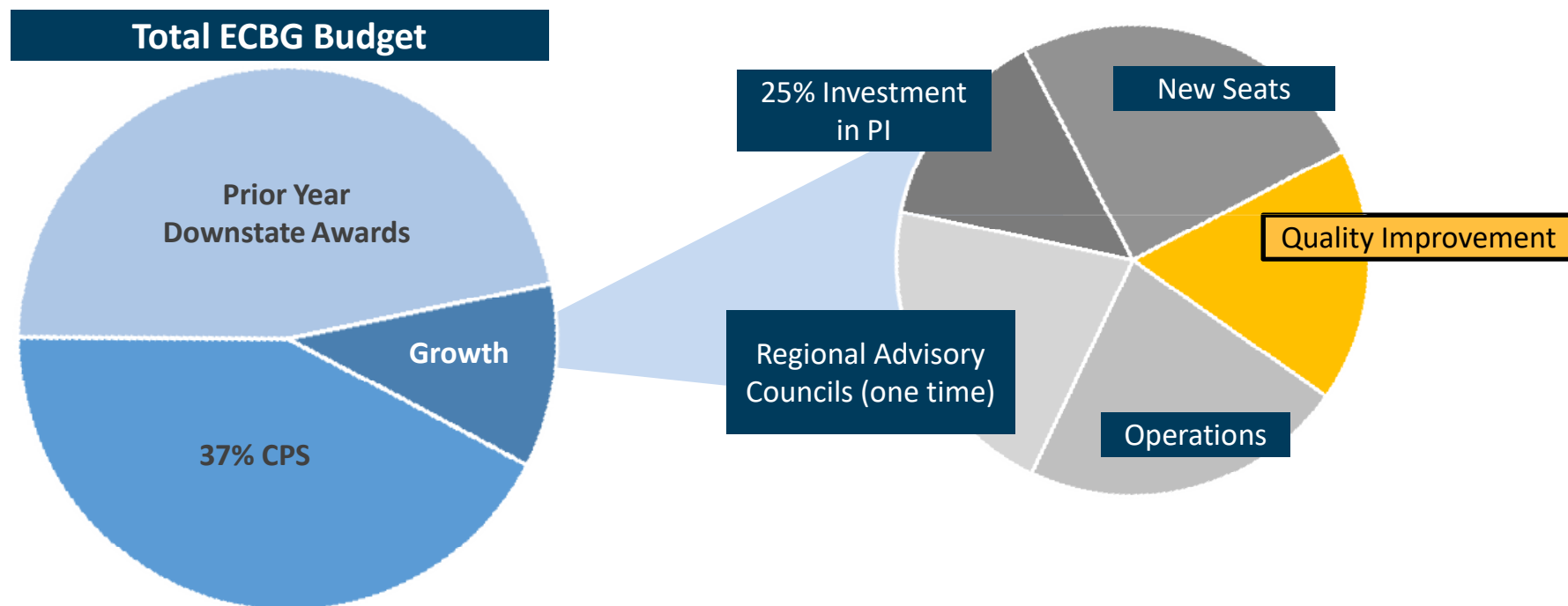


# Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Update

## ELC Executive Committee

April 28, 2025

## Growth in ECBG funding is filtered through non-negotiable commitments that limit ECBG funds for quality improvement



## **In recent years ISBE has taken steps to address the wide variability in funding level to grantees**

- Historically, ECBG awards were primarily informed by what the applicants requested in the application, which was reviewed for reasonableness.
  - There was high variability in both what was being requested and what was being awarded.
- In FY24, ISBE shifted its approach to award allocations to address inequity. All new PFA grantees were awarded \$3,900 per slot, and all new PFAE grantees were awarded \$8,500 per slot.
- In FY24, ISBE allocated a 1% increase in quality dollars to all ECBG grantees.
- In FY25, based on field input and cost analysis, ISBE prioritized quality dollars to increase the average per-child funding minimums for non-school district providers who were below the current minimum of \$3,900 for PFA and \$8,500 for PFAE.

