

**Illinois Early Learning Council Executive Committee Report
Program Standards and Quality Committee
May 12, 2014 Meeting Notes**

The Program Standards and Quality (PSQ) Committee met on May 12, 2014 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago with a call-in option available from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

Meeting called to order at 11:31 AM. Meeting notes from March 10, 2014 were accepted.

Federal and State Landscape Reports

- **New Early Head Start and Child Care Partnership Funding** – Lauri Morrison Frichtl
 - See Attachment #1. Grant applications to be released (anticipated May 20, 2014) and will be due August 24, 2014. Total funding allocated: \$500,000,000.
- **Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development** – Kim Collins
 - Technical assistance will be provided for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grants.
 - Preschool Development Grant: Illinois can apply for supplemental preschool funding for four year olds.
 - Race to the Top: RFA Awards of Excellence applications are being reviewed.

PSQ Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- **Higher Education Learning and Professional Development (HELP)** – Cathy Main, Co-Chair
 - Grantees from the Early Childhood Preparation Program Innovation grants reported on their first quarter progress; two grantees were identified to share further details during the upcoming HELP meeting on May 22.
 - An Early Childhood Illinois Articulation Panel has been convened. Co-chairs are Johnna Darragh-Ernst from Heartland Community College and Ty Giles from Governor’s State University. The Panel has identified an early childhood course to begin discussing in relation to articulation.
 - The Higher Ed Faculty Survey results are being reviewed and will be used to inform recommendations on professional development supports for Illinois faculty.
- **Workforce Compensation** – Valerie Krajec and Joni Scritchlow, Co-Chairs
 - The committee’s initial meeting was held via Webinar on April 15. The ad hoc group will meet approximately 12 – 18 months to complete assigned work.
 - Due to Illinois’s interest in workforce compensation, the National Center on Child Care Professional Development Systems and Workforce Initiatives (PDW Center) has selected Illinois to be part of the pilot for the Professional Development System Cost Analysis Tool Pilot. Anne Wharff (IDHS) is the lead contact.
- **Family Child Care ExceleRate Ad Hoc** – Gail Nelson on behalf of Kate Ritter, OECD
 - Two statewide Forums and two intensive follow-up meetings for family child care providers to support integration into ExceleRate Illinois were held. Draft recommendations are in development.
- **Birth to Age Three** – Jeanna Capito, Chair

- Meeting to be scheduled.
- **Quality Rating and Improvement System: ExceleRate Illinois** – Gail Nelson, OECD
 - The ExceleRate website (www.exceletrateillinois.com) has a compilation of resources organized by standards. Educational resources, articles on quality and links to tools to support providers are included.

Updates from Advisory Bodies and other key entities related to PSQ Work Plan:

- **Advocacy/Illinois Action for Children** – Christine Robinson
 - The current 5% tax rate extension is due to expire in January of 2015. This has significant implications for the state budget, including potential cuts to child care, Pre-K, early intervention and home visiting.
 - Resources are available in English and Spanish providing information about how to support a Supplemental Appropriation for Child Care. (Attachment #2).
- **Chicago Public Schools (CPS)** – Chris Rosean
 - First round of allocations for school based Preschool for All, Head Start and child parent center programs for next year are complete; a second round of applications opens late May/June.
 - CPS has adapted the Danielson Framework so that it is applicable to preschool classrooms. This preschool addendum is available for teachers and principals through CPS.
- **Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention** – Amy Tarr
 - Data analysis phase for the State Systemic Improvement Plan is underway. Goals are to identify innovation zones and zip codes with low participation rates; identify family characteristics which are linked to dropping out of Early Intervention; and determine the extent of impact Early Intervention has on successful preschool readiness.
- **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Licensing Advisory Committee** – Carol Morris
 - An ad hoc work group is being formed to review proposals for immunizations for day care providers, center staff and home providers.
 - Rules Amendments: Rule 407 is in final stages (related to obesity, nutrition, radon, and the Illinois Director Credentials amendment). Rules 406 and 408 are currently in policy review.
- **Illinois State Board of Education** – Cynthia Zumwalt
 - A proposed change in the bi-lingual rules is moving to the ISBE Board for approval. The proposal will extend the date by which teachers must have the ESL or bi-lingual endorsement/certificate. Next Steps: if approved, the proposed rules then move out for public comment.
 - FY15 budget concerns were noted.
- **Illinois Department of Human Services Child Care Advisory Council** – Linda Saterfield
 - Child Care Management System rollout in January was the first phase of development. An RFP will be issued for the second phase of development which will include provider and parent portals. A third future phase will include on-line billing.

