

Illinois Department of Early Childhood Transition Listening Session

November 15, 2024

12:00 – 1:00 pm



Today's Goals

- ✓ Learn about the transition to the new Department of Early Childhood
- ✓ Gather insights from community members
- ✓ Public Comment

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks	5 min
Getting to Know You: Who's in the Room	5 min
Department of Early Childhood Update	15 min
Hearing from you: discussion	20 min
Public Comment	10 min
Next Steps & Close	5 min

Welcome & Opening Remarks



Getting to Know You: Who's in the Room?



Poll: Who's in the Room?

Poll questions:

1. **What voice/perspective are you representing here today?**
2. What region of the state are you located in?
3. What is your race/ethnicity?



Poll: Who's in the Room?

Poll questions:

1. What voice/perspective are you representing here today?
2. **What region of the state are you located in?**
3. What is your race/ethnicity?



Poll: Who's in the Room?

Poll questions:

1. What voice/perspective are you representing here today?
2. What region of the state are you located in?
3. **What is your race/ethnicity?**



The Purpose of the Listening Sessions is to...

- Provide updates on the transition process
- Understand the opportunities for the new agency based on the lived experiences and perspectives of diverse voices
- Create a space for stakeholders to hear and learn from each other



Family Spotlight



One challenge has been inconsistent availability of programs, which can **disrupt continuity for my child**. I've also noticed that some resources are difficult to access or understand. With the creation of the new agency, **I'd like to see better coordination and clearer information, so families can easily find and utilize the services they need.**

- Parent in Cook County (Regional Listening Session Participant)

Department of Early Childhood Update

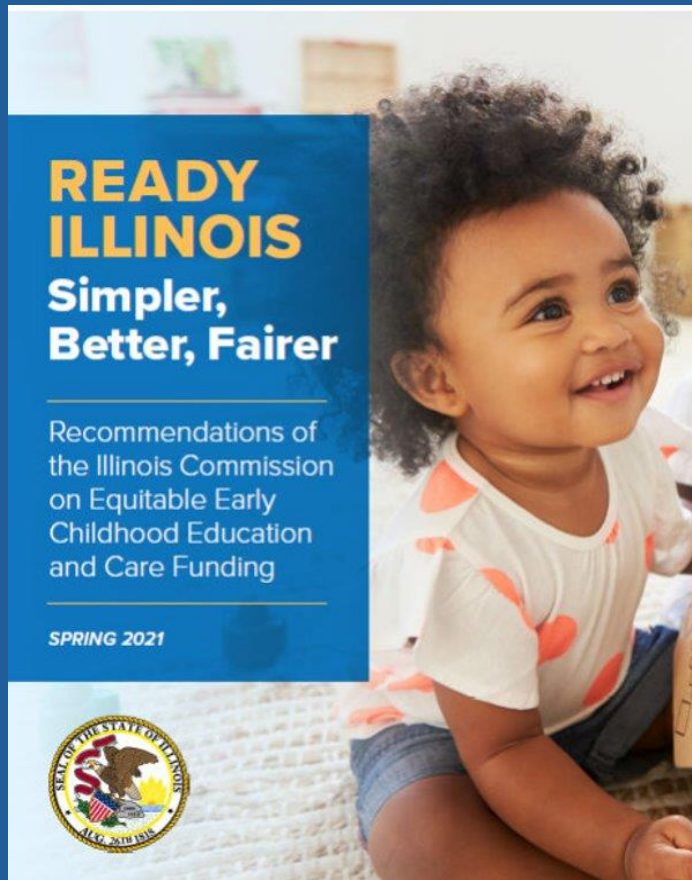


Illinois Department of Early Childhood



New IDEC Team Member:

Sydney Ellison
Chief Operations Officer



“Early Childhood program governance has to be unified in its focus on serving children and families, easing the burden on providers and promoting equity.”

*— Governor JB Pritzker, October 24, 2023
Capitol News, Illinois*

Why a new agency?

