

We envision Illinois as a place where every young child – regardless of race, ethnicity, income, language, geography, ability, immigration status, or other circumstance – receives the strongest possible start to life so that they grow up safe, healthy, happy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

Illinois Early Learning Council
October 4, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Join via [Webex](#) | Meeting Number: 2455 096 6686 | Meeting Password: Xkq8b8u5q5p
If joining by phone, dial: 1-312-535-8110

Agenda

1:00 Welcome & Introductions (10 min)

1:10 **Analysis & Consultation for the ELC** (15 min)

Presenters/Facilitators:

- Dr. Aisha Ray, Professor Emerita, Erikson Institute
- Dr. Tonya D. Bibbs, Associate Professor, Erikson Institute
- Christy Cashman, Research Assistant, Erikson Institute

In Materials:

- Request for Participation Letter
- ELC Consultation Timeline

1:25 **Statewide B-5 Needs Assessment** (15 min)

Presenters/Facilitators:

- Dr. Eboni Howard, Managing Researcher, American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- Dr. Patricia Garcia-Arena, Principal Researcher, AIR

1:40 **Statewide B-5 Strategic Plan** (40 min)

Presenters/Facilitators:

- Anedra Kerr, Senior Consultant, Morten Group
- Elizabeth Seja Min, Consulting Partner, Morten Group

Racial Equity Definition: A racially equitable society values and embraces all racial/ethnic identities. In such a society, one's racial/ethnic identity (particularly Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian) is not a factor in an individual's ability to prosper. An early learning system that is racially equitable is driven by data and ensures that:

- Every young child and family regardless of race, ethnicity, and social circumstance has everything s/he/they need to develop optimally;
- Resources, opportunities, rewards, and burdens are fairly distributed across groups and communities so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately supported and not further disadvantaged; and
- Systems and policies are designed, reframed, or eliminated to promote greater justice for children and families.

Racial Equity Priorities:

- 1) Align and standardize race/ethnicity data collection and reporting;
- 2) Evaluate and identify whether processes for distributing resources exacerbate racial disparities, including agency contracting;
- 3) Address race/ethnicity disparities in terms of workforce compensation and advancement;
- 4) Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities for children participating in all programs that contribute to school readiness and life success by addressing racial disparities in enrollment in preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and in prenatal to age 3 services.

We envision Illinois as a place where every young child – regardless of race, ethnicity, income, language, geography, ability, immigration status, or other circumstance – receives the strongest possible start to life so that they grow up safe, healthy, happy, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

2:25 Federal Funding (30 min)

Presenters/Facilitators:

- Theresa Hawley, Director, Illinois Early Childhood Transformation Team
- Sessy Nyman, Senior Policy Analyst and Special Projects Manager, Illinois Early Childhood Transformation Team

In Materials:

- Build Back Better Child Care PreK FAQ
- Primer for Early Childhood Funding Commission Report

2:50 Public Comments & Announcements

3:00 Closing Comments and Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Monday, November 15, 2021
11:00am – 2:00pm (subject to change)

Racial Equity Definition: A racially equitable society values and embraces all racial/ethnic identities. In such a society, one's racial/ethnic identity (particularly Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian) is not a factor in an individual's ability to prosper. An early learning system that is racially equitable is driven by data and ensures that:

- Every young child and family regardless of race, ethnicity, and social circumstance has everything s/he/they need to develop optimally;
- Resources, opportunities, rewards, and burdens are fairly distributed across groups and communities so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately supported and not further disadvantaged; and
- Systems and policies are designed, reframed, or eliminated to promote greater justice for children and families.

Racial Equity Priorities:

- 1) Align and standardize race/ethnicity data collection and reporting;
- 2) Evaluate and identify whether processes for distributing resources exacerbate racial disparities, including agency contracting;
- 3) Address race/ethnicity disparities in terms of workforce compensation and advancement;
- 4) Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities for children participating in all programs that contribute to school readiness and life success by addressing racial disparities in enrollment in preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and in prenatal to age 3 services.