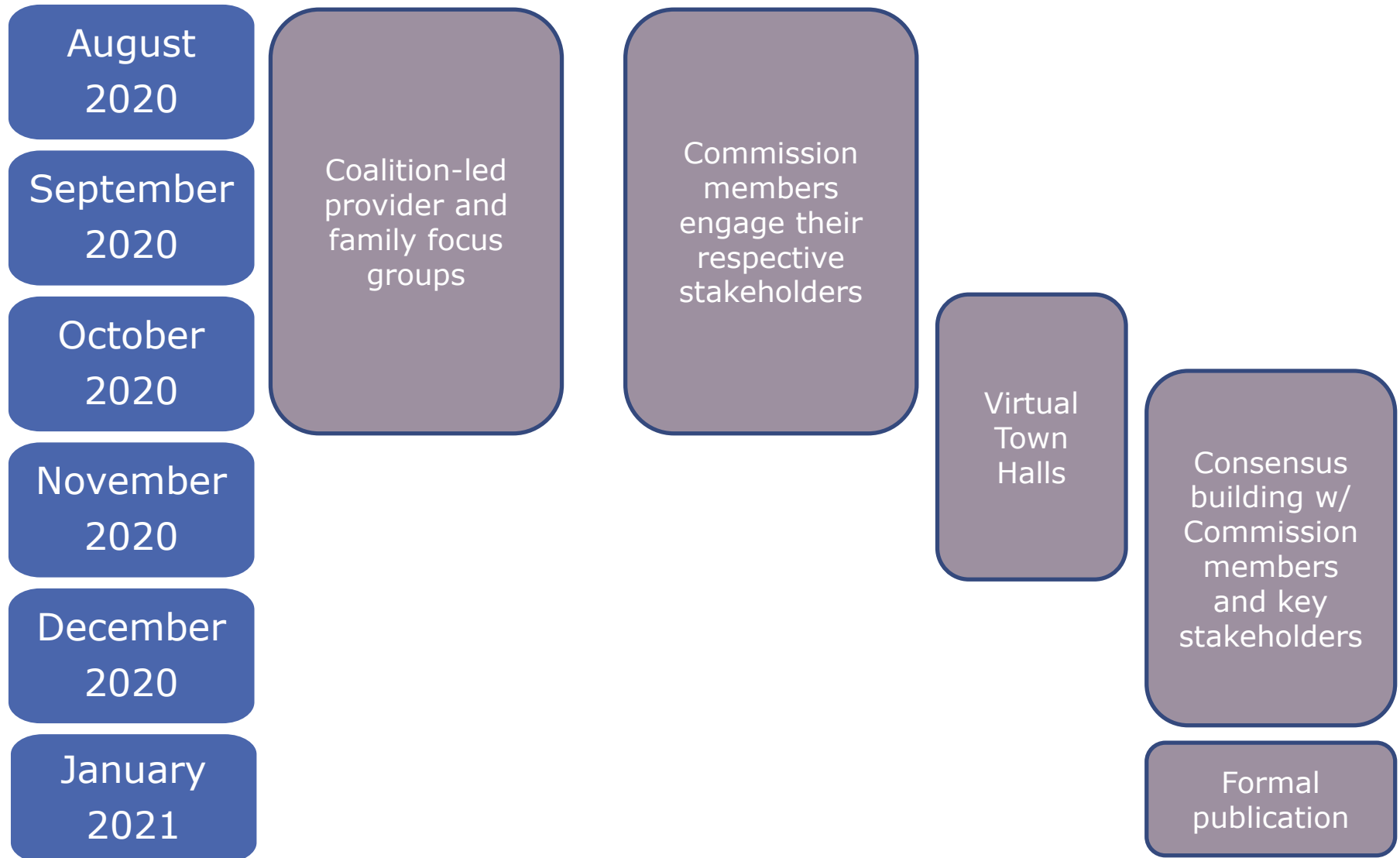
December  
2020

- Receive recommendations from Technical Working Group
- Review finalized outline of Commission recommendations
- Formal Commissioner sign-on to recommendations

