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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Reported Outbreaks</th>
<th>Total Outbreak-Associated Cases</th>
<th>Average Cases per Outbreak(^1) (Range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>4.2 (2-11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)To 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)
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 GUIDANCE QUESTIONS:
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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 INCCRRRA
- 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
## Child Care Restoration Grant Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grants Awarded</th>
<th>Pending (Information Required)</th>
<th>Pending (Awaiting Review)</th>
<th>Pending (Online Submission)</th>
<th>Ineligible Applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4,686</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Grants Awarded by Program Type

- **Child Care Center**: 1,915
- **Family Child Care Home**: 2,253
- **Family Group Child Care Home**: 517

### Average Program Funding by Source

- **Child Care Center**
- **Family Child Care Home**
- **Family Group Child Care Home**

### Grants Awarded by County Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Child Care Center</th>
<th>Family Group Child Care Home</th>
<th>Family Child Care Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB</td>
<td>1,420</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,119</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>619</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percent of Grants Awarded by DIA Status

- **In DIA**: 47%
- **Not in DIA**: 53%
Round I Data Dashboard

Child Care Restoration Grant Payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs Receiving Payment</th>
<th>Counties Represented</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
<th>Percent Funding Awarded</th>
<th>Pending Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4,686</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>$156.2M</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Expenditures and Targets

Grant Number

DIA Expenditures and Targets

Grant Number

Downstate Expenditures and Targets

Grant Number

Number of Programs by Type and County Category

Collar

Downstate

Avg Monthly Award by Program Type

Child Care Center

Family Child Care Home

Family Group Child Care Home

% Funds Awarded by DIA Status

In DIA

Not In DIA

% Funds Awarded by County Type

Collar

Downstate

Payments through 8/16/2020

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

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

What Are We Hearing?
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.
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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>Entity Responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pyramid Model Consortium</td>
<td>$450,792</td>
<td>GOECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant/Early Childhood Supports</td>
<td>$182,258</td>
<td>GOECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Time Funding</td>
<td>$8,996,950</td>
<td>ISBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Text Messaging Program</td>
<td>$370,000</td>
<td>ISBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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