# Available quality dollar amount fluctuates each year, and ISBE's approach to quality investment has adjusted to be responsive to data and field input

FY20	FY21 and FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Programs received funding to increase per child amounts ranging from \$65 per child for PFA to \$222 per child for PI center based.</li><li>• Total quality investment \$5.4M</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Level funding, no increases</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost of living increase for CBO salaries and benefits</li><li>• Total quality investment of \$2.8M</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1% increase across the board</li><li>• Total investment of \$8.5M</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raised the per-child investment for PFA and PFAE for non-district programs and raised home visitor and supervisor salaries to match the IDHS floor.</li><li>• Total investment of \$8.5M</li></ul>

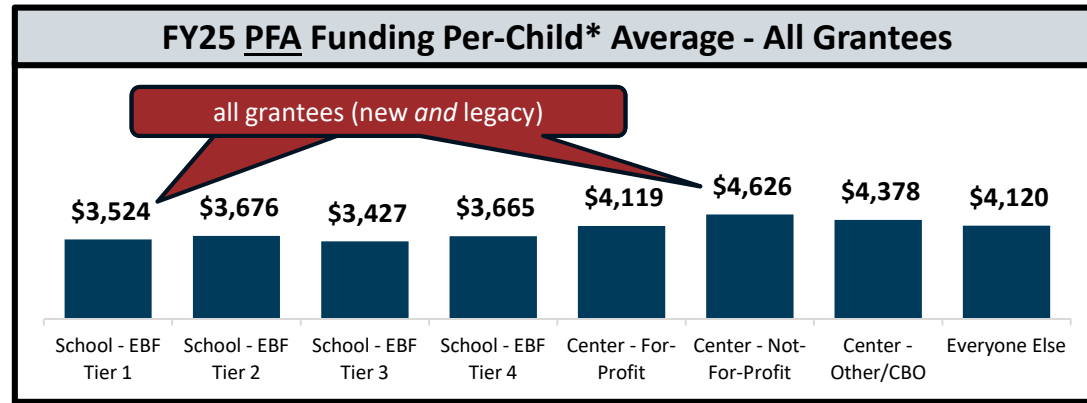
# ISBE targeted FY25 Quality Investment to allocate quality dollars for maximum impact based on stakeholder feedback including guidance from ELC and current grantees

In FY25, **ISBE allocated \$8,581,235 in quality dollars to increase:**

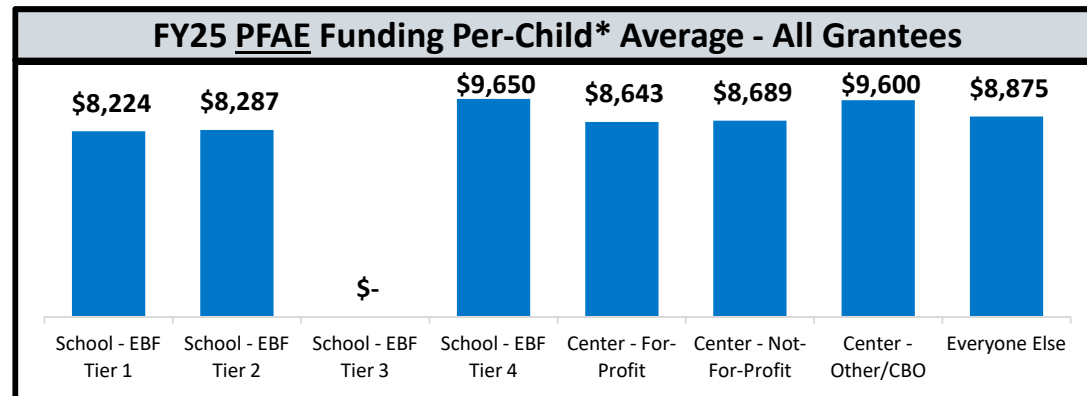
- **Per-child funding minimums** and averages for non-school district providers. A total investment of \$5,237,348.
- **Salary floors** for Prevention Initiative – Home Visiting staff and supervisors to match IDHS's HV salary floors. A total investment of \$3,343,887