A single agency for Early Childhood will be:



Easier for parents



Simpler for providers



More cohesive and streamlined for the state

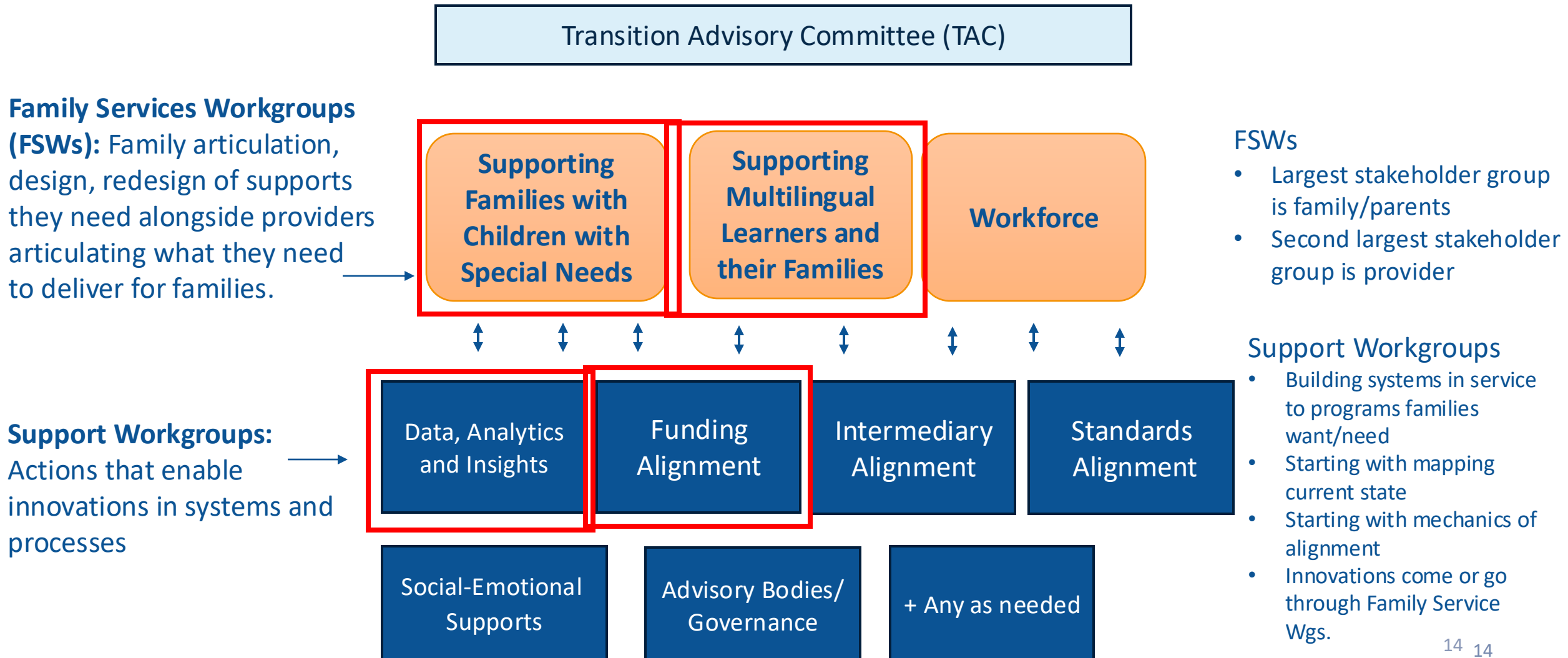
Macro steps in the transition innovation lifecycle



