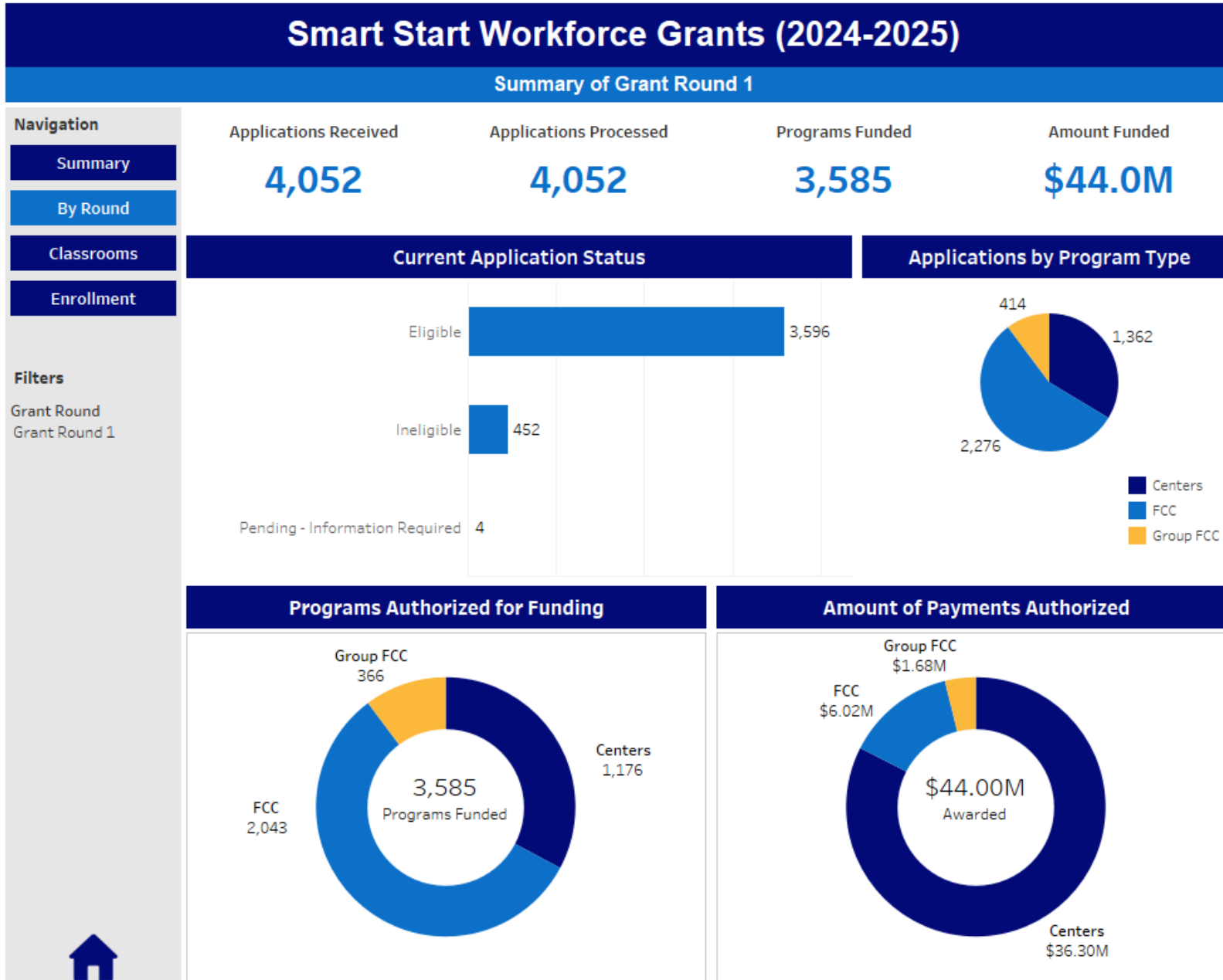




IDHS Early Learning Council Update: Smart Start Child Care

September 16, 2024



Current as of
September 16,
2024
*Not final Round
1 totals*



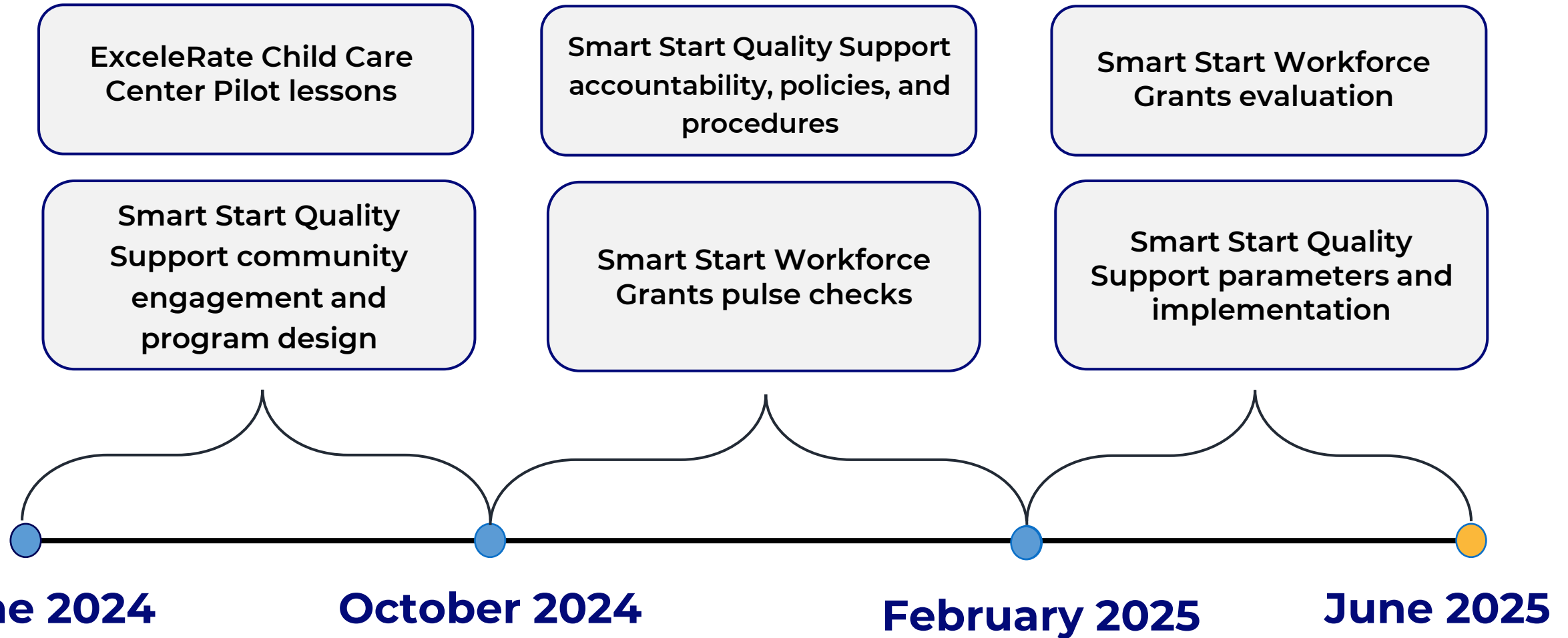
Proposed Administrative Rules for Smart Start Workforce Grants were published in the IL register on July 5

- Proposed administrative rules
 - https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/index/register/volume48/register_volume48_27.pdf
- Any comments or questions about Smart Start Workforce Grants **rulemaking** should be submitted via the contact information posted with the First Notice:
 - *Questions/requests for copies/comments on the 4 DHS rulemakings through 8/19/24: Tracie Drew, DHS, 100 S. Grand Ave. East, Harris Bldg, 3rd Fl., Springfield IL 62762, 217-785-9772, DHS.AdministrativeRules@Illinois.gov*
- Communications not related to rulemaking will continue to be answered by IDHS and implementation partners.

Ex Parte Communications

- **Any communication by anyone outside of DHS staff during the rulemaking period that imparts or requests relevant information or makes an argument concerning the rulemaking and is communicated to DHS or any DHS employee outside a public forum must be added to the public record.**
- We will do our best to answer questions during this period, prioritizing clarifications to support child care programs in determining their eligibility and applying for the program.

A year of planning year for Smart Start Quality Support Program expansion



The Smart Start Quality Support Program can build on Smart Start Workforce Grants to progress toward quality



Other early childhood funding streams that support quality

Smart Start Quality Support Program

Support child care programs committed to enhancing their quality

Smart Start Workforce Grants

Raise wages to promote program stability and staff recruitment and retention