



POLICY PRIORITY: HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

Accessible Family- and Center-based Early Learning & Care



Administration & Implementation

- Implementation of **Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) policy changes to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)**, including increased reimbursement rates, reduced family copayments, increased income eligibility, a one-time payment to the child care workforce (“hero pay”) and further extension of child care eligibility for job search activities
- Advocacy for **FY 2023 policy changes to CCAP**, including increased rates, increased income levels for entry and exit eligibility, essentially no-cost child care for child care staff who are eligible for CCAP, elimination of copays for homeless families and continuation of job search time period



Legislation

- Passage of Public Act 102-912 (HB 1571), creating the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) **Off-Hours Child Care Program Fund** to help first responders and other workers identify and access off-hours, night or sleep time child care, including capital and operating expenses
- Passage of Public Act 102-926 (HB 4242), extending **automatic CCAP eligibility for parenting youth in foster care** and families in the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services’ (DCFS) Extended Family Support Program; also requires DCFS to reimburse child care providers at the same rates paid by IDHS



Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Commitment of **10% budget increase** to the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) for FY 2023, including \$13.6 million specifically for prenatal-to-age 3 services, to **expand access and improve workforce compensation**
- Commitment of **5% cost-of-living adjustment** for the infant/toddler child care workforce
- Investment of **\$100 million** for the Early Childhood Construction Grant (ECCG) program to **improve child care facilities**, with specific emphasis on infant/toddler programs
- Allocation of **50% of all new investments** to the IDHS Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grants dedicated to increased **workforce compensation and development**
- Application of federal COVID-19 relief funds to provide **dedicated inclusion supports** to child care providers
- Extension of Child Care Restoration Grants in the amount of **\$60 million**
- Appropriation of **\$2 million** for the IDHS **Off-Hours Child Care Program Fund**

(Accessible Family- and Center-based Early Learning & Care Accomplishments continued on the next page.)





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Accessible Family- and Center-based Early Learning & Care (continued)



Public Awareness & Engagement

- Production and release of the **Infant & Toddler Child Care Roadmap**, which includes seven provider-informed recommendations to improve families' access to high-quality infant/toddler child care
- Survey of child care providers for **input on DCFS background check policy changes** and proposed recommended next steps
- Launch of Illinois Cares for Kids, a **\$12.7 million statewide campaign** to help increase early learning and care enrollment

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Optimized Early Intervention



Administration & Implementation

- Implementation of Public Act 102-209 (SB 820), **extending Early Intervention services** for children turning age 3 with summer birthdays, reaching nearly **2,300 children**
- Ongoing **Early Intervention system transformation efforts** focused on workforce compensation, caseloads and equitable access to services
- Advocacy for implementation of **modified service delivery sites**



Legislation

- Passage of Public Act 102-962 (HB 4999), codifying the **30-day timeline for Early Intervention service delivery** and creating greater transparency for families and accountability for the Early Intervention system
- Passage of Public Act 102-926 (HB 4242), extending **automatic Early Intervention eligibility for children involved in the child welfare system**



Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Investment of **\$7 million increase** for Early Intervention services, restoring a previous cut to the program and ensuring a 3% rate increase for providers and service coordinators