January  
2021

- Consensus on the Commission's Final Report and follow-on needs
- Send recommendations to the Governor

# Stakeholder Engagement Activities



# Racial Equity and Technical Working Groups

August  
2020

Formalize objectives, establish membership,  
develop priorities and timelines

September  
2020

Kick off Working Groups

October  
2020

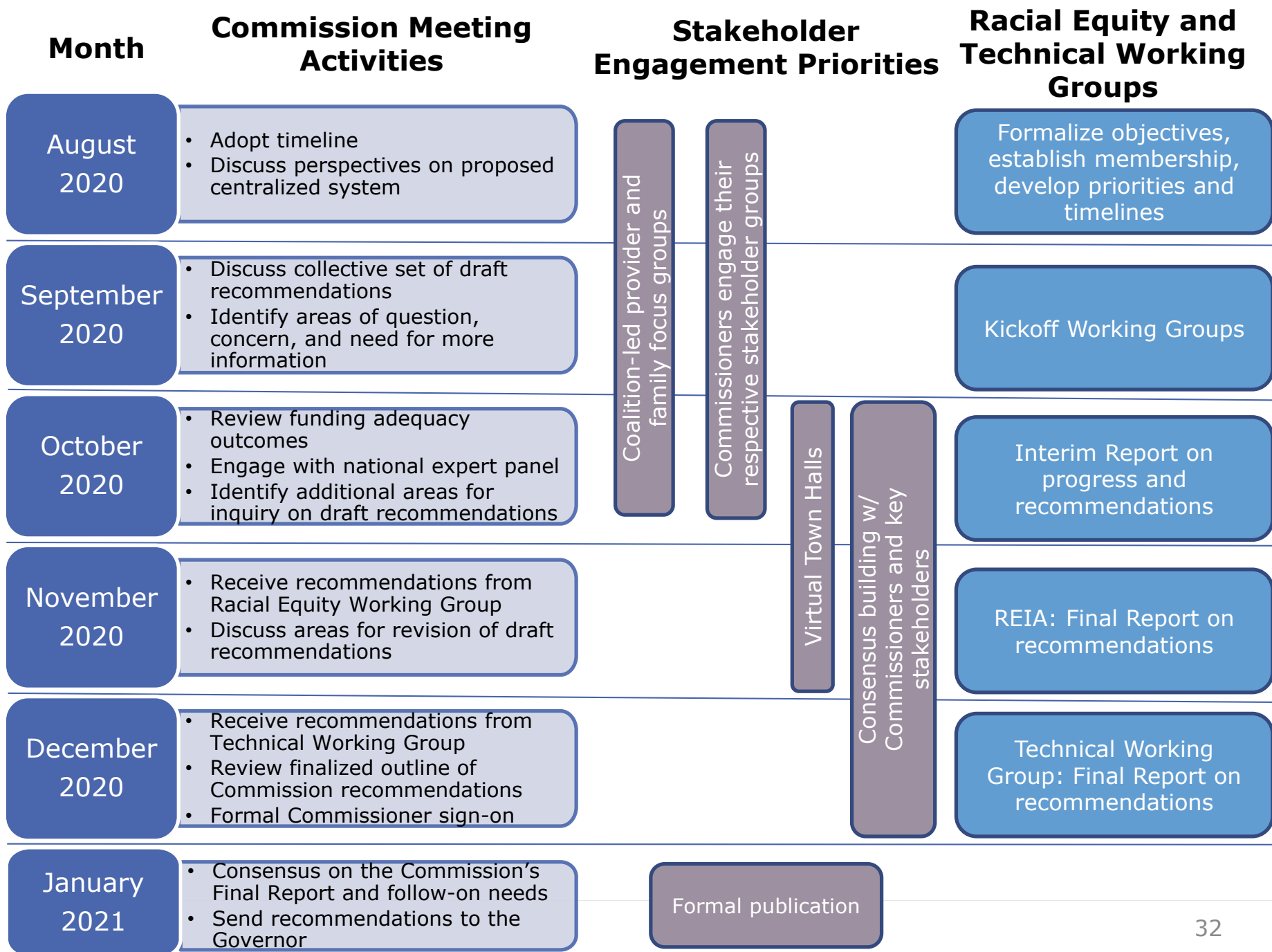
Interim Reports on progress and recommendations

November  
2020

Racial Equity Working Group: Final Report on  
recommendations

December  
2020

Technical Working Group: Final Report on  
recommendations





# Commissioner roles

---

What do you envision as ***your role*** over the coming months?

