

**Illinois Early Learning Council
State Early Childhood Advisory Council Grant Funding Priorities**

Directions:

The activities of state early childhood advisory councils are described in the Head Start Act. Those activities are listed in the survey below.

Please read through each of the potential activities of the Council. Examples are provided just to stimulate your thinking, and do not represent the entirety of funding possibilities for the activity.

Please rank each activity 1 – 9. Use **each number only once**; assign your top priority the number 1, the next most important the number 2, etc.

Please return the survey no later than 3:00 on Wednesday, June 17th. Email the survey to Deanna Durica at ddurica@ounceofprevention.org or fax to 312-922-2173.

Activity	Ranking
<p>Conduct periodic statewide needs assessments concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the state. 642B(b)(1)(D)(i)(I)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fund needs assessment activities at the local level. o Fund technology needs assessment activities in local classrooms/agencies. 	
<p>Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among state agencies responsible for administering such programs. 642B(b)(1)(D)(i)(II)</p> <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fund technical assistance to help communities jump start collaboration initiatives, or a consultant/mediator in places where collaboration might be met with hostility due to competition over children. 	
<p>Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented or special populations. 642B(b)(1)(D)(i)(III)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Conduct a space survey in order to pinpoint areas most in need of facilities development or renovation. o Disseminate best practices for working with English language learners. o Fund activities recommended by the Council to engage hard to reach children and families. 	
<p>Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state. 642B(b)(1)(D)(i)(IV)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Use funding to help build the broad data system across all early childhood education and development programs by building the infrastructure needed to link the system with other agencies. o Support better data collection and reporting of infant toddler program information. 	

Activity	Ranking
<p>Develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the state. 642B(b)(1)(D)(i)(V)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Add funding to existing scholarship programs so that more teachers can attain the credentials recommended by the Council for Early Childhood Block Grant-funded infant toddler center-based teachers. o Use funding for one-time bonuses for practitioners who take jobs in shortage areas such as early childhood bilingual/English as a Second Language (ESL), bilingual special education, and infant toddler programs. o Fund cohort models for attaining ESL or bilingual certification. o Develop and deliver online training modules for center-based program administrators to complete the training necessary to achieve the Director Credential. 	
<p>Assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4- year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre kindergarten program. 642B(b)(1)(D)(i)(VI)</p> <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fund activities and training that would increase the capacity of faculty to prepare practitioners serving infants and toddlers (e.g. Program for Infant and Toddler Care [PITC]). 	
<p>Make recommendations for improvements in State Early Learning Standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate. 642B(b)(1)(D)(i)(VII)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Develop infant toddler learning standards, including social and emotional development. o Review Early Learning Standards to ensure they are culturally appropriate/integrate cultural diversity. 	
<p>Promote school preparedness of children from birth through school entry, including activities to encourage families and caregivers to engage in highly interactive, developmentally and age-appropriate activities to improve early social, emotional and cognitive development, support the transition of young children to school and foster family involvement in the early education of young children. 642B(b)(2)(A)(i)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Engage in public awareness activities, such as a media campaign focused on parents' role as their child's first teacher. o Implement use of research-based home visiting curriculums with Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers (FFN). o Implement models that connect FFN to center-based programs for peer group learning opportunities, training, etc. o Promote family involvement activities. 	
<p>Enhance existing early childhood education and development programs and services (in existence on the date on which the grant is awarded), including quality improvement activities authorized under the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990. 642B(b)(2)(A)(iii)</p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Implement the recommendations of the Birth to Three Monitoring Work Group of the Early Learning Council. o Provide capacity building/technical assistance for those providers currently serving children but without capacity to write for/implement Preschool For All. <p>Support accreditation/credential/commendation activities for infant and toddler programs based on their program model (NAEYC, HFI, PAT).</p>	