



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®
Illinois Professional Development System

Registry News

Fall 2020 Newsletter

You are receiving this email newsletter because you are a Gateways to Opportunity Registry Member. The Registry News will provide up-to-date information about programs and policy changes. Additionally, we always include something you can use in your classroom. Feel free to share this newsletter by printing a copy for your program, or forwarding it to a friend.

In This Issue

**Credential Applications
& Renewals**

COVID-19

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Development Advisors**

Credential applications are FREE!

Through the Preschool Development Grant, most Gateways Credential applications are **FREE** for a limited time on a first-come, first-served basis for those seeking **new** Credentials or **level advancing** their current Credential.

Which Credentials are FREE?

- ECE Credential
- Infant Toddler Credential
- Illinois Director Credential
- Family Child Care Credential
- Technical Assistance Credential
- Family Specialist Credential

Please note: ALL Gateways Credential renewals and the Gateways SAYD Credential require a \$65 application fee. GOOD NEWS! Your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency may have Professional Development Funds to help pay up to 80% of credential renewal fees or SAYD Credential application fees. Funds are on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact them today!

For more information about credentials, visit our website at www.ilgateways.com/credentials. If you have any questions, please email credentials@ilgateways.com.



INCCRRA has temporarily suspended on-site functions due to COVID-19

We continue to provide services with a limited number of off-site staff. If you need assistance, please email one of the email addresses listed below.

Gateways Registry - onlinehelp@inccrra.org

i-learning - ilearning@inccrra.org

Great START - gstart@inccrra.org

Gateways Scholarship - scholarship@ilgateways.com

Credentials - credentials@ilgateways.com

Chicago Early Learning Scholarship -
chilearn@ilgateways.com

Professional Development Advisor (PDA) Program -
pda@ilgateways.com

ExceleRate Illinois - info@excelerateillinois.com

General Questions - info@inccrra.org



Gateways Credentials must be renewed every 5 years!

- You may have one or more Gateways to Opportunity Credential(s) expiring on **12/31/2020**. To find out, login into your [Registry](#) and check your Professional Development Record (PDR).
- For detailed renewal information and step-by-step instructions on how to renew your Credential(s) please visit www.ilgateways.com/credential-renewal.
- Please note: Expired Credentials, will not appear on your PDR. To ensure your credentials remain current, please renew TODAY!

If you have any questions, please email credentials@ilgateways.com

Data Bits and Bites

In round one, Child Care Restoration Grants provided **4,600 programs** with over **\$156 million** in Restoration Grant funds.

COVID-19 Social Distancing

Click here for actions to stop or slow the spread of COVID-19.



How to tell if an email is from Gateways or INCCRRA



Email is the main way we communicate with our Gateways members. In our current environment there has been a 34% increase in emails since last year. There seems to be at least one malicious email posing as the Gateways to Opportunity Registry to obtain personal information. Like many such campaigns, it uses methods that sometimes slip past our attention. It is important to remember:

- Emails from Gateways to Opportunity or the Gateways Registry should have an email address that ends in @ilgateways.com or @inccrra.org.
- Gateways to Opportunity does not ask for donations or gift cards.

If you believe you have received a suspicious email that looks to be from Gateways to Opportunity, the Gateways Registry or INCCRRA, please forward those emails to abuse@ilgateways.com or abuse@inccrra.org and then dispose of them.

Introducing “Building Resilient, Fit & Healthy Kids Together”

As early care providers, we can play a critical role in helping children develop healthy habits and prevent chronic diseases. In partnership with the Illinois Public Health Institute, INCCRRA is launching “*Building Resilient, Healthy & Fit Kids Together*,” a new quarterly resource-sharing opportunity. Get access to implementation tips and tricks, and activity ideas on the following topics:

- Increasing physical activity/outdoor time
- Supporting breastfeeding
- Increasing local & fresh fruits & vegetable consumption
- Addressing screen time

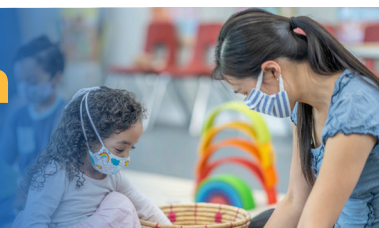


Here are 3 ways to get involved today!

1. **Learn:** Join **INCCRRA's Choose Health Text Club**: FREE weekly text message that promote healthy eating, physical activity and more! Text “JOIN” to (888) 773-3855 to sign up! You must be a [Gateways Registry](#) member to join!
2. **Do:** Contact your local R&R to sign up to access [GONAPSACC.org](https://gonapsacc.org), a free resource with easy-to-use tools to help providers assess physical activity/nutrition practices and make a plan to get set up for success!
3. **Share:** “Like” the [Gateways Facebook page](#) and get engaged to share your ideas with your colleagues across the state.

This initiative is part of the Illinois State Physical Activity and Nutrition (ISPAN) Program. ISPAN is made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the Illinois Public Health Institute in collaboration with partners in the Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity.