What ***stakeholders*** can you engage and in what ways?

What do you ***need*** to be successful?

*Please reflect and email Bethany Patten at [Bethany.patten@illinois.gov](mailto:Bethany.patten@illinois.gov) with 1-2 commitments and any specific support you need*

---

# *PN3 Strategy Presentation*

***Simone Santiago***

*Director, Prenatal to Three (PN3)*

*Ounce of Prevention Fund*

# Illinois Prenatal to Three Coalition

**Funding  
Commission**  
August 18, 2020





# Call to Action & Governor's Support

---

"Illinois will become the best state in the nation for families raising young children."

*- JB Pritzker, Illinois Governor*

"On behalf of the Governor's Office, we want to thank you for the tremendous amount of work that has been done to develop this comprehensive Prenatal to Three Agenda. As you know, the Governor has long been a champion for investment in the infant / toddler years. All of us in the administration are committed to building a better system of support: from prenatal to pediatric health care, to family economic security, to high quality childcare and home visiting. We can and must do better for families in Illinois, especially those families and communities that have been furthest from opportunity. "

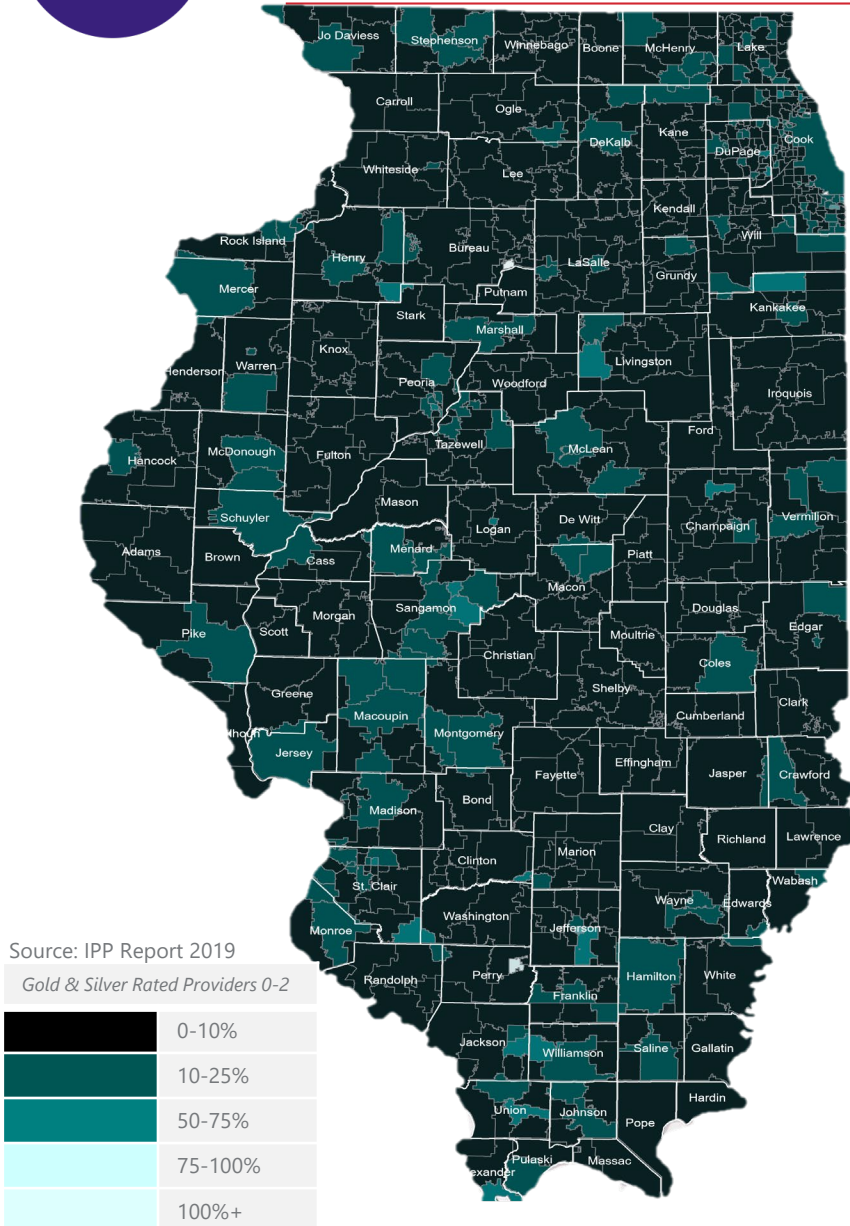
*- Statement from Jesse Ruiz & Theresa Hawley*