The *average* funding per-child\* in FY25 is relatively consistent across grantee types for all existing grantees



\* after FY25 quality investments for non-school district grantees

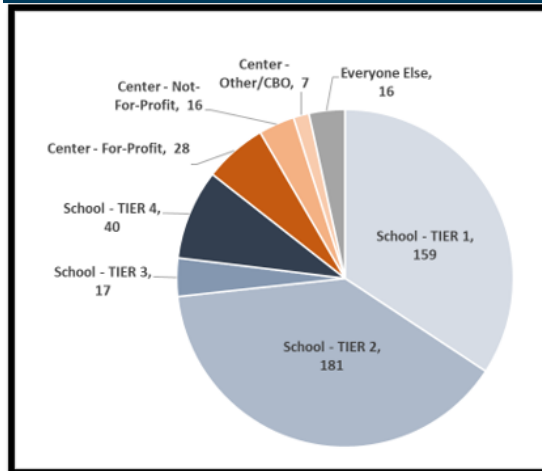


\* after FY25 quality investments for non-school district grantees

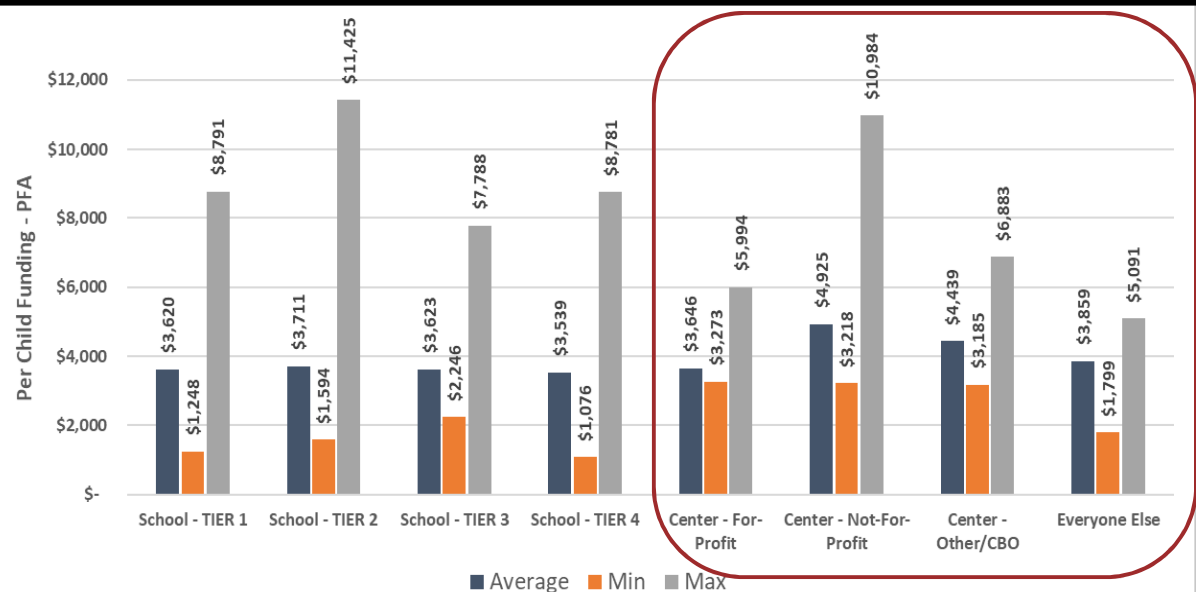


# PFA FY24: There is a high variability in average per-child\* funding within grantee types in FY24 PFA awards, in part due to legacy funding amounts