- The open Illinois Head Start Collaboration Director position will be based in Chicago; this position will be posted soon.
- The Child Care Advisory Council meeting will be July 9th in Naperville. Draft rule changes at the federal level for CCDBG are in process/may need to be incorporated into policies.
- **Development Advisory Council – Cass Wolfe**
 - The Gateways to Opportunity School-Age and Youth Development (SA/YD) Credential pilots will begin June of 2014.
 - Gateways Credentials are in development for Technical Assistance, Family Child Care, and Family Specialist.
 - The Gateways to Opportunity Higher Education Annual Forum had over 100 faculty in attendance on April 3 – 4, 2014.

FY15 Proposed Meeting Dates: September 15, 2014 January 20, 2015* May 18, 2015

*Proposed meeting date of Monday, January 19th conflicts with Martin Luther King Holiday. Membership requested meeting be moved to Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Consensus approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grants

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 denotes Help Information

Summary:

Funding Opportunity Number:  HHS-2014-ACF-OHS-HP-0814
Forecast ID Number:  ACF-2014-FCAST-0218
Fiscal Year:  2014
Funding Opportunity Title:  Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grants
CFDA Number:  93.600
Funding Activity Category:  Income Security and Social Services
CFDA Number Description: Disabled and Handicapped Services
Family and Child Welfare Services
Information and Referral Services
Legal and Advocacy Services
Funding Instrument Type Code(s):  Grant
Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement:  Yes
Affordable Care Act (ACA):  No

Estimated Funding Information:

Estimated Funding:  \$500,000,000
Expected Number of Awards:  300
Estimated Award Ceiling:  \$55,011,324
Estimated Award Floor:  \$750,000

Estimated Milestone Dates:

Estimated Post Date:  05/20/2014
Estimated Application Due Date:  08/04/2014
Application Due Date Explanation:  Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date.

Estimated Award Date: 11/30/2014

Estimated Start Date: 12/01/2014

Eligibility:

Eligibility Category:

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Independent school districts
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- For profit organizations other than small businesses
- Small businesses

Additional Eligibility Information:

Eligible applicants are any public or private non-profit agency, including community-based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies pursuant to Section 645A(d) of the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9840A(d).

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity announcement. Faith-based organizations are encouraged to review the ACF Policy on Grants to Faith-Based Organizations at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf-policy-on-grants-to-faith-based-organizations>. Applications from individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship for-profit organizations are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Description:

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces the availability of approximately \$500 million to be competitively awarded for the purpose of expanding access to high-quality, comprehensive services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families through Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnerships. ACF solicits applications from public entities, including states, or private non-profit organizations, including community-based or faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies that meet eligibility for applying as stated in section 645A of the Head Start Act.

For more information, interested applicants should visit <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/grants/ehs-ccp>.

Federal Agency Contact Information: 

| | |
|-----------------|---|
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| Sub OpDiv: | Office of Head Start |
| Division: | Grants and Contracts Division |

