



Supporting Children with Disabilities and Developmental Delays

November 18, 2025





Agenda

- **Welcome, Connector & Updates**
- **ChiByDesign Early Intervention Sprint**
- **Discussion**
- **Public Comment**
- **Wrap-Up**

Community Agreements



Stay engaged



Speak your truth in a
safe



Take space, make
space



Allow time for
interpretation



Experience
discomfort- and
name it



Show empathy



Expect and accept
lack of closure



Come prepared to
actively participate in
meetings



Avoid the use of
acronyms



Be flexible

Workgroup Engagement

Workgroup Members

<https://bit.ly/4epcNp6>



Members of the Public

<https://bit.ly/4htrqdH>



Connecting the Dots Across Workgroups and TAC

- **Supporting Children with Disabilities & Developmental Delays**
- Co-Design Workshops
- Focused Discussion
- Surveys and Interviews
- Listening Sessions

Vision: What do families with children with disabilities and developmental delays want and need?

What do providers want and need to deliver to families?

- **Support Workgroups**
- Focused Discussions
- Surveys and Interviews
- Interagency Team

How do we get from current state to our vision?

What infrastructure is needed to make the vision possible?

- **Supporting Children with Disabilities & Developmental Delays**
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Current state: what are the pain points in family services?

Funding Design

TAC

Subcommittees Structure



Child Care/Pre-K

- Including centers, homes, and school-based settings
- Topics may include:
 - What are the costs associated with family-driven vision of quality?
 - How does funding design impact providers in the mixed delivery system?
 - What are the considerations around funding structures to support family and community needs?

Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Providers

- Topics may include:
 - What are the unique needs of Family Friend Neighbor (FFN) providers?
 - How should funding design and the road map to full costs account for FFN providers' structure?

Home Visiting

- Topics may include:
 - What are the considerations around saturation of Home Visiting and impact on funding design?
 - What else should be considered to reflect families' priorities?

Connecting the Dots Across Workgroups and TAC

7

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- Focused Discussion
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Current state: what are the pain points in family services?

ChiByDesign:
Early
Intervention
Sprint

TAC

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

NOV

18

Advancing Early Support for Children Birth to Age Three



BIRTH-TO-THREE DESIGN SPRINT



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Meet the ChiByDesign Team



BIRTH-TO-THREE DESIGN SPRINT



TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

Meet the ChiByDesign Team



Mikayla Buford
Design Researcher



Mihika Mehta
Design Researcher



Clara Asumuda
Design Researcher



Tommie Collins
Project and Visual
Communications Lead



Justin Walker
Business Strategy &
Design Operations Lead



Chris Rudd
Founder & CEO

ADVANCING EARLY INTERVENTION

Project Overview

The Illinois Department of Early Childhood has engaged our team to understand barriers affecting early intervention services for children from birth to age three. Our research will focus on significant access challenges and disparities identified in three Chicago neighborhoods and rural Illinois communities.

By understanding the challenges faced by parents, service providers, and other stakeholders, this initiative aims to develop targeted policy recommendations that improve service delivery and create more equitable outcomes for children and families across the state of Illinois.



TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

Engagement Focus Areas

IDEC sought to engage specific communities in urban and rural settings that experience significant barriers to accessing and receiving birth-to-three services with a focus on early intervention. These communities are:

CENTRAL ILLINOIS COUNTIES

Henry County

Stark County

Peoria Country

Tazewell County

Woodford County

CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS

Auburn Gresham

South Austin

West Garfield Park

TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

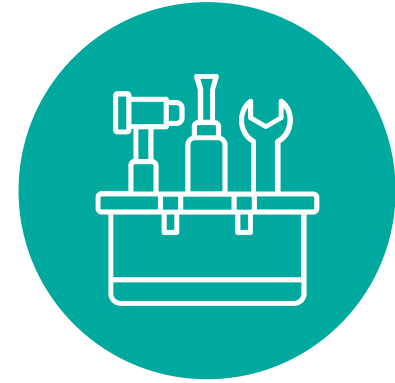
Project Process: Engagement Activities



WORKSHOP ONE
Understanding the System



WORKSHOP TWO
Future Framing



WORKSHOP THREE
**Prototyping &
Policy Infrastructure**

TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

Project Process: Engagement Activities



WORKSHOP ONE
Understanding the System



WORKSHOP TWO
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WORKSHOP THREE
**Prototyping &
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TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

Participation Breakdown

Stakeholders	Targeted*	Central Illinois	Chicago	Total
Parents or Caregivers	20	4	5	9
Providers	4	3	3	6
Intermediaries	4	6	1	7
State Personnel	8	4	3	7

**Total number across both cohorts, divided equally*



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Surfaced Challenges and Emerging Opportunities (Preliminary Insights)



BIRTH-TO-THREE DESIGN SPRINT

TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

Surfaced Challenges and Emerging Opportunities

In workshop one, co-designers identified several challenges that impact parents/caregivers and providers respectively and collectively while also brainstorming emerging opportunities to improve the experience. Below are some examples:

PARENT & CAREGIVER CHALLENGES

Virtual versus in-person services. Technology makes receiving services more accessible; however, parents and caregivers prefer in-person sessions, for they foster relationship building and more tangible results.