Count of PFA Grantees

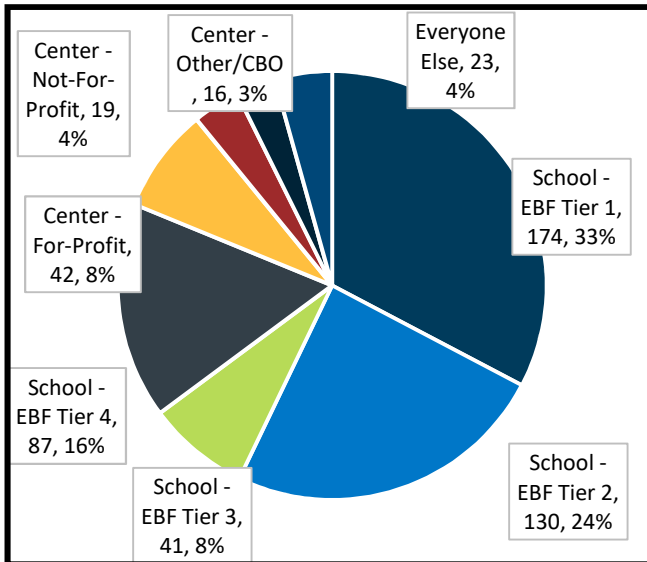


FY24 PFA Funding Per-Child - Average, Min, Max – By Grantee Type



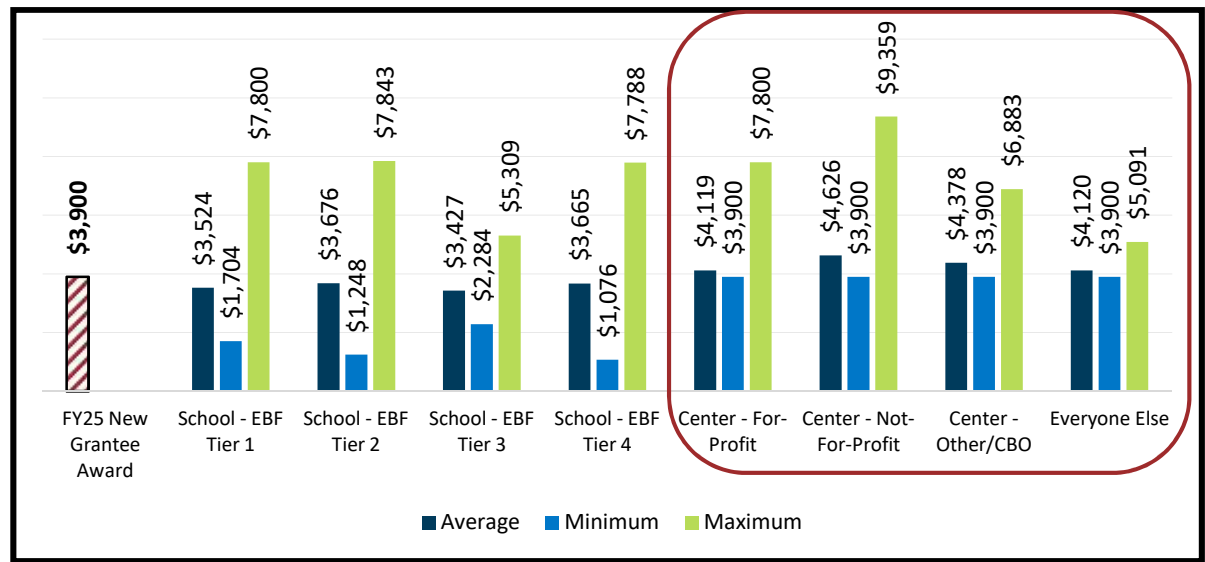
# **PFA FY25 - By targeting FY25 quality dollars to all non-school district grantees, *ISBE has made significant progress* in increasing the average and minimum per-child funding for these providers**

**FY25 Count of PFA Grantees**



For this analysis, there are a total of 532 PFA grantees included, and School districts make up the majority of PFA grantees at 81%

