



POLICY PRIORITY: STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE

Cross-system Preparation, Professional Development & Support



Local, State & Federal Budgets

- Commitment of **\$22.8M in FY 2024 to implement the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative**, a cross-agency program to better coordinate and facilitate access to mental health services
- Commitment of **\$2M in FY 2024 to the Illinois Department of Public Health to create a mental health training program for front-line workers in the pediatric field**



Administration & Implementation

- **Increase of nearly 35% to the number of consultants in the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (I/ECMHC) Database**, maintained by the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA), to **144 consultants across all 102 counties**
- Establishment of **2 new cohorts of the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (I/ECMHC) certificate program** at Erikson Institute, providing **55 full advanced grants and scholarships**
- Facilitation of **9 community of practice meetings** by the Erikson Institute for clinicians and practitioners to support their use of the DC:0-5 diagnostic criteria, reaching **113 professionals**
- Award of **\$3.37M in Early Childhood Faculty Preparation Grants to 4 universities**, reaching an estimated **78 students** from diverse backgrounds pursuing graduate degrees in early childhood, as part of the **Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) initiative**
- Continued administration of the **ECACE scholarship program, awarding nearly \$12.8M to 1,438 students** in its first 18 months
- Launch of the **Illinois Early Childhood Educator Apprenticeship Pilot** by the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Early Childhood to bridge and connect scholarship programs leading to credentials and degrees with on-the-job training and mentorship tailored to specific community contexts



Public Awareness & Engagement

- Launch of a **public awareness campaign on I/ECMHC** through the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

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Strong State & Community Structures



Administration & Implementation

- Establishment by Birth to Five Illinois of all **39 regional Birth to Five Action Councils and Family Councils** statewide
- Award of **\$4M in FY 2023 to the Illinois State Board of Education from the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)** to strengthen coordination, quality, and outcomes of prenatal-to-three and early childhood services