

# Illinois Early Learning Council Executive Committee Meeting

July 22, 2025

# Proposed Ad Hoc committee on Federal Resources and Programs

**Rationale:**

- Efforts by the federal government to change policies and regulations, defund programs, or restrict eligibility to services has created significant challenges for children and families who rely on these services along with the providers who serve them.

**Charge:**

- Establish a common, statewide meeting space for discussions among early childhood policymakers, providers, advocates, parents, and other interested stakeholders to consider how to respond to an evolving federal policy and fiscal landscape.

**Goals:**

- Ensure there’s a common understanding of the implications associated with changes in federal funding and programs among early childhood stakeholders.
- Coordinate and support federal advocacy efforts to protect and enhance access to early learning programs.
- Consider adjustments to state programs, policies, and investments to protect and enhance access to early learning programs given changes in the federal landscape.
- Review and consider what types of supports early childhood providers need to protect and enhance access to early learning programs given changes in federal landscape.
- Support short term strategies as we inform long-term transition efforts.

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## Recommendation for Co-Chairs:

- Alicia Lynch-Deatherage, Interim Director of the Early Childhood Development Department, ISBE
- Celena Roldan Sarillo, Executive Director of Start Early Illinois, Start Early

## Staffing:

- Maya Portillo, Project Director for Funding Design, IDEC

## Recommendation for Members:

- All members of the ELC and broader early childhood stakeholder community who wish to participate.
- All meetings will be open to the public.

## Meeting Cadence:

- Virtual meetings every two weeks starting the week of July 28.