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- 1. What is the Early Head Start – Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership program?**
The EHS-CC Partnership is a new competitive grant opportunity to support the partnering of Early Head Start (EHS) programs with child care providers to expand the number of high-quality slots for infants and toddlers. New or existing EHS grantees will partner with local center-based and family child care providers and, through activities including training and technical assistance, management, and the delivery of comprehensive services, support them in meeting the Early Head Start Program Performance Standards.
- 2. What is the Project Period for the FY 2014 funds?**
Successful applicants will be awarded a five year grant with an initial project period of 9-11 months. Subsequent project periods would be 12 months each. If additional funds beyond \$500 million are appropriated to support the partnerships in FY 2015, ACF would consider expanding to additional applicants.
- 3. How will funding be allocated across state, AIAN, Migrant and Territories?**
The Administration anticipates a robust nationwide competition, including territories and tribes. Funding will be available within each state based on the number of young children in poverty and no less than 3% and 4.5% of total funds will be available for American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start programs and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs, respectively. *However, only high quality applications will be funded. Priority will be for applicants proposing EHS-CC partnerships and ensuring continuity of services for children who are served.* HHS may reallocate funds in order to achieve this.
- 4. Who is eligible to apply for this grant program?**
All entities eligible to apply for EHS funds can apply for the EHS-CC Partnership funds, including tribes and territories. Eligible entities include community organizations, non-profit or for profit organizations, state, local and tribal governments, schools, and existing Head Start or Early Head Start grantees.
- 5. How do I apply for funding?**
ACF will release a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in mid-spring 2014. The FOA will spell out explicitly what is required in the partnership and in the application. Prior to the release of the FOA, interested eligible applicants should consider reaching out to potential partners and begin to work together to develop a plan so they are ready when the FOA is announced.
- 6. What benefits will children in EHS-CC partnerships receive?**
Children served in an EHS-CC partnership will receive the comprehensive education, health, development, and family support services required under EHS, and benefit from high-quality services that meet EHS standards.
- 7. Can an existing Early Head Start grantee use these funds to expand their number of slots, or is an applicant required to partner with child care?**
The FOA will give strong competitive priority to applicants who propose EHS-CC partnerships. Applicants may still apply to receive Early Head Start slots without partnerships. An EHS-CC Partnership applicant may be an existing Early Head Start grantee or any other eligible entity proposing to become an EHS-CC Partnership grantee through this funding opportunity.

- 8. Will alignment with other federal, state, or locally funded early childhood development programs (e.g. Pre-K, home visiting, Head Start, other preschool programs) be prioritized?**
Applicants should demonstrate strong alignment with other federally, State or locally funded early childhood development programs, such as home visiting, Head Start, or state funded Pre-K.
- 9. Will Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership funding be targeted to areas of high poverty?**
Applicants who propose to fill most of their funded EHS-CC partnership slots with children from zip codes of concentrated poverty will be at a competitive advantage. A list of high-poverty concentration zip codes will be included in the FOA.
- 10. How will 3 year olds be served in this initiative?**
The FY 2014 appropriations language allows the \$500 million for the EHS-CC partnerships to serve children *through* age 3. Family child care providers are designed to serve mixed age groups and the family child care Head Start standards are written to seamlessly accommodate children birth to five. However Head Start standards for Center-based programs are significantly different for children up to age 3 and 3 year olds. As such, EHS-CC partnership funding will be available for children birth through age 2 in center-based settings but also will be available for 3 year olds to be served in family child care settings. All applicants must propose a plan to provide seamless transitions to Head Start, pre-K, or other preschool settings.
- 11. Must a child have a Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidy in order to be eligible?**
A child does not need a child care subsidy and does not have to be CCDF-eligible to be eligible for an EHS-CC partnership slot. However, applicants must demonstrate how they are layering funding from other sources including child care subsidies.
- 12. Do programs have to be regulated to be eligible for a partnership?**
Yes, regardless of State exemptions, all partners must be regulated. The term "regulated" means a provider who meets state-established health and safety standards and is subject to monitoring. Self-certification by the provider without documentation or verification is not sufficient.
- 13. Can partnerships be within one entity or does a partner have to be two separate entities?**
Partnerships may be within one entity, under the condition that the applicant identifies partner child care centers or family child care homes.
- 14. What does partnership mean when an existing child care program applies and then becomes an Early Head Start grantee? In this case, who are the partners?**
If an entity applies to be an Early Head Start grantee, without proposing to partner with local child care sites, this would be considered a new grant to expand Early Head Start, rather than a partnership. If the entity applies to be an Early Head Start grantee with additional child care site partners, this would be a partnership.