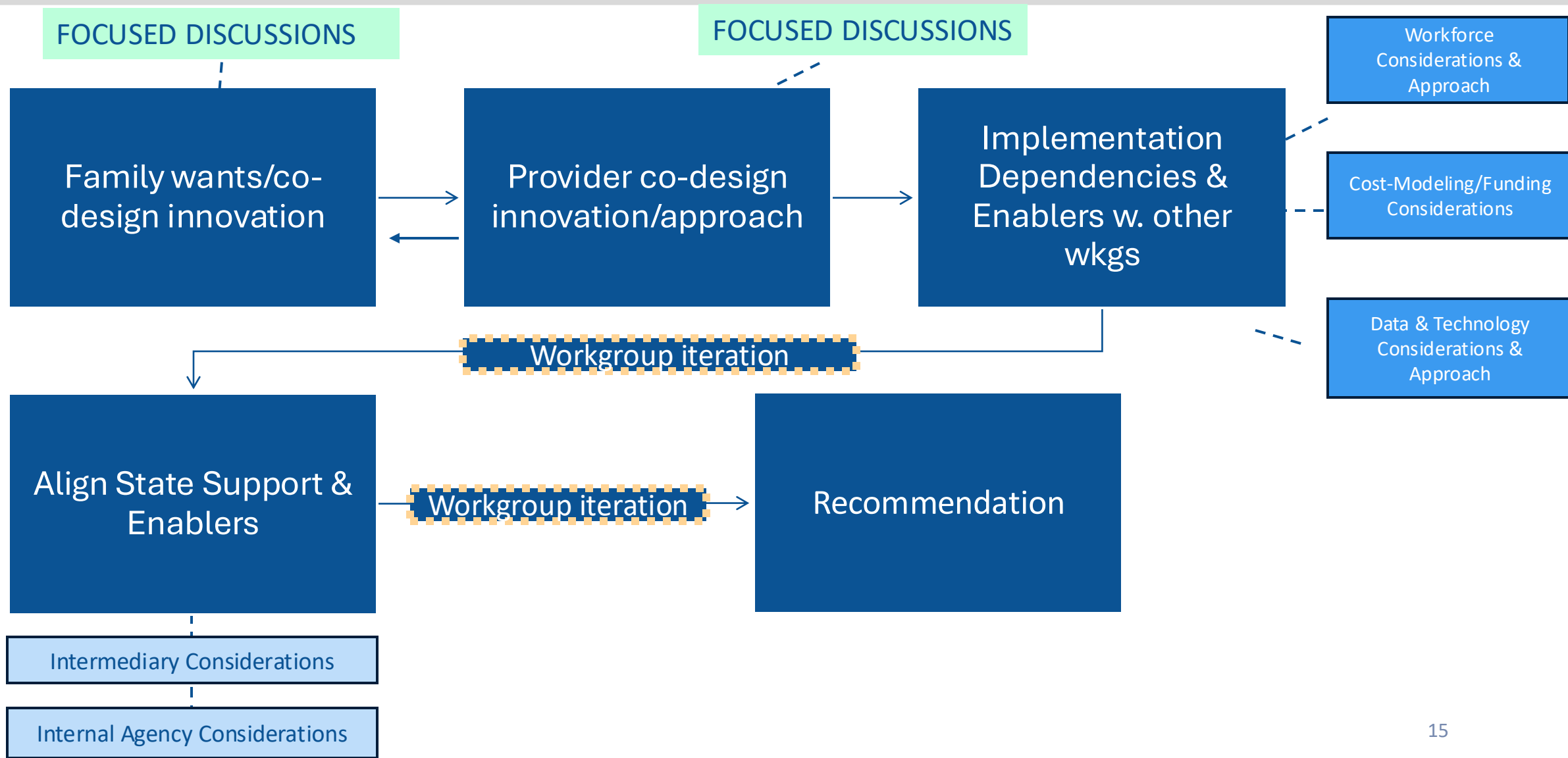
Innovations don't always mean new ideas!

WORKGROUP HIERARCHY/WORKFLOW

“Don’t Let the Tail Wag the Dog”



Sample workflow for Family Service Workgroup



IDEC Updates

Workgroups re-launched and launched this month!

