

Registry News



Fall 2024 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

**Smart Start
Workforce Grants**

**Birth to Five
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**New i-learning
Training!**

SMART START WORKFORCE GRANTS



Do you work in a Smart Start Workforce Grants classroom? Smart Start Workforce Grants offer child care programs stable, ongoing funds that they need to cover costs and invest in quality staff without burdening families by raising tuition or Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) co-pays. Eligible programs receive consistent funding in advance, and funds will cover the cost of higher wages and operating a classroom. Programs receiving these grants will be required to pay classroom staff a wage floor.

Smart Start Workforce Grants Round 1 funding began October 1 – December 31, 2024. Teachers and Teacher Assistants working in Smart Start Workforce Grant funded classrooms are required to be paid a wage floor. These competitive wages will help to attract more staff and meet parents' needs at a rate that they can afford. Find more information about Smart Start Workforce Grants including the wage floor in your area.

Data Bits and Bites

The **Gateways to Opportunity Registry** launched in July 2009 and has served more than **303,780 members** since that time.

There are 2,459 individuals who joined the Gateways Registry during its first year of operation who are still members today!



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®
Illinois Professional Development System

Find us on 

In case you missed it:

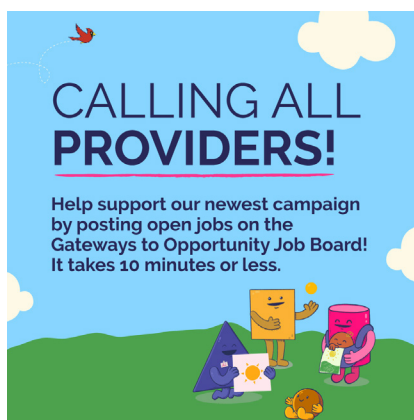
- [39 Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessments](#)
- [39 Regional Action Plans](#)
- [39 Early Childhood Needs Assessments: Focus on Mental & Behavioral Health](#)
- [5 Statewide Reports](#)
- [100+ Illinois Family Stories](#)
- [130+ Media Coverage](#)
- [\\$9.3M Awarded to Local Early Childhood Collaborations](#)
- This summer, Birth to Five Illinois Regional Teams connected with over 40,000 people at 600+ events!
- 1,200+ Action & Family Council members are serving this year!

If you are not on a Birth to Five Illinois Council, there will be many other opportunities to engage with the goals in your Regional Action Plan. [Find your Region's webpage](#) to reach out directly to your local Team, join your Region's Facebook group, or subscribe to your Region's Newsletter.



Healthy Kids, Healthy Future: Physical Activity Learning Sessions (PALS) is designed to give early care providers a solid knowledge base of best practices for physical activity with an emphasis on healthy lifestyles, environments, and bodies. The PALS content addresses physical activity for children from birth through age five years, and how to implement physical activities in their programs and share with families.

Reach out to your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency (CCR&R) or check the Gateways Training Calendar at <https://registry.ilgateways.com/be-a-member/find-trainings> to see when the next PALS training is scheduled in your area.



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 less than 10 minutes.

We appreciate your support in helping grow the ECEC field!

[Post a job on our website!](#)



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

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



Gateways to Opportunity offers a **FREE** service to help with planning and achieving career goals!

- A Professional Development Advisor (PDA) is an experienced professional that can help inform and connect individuals with Early Childhood and School-Age career goals by:
- Working with you to plan career and professional development goals
- Offering guidance on how to achieve various professional credentials
- Helping you choose a degree program when returning to school
- Identifying scholarship and financial aid opportunities to help support taking college coursework

Request a Professional Development Advisor today by visiting www.ilgateways.com/professional-development/pda.

