

Illinois Preschool Expansion Program Model Birth-to-Third Grade Continuity Conference 2017



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Preschool Development Grants



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Preschool Development Grant

- \$226 million awarded in Year One, renewable for four years
- Administered by the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services
- Funding awarded to 18 states for either development or expansion



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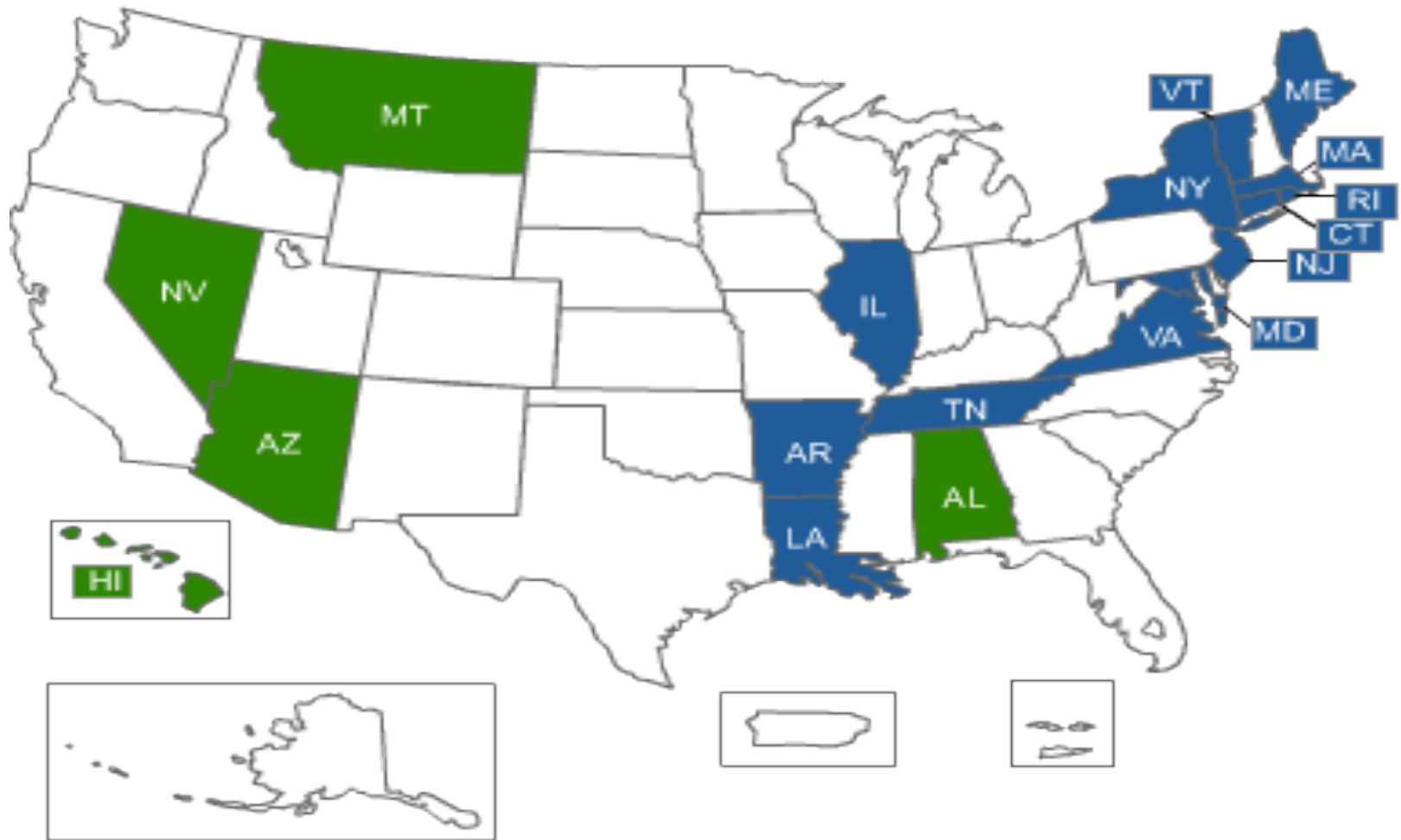
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Preschool Development Grant