- Supporting Multilingual Learners (re-launch)
- Supporting Families with Children with Special Needs (re-launch)
- Data, Analytics, and Insights (re-launch)
- Funding Design (launch)

Meeting information and materials available on IDEC's website

Funding Design Workgroup

The Funding Design Workgroup will **advise on the design and use of ECEC funding to promote equitable and inclusive access to quality services** that meet the needs of children and families, with a **particular focus on investment prioritization and system sustainability**.

Specifically, the Funding Design Workgroup will:

- Provide insight on tradeoffs and how to order funding priorities
- Recommend opportunities to improve existing challenges and build on successes
- Raise concerns about implementation and potential unintended consequences



Funding Design Workgroup

Funding Design Workgroup - Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 04:30 PM

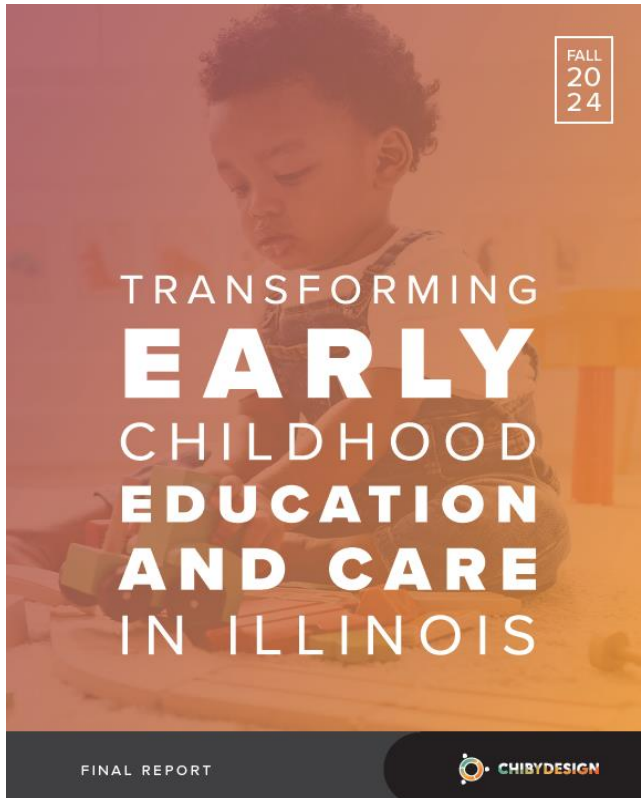
[11.13.24 Funding Design Workgroup Agenda](#)

<https://idec.illinois.gov/>

There is still an opportunity to join a workgroup or raise your hand to participate in a focused discussion!

IDEC Previews

ChiByDesign Report



Regional Listening Session Feedback



Transition to the
Department of Early
Childhood



Regional Listening Session
2024

Partner organizations played an integral role in this effort

Birth to Five
Bright Futures
Brightpoint
Carbondale Children's Cabinet
Carole Robertson Center for Learning
Chambers of Commerce
Chicago Commons
Child Care Resource and Referrals
Community Coordinated Child Care
Cuddle Care
Early Intervention Services, Inc.
Erikson Institute
Family Focus
Heartland Community College
Home Daycare Provider Association
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois Early Childhood Outdoors
Illinois Head Start Association
John A Logan College
Johnson County Cabinet for Children and Youth

Latino Policy Forum
Lincoln Land Community College
National Louis University
PAASSS
Professional Development Advisory Council
Project Child
Providers in Action
Raising Illinois PN3 Coalition
Regional Offices of Education
SAL Community Services
Sangamon County Public Health Department
Sangamon Heart
Southern Illinois Coalition for Children and Families
Springfield Urban League Head Start/Early Head Start
TOTS Home Daycare Association
Under Carey's Care
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
We, the Village Coalition
West40
YWCA

Next Steps



Share findings with co-designers, session hosts, and community members



Bring these lived experiences and perspectives into the process and work of the Transition Advisory Committee, workgroups, and planning



Share and discuss with state teams—identify how we integrate and build off this feedback



Post ChiByDesgin and complete and post Regional Listening Session final reports

Community Feedback



Community Feedback Overview: Participation Analysis December 2023 – October 2024

As of October 2024, **3,919** stakeholder responses have been captured through the state's transition stakeholder activities.

