



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®
Illinois Professional Development System



Director Download

Summer 2021 Newsletter In This Issue

Free
Credential
Applications

Education
Reimbursement
Opportunity

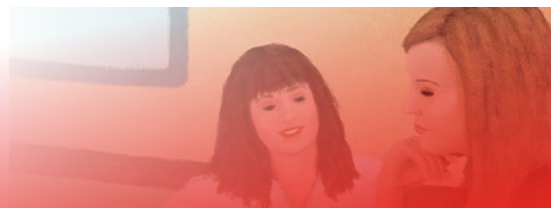
Great START
Wage Supplement
Program

Illinois
Cares
for Kids

Illinois Early
Childhood
Workforce Report

FREE Credential Applications!

School-Age and Youth Development Credential not included.



Credential Renewals Now 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, renewing a Credential 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: the Gateways SAYD Credential requires 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 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.

Limited Time **Education Reimbursement** Opportunity!

The Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 Education Reimbursement Initiative is available!

This is your chance to apply for funds during 2021. If you currently attend an accredited Illinois college or university, you can apply for a maximum of \$600 to repay existing debt owed directly to your higher education institution.

Funding will be given to early educators (center director, assistant director, teacher, assistant teacher, family child care provider, family child care assistant, group home provider, group home assistant, Preschool for All teacher, or Preschool for All teacher aide) working directly with children ages birth through five who are employed by an Illinois early childhood program and are currently enrolled in coursework at an accredited Illinois college or university. Illinois early educators who are attempting to enroll in coursework at an accredited Illinois college or university but are blocked from doing so due to a current outstanding balance may also apply. Educators performing other direct services in early childhood settings and educators working in license exempt programs are not being considered for reimbursement through this program at this time.

This is a **limited time offer** available through December 2021, or until funding has been expended.

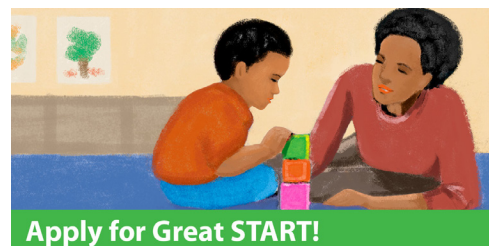
To learn more about this program, or to download an application, visit www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/education-reimbursement.

Please email PDA@ilgateways.com for more information or to submit your completed application and required documents.

This project was made possible by grant number 90TP0057. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Want an extra \$150 to \$1950 every six months?

Great START (Strategy to Attract and Retain Teachers) is a wage supplement program that recognizes early childhood educators who have a current eligible Gateways Credential or completed field related college coursework and stay at their current place of employment. Great START recipients receive a check every six months (based on continued eligibility). Check out program requirements [here](#).



Apply for Great START!

Did you know you can apply for Great START through your Gateways Registry Portal? Just submit the online application then print and complete the online packet. Scan and email the packet and your supporting documents to gstart@inccrra.org. We will be in touch with you within two weeks to let you know where you stand!

For more information, visit www.ilgateways.com or email gstart@inccrra.org.



FREE Professional Development Advisor for Registry Members!

Did you know that all current Registry members have access to our **FREE** Professional Development Advisor Program? A Professional Development Advisor can assist you or your staff with questions about career planning, Gateways programs, and more. Click or share the link below to request a Professional Development Advisor!
<https://www.research.net/r/requestforPDAsurvey>

Illinois Cares for Kids is the one place parents, grandparents, and caretakers can access all things related to early childhood in Illinois. You can find resources, programs, and assistance for your child based on their age.

The website includes information and resources for:

- Child Care and Child Care Assistance Program
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Preschool for All
- Early Intervention
- Home Visiting
- Child Development
- Emotional Well-Being and Early Childhood Mental Health
- WIC
- TANF
- SNAP
- LIHEAP and more



Share with parents in your program today! www.illinoiscareforkids.org

Illinois' Early Childhood Education Workforce 2020 Report

The Gateways to Opportunity Registry was established in 2009 to be a workforce data repository for Illinois' early childhood education professionals. The **Illinois Early Childhood Workforce Report** draws on that system to provide rich, descriptive data about the workforce, sharing aggregated information about their demographics, education and credentials, compensation, and longevity in the field. This snapshot of the workforce is designed to provide insight about these hardworking professionals so policymakers, advocates, and higher education leaders can improve career pathways, increase retention, and significantly raise compensation.

The [full report](#) and [2-page snapshot](#) are available online to download. [#ILECworkforce](#) [#AllinforEC](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Gateways Registry is frequently used by the workforce for high quality professional development, but there is opportunity for growth.



180+

entities offer
quality-assured training
via the Gateways Registry.

PERCENT OF DCFS TRAINING EARNED VIA GATEWAYS REGISTRY



67%
center
administrators



66%
teachers



64%
assistant
teachers

Not all DCFS required training was Registry-approved.



OVER 60%

of staff in licensed centers
and FCC attended
Registry-approved training,
averaging 10-14 hours.

Salary and Staffing Survey is here!



If you haven't been able to yet, please consider filling out the biennial Salary and Staffing Survey. The Salary and Staffing Survey is presented to the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, IDHS, and the public to help inform child care policy decisions on initiatives like Great START and Gateways Scholarship. In past weeks you may have received an email or letter inviting you to fill out the virtual survey using a passcode unique to your program. If you need to retrieve your program's passcode or would like to request a paper survey, please email salarysurvey@inccrra.org or reach out to Corinne Lee at (800) 649-1884 or direct at (309) 829-5327 ext. 333. If not please visit the link below to get started: <https://www.inccrra.org/salary-and-staffing-survey>.



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