# Problem to Solve

- The science is clear that **the first three years of life are the most critical** for development, setting a child up for lifelong success, or lifelong challenges.
- Infants and toddlers see the **greatest disparities** in funding. Our children are shortchanged **exactly when the potential benefit is greatest.**

In Illinois, the impacts of this crisis are acute:

- **Only 25% of infants and toddlers have access to licensed child care**, with many communities experiencing access rates of less than 10%.
- **Only 5% of infants and toddlers have access to high-quality care**, in ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality rated programs.





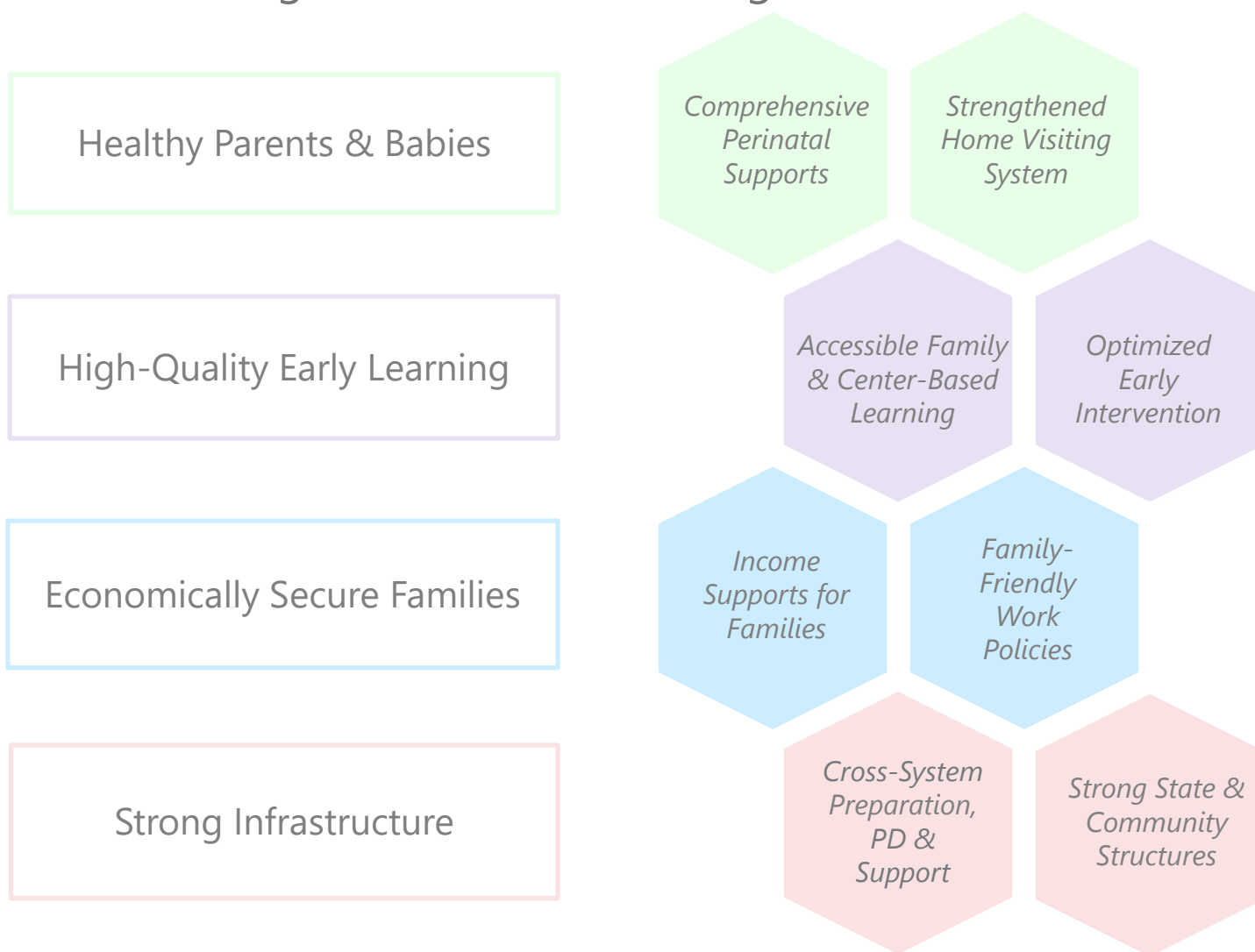
# PN3 Agenda & Coalition

---

- Last fiscal year, we convened a broad group of 100+ diverse stakeholders to create a **bold, ambitious PN3 Agenda** for Illinois.
- The vision is to **close the opportunity gap with our earliest learners** so that every expecting family and child in Illinois has the care and learning they need during their most formative years to create the strongest foundation for success in life.
- PN3 Coalition is the **collective effort** to implement the PN3 Agenda.
- We are part of a **national movement** of 15 states funded by Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI) to move PN3 work forward.
- The Ounce of Prevention Fund, together with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) will lead the PN3 Coalition as a **public – private partnership**.

# PN3 Agenda Goals & Strategies

The Agenda has 4 goals areas, 8 strategies and many objectives for advancing PN3 care and learning in Illinois.