Total cumulative participation in each of the activities includes:

- 791 TAC Attendees;
- 876 Listening Session Attendees;
- 563 TAC and Listening Session Feedback Survey Responses and
- 1,689 Regional Listening Session Attendees

Spanish language engagement:

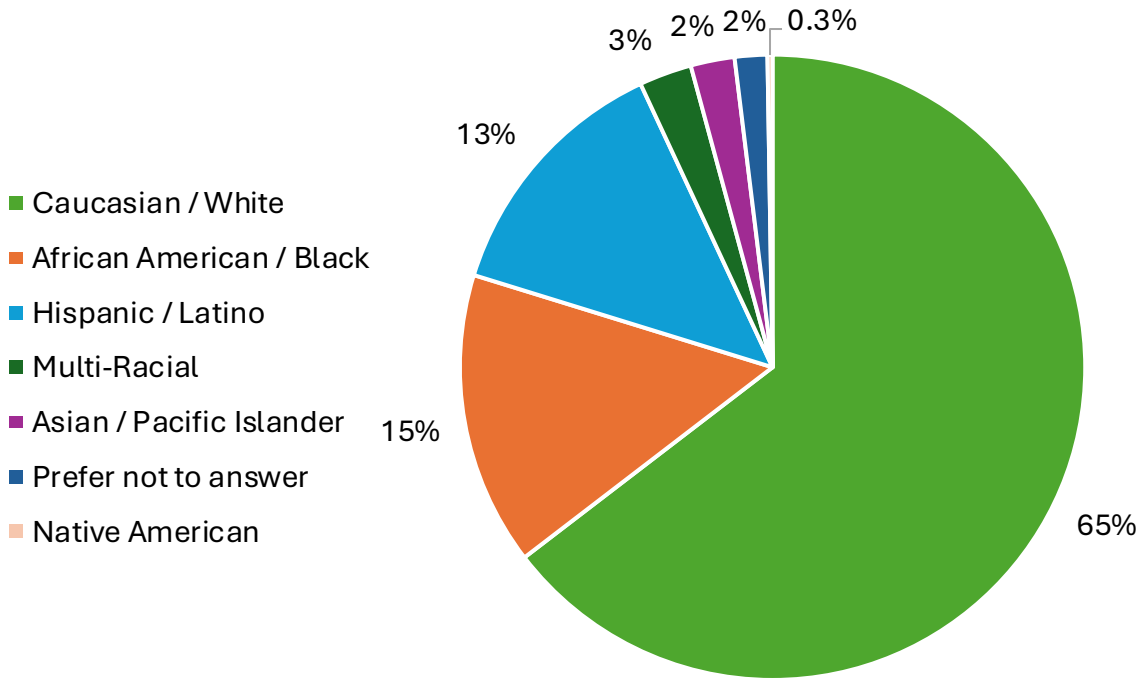
- 18 Listening Session Feedback Survey Responses
- 27 Padlet comments (January – September Listening sessions)
- 6 regional listening session individual survey responses