BASIC TRANSCRIPT REVIEW (BTR)

Did you recently graduate or finish new coursework? If so, your Basic Transcript Review (BTR) may need updating. The BTR sorts your college coursework into four different categories and can be viewed through the Registry as part of your Professional Development Record (PDR). To check out your BTR and see if it needs updating, click the link and log into your Registry account. <https://registry.ilgateways.com/component/wsuser/login>

If your BTR needs to be updated, you can submit official transcripts by mailing them in their original envelope to:

Gateways to Opportunity
Attn: Official Transcripts
1226 Towanda Plaza, Bloomington, IL 61701.

You can also have them sent by your college or university to transcripts@inccrra.org.

New Opportunity for the Workforce: Early Childhood Innovative Prior Learning Assessment

Gateways opened the Innovative Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) to all higher education institutions with early childhood programs in Illinois. This is a tool that assesses the skills, behaviors, and knowledge for the ECE Level 2 Credential through higher education institutions participating in the program.

The following institutions are offering this opportunity:

- DePaul University (Chicago)
- Eastern Illinois University – Charleston (Coles)
- Heartland Community College – Normal (McLean)
- Governors State University – University Park (Will)
- Greenville University – Greenville (Bond)
- Kishwaukee Community College – Malta (DeKalb)
- McHenry College – Crystal Lake (McHenry)
- South Suburban College – South Holland (Cook)
- Western Illinois University – Macomb (McDonough)

There are other institutions in the process of determining the credit for this prior learning opportunity and the list changes. Check the [Gateways website](#) for more information about participating institutions and the application process.

If an employee has worked in the ECE field for at least a year, does not have a Gateways ECE credential level 2 or higher, and has not taken the related coursework at college or university, they are welcome to participate in a 60 – 75-minute simulation experience with a specialist to see if they qualify for up to 12 credits.

Higher Education and Workforce Development Navigators, located in your community Resource & Referral Agency, have materials to bring out to child care centers or share with directors and potential candidates, with a list of the participating colleges and universities to enroll in to receive credit if their assessment demonstrates the competencies of Level 2.

For more information about this opportunity, contact Marsha Hawley mhawley@inccrra.org at INCCRRA or Julie Lindstrom jlindstrom@inccrra.org.



Trainings Available in Spanish

The Latino population is over 60 million here in the United States. Latinos continue to help fuel our economy and enrich our nation as entrepreneurs, athletes, artists, entertainers, scientists, educators, and more.

Expanding your knowledge is so important! The i-learning website is here to help and offers over 26 online trainings available in Spanish.

[Visit the i-learning website!](#)

Free Lead Service Line Replacement for Daycare's in West Pullman and Garfield Park!



The City of Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM) is offering **FREE** Lead Service Line Replacement to DCFS licensed daycares in **West Pullman and Garfield Park**. Under this program, the existing lead service line (the pipe that carries water from the water main to the childcare facility), will be replaced with a new copper service line. Studies show that lead from a lead service line can leach into the drinking water. If you qualify, please consider signing up for this program today. Space is limited!

To sign up email: daycares@cityofchicago.org or call 312-744-6635 with your name, daycare name and address, and contact information, and someone from either DWM's Daycare Outreach team or the department's contractor will contact you with next steps.

ASSEMBLE A RECIPE BOOK

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED:

1. Get an empty three-ring binder or paper folder with fasteners.
2. Print out the example recipe book and assemble the pages in this order:
 - Cover
 - Numbered pages
 - Index
3. Use a hole punch to make holes in all pages except the cover.
4. Put the punched pages into the binder or folder, and glue the cover to the front.

Use a recipe book to get cooking with family and friends! Make sure an adult is available to help. Writing a recipe down is a great way to share your favorite foods with others, so they can make them, too!

ADD YOUR RECIPES:

1. Print out a blank recipe page for each recipe you want to add. Put the name of your recipe at the top of the page, and then list the ingredients in the order you will use them. Be sure to number each step.
2. You can also include features such as:
 - Pictures
 - Captions
 - Tips
3. Add page numbers to each page, and then add the names of your recipes and the page numbers to the index.
4. Lastly, on the cover, write your name.



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