- 15. Will the partnership grantees need to provide a match for these new funds?**
A non-federal match of 20% is established by law. Partnership grantees can request a waiver for all or part of the match if they cannot meet the non-federal match required of Head Start programs.
- 16. What is the minimum number of child slots for entity?**
Although ACF is not setting a minimum number of slots for which applicants can apply, ACF recommends applicants propose no less than 72 slots, which can be allocated across multiple partner sites. The goal of this recommendation is to ensure that partnerships are of sufficient size to support provision of both comprehensive and cost effective services. ACF recognizes that applicants in rural communities, or organizations with existing infrastructure to support the necessary services, may propose less than 72 slots.
- 17. Do specific child care partner sites have to be identified in the application?**
Applicants are encouraged to identify their partners in their application. If it is not possible to identify all of the partner sites in a partnership, the applicant may provide a detailed plan and timeline for identifying partners.
- 18. Will there be a different monitoring protocol for partnerships?**
EHS-CC partnership monitoring will be in accordance with the Head Start monitoring protocol, with minor modifications. Ongoing oversight and intensive technical assistance will be provided to all grantees during the first 18 months of the grant award to ensure appropriate implementation of the program. The formal monitoring process and Designation Renewal System (DRS), however, will not take place until after the first 18 months of the grant.
- 19. What services will a child receive in an EHS-CC Partnership slot funded in a child care setting?**
Children in EHS-CC partnership funded slots will receive all of the services children in the Early Head Start program receive. Applicants are highly encouraged to develop models – including with additional community partners or other funding streams – to ensure parity of service throughout their program, including children who are not directly funded through EHS-CC partnership funds.
- 20. Will the new initiative include EHS Home Based Option?**
No, the EHS-CC Partnerships will not include Early Head Start home-based option (home visiting). It will only include the Early Head Start center-based and family child care options.
- 21. Family child care providers have their own set of regulations to follow and don't have to do everything centers do. How are they able to provide Early Head Start?**
Family child care is an existing and successful Head Start model. EHS-CC Partnership grantees must ensure that all partner sites offer high quality programs and that the children enrolled receive all Early Head Start services regardless of the setting in which they are served. Though some requirements differ between family child care programs and center-based programs, most Early Head Start regulations apply to programs across settings. For

more information on strong family child care models check out [*An Early Head Start for Family Child Care*](#).

22. What resources are available to help make partnerships work?

As part of the Office of Child Care and the Office of Head Start's ongoing efforts to support partnerships, there are several resources available that can help communities build and sustain partnerships. At this [link](#), there are tip sheets, technical assistance papers and lessons learned documents. Both offices provide extensive TA networks which will also be used to support this effort.

23. I am concerned about leveraging funds because I don't want to seem like I'm double dipping. How can I use EHS and child care funds to support partnerships?

EHS-CC partnerships will not "double-dip" because grantees will intentionally combine or layer EHS funding with CCDF funding in order to provide high-quality, comprehensive services to children. Grantees will be required to have budgets that reflect the multiple funding sources, and cost allocation plans to ensure that each funding source is used for allowable purposes without duplicate payment. Each funding source will be used for different parts of the program to ensure no duplicative payment. For example, an EHS-CC partnership might use one source for basic programming costs and another source for quality enhancements (e.g., training, equipment, supplies). Alternatively, a partnership might use one source for certain periods of time (e.g., core hours) and another source for other periods (e.g., before and after care). By combining funding sources, the EHS-CC partnerships will be able to increase the number of children receiving high quality services.

24. How can communities work together to ensure training opportunities exist for all providers in the community? I thought only EHS programs/staff could attend EHS training and professional development opportunities.

Many partners find that professional development is one of the key areas where they can successfully work together. There are many ways to do this. For example, partnerships can leverage CCDF-funded professional development registries and scholarships to support providers pursuing higher teacher qualifications to meet Early Head Start standards. Similarly, local Early Head Start training and technical assistance funds can be targeted to community providers to increase the pool of qualified professionals in the community who can serve children served in both Early Head Start and child care.

25. What does the typical contract with an Early Head Start and child care provider include?

The contract should clearly state the responsibilities and expectations of each entity and should include all the requirements for fully implementing all of Early Head Start's required services. There are sample contracts available on this [link](#) as well as on the National Association for Family Child Care [web site](#).

26. I am concerned about implementing a curriculum and assessing children in a multi-age setting like family child care. How can that be done?

Grantees should work with families and teachers to review curriculum and assessment tools that are most appropriate for their setting. [The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center \(ECLKC\)](#) has many resources available for selecting appropriate tools. There are also resources and training available through the Head Start National Centers available to Early

Head Start grantees and their child care partners to support appropriate selection and implementation of curriculum and assessment across settings.

27. What are the next steps?

We held a series of technical assistance [webinars](#) aimed at providing helpful information to prospective grant applicants. In addition, we published an applicant support toolkit that can be accessed [here](#). The FOA will be released in mid-spring of 2014.

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