



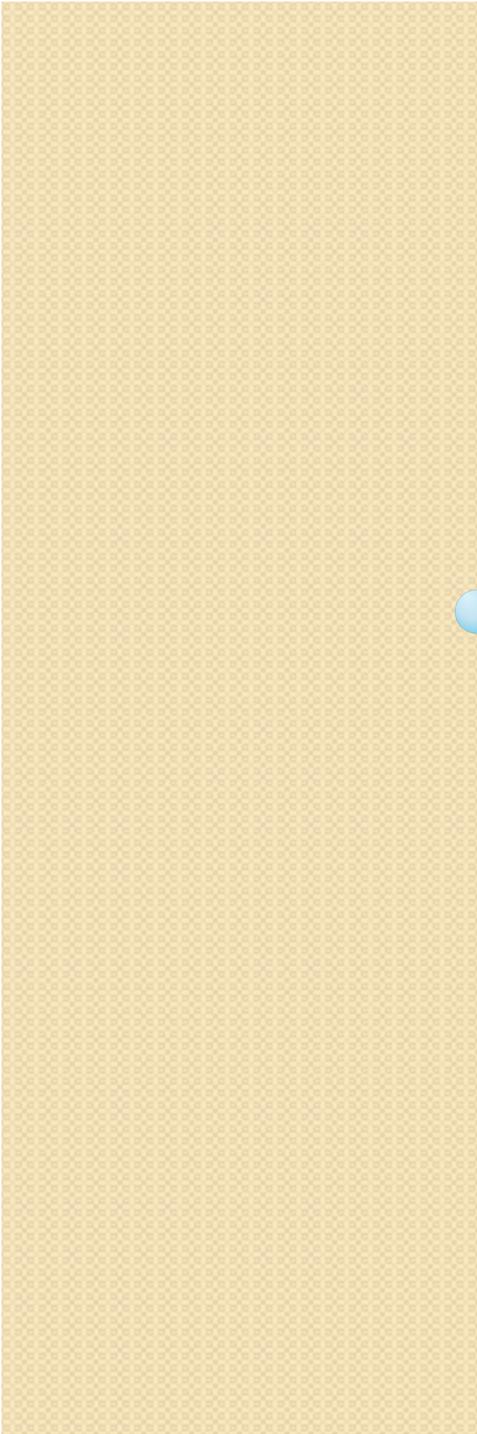
# **RTT-Early Learning Challenge Round 2!**

Overview and Update  
September 20, 2012



# Our Reform Agenda

- Deepening alignment and integration:
  - State systems
  - Local systems, with a focus on areas of concentrated high need
- Identifying all high need children/families and providing high quality supports and programs
- Moving programs from adequate to good and from good to great



 **PROGRESS TO DATE**



# Integration at the State Level

- Developing interagency structures to support coordination
  - Interagency Team
  - Office of Early Childhood Development
- Joint budget hearings held last fall
- Interagency planning around professional development



# Birth to Five Early Learning & Development Standards

- New Birth to Three standards are in press
- Revised Three to Five standards
  - Benchmarks being developed by expert panel
  - Field testing late fall-early winter
- Coming soon: Integrated roll-out process, including new training modules



# Workforce Development

- All EC professionals will be coming into Gateways to Opportunity registry
  - Required for licensing as of 9/1/12
  - Over 20,000 members!



# Kindergarten Assessment

- Instrument has been selected
- Pilot underway in a variety of districts
- Larger pilot planned in 2013-14
- Calibration study in 2014-15
- Full state implementation in 2015-16



# Quality Counts (TQRIS)

- Will become a jointly administered system (IDHS and ISBE) covering all early learning programs (except home visiting and EI)
  - Child care centers and homes
  - Head Start/Early Head Start
  - Preschool for All
  - Private preschools that are licensed through DCFS
- Group has been meeting to further refine the standards—stay tuned!



# Data

- Contract with JSI to design Unified Early Childhood Data System
- Report due late winter
- Looking for how to implement



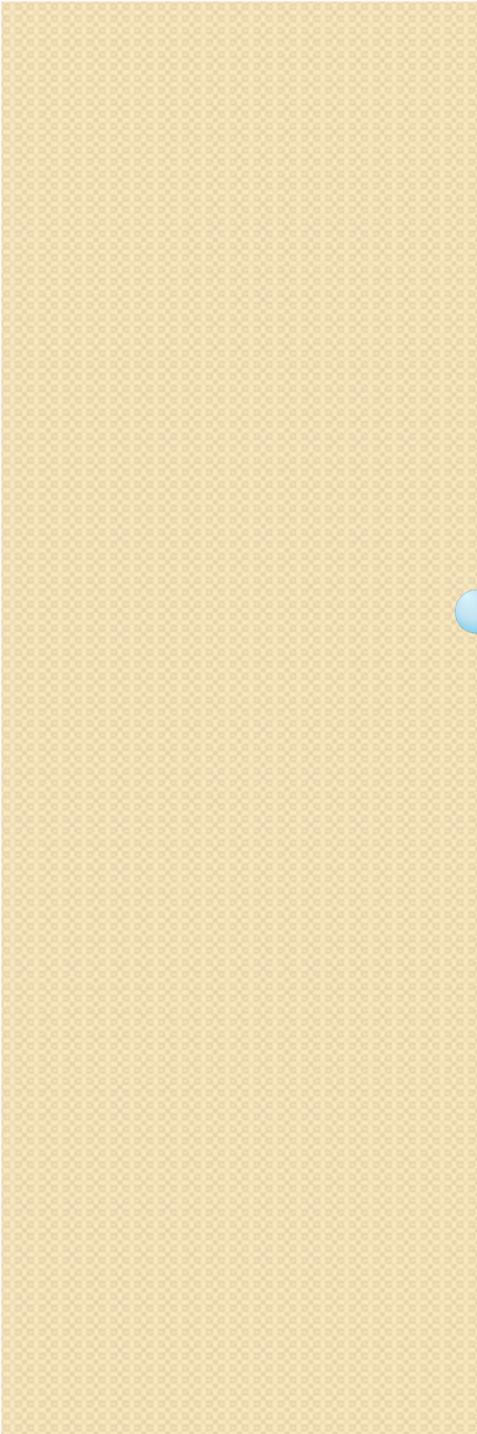
# Community Collaborations

- Community Partnerships grants through IAFC grant
- 34 communities applied for support for their early learning collaborations
- New community collaborations staffer now on board as part of MIECHV



# Workforce Development

- Additional scholarships to get ESL/Bilingual endorsement have been funded
- Additional faculty institutes funded to strengthen coursework at IHEs



 **What happens next?**



# ELC 2 Application released

- Came out Sept 17, Due Oct 26
- Requirements:
  - Implementation of governance system
  - Implementation of QRIS
  - At least 2 other projects from original application
- No new activities can be proposed
  - Just scaling back what was in our application
  - Can modify strategies somewhat to reflect progress to date



# Considerations when scaling down

- First priority: infrastructure needed to implement the grant
- Next priority: Implementing QRIS
  - Strong focus on finding efficiencies and cost savings
  - May need to scale back targets, activities
- Then: Other projects—criteria:
  - Critical for reform agenda
  - Ready to commit to approach & targets
  - Can't be funded another way



# Process

- Leadership team will be confirming strategic priorities and goals
- Interagency Team is currently determining cost estimates for activities
- We will be gathering input from ELC Exec Committee at Oct 1 meeting
  - Comments can also be submitted by email
- Application will be presented and discussed at Oct 22 ELC meeting