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Federal Vision

TODAY, 39 STATES AND DC HAVE STATE-FUNDED PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

BUT FEWER THAN

3 IN 10 FOUR YEAR OLDS
ARE ENROLLED IN A HIGH-QUALITY
PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM



- PDG strengthens state capacity to develop and expand high-quality preschool programs
- Aligns to federal goal to serve all four-year olds from low- and moderate-income families nationwide
- Part of a comprehensive approach with EHS, HS and CCDBG

#EDUCATION

NIEER, NCES



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High-Quality Preschool Program



- Staff qualifications
- Professional development
- Salary parity
- Staff ratio and class size
- Full-day programming



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High-Quality Preschool Program

- Inclusion and individualized supports
- Standards-aligned curricula
- Comprehensive services
- Continuous improvement



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Preschool Expansion in Illinois



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Illinois Early Learning Priorities

Of children with high needs, by 2016:

- 65% have at least 1 yr high quality* early learning services
- 40% have at least 2 yrs
- 10% have 5 full years

**Gold Circle in ExceleRate Illinois*

AND

- 50% of all licensed child care centers achieve above Licensed Circle in QRIS
- 25% achieve Gold Circle

Economic support for families

Health care

Early intervention & special ed

By 2021,
80% of all children will be fully ready for kindergarten

Mental health services

Child welfare

Basic community services

Illinois' Preschool Expansion

- Illinois will receive an \$80 million federal investment over four years
- 25 grantees statewide
- State match requirement



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Illinois' Preschool Expansion

- Investment in Illinois' Early Childhood Block Grant increased by \$25 million in FY 2016 and \$75 million in FY 2017
- Programs applied to serve students in the Expansion model in FY 2017 and 25 programs were awarded
- Increasing state funds in the next two years will match federal funds and increase total number of children served in this model



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Preschool for All: A Strong Foundation

Illinois' robust Preschool for All program provides a strong foundation for the Preschool Expansion model, including:

- Teacher qualifications and class size
- Curriculum and assessment
- Inclusion of children with special needs



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Head Start and Illinois' State Plan

- Head Start programs are a key part of Illinois' approved plan and an ideal foundation for a successful Expansion program
- 29 out of 40 Expansion compliance requirements generally align to the Head Start Performance Standards
- Head Start requirements for comprehensive services and parent engagement generally exceed Expansion requirements



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Expansion Components



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New Components

- Full day and full school year (1st grade equivalent)
- Qualified staff and salary parity
- Recruitment of the most at-risk
- Comprehensive services
- Instructional leadership
- Birth to 3rd Grade alignment



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Eligibility and Priority

- Mandatory Weighted Eligibility Form
- Priority Populations
 - Children from homeless families
 - Children from families below 50% FPL
 - Children involved in the child welfare system
 - Children with IEPs



