

The Early Learning Landscape Six Months into the COVID-19 Pandemic

Agenda

- ▶ Welcome
- ▶ Overview of Early Learning: March - June, 2020
- ▶ Review of Child Care (Policy Changes & Funding)
- ▶ COVID Tracking and Data in Child Care
- ▶ Child Care Restoration Grants (CCRG)
- ▶ Updates from ISBE
- ▶ Other Continuing Work & Next Steps

Overview of Early Learning March - June, 2020

Remembering the First Few Months of COVID

- ▶ Efforts have been focused on supporting the entire early learning system
- ▶ An update on our publicly funded early learning programs in Illinois
 - ▶ Preschool for All
 - ▶ Home Visiting
 - ▶ Prevention Initiative
 - ▶ Head Start
- ▶ Federal Relief Funds

Child Care from March - June, 2020

- ▶ Child care restricted through the Governor's EO
- ▶ IDHS Policies to support child care during first months of the pandemic
- ▶ Financial supports in the form of stipends and grants
- ▶ Phase 3 of Restore Illinois - child care could open and all families who need it can access care
- ▶ DCFS introduced rule and guidance on increased safety requirements and reduced capacity

Review of Child Care (Policy Changes & Funding)

Child Care in FY21

- ▶ Fiscal Year 21 and Phase 3 of Restore Illinois
- ▶ Appropriation and Estimated Caseload for FY21
- ▶ School-Age Care during Remote Learning
 - ▶ Free & reduced lunch waiver for remote learning
 - ▶ CACFP waivers/flexibilities
- ▶ Supports and Resources for Child Care during the pandemic