# Initial Wins & Progress to Date

---

- In March, we conducted a **survey of 100+ leaders** in the PN3 space to begin to gauge their interest and capacity in components of the PN3 Agenda.
- In the survey analysis, we saw a **diverse array** of organizations that clearly saw themselves contributing to work across our strategies and goal areas.
- We convened a short-term **Advisory Group** to reflect on this data and guide us in thinking through implementation strategy.
- This group, together with our funders, partners, and PCI connections, helped to **co-create the structure and governance** of our Coalition as well as member roles and responsibilities.





# Framework for Roles

---

Our survey reflected a wide array of organizations that clearly saw themselves contributing to work across the Agenda.

**We believe facilitating the contribution of a diverse array of contributing organizations is the most important aspect of leading in the PN3 Coalition.**

Our criteria for defining a lead facilitating organization:

- *Accountability* for meeting PN3 Agenda objectives
- Ability to *facilitate contributions* from a diverse array of contributors
- Track record of *demonstrated impact* in the focus area
- Sufficient *capacity* in financial and human resources.



# Key Areas of Need

---

In order to enact the PN3 Agenda, we must:

- **Policy Implementation**

*Enact* the policy agenda through policy and practice change, advocacy, and expansion of services.

- **Family & Beneficiary Voice**

*Ensure* inclusion of family and beneficiary voice.