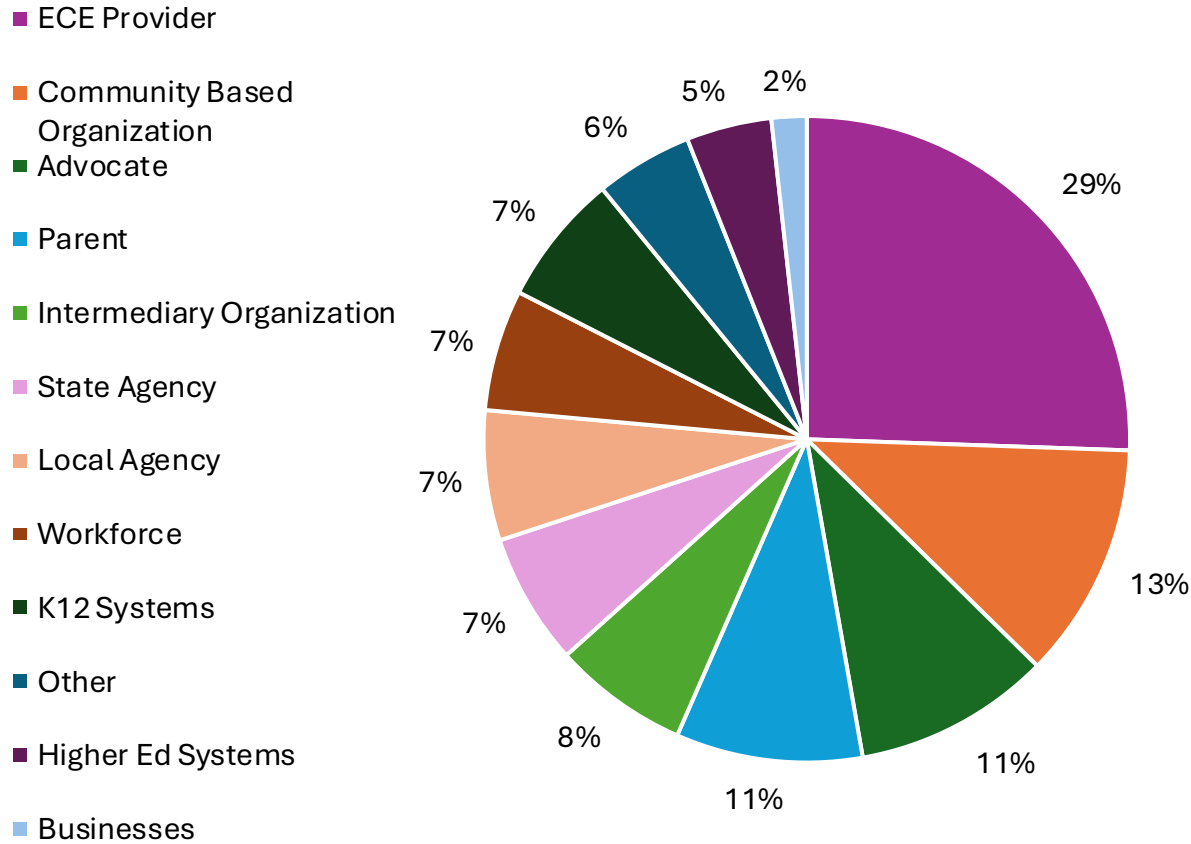
Community Feedback Overview: Participation Analysis December 2023 – October 2024