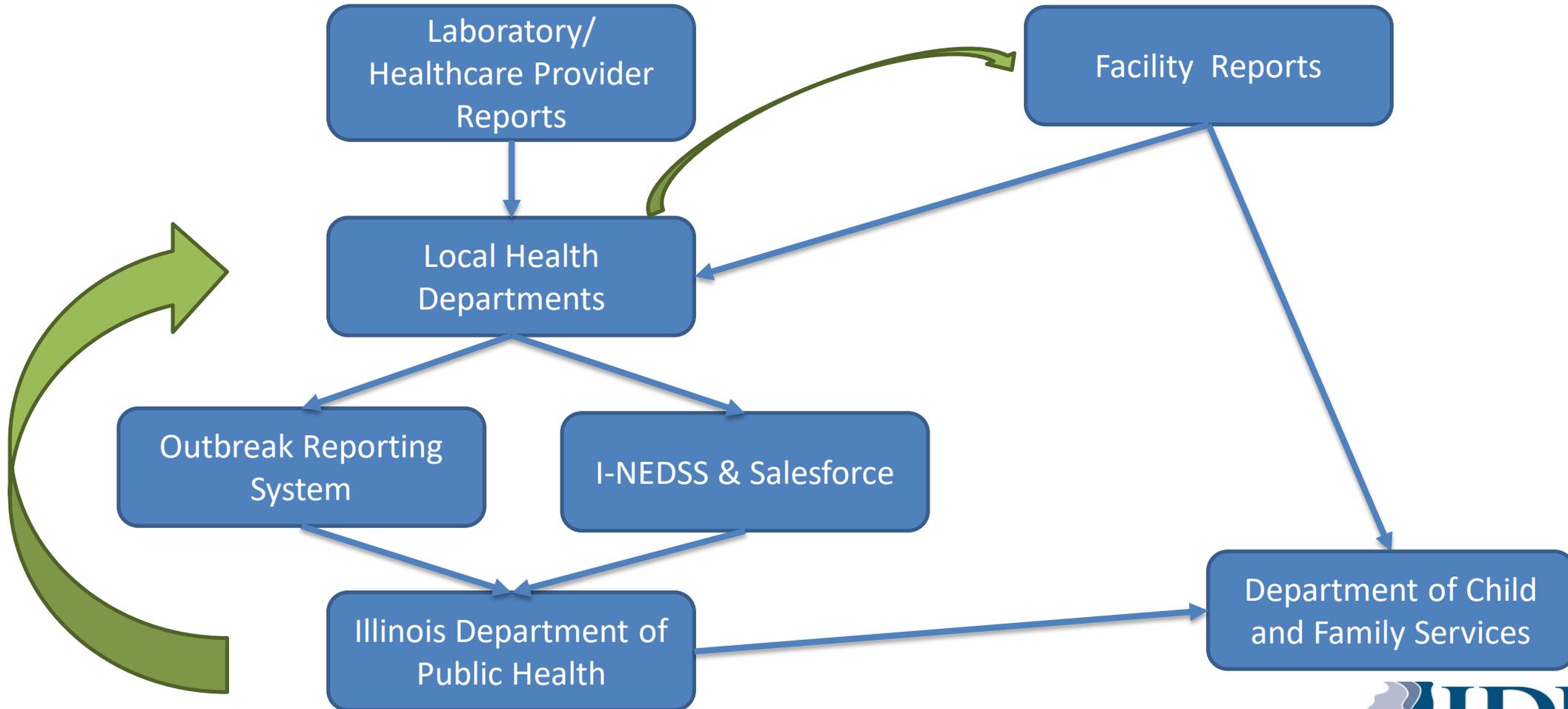


Surveillance of COVID-19 in Child Care Settings

Shelby Daniel-Wayman, MPH

9/24/2020

COVID-19 Surveillance System Structure



Surveillance Databases

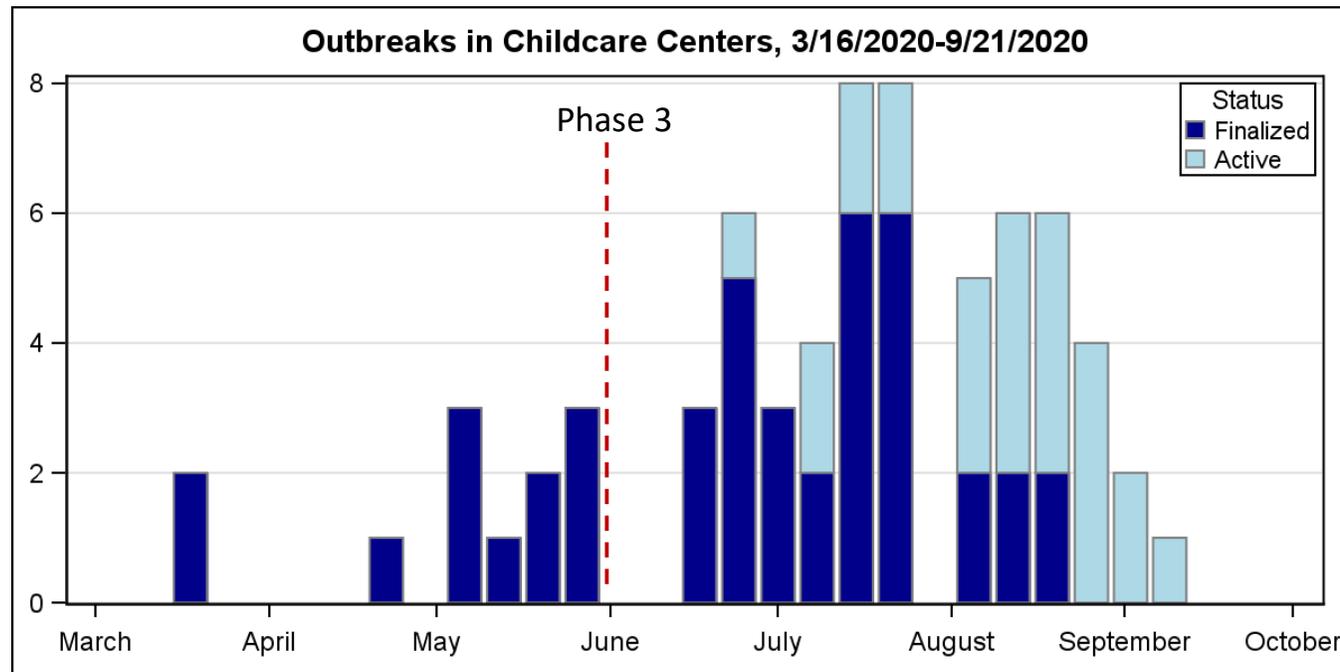
- Outbreak Reporting System
 - Confirmed outbreaks reported by local health departments
- I-NEDSS and Contact Tracing Data (Salesforce)
 - I-NEDSS contains all cases of COVID-19 in Illinois
 - Cases and contacts followed in the Salesforce system
 - Used variably across jurisdictions
- Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) data
 - Collected for programmatic purposes
 - May lack follow-up data

Outbreak Reporting System

Outbreak definition: 2+ laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases who are epidemiologically linked to the outbreak setting, have onsets of illness within a 14-day period, do not share a household, and are not listed as a close contact of each other outside of the outbreak setting.

