



POLICY PRIORITY: STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE

Cross-system Preparation, Professional Development & Support



Administration & Implementation

- Work with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Early Childhood to develop more **sustainable contracting and funding models** that allow for increased provider wages
- Funding of **new Infant Mental Health Certificate cohorts** to increase number of consultants in under-served counties
- Track **pipeline and workforce utilization of programs** offered through the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) and advocate for a set-aside specifically for the infant/toddler workforce
- Increase access to a coordinated system for **Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (I/ECMHC)**
- Continue to expand the ExceleRate pilot and Strengthen and Grow grants to provide steady funding for **increased wages for child care providers**
- Track and amplify cost modeling efforts of Center of Early Learning Funding Equity to **support adequate compensation**
- Ensure IDHS waives **Gateways credential application fee** in Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 2023) and beyond
- Monitor **competency-based learning pilot programs** for infant/toddler credentials and master's degrees



Legislation

- Advocate for passage of supplemental FY 2023 appropriations and additional FY 2024 appropriations for **increased service reimbursement rates, reimbursement for travel mileage and payment for cancellations** for Early Intervention providers



Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Advocate for a **20% increase in FY 2024 state funding across all early childhood programs**, with an emphasis on fair compensation for the infant/toddler workforce



Public Awareness & Engagement

- Continue promoting the **ECACE scholarship opportunity** for infant/toddler educators
- Increase awareness of the ability for undergraduate students and the infant/toddler workforce to receive **academic transcripts** even if they have outstanding student debt
- Recruit additional **I/ECMH consultants to attend orientation** and join the statewide consultant database

Strong State & Community Structures



Administration & Implementation

- Support IDHS in the development and implementation of its **child care contracting model**
- Advocate for implementation of the **CELFE compensation framework** for the early childhood workforce