

Priorities: 2017-18

Executive Committee: Govern, Lead, Guide Funding

- Ensure the Council is the voice for the early childhood system; promote the development of the whole child
- Support DHS in its work to evaluate quality and integrate it across the system
- Guide ECBG re-competition, Child Care Development Plan, ESSA, and DHS CCDF implementation plan
- Support ISBE to ensure alignment for the birth to third grade continuum
- Continually strengthen and sustain the Office of Early Childhood Development
- Explore federal funding and TA opportunities
- Recommend which RTTT / ELC projects will continue, transition to another agency, or end
- Monitor progress against identified metrics across committees
- Identify opportunities to move the needle on kindergarten readiness

HVTF

- Improve quality of and access to evidence based home visiting programs for all at risk families
 - Analyze data provided by funding agencies to determine the current status of the home visiting system and identify strategies to ensure its sustainability.
 - Add evidence-based home visiting to the continuum of reimbursable services provided through Medicaid in Illinois, either through a Medicaid State Plan Amendment, and/or the implementation of the proposed expansion in the State's 1115 waiver application.
- Continue to support extension, and potentially expansion, of the federal Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant program.
- Increase coordination between home visiting programs at the state and local levels as well as between home visiting and all other publicly-funded services for families
 - Guide the implementation of the Home Visiting-Child Welfare and Home Visiting for Homeless Families pilots and identify lessons learned and implications for policy and practice to inform recommendations and guidance for future expansion of the pilots.
- Launch two pilot sites of the Universal Newborn Support System and provide strategic guidance on its implementation.

Priorities: 2017-18 (continued)

Integration and Alignment: Advance an integrated and aligned early childhood system

- Monitor ISBE success in meeting new prioritization and recommendations around a new framework for the FY18 Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) re-competition.
- Examine the gap in early childhood services for children who turn 3 after September 1st and are homeless and/or in the child welfare system and develop recommendations to resolve issue as best possible.
- Provide leadership, with OECD and IDPH, in building an effective system for early identification and referral services for all children across all systems engaged in developmental screening.

Access: Increase Ability to Reach Vulnerable Populations

- Increase the number of children in priority populations enrolled in early learning programs
- Continue to strengthen our work with vulnerable populations
- Forward access, especially for linguistically and culturally diverse (LCD) EC children
- Increase the number of state and community based policies and practices that include language to support priority populations being served in early learning programs
- Increase the number of family and community engagement recommendations including family input that are ultimately adopted by the ELC
- Increase the number of policies and practices that include language to support family and community engagement in early learning programs
- Assist in mobilizing around specific parent engagement and awareness in partnership with state agencies, ex IDPH

Quality: Develop the Workforce

- Support the IOM's recommendations on educator capacity regarding Center Directors and Principals
 - Professional standards and qualifications are aligned to include foundational knowledge of child development and early childhood education
 - Instructional leadership is a core competency that is part of professional standards and qualifications alignment and ongoing professional development
- Focus on workforce preparation to serve linguistically and culturally diverse (LCD) EC children
- Help define appropriate strategies for license exempt providers to improve quality in partnership with DHS
- Appoint liaison to support Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Education Workforce Development Project
 - connect the project focused on child care centers and family care to the larger workforce in the system at large
- Identify shared competencies in credentialing across systems
- Assist DHS with defining the most salient parts of quality that are critical to maintain in a resource constrained environment & help identify cost-effective strategies to achieve quality