Outbreak Reporting System

Total Reported Outbreaks	Total Outbreak-Associated Cases	Average Cases per Outbreak ¹ (Range)
54	233	4.2 (2-11)



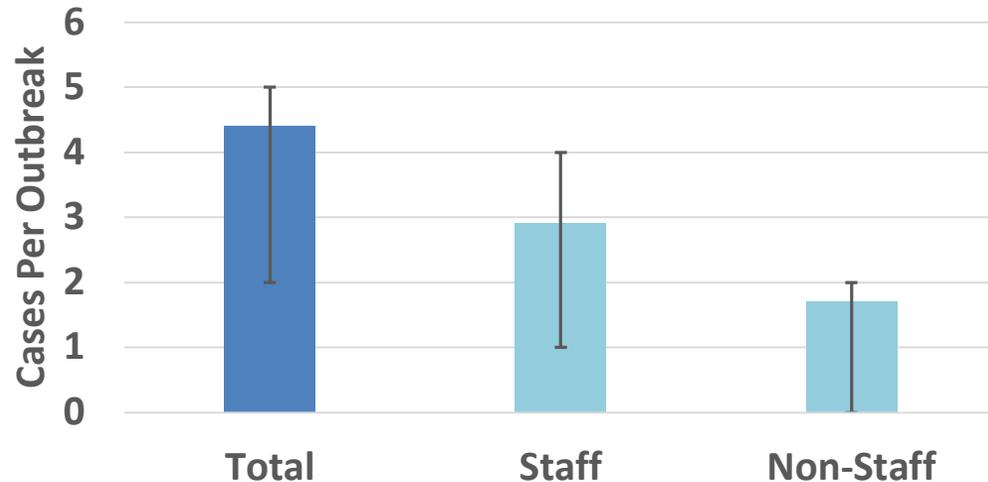
Data Source: Outbreak Reporting System

Last Retrieved 9/21/2020

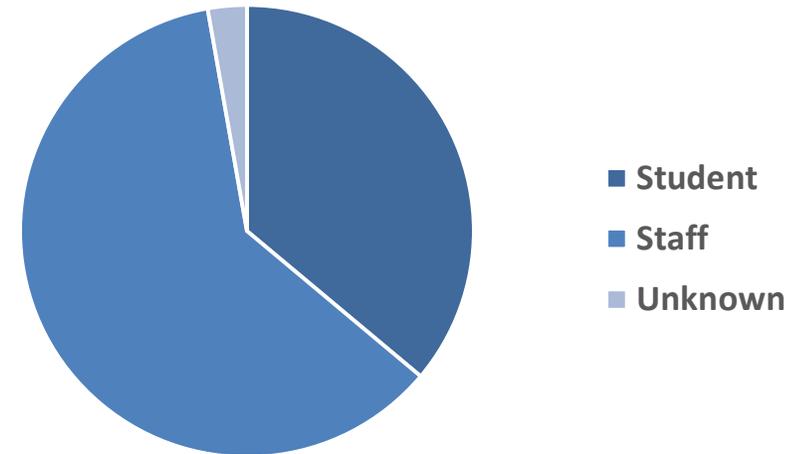
¹To allow for epidemiologic investigation and reporting delays, outbreaks were only analyzed with respect to average case count and case type if 28 days had passed since first onset (N = 47)

Outbreak Reporting System

Mean Outbreak Cases by Type, Illinois, 3/1/2020-9/21/2020



Index Cases by Type, Illinois, 3/11/2020-9/21/2020



- Mean individuals exposed: 36 (range 2-123)

Data Source: Outbreak Reporting System
Last Retrieved: 9/21/2020

Data Take-Aways

- COVID-19 outbreaks pose a significant burden on daycares
 - Substantial number since Phase 3 reopening
 - High numbers exposed per outbreak
- While more cases are detected among staff than children, children have been the source of a number of outbreaks



Acknowledgements:

Thank you to Michelle Ealy for her help with this presentation, and to the local health departments who collect the data.

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Child Care Restoration Grants (CCRG)