COVID-19 Safety Reminder Campaign for Providers, Staff, and Parents



GOECD and our State agency partners have launched a messaging campaign to arm child care providers, staff, and parents with timely and useful safety reminders, current and emerging public health data, and suggestions for how to prepare for the upcoming holidays as the pandemic persists.

INCCRRA and GOECD will be sending out weekly campaign emails in Spanish and English that include downloadable materials for social media and/or print to share with the people and in the places you deem most appropriate. [Click here](#) if you would like to be added to GOECD's mailing list.

The downloadable materials and informational links for each week of the campaign will be [posted here](#).

Continue to wear a mask. Watch your distance. Wash your hands. And stay tuned for more information!

Yale COVID-19 Study Results

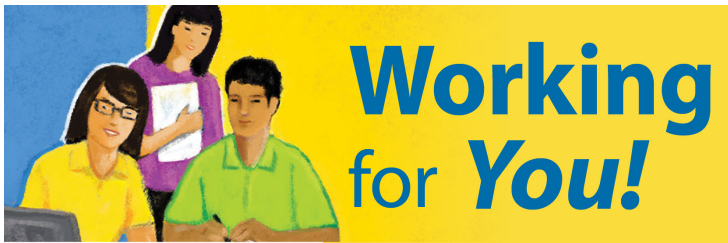
In the Spring of 2020, Dr. Walter Gilliam of Yale University contacted the **National Workforce Registry Alliance (the Alliance)** for assistance in surveying the early childhood education workforce about experiences with COVID-19. As an Alliance member, Illinois was able to assist in this effort and was able to quickly provide the survey invitation and background to more than 60,000 early childhood educators through the Gateways Registry. Nationally, 27 registries were able to participate and through our collective efforts, and those of partners who posted on social media, the study had over **57,000 participants**. Thank you to participated in the [Yale COVID-19 Study](#)!

“The survey is one of the largest epidemiological studies on a workforce ever conducted.”

57,000 child care providers participated in the study.

90% of open providers reported frequent hand washing and frequent disinfection of surfaces.

“The Yale team found that during the early months of the U.S. coronavirus pandemic, child care providers were not more likely to contract COVID-19 based on whether their workplace closed or stayed open.”



A Gateways Professional Development Advisor (PDA) is an experienced professional who will assist you with planning and achieving your career goals.

PDA Services include help with the following, and more!

- Explore degrees and programs that fit your needs
- Provide resources for Professional Educator Licensure and other professional credentials
- Share scholarship and financial aid resources to assist with college expenses
- Guide you through career goal development

Let us help you learn more about what opportunities are waiting for you. Professional Development Advisor services are **FREE!**

Request assistance from a Professional Development Advisor on our website today!

<https://www.research.net/r/requestforPDAsurvey>.



Un Asesor de Desarrollo Profesional (PDA) es un profesional con experiencia quien lo ayudara a planear y lograr sus objetivos profesionales.

¡Los servicios de PDA incluyen ayuda con lo siguiente y más!

- Analiza carrera/título o programa que se adapte a sus necesidades.
- Proporciona recursos sobre cómo obtener una Licencia de Educador Profesional u otra credencial profesional.
- Comparte recursos, información sobre becas y ayuda financiera para asistirlo con los gastos universitarios.
- Le guía durante el desarrollo de sus objetivos.

Permítanos ayudarle a saber más sobre las oportunidades que le están esperando. ¡Los Servicios de un Asesor de Desarrollo Profesional son totalmente GRATIS!

¡Solicite hoy mismo, la asistencia de un Asesor de Desarrollo Profesional en nuestro sitio web!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/solicituddeserviciosPDA>

Did you know the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) has a Facebook page?

Share this with families in your program!



Find us on  @ILLINOISCCAP



Easy Art Recipes for every Classroom

The following recipes include both cooked and non-cooked materials. If you use a recipe that requires cooking and you want to make it with children, follow all safety precautions carefully.

Uncooked Materials

Invite children to help you mix these or prepare them ahead of time for a specific activity or for general use.

Gak (homemade Silly Putty™)

- ¼ cup liquid laundry starch
- ¼ cup white school glue

Pour the glue and starch into a small bowl—one for each child. Show the children how to use their fingers to combine the two ingredients. It will be sticky until it's well mixed. If desired, color with dry tempera. Combine the individual bowls for storage.

Cooked Materials

These recipes require a bit more time and a heat source, but they tend to last longer than uncooked materials. Remember to store airtight.

Play Clay

- 1 cup soda
- ½ cup cornstarch
- ¾ cup warm water

Mix the soda and cornstarch together in a medium saucepan. Slowly mix in water, stirring until smooth. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture is the consistency of mashed potatoes. Turn out onto a cutting board and, when cool enough to handle, knead until smooth. Use the clay for sculpture. Children may choose to paint their dried work.



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