**FY25 PFA Funding Per-Child\* - Average, Min, Max – By Grantee Type**

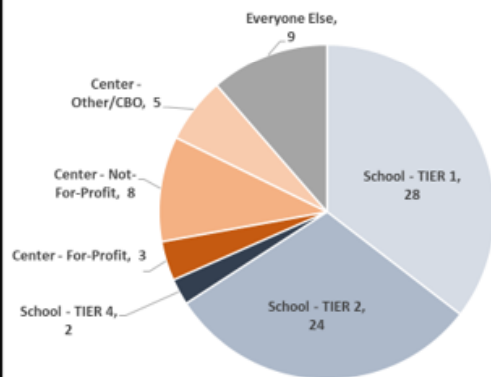


\* after FY25 quality investments for non-school district grantees

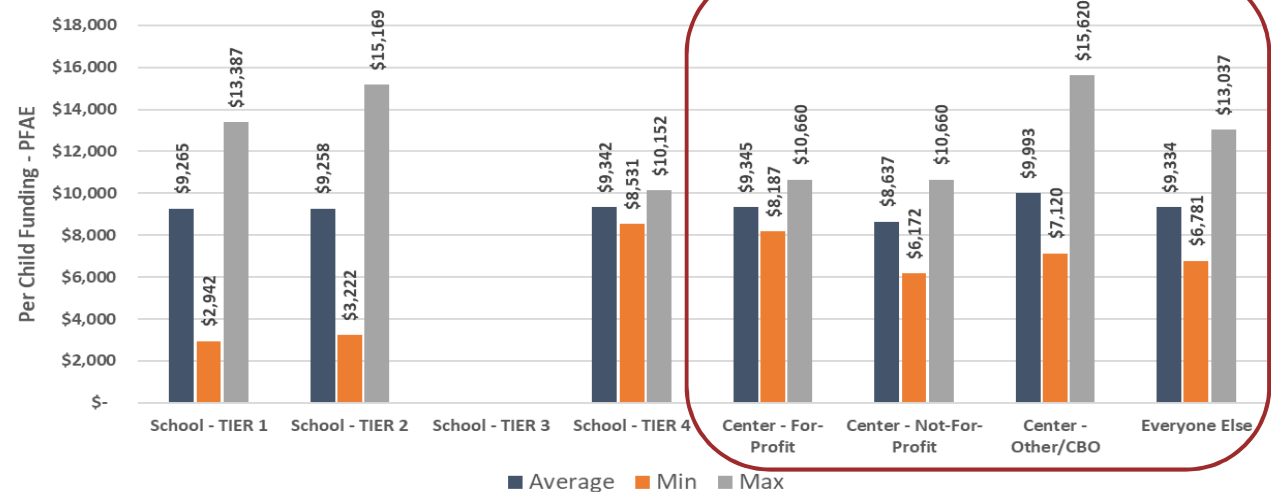


# **PFAE FY24 -We see high variability in average per-child\* funding within grantee types in FY24 PFAE awards, in part due to legacy funding amounts**