Child Care Restoration Grants

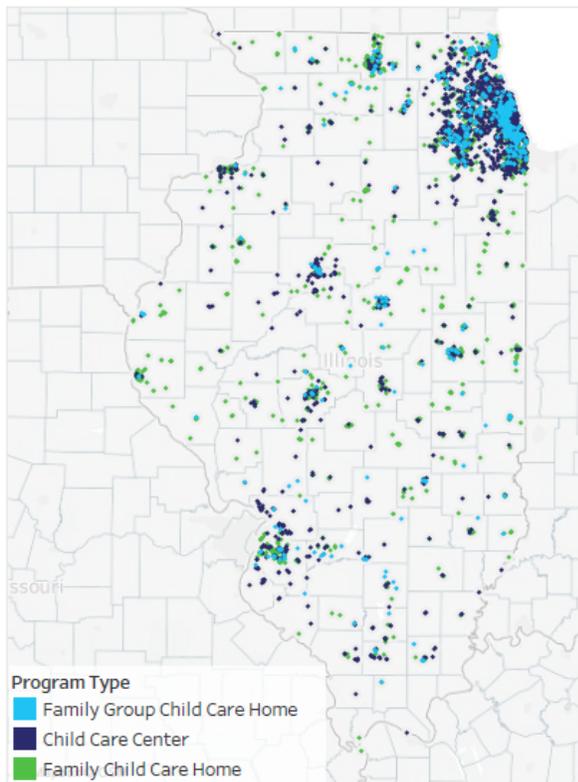
- ▶ Supplemental Income for providers who opened by August 14th and are caring for children
- ▶ Must be licensed by DCFS to be eligible
- ▶ Simple application and reporting processes
- ▶ Seven TA webinars total were hosted by INCCRRA
- ▶ Round I covered July-September
- ▶ Round II will be announced by end of September for October/November
- ▶ Funds must be expended by December 30, 2020 ¹⁷

Round I Data Dashboard

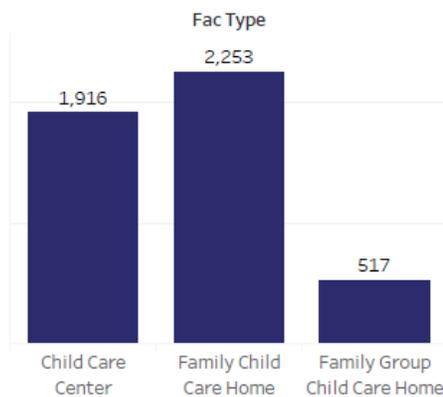
Child Care Restoration Grant Applications

Grants Awarded	Pending (Information Required)	Pending (Awaiting Review)	Pending (Online Submission)	Ineligible Applications
4,686	1			120

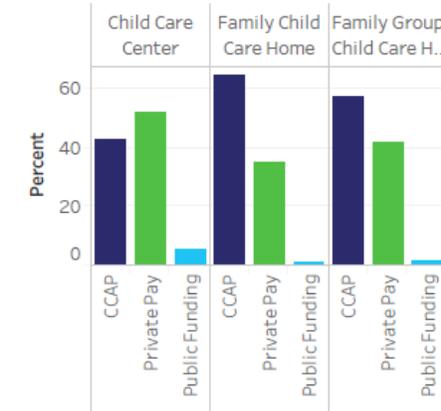
Grantees



Grants Awarded by Program Type



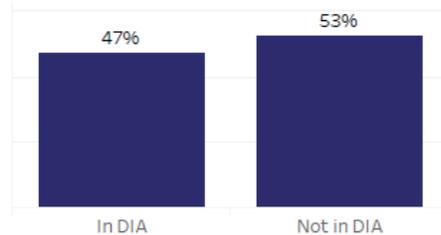
Average Program Funding by Source



Grants Awarded by County Group

	Group IA	Group IB	Group II
Child Care Center	1,352	365	199
Family Child Care Home	1,420	477	356
Family Group Child Care Home	367	86	64
Grand Total	3,139	928	619

Percent of Grants Awarded by DIA Status

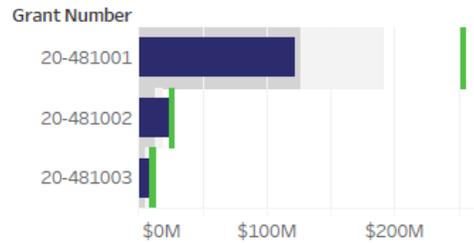


Round I Data Dashboard

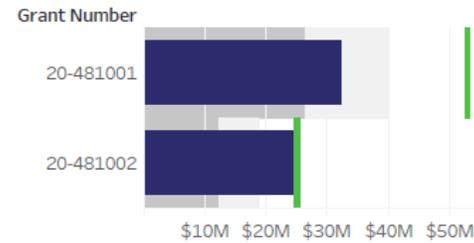
Child Care Restoration Grant Payments

Programs Receiving Payment	Counties Represented	Amount Awarded	Percent Funding Awarded	Pending Expenditures
4,686	95	\$156.2M	57.8%	