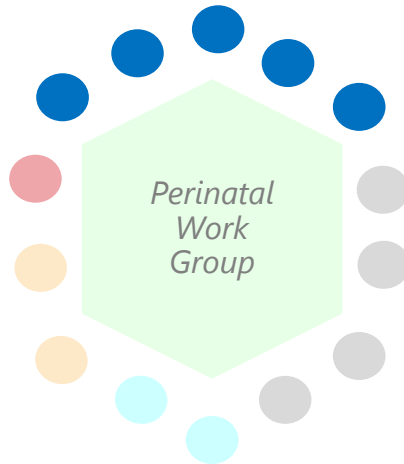
- **Communications**

*Build* the public awareness necessary for a strong PN3 Coalition and increased investment in this area.

- **Data**

*Vet* baseline data numbers, track progress to objective using impact data.

# Coalition Structure



## Contributing Organizations:

- Regularly participate and commit significant effort in service of this initiative.

## On-the-Ground Champions:

- Provide assistance as able, sign-on to and vocalize support

## Lead is responsible for:

- *Facilitating Contributions*: Holding this strand of work and facilitating a unified effort among all contributing members.
- *Policy Implementation* – Enact the policy agenda to meet our objectives.
- *Family Voice* – Inclusion of family and beneficiary voice.

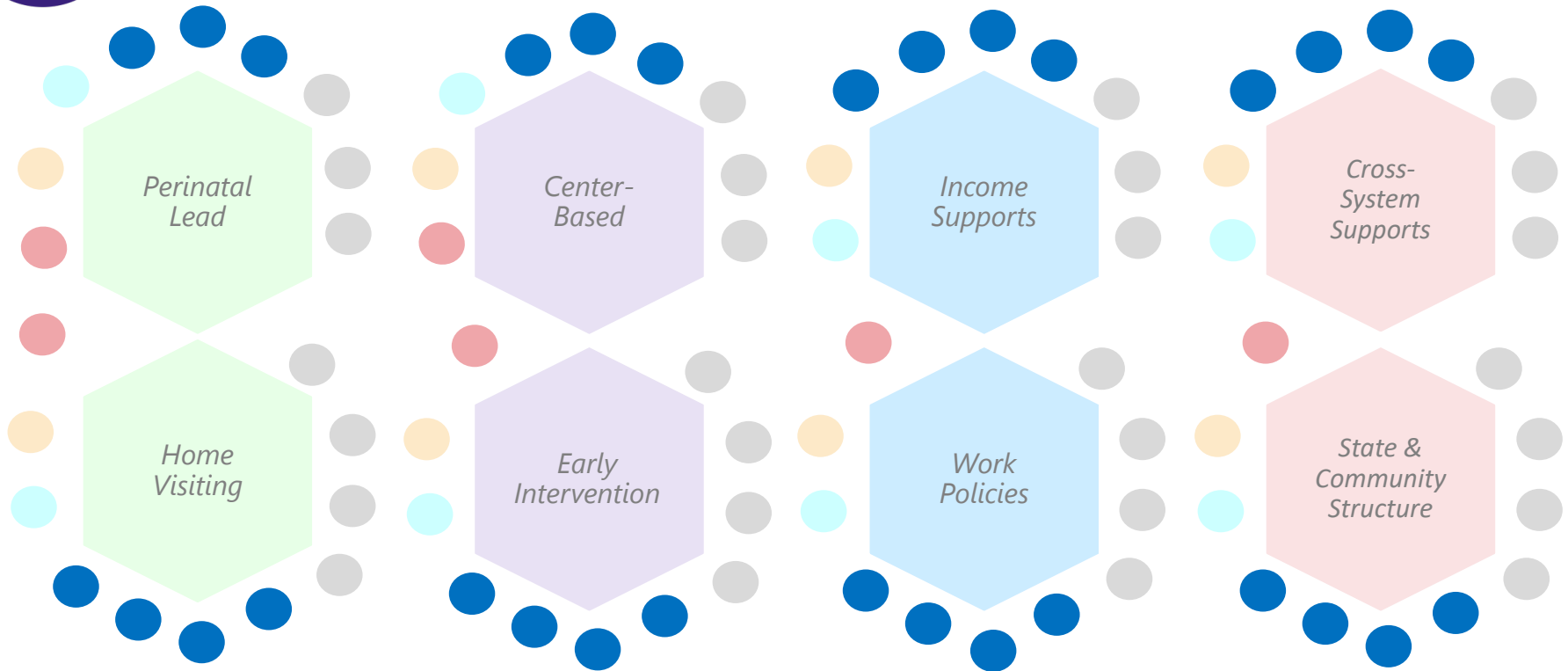
## Communications Committee:

- Each work group will have Communication Committee members to *build public awareness and investment*.
- They will work together across the Agenda to ensure *clear, unified messaging*.

