



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®
Illinois Professional Development System



Director

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Spring 2022 Newsletter

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STRENGTHEN AND GROW

CHILD CARE GRANTS



SGCC Round Three applications will be opening in early June!

If your program has an SGCC round one or two eligible or pending application, you can simply submit a budget request for round three and upload a round three attestation. If your program is applying for SGCC for the first time, please watch this [technical assistance video](#) first to prepare you to complete and successfully submit your application.

For more information, additional eligibility, or frequently asked questions, visit www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/strengthen-and-grow-child-care-grants.

Birth to Five Illinois – Updates and Resources

Birth to Five Illinois held virtual, regional Kick-Off Events in early February 2022, where they presented [regional data](#) and captured questions, comments, needs/challenges, and strengths/assets (see the [Regional Notes](#)) from local residents from each region of the State. Following these events, the Birth to Five Illinois State Team answered the numerous questions asked during the Kick-Off Events and posted them to a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page on their website, which continues to be updated as new inquiries come in.



Then on Tuesday and Thursday nights between March 8-April 5, 2022, Birth to Five Illinois held Community Engagement Live Webinars to meet with the community, introduce the team, share more about the work, and answer any questions. Recordings of all Live Webinars can be found on the Birth to Five [YouTube channel](#); check out what was asked and answered during your region's session!

The past few weeks, Birth to Five Illinois has been busy interviewing candidates for the 39 Regional Action Council Manager positions; one Regional Manager will be hired in each of the [39 regions of the State](#)! Applicants must live in the region for which they apply. Visit the [Jobs page](#) to see the regions for which applications are still being accepted. Once these Regional Managers are hired and onboarded, Birth to Five will be hiring for Family and Community Engagement and Data/Admin staff to help organize the work of the Birth to Five Action and Family Councils that are being established in each region to elevate the voices of families and early childhood providers.

Ensuring all children and families have access to the services they need will require a wide range of stakeholders — parents and families, school district officials, child care providers, early learning advocates, county and municipal officials, and the business community — working together in every community in Illinois to determine what families need to thrive, and then creating new and enhanced services in response. Interest Forms are open for both the Action and Family Councils. All who are interested in sharing their experiences and ideas are encouraged to complete an Interest Form so the Birth to Five team can see where there is interest and where they need to increase their outreach efforts. We welcome people with a range of experience, including those new to this type of work.

Please see below for links to resources that may be of interest. Everything linked below is available in English, Spanish, and Polish on the Birth to Five Illinois website:

- [Birth to Five Illinois](#)
- [Action Council Interest Form](#)
- [Family Council Interest Form](#)
- [Selection Committee Interest Form](#)
- [Action Council Flyer](#)
- [Family Council Flyer](#)

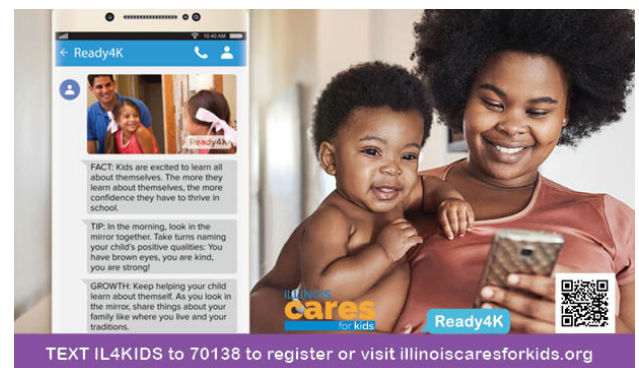
Illinois Cares for Kids - Ready4K

Illinois Cares for Kids is inviting all families to join Ready4K! Ready4K is a free research-based text messaging program for families with child(ren) ages 0-11 in Illinois. The program supports families, increases children's learning, and provides a method for the State to share customized early childhood messaging with families.

Each week, parents receive three text messages to help them build their child(ren)'s literacy skills by maximizing existing family routines in fun and easy ways. Messages are delivered in English, Spanish, Polish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, or Russian!

Signing up for Ready4K is easy! TEXT IL4KIDS to 70138 or visit illinoiscareforkids.org/ready4k.

If you are interested in more information on Ready4K and how to enroll your families, please fill out the following [form](#)!



New Online Training Available on i-learning!

Trauma-Informed Practice for Child Care Providers went live on i-learning on April 4, 2022, and is now available to all Gateways Registry Members. This 2-hour online training fulfills the licensing requirement specified in Illinois House Bill 158 which requires all licensed day care providers, directors, and classroom staff to complete a training on early childhood emotional learning, infant and early childhood mental health, early childhood trauma, and adverse childhood experiences.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is expected to announce this requirement in the coming weeks. Get your program and staff ahead by completing the training today! Completions will be automatically tracked on your Professional Development Record, like all i-learning trainings. Any questions about the requirement should be directed to IDCFS.

**TRAUMA-INFORMED
PRACTICE FOR
CHILDCARE PROVIDERS**

Scholarship Funding for Early Childhood Educators

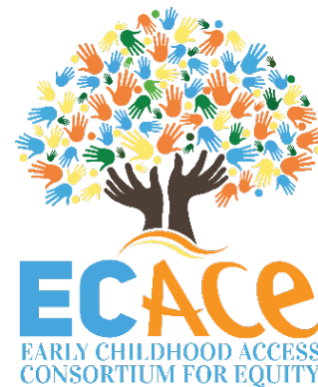
If you work or have worked in early childhood education and you are interested in getting additional credentials and/or a degree in the field, you may be eligible for an **Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship!**

Funding is still available for this school year (2021-22) even though the March 1st priority consideration date has passed. All applications received after March will continue to be considered as long as funding remains available. Complete and submit your application as soon as possible!

You must be a member of the Gateways to Opportunity Registry and enrolled either full or part-time in a participating Illinois college or university, among other criteria.

For more information about eligibility, a list of participating institutions, and to apply, visit www.isac.org/ECACEscholarship.

For help with the application process, watch this video illinois2.webex.com/recording-service.



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