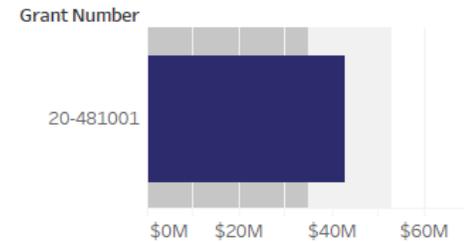
Total Expenditures and Targets



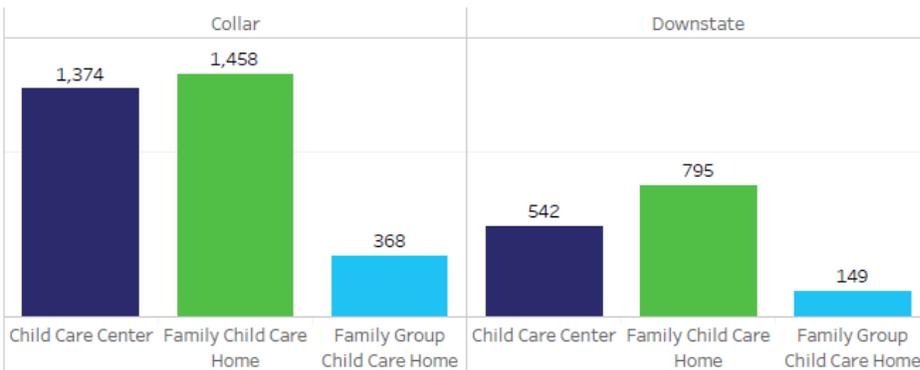
DIA Expenditures and Targets



Downstate Expenditures and Targets



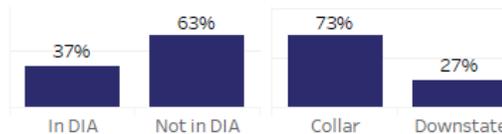
Number of Programs by Type and County Category



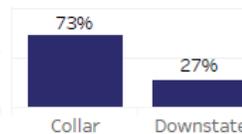
Avg Monthly Award by Program Type

Child Care Center	\$25,072
Family Child Care Home	\$1,474
Family Group Child Care Home	\$2,982

% Funds Awarded by DIA Status



% Funds Awarded by County Type



Payments through 9/15/2020

Note: For purposes of this grant, "Collar" counties include Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and Will.

Updates from ISBE

ISBE Updates

- ▶ FY 21 Early Childhood RFP Process
- ▶ ECBG Fall Implementation
- ▶ Governors Emergency Education Relief Funds (GEER)

FY21 Early Childhood Block Grant RFP

Program Option	Number of Applications Read	Total Slots requested	Total funding requested
Preschool for All	79	4512	13,836,907
Preschool for All Expansion	30	3019	10,302,609
Prevention Initiative -CB	22	1270	5,569,277
Prevention Initiative-HV	35	3049	17,782,191
Totals	166	11,850	47,517,984

Fall Implementation

What Are We Hearing?

Prevention Initiative

- ▶ All home visiting programs are providing services remotely. Guidance document to assist PI program can be found on the ISBE website.
- ▶ Consultants are hearing that PI Center-Based is most, not all, in person with new requirements and protocols that support safe practices during COVID-19.

Preschool For All/Preschool For All Expansion

- ▶ PFA/PFA-E programs are operating in a variety of formats - some all remote, some all in person, and some hybrid
- ▶ Some are fully remote until the winter and will then reevaluate
- ▶ Programs operating in person have shared it is going really well and that children are doing great wearing masks
- ▶ Some programs are struggling to keep families engaged remotely
- ▶ Most programs that are remote are implementing some type of live connection with students, at least weekly

Preschool For All/Preschool For All Expansion

- ▶ Some are also using home learning kits and choice boards
- ▶ Some programs who are remote have expressed the challenge of justifying that their teachers are working full time
- ▶ Many programs are using a variety of resources - Some programs have shared they are using distance learning components created by Teaching Strategies
- ▶ Programs are looking for new ways to engage families during this time
- ▶ Some are expanding playgrounds for more outdoor play

Early Childhood GEER Funds

Project	Funding Amount	Entity Responsible
Pyramid Model Consortium	\$450,792	GOECD
Infant/Early Childhood Supports	\$182,258	GOECD
One-Time Funding	\$8,996,950	ISBE
Parent Text Messaging Program	\$370,000	ISBE
Total	\$10,000,000	

Other Continuing Work & Next Steps

Updates on Other Key Early Learning Work

- *Making progress in challenging times!*
- Finance Commission
- Preschool Development Grant B-5
 - Workforce investments
- EHS/CC Partnership Federal Funding Opportunity
- Home Visiting
- Early Intervention

What's Next?

- Partner with IDPH to monitor COVID in Child care
- Launch Round II for CCRR
- Advocate for additional federal funding
- Continue to push forward on strategic priorities in Illinois
- Create opportunities to hear from providers
 - Town Hall Meeting being planned for mid-October
 - Develop resources to support providers and families

Conclusion