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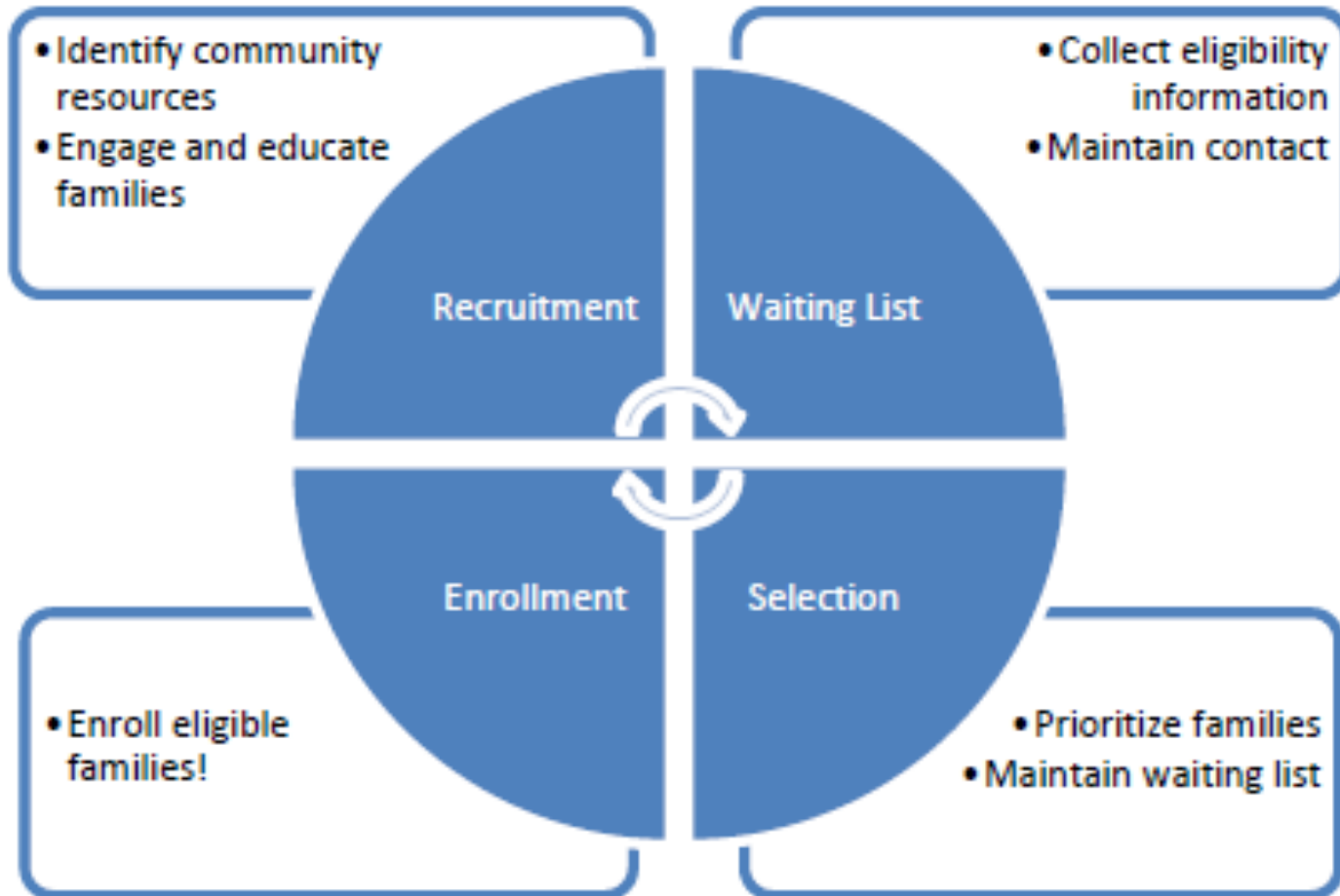
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Recruitment Process



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Key Staff

- Focus on administrative capacity and development of sustainable systems
- Program administrator
- Instructional leader
- Parent educator



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Comprehensive Services



- Medical and Dental Homes
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Mental Health Services



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Family Support and Engagement

- Family Support
 - Family assessment
 - Resource referral
 - Goal setting
 - Follow-up and documentation
- Parent Engagement
 - Parent Advisory Council
 - Parent education opportunities



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Continuous Quality Improvement



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Continuous Quality Improvement

- Programs are monitored for compliance to program requirements and for classroom quality
- Program staff work together to develop a continuous quality improvement plan based on monitoring results



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Supports to Programs

- Program support specialists assist programs in building systems and solving barriers to compliance
- Targeted professional development supports programs in meeting new expectations
- Online resources for program administrative team



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Results and Successes



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Children Served

- Approximately 3,100 children served in year one and 3,900 children in year two by 25 sub-grantees
- 920 children served through Head Start and Preschool Expansion collaboration



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Community Impact

Communities across Illinois have used the Preschool Development Grant – Expansion Grant as a catalyst for stronger community collaborations between:

- School districts and Head Start programs
- Early childhood programs within a community
- Programs serving families who are at-risk and early childhood programs



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Next Steps



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Learn More

Visit our Preschool Expansion website for additional information and resources, including:

- Archived webinars
- Upcoming professional development
- Sample job descriptions
- Tools and best practices

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-Development-Grant-Expansion-Grant.aspx>



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New Communities



- Continued expansion will be contingent on increased ECBG funding
- FY 18 Preschool for All Expansion RFP will be released this summer
- FY 19 ECBG re-competition will include a Preschool for All Expansion RFP



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Thank you for joining us today

For additional information, contact:

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— WHEATON/WARRENVILLE —

EARLY CHILDHOOD

COLLABORATIVE



Why Invest In Early Childhood?

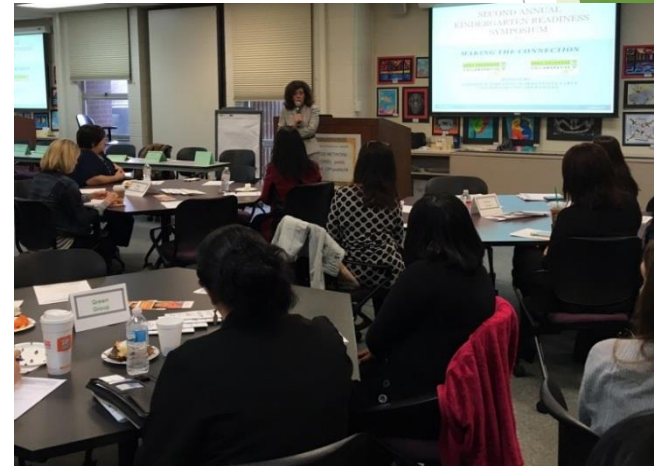
- ▶ Kindergarten readiness begins at birth.
- ▶ 90% of brain development happens before the age of five!
 - ▶ Kindergarten Readiness must include the holistic support of the whole child:
 - ▶ Physical
 - ▶ Cognitive
 - ▶ Social-Emotional
 - ▶ Language/Communication



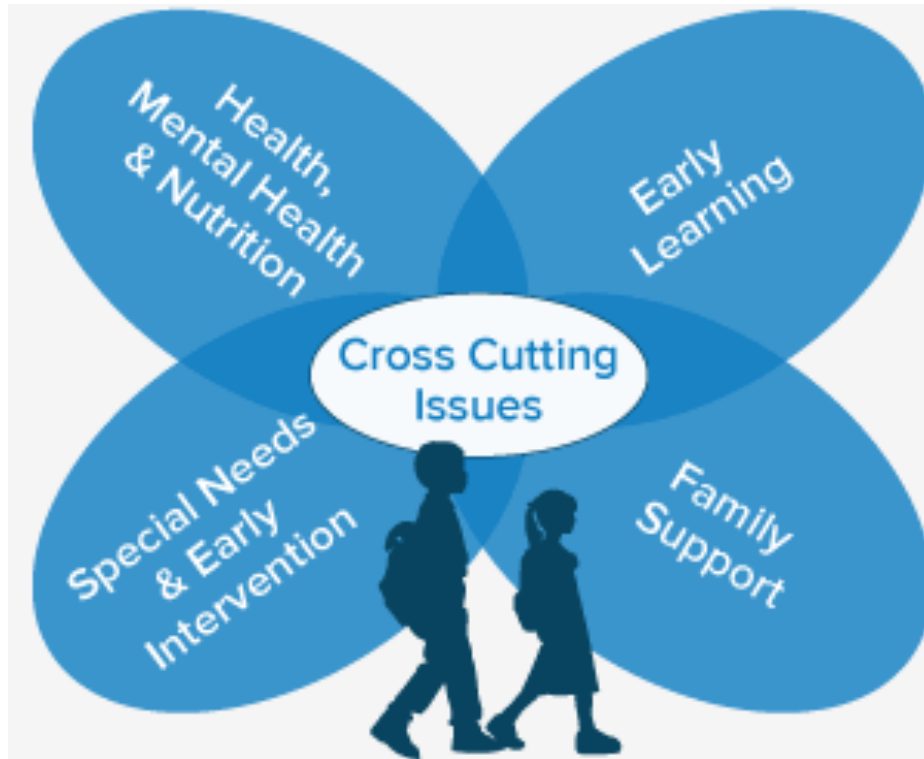
Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative Overview