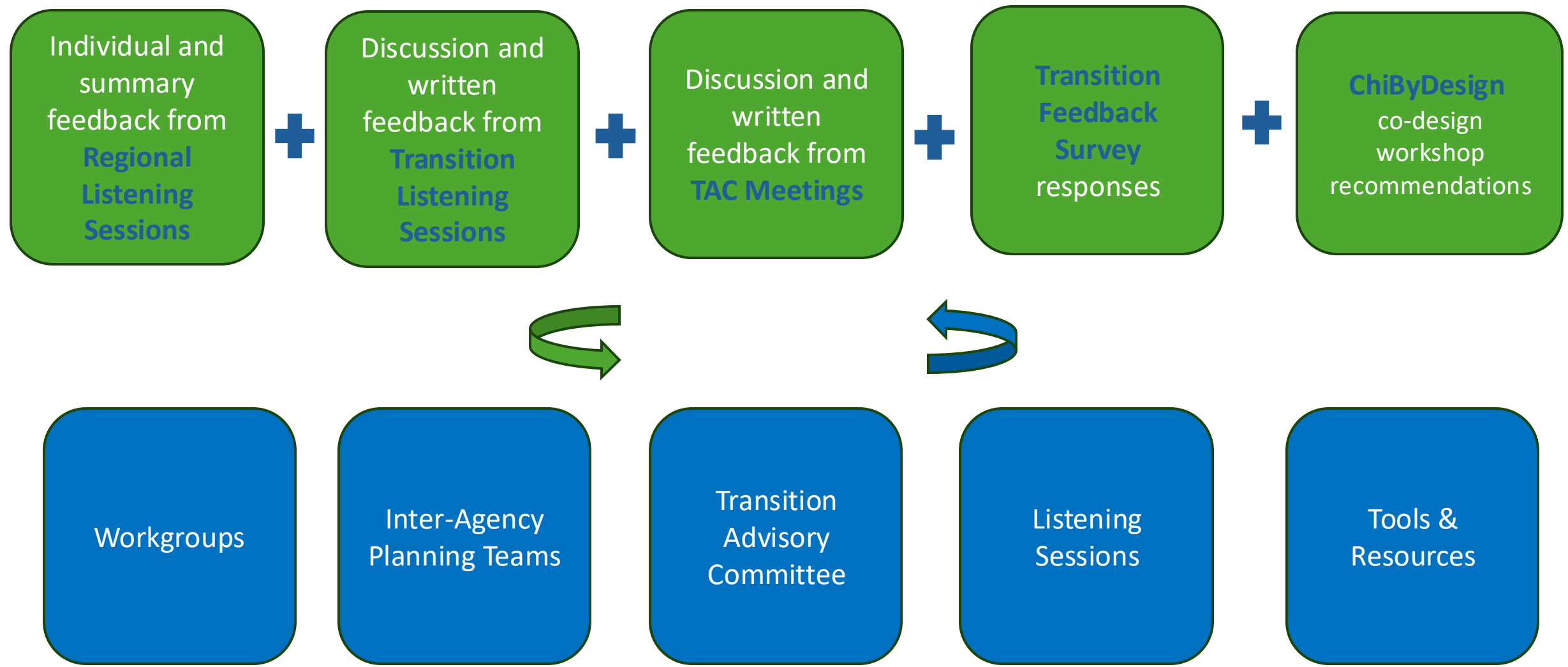
Racial and Ethnic Breakdown



Stakeholder Group Breakdown



Community Feedback Loops



Hearing from you



Question 1: What questions or feedback are you hearing from families, providers, or community members in your networks?

Question 2: How can we continue creating spaces where all voices feel seen and heard?

Question 1: What questions or feedback are you hearing from families, providers, or community members in your networks?

To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.



Question 2: How can we continue creating spaces where all voices feel heard and valued?

To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.



Public Comment



Additional Opportunities for Engagement and Communication

Upcoming Transition Advisory Committee Meetings

- Thursday, December 5, 2024 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (in-person)
- Tuesday, January 14, 2025 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, February 11, 2025, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Upcoming Bi-Monthly Listening Sessions

- Friday, January 24, 2025, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm
- Friday, March 14, 2025, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Website & Surveys

- Explore the Early Childhood Transition website for updates and meeting summaries: <https://idec.illinois.gov/>
- There are open surveys for stakeholders to share ongoing feedback and questions they have about the Transition and the TAC meetings

Workgroup meetings:

- Learn more about attending or expressing interest to join any of the various workgroups: <https://idec.illinois.gov/idec-education-care-transition-planning/engagement-opportunities-and-listening-sessions.html>

Next Steps & Close



- Transition Advisory Committee
 - Thursday, December 5, 2024 (in-person)
 - Tuesday, January 14, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Please complete and share the Listening Session Survey on Illinois' ECE Governance Transition
 - You can also indicate here if you want to receive more information on an ongoing basis about the Transition and new agency.
- Please contact Ann Whalen (Awhalen@isbe.net) if you have any questions.
- Next Meeting:
Friday, Jan 24, 2025, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Thank you!

Slide bank

Question 3: What topics or processes should the state prioritize in Year 2?

To provide verbal feedback, please use the "raise hand" feature, and we will call on you to unmute and share.

