



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®
Illinois Professional Development System

Director Download

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ECEC Workforce Recruitment

Are you hiring for an Early Childhood Education and Care position? Do you know someone else who is?

Help support our newest campaign by posting open jobs in Child Care, Home Visiting, Early Intervention & and more, on the Gateways to Opportunity Job Board. It takes 10 minutes or less.

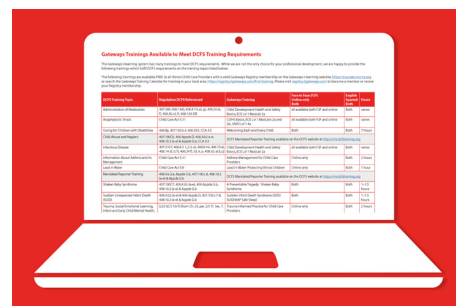
We appreciate your support in helping grow the ECEC field!

Post a job on our website!

Trauma-Informed Practice for Child Care Providers

DCFS has several mandated topics that child care providers need to be trained on. Gateways put together a handy [chart](#) of those training topics and the trainings that we offer to meet each of the mandated training topics for DCFS.

The Trauma Informed Practice for Child Care Providers was developed specifically to meet the four training topics of trauma, social/emotional learning, infant and early child mental health, and adverse childhood experiences. There are a few topics that are covered in the Mandated Reporter training that you'll need to take directly from the DCFS website. All the other trainings are available on the Gateways i-learning website at courses.inccrra.org and are FREE with a Gateways Registry ID.



UNLOCK A CAREER IN CHILD CARE

As an administrator of an Early Care and Education program, access a Gateways Professional Development Advisor (PDA) to work with you and your staff!

The PDA Program can:

- Assist with planning career and professional development goals
- Offer guidance on how to achieve various professional credentials
- Help choose a degree program
- Identify scholarships and financial aid opportunities to support college expenses

Request a PDA for your program by completing the [Center-Based Professional Development Advisement request form](#) today!



The Gateways Scholarship Program

The Gateways Scholarship Program pays up to 100% OF TUITION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION and Child Development (ECE/CD) coursework and degrees at participating colleges.

"While most of my successes have come from hard work and a genuine drive to make a difference, it would not have been possible without my Gateways Scholarship."

- J. Smith

Let us help you and your staff take the first step toward the future!

For more information, visit www.ilgateways.com or email scholarship@ilgateways.com.

LeadCare Complete for Chicago Child Care Providers

LeadCare Complete supports a safe and healthy learning environment by offering Chicago child care providers free plumbing upgrades to reduce lead in drinking water. LeadCare Complete serves licensed facility and home-based child care providers in Chicago with a lead-in-water result of 2.01 ppb or higher.

The program covers the costs of conducting a plumbing assessment, installing filters, and removing and replacing plumbing containing lead, such as faucets and water fountains. After installing plumbing upgrades, LeadCare Complete helps with follow-up lead-in-water testing to ensure lead levels go down.

It's important for child care providers to create a safe environment for the children they serve, and LeadCare Complete can help! For more information or to enroll, visit LeadCareComplete.org/INCCRRA.



Credential Renewal Reminder!

Attention Directors! All Gateways to Opportunity® Credentials must be renewed every 5 years. Applying for Credential renewal is FREE!

There are many benefits to renew early in the year –

1. Skip the end of the year renewal rush
2. Have extra time to take trainings (if needed) before it expires
3. No disruption to meeting ExceleRate® Illinois requirements
4. Great START looks for valid Credentials for new and continued eligibility
5. Peace of mind for another 5 years!

GOOD NEWS! Having Director Portal access allows you to see if your staff have any Credentials that expire on 12/31/2024! Don't have access? Complete the [Gateways Registry Director Portal](#) form then scan and email to onlinehelp@inccrra.org.

Apply online to renew Credentials: <https://registry.ilgateways.com/login> (Click [here](#) for a paper application). For renewal details and training resources, visit www.ilgateways.com/credential-renewal. This link provides you with step-by-step instructions on how to renew Credential(s).

Please email credentials@ilgateways.com with any questions.

Research Survey for Child Care Directors

This research study aims to explore how the minimum qualifications required by the state support or neglect director preparedness. The required qualifications of child care directors in licensed child care programs are significantly minimal, yet the job of directors in child care programs demands many skills, abilities, and knowledge.

To better understand this juxtaposition, this survey aims to identify the minimum director qualifications of child care directors in each US state according to the child care licensing body of each state and to identify what skills directors of these two states deem as necessary skills for child care directorship positions.

This survey is completely anonymous and takes 15-20 minutes to complete.

https://illinoisstate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ahCSe4Jby4qtT14



Upcoming Registry-Verified Conferences

2024 Early Childhood Symposium

February 24, 2024
Presented by Collaboration
for Early Childhood

This gathering is an opportunity for anyone who works with young children – educators, caregivers, and parents – to gain knowledge, perspective, practical skills, and tools for supporting all kids' learning.

27th Annual Infant Toddler Conference

February 24, 2024
Presented by Oakton

Community College
The area's only conference geared towards Infants, Toddlers, Two's educators/administrators. You may choose between one of the six tracks with three workshops.

Strong Children, Strong Communities Conference

February 24, 2024
Presented by Good Shepherd Center

This conference is developed to provide child care workers and educators with needed education and support information that targets issues regarding children with and without developmental disabilities.

Register today!

Register today!

Register today!

WEATHER CHART FOR KIDS

What is the weather like in your neighborhood? Track the weather in your area with this Nature Cat calendar. Use this free worksheet to help your child observe different kinds of weather and temperature over time. Explore more learn-at-home nature activities with PBS.



1. Pick a date to start and fill in the following dates.
2. Observe the weather with your child at the same time each day.
3. Use the key on the weather calendar and draw weather symbols on each day. Or draw your own pictures!
4. Keep observing and recording until the sheet is complete.
5. Talk to your child about what the weather chart reveals. Ask your child what they notice.
 - Do you see a pattern?
 - How does the weather compare to what's suggested in the weather key?

Keeping a weather chart is a great way for children to learn more about nature and the environment!



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