▶ Program Description

- ▶ Work toward improving kindergarten readiness for at-risk children and families
 - ▶ Community Unit School District 200
- ▶ Bring together
 - ▶ community members and orgs
 - ▶ early childhood providers
 - ▶ supporters of early childhood
- ▶ Work collectively
 - ▶ leverage resources
 - ▶ increase access to quality early childhood services



Who is Responsible?



Build Initiative, <http://www.buildinitiative.org/TheIssues/EarlyLearning.aspx>

Goals

1. Improve communication among early childhood service providers.

- ▶ increase coordination and communication among professionals so families can access high-quality early childhood education and resources
- ▶ increase professional and community knowledge and understanding of child development and of families with children ages birth to five

2. Increase parent education about childhood development needs.

- ▶ increase knowledge of healthy child development and school readiness
- ▶ increase knowledge of and access to resources and services available

Goals

- 3. Increase professional development for early childhood service providers.**
 - ▶ Offering professional development opportunities for providers to increase knowledge and skills
 - ▶ Helping providers understand the public school system readiness goals for children
- 4. Increase children's Kindergarten/school readiness.**
 - ▶ Linking families to additional services and resources
 - ▶ Increasing the number of children screened in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

What Have We Accomplished?

- ▶ Kindergarten Readiness for students from 7 targeted neighborhoods with a high concentration of low-income families has steadily increased from 21% in 2012 to 35% in 2015.
- ▶ During the same time period, enrollment in all-day kindergarten from the targeted neighborhoods has steadily increased from 36% in 2012 to 57% in 2015.



WWECC Outcomes

- ▶ Improved communication among early childhood service providers
 - ▶ Internal Google Site
 - ▶ Website
 - ▶ Facebook Page
- ▶ Increase parent education about child development needs
 - ▶ Parent Council
 - ▶ Family Day of Play during the Week of the Young Child



WWECC Outcomes

- ▶ Increase professional development for early childhood service providers
 - ▶ Kindergarten Symposium Professional Development
 - ▶ Joint collaborative effort between WWECC and YWCA to increase number of ASQ trainings for providers
- ▶ Increase children's Kindergarten/school readiness
 - ▶ Increase the number of ASQ developmental screening for children birth to 5 through a combine systems approach with CUSD 200, Easter Seals, YWCA, and other programs



Preschool Expansion Grant (PEG) Program

- ▶ Preschool Expansion Grant
 - ▶ Federal Grant
 - ▶ 40 additional preschool spots in Jefferson
 - ▶ Newly awarded Gold Circle of Quality through ExceleRate



PEG Recruitment

- ▶ PEG Recruitment Plan includes:
 - ▶ collaborating with World Relief to target and recruit refugee families in our area
 - ▶ meeting with CUSD 200 to collaborate and identify children with special needs
 - ▶ kick off events in the community with staff and parents
 - ▶ visiting libraries and local businesses for recruitment purposes
 - ▶ outreach in local newsletters to feature programs,
 - ▶ post cards handed out to WWECC partners and programs during multiple collaborative meetings
 - ▶ Recruitment at specific events such as The Back to School Fair, Family Day of Play and other local fairs/community events.

Transition to Kindergarten

- ▶ Parent Meetings - PEG and WWECC
- ▶ Kindergarten Roundups
- ▶ STEM Night
- ▶ Family Day of Play



For More Information

▶ Check Out Our New Website

- ▶ <http://www.dupagefederation.org/wheaton-warrenville-early-childhood-collaborative.html>

▶ “Like” Us On Facebook

- ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/wheatonwarrenvilleecc/>



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