

Working group on child care & development programs

Illinois PN-3 Coalition

October 2019

Child care & development programs

- 3 major funding streams
 - Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS - federal)
 - Preschool for All/Prevention Initiative (PFA/PI - state)
 - Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP - federal/state)
- The ExceleRate Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) assigns a “Circle of Quality” to every program
- Programs grew separately; now need a unified strategy
- Few center-based EHS or PI programs
- CCAP supports center-based and home-based child care programs
- CCAP funding is too low to support quality, so some programs “layer” it with PFA/PI or HS/EHS

Building from strengths

- Working group reviewed summary recommendations from 11 reports and initiatives that address program access and quality
 - Sorted their recommendations into 4 major areas: Workforce, Funding, Quality Improvement, and Facilities
- Regrouped
 - Funding cut across all areas
 - Broke out Quality Improvement between centers and home-based settings
 - Kept Facilities and Workforce categories
- Family & community voice was represented in a few sources, especially the Shriver Center report

Recommendations

Working group discussed each category in detail and recommended the following strategies

- Improve the quality of center-based birth-to-three classrooms by using a tiered funding ladder to pay for the staffing levels and compensation called for in ExceleRate standards (now being revised)
- Improve the quality of home-based settings by funding family child care networks
- Establish facilities funding programs to make more high-quality space available in centers and home-based settings
- Increase support for teacher and provider education and credentialing

Next steps

- Coalition feedback
- Impact data projections
- Final changes