## Data Committee:

- Each work group will have a Data Committee member to *vet baseline data and track progress* to objective using impact data.

# PN3 Coalition Structure



Steering Committee

Communications Committee

Data Committee



# PN3 Alignment with State Initiatives

---

- The **Funding Commission's** work in adequate funding and cohesive governance moves forward a critical set of objectives from the PN3 Agenda. In this area of overlap, both initiatives move forward together.
- As we operationalize the Funding Commission recommendations and the PN3 Agenda, the **Funding Coalition** and the PN3 Coalition have committed to leveraging combined support and avoiding duplicative efforts.
- The PN3 Coalition is co-led with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. The PN3 Agenda has been aligned with the **GOECD Strategic Plan for the Preschool Development Grant B5.**
- Each of the GOECD PDG B5 strategic goals in the focus areas of Access, Coordination, Quality, and Workforce align directly with PN3 Agenda objectives. This enables us to coordinate efforts to track and report on progress in implementation.



# Closing Thoughts

---

- The **Funding Commission's** work in adequate funding and cohesive governance is foundational for the successful implementation of the PN3 Agenda.
- We know that the **disparities are greatest in the most formative years of a child's life**, prenatal to three.
- As the Funding Commission finalizes recommendations and begins implementation, we are grateful to you for your **focus on infants and toddlers**, specifically, within the broader spectrums of 0-5 and 0-12.
- Thank you to those engaged in the PN3 Coalition. Should you want to connect with this work, please email Simone Santiago at [ssantiago@theounce.org](mailto:ssantiago@theounce.org).

---

## *Next Steps*

# Stakeholder Engagement Call for Feedback and Recommendations

---

Commission members or members of the public who would like to provide written feedback on the Working Groups' initial conclusions or any other materials presented or discussed at the Commission are invited to do so.

Please submit your written feedback to the Commission by emailing it to [bethany.patten@Illinois.gov](mailto:bethany.patten@Illinois.gov).



There is a live survey on the Commission's website.  
Please encourage responses this month!



# Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

[Home](#)[COVID-19](#) ▾[About Us](#) ▾[Our Work](#) ▾[Early Learning Council](#) ▾[For Families](#)[For Providers](#)

## Governor's Early Childhood Funding Commission

In December 2019, the Governor established the Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding ("Early Childhood Funding Commission"). 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. The Commission will submit these recommendations to the Governor on or before January 15, 2021.

[Click here](#) to read a release from Governor Pritzker's Press Office on the launch of the Commission.

## Membership

[Click here](#) to view a list of Commission members.

[Click here](#) to view bios for each Commission member.



[Click here](#) to share your feedback and recommendations with the Commission through an online survey.

[Oprime aquí](#) para compartir sus opiniones y dar recomendaciones a la Comisión en una encuesta en línea.

# Racial Equity and Technical Working Groups

---



Kickoff anticipated by Labor Day



Working Group Leads:

- Racial Equity: TBD
- Technical Working Group: Elliot Regenstein



Final report out in November (Racial Equity) and December (Technical) with ongoing feedback throughout

# Next steps

---

- **Working Groups will meet virtually** 8/27 – 9/3 and will **solidify initial recommendations** to the full Commission for feedback along with remaining questions for technical support
- We will kick off the **Racial Equity and Technical Working Groups**
- September **Commission Meeting** will be held virtually on **Tuesday 9/15**
- We will **continue to assess the public health crisis and its impact** on our work, our priorities, and our timeline

---

# Public Comment

# Thank You