PROVIDER CHALLENGES

Provider training. There is a need for more providers to have adequate training and familiarity to deliver quality care and more services to families and caregivers.

OVERARCHING CHALLENGES

Lack of collaboration amongst system actors. Across systems, the work is done in a siloed manner, leading to gaps in experiences and families receiving the care needed.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

Centralized referral tracking system. Currently, the information is siloed to CFCs, which inhibits families from being promptly connected to services.

TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

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WORKSHOP TWO
Future Framing



WORKSHOP THREE
**Prototyping &
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TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

Participation Breakdown

Stakeholders	Targeted*	Central Illinois	Chicago	Total
Parents or Caregivers	20	4	4	8
EI Providers	4	2	2	4
Day Care Providers	4	0	3	3
State Personnel	8	2	1	7
CFC Staff	6	0	8	8

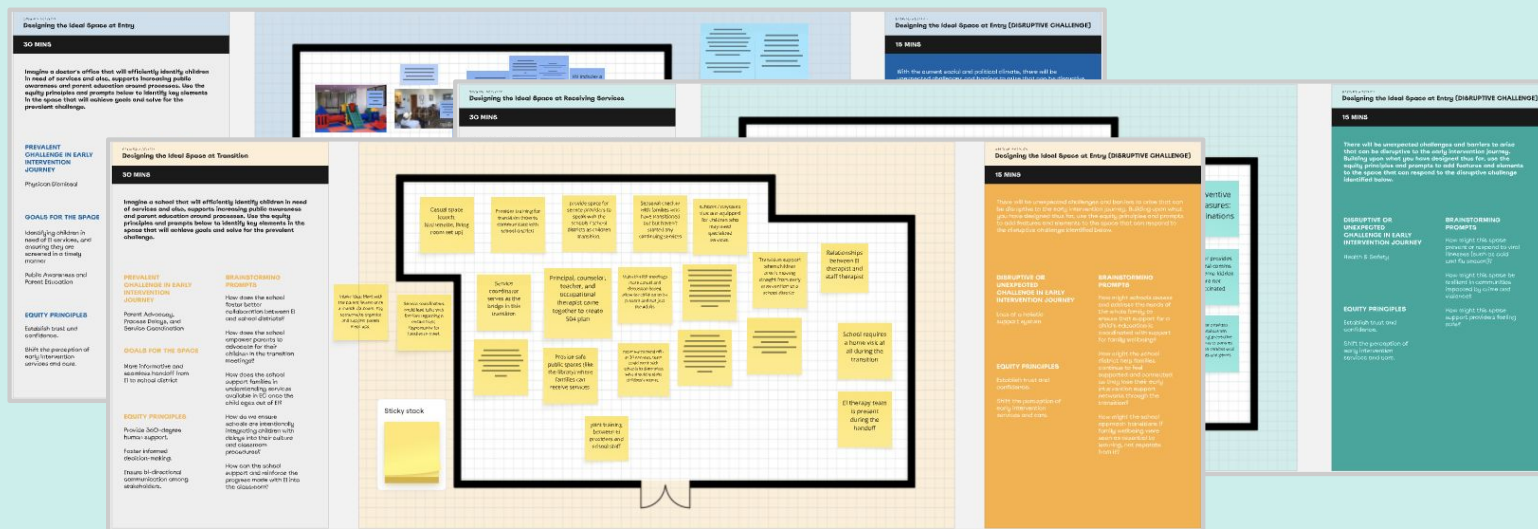
**Total number across both cohorts, divided equally*

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Co-Creating Policy Outcomes (Preferred Futures)



BIRTH-TO-THREE DESIGN SPRINT



FUTURE FRAMING

Session Objective

We sought to collectively imagine a set of preferred futures where the needs of families and children are at the center. Co-designers explored ways to address current challenges across each phase of the early intervention journey: entry, receiving services, and transitioning out of early intervention. They proposed ideas for new services, delivery models, resources, and technology solutions to better support families and providers.

TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

What We Heard: Early Ideas & Emerging Opportunities

In workshop two, co-designers identified potential solutions to existing challenges across the early intervention journey, from entry to transition from early intervention services:

ENHANCED SUPPORT DURING WAITLIST AND SERVICE DELAYS

Interim developmental support.

Families receive interim developmental support while waiting for providers (home visiting, activities, temporary therapists, curated materials)

IMPROVED DATA INFRASTRUCTURE & SYSTEM TRANSPARENCY

Centralized EI data system. A centralized, statewide EI data system provides accurate, real-time counts of: Children waiting for services, provider shortages, zip-code level need. Data would also be used for staffing, resources allocation, and workforce planning.

EXPANDED ACCESS AND FLEXIBILITY FOR CENTER-BASED SERVICES

Community-based EI centers.

Policies around “natural environment” are updated to allow optional, accessible center-based EI services including socialization opportunities, team-based care, and safety for hesitant providers.

EXTENDED SERVICES BEYOND AGE 3 FOR CHILDREN WITH GAPS

Interim supports. Children who age out without immediate access to preschool or ECSE can continue receiving interim supports.

Creation of new policies that prevent abrupt termination of services when on viable transition replacement exists.

TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

Process & Engagement Opportunities



WORKSHOP ONE
Understanding the System



WORKSHOP TWO
Future Framing



WORKSHOP THREE
**Prototyping &
Policy Infrastructure**

TRANSFORMING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ILLINOIS

Workshop Three: Prototyping Policy

To ensure a successful engagement for workshop two, these are the next steps for ChiByDesign:

CO-DESIGNER OUTREACH

We will continue outreach to achieve the ideal number of co-designers **(18+)**.

Particularly looking for Parents and Caregivers

WORKSHOP DATES

DEC
09

CENTRAL
ILLINOIS

DEC
11

CHICAGO

WORKSHOP PLANNING & DELIVERY

ChiByDesign will **design a 2.5 hour workshop for 18+ co-designers** where co-designers will collectively prototype policies and supporting infrastructures needed to create the proposed future of early intervention.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Co-designing the New Illinois Department of Early Childhood



IDEC SERVICE DESIGN



Service Design Overview

The inaugural Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC) will combine services, functions and responsibilities from three departments (IDHS, ISBE, and DCFS) to rectify many of the challenges that parents and providers face when engaging with the early childhood (EC) system.

To achieve the goal, **we are engaging parents, caregivers, providers, intermediaries, state and other workforce roles** to understand current needs, challenges and journeys when accessing and providing EC services and create:

1. **Phase 1: Service blueprint from a parent journey POV** with pain points and opportunity areas to innovate
2. **Phase 2: Service blueprint 1 from a provider journey POV** with pain points and opportunity areas to innovate
3. **Both phases: Recommendations for service innovations**

Participant Recruitment

In Phase 2, we are looking to engage perspectives:

- Limited English Proficiency (LEP), immigrant, undocumented, kinship and foster families navigating EC
- Caregivers from rural, suburban and Region 3, 5 ([IDHS Map](#))
- Caregivers utilizing home visitation (including prenatal) and FFN, ECSE
- Male/Father perspectives
- Providers, intermediaries and workforce from various perspectives, services and settings (daycare home, group home day care, FFN, daycare center, EI, ECSE, OT, PT, educator, doula, advocacy, etc.)

*Approx. start date March / April 2025**

The team will share interest survey and other relevant information once Phase 2 kicks off.

Contact:

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Q + A



CONNECT WITH US

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social.





Discussion

1. What are similar or familiar themes that we have discussed?
2. What is different?
3. What do we want to make sure the ChiByDesign team knows as they move forward?



Public Comment



Additional Opportunities

- [Child Care Funding Design Subcommittee](#): Today, Nov. 18, 1-2pm
- [Transition Advisory Council](#): Today, Nov. 18, 5:30-7pm
- [Funding Design Workgroup](#): Wed., Nov 19, 4:30-6pm
- [Supporting Multilingual Learners Workgroup](#): Fri., Nov. 21, 9-10am
- [Advisory Workgroup](#): Mon., Dec. 1, 4-5:30pm
- [Transition Advisory Meeting](#), Tues., Dec. 9, 10am-3pm
- [Home Visiting Funding Design Subcommittee](#): Wed., Dec. 10, 11:30am-1pm

2025 Meetings

Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m.

- December 16





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 @IllinoisDepartmentofEarlyChildhood

 @Illinois Department of Early Childhood