**Count of PFAE Grantees**

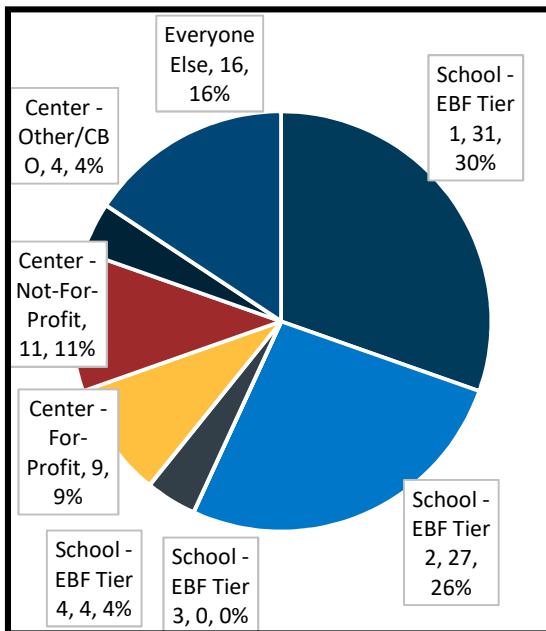


**FY24 PFAE Funding Per-Child - Average, Min, Max – By Grantee Type**

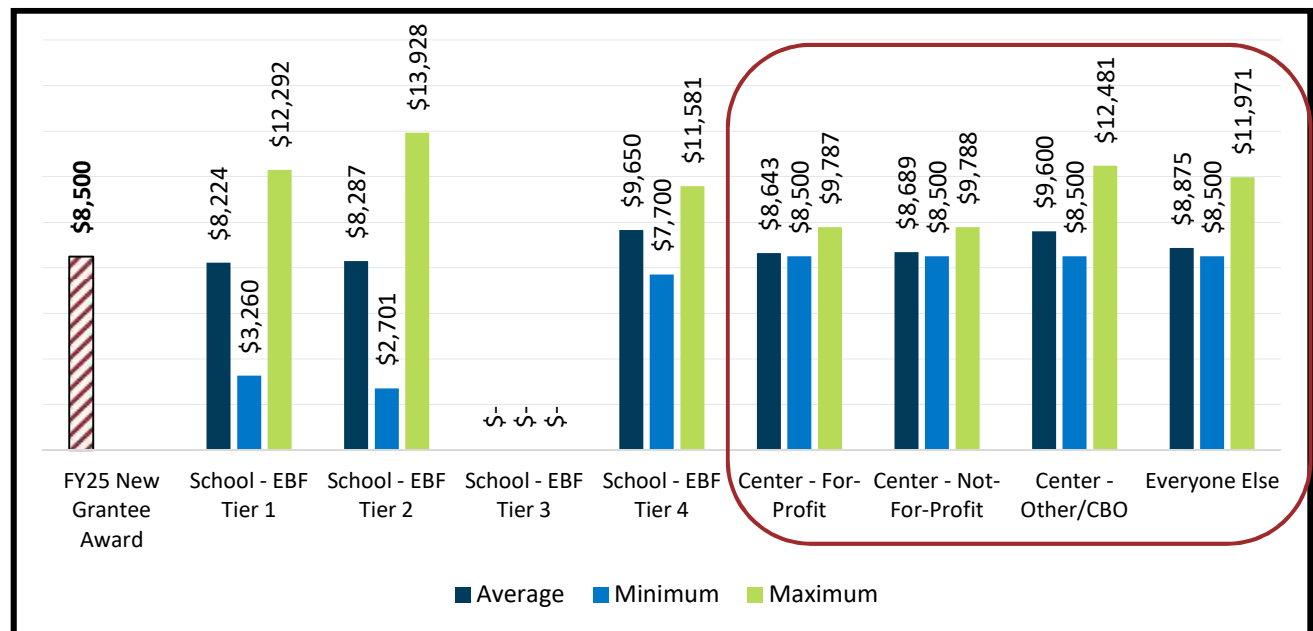


# **PFAE FY25 – By targeting FY25 quality dollars to all non-school district grantees, *ISBE has made significant progress* in increasing the average and minimum per-child funding for these providers**

**FY25 Count of PFAE Grantees**



**FY25 PFAE Funding Per-Child\* - Average, Min, Max – By Grantee Type**



For this analysis, there are a total of 102 PFAE grantees included, and School districts make up the majority of PFA grantees at 60%

*\* after FY25 quality investments for non-school district grantees*



# Rationale and Impact of PFA and PFAE Quality Investment Between FY2024 & FY2025

## Rationale

- Stakeholder input highlighted that non-school district grantees have fewer revenue sources to supplement ECBG grants.
- Resources that non-school district grantees relied on are inconsistent and provide minimal funding amounts.
- Non-school district grantees have a harder time recruiting and retaining staff due to salary and benefit issues.

## Progress from FY24-FY25

- 100 PFA and 40 PFAE non-school district grantees have a higher per-child minimum funding
- Increase for the minimum per child funding ranges from \$627 to \$2,101 for PFA and \$313 to \$2328 for PFAE. This is the largest per-child increase since FY20.

## FY26 Early Childhood Activities at ISBE

- ECBG FY26 Planning
  - February 2025 Governor Pritzker's State of the State Address
  - Proposed ECBG level funding
  - No updates at this time

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thank you

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