



Your Source for Information

A primary component of Gateways to Opportunity is the comprehensive Web site at www.ilgateways.com. Designed to assist individuals and programs serving Illinois children and their families, the site delivers the support needed to obtain professional development information. Online features such as job searches, information on careers in the field, and higher education directory give the viewer a comprehensive overview of career development information.

Career Opportunities

The Career Opportunities section will guide people through an array of career options and provide access to Professional Development Advisors who can assist individuals through their career opportunities. It will give those in the field a view of an early care and education section that lists typical job settings, types of programs, and career roles currently available for early care and education professionals. Check out the Gateways to Opportunity Career Lattice which identifies specialized credentials available to all in the field.

Higher Education Directory

A searchable Higher Education Directory offers high school students, career counselors, Professional Development Advisors, employers, early care and education, school-age and youth development professionals the opportunity to discover which two- and four-year institutions in Illinois offer early childhood degree and certificate programs. Be sure to visit Illinois' most comprehensive, searchable directory.

The Illinois Job Board

The Illinois Job Board provides professionals and those interested in early care and education, school-age and youth development careers with specific information about jobs available in Illinois and the qualifications needed to apply. Search by job titles, regions of the state, qualifications, program setting, experience level and more. Users can post jobs too.

Gateways to Opportunity Registry

The Gateways to Opportunity Registry is a resource and tool for early care and education, school-age and youth development practitioners and programs to drive quality and accountability. It tracks individual professional attainments and trainings, from college coursework to community-based training. The Registry maintains a permanent record of these achievements (a Professional Development Record) which can be updated on a regular basis.

The Registry also includes a trainer and training approval process. This process recognizes and validates the caliber of trainers and trainings in order to strengthen the integrity of the professional development system in Illinois. Trainers and trainings approved through the Registry process are listed on a statewide online training calendar, which is available on the Gateways to Opportunity website.

Financial Opportunities

Financial opportunities for individuals and early care and education, school-age and youth development programs - central to the success of Gateways to Opportunity – are described in detail on the web site. Discover information and links on scholarships, grants, loans and wage supplements.

Glossary of Professional Terms

The site features a comprehensive glossary of professional terms and industry acronyms, making it simple for new practitioners to familiarize themselves with the field.

Education Resource

The Education Resource section will connect individuals to their local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency, their local STARNet office and provide a wide array of links to state and national resources in the early care and education, school-age and youth development fields.

Gateways Credentials

The Gateways to Opportunity Credentials are part of a comprehensive professional development system designed for all practitioners working with children birth to 21 in Illinois. Gateways to Opportunity Credentials are awarded and recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services. These voluntary credentials are available at multiple levels of the Career Lattice. Gateways to Opportunity Credentials are symbols of professional achievement that can be earned by completing an approved program at an entitled college or university, or by completing a portfolio that documents education and experience.

Need a central resource to meet all your professional needs? Visit Gateways to Opportunity at www.ilgateways.com today.

