



September 26, 2023
Early Childhood Education Town Hall

A young boy with dark hair is running joyfully through a field of golden light. He is wearing a white t-shirt with a colorful graphic that reads "THIS WORLD IS FULL OF HOPE. LET'S BEGIN TO PROCEED WITH FAITH." and blue jeans. The background is a bright, hazy field of golden light, creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the word "Welcome" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Welcome



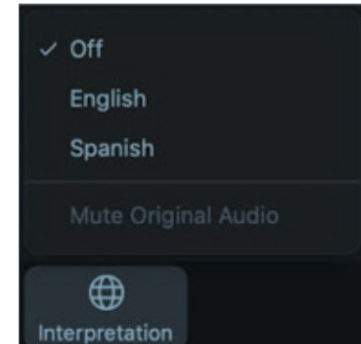
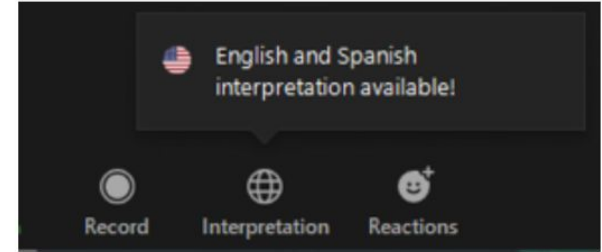
Language Interpretation

1. Please select the interpretation icon.

Por favor seleccionar el icono de interpretación.

1. Select English or Spanish audio.

Elegir audio en Inglés o Español.





Agenda

1. Welcome + Introductions
2. Purpose of Today
3. Message From the Mayor
4. Vision For the Future & Funding Overview
5. Panel Discussion
6. What We Heard From You
7. Strengths to Build On
8. Call to Action



Purpose of Today

To set the stage for a new era of inclusive, innovative and effective governing that fosters transparency, collaboration, and partnership.

We aim to create a space for the voices and perspectives of Chicagoans, in **coordinated alignment** for **community driven policy**, for people with people at the center of **shared decision making** to shape the future of early childhood systems prenatal to five.



Mayor Brandon Johnson





Presenters and Panelists



Cristina Pacione-Zayas
1st Deputy Chief of Staff
Mayor's Office



Candace M. Moore
Director of Early Learning
Mayor's Office



Leslie McKinily
Early Childhood Education Chief Officer
Chicago Public Schools



Cerathel Burgess-Burnett
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Family & Support Services



Madeline Shea
Assistant Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health



Sandy De Leon
Executive Director - CELWS
City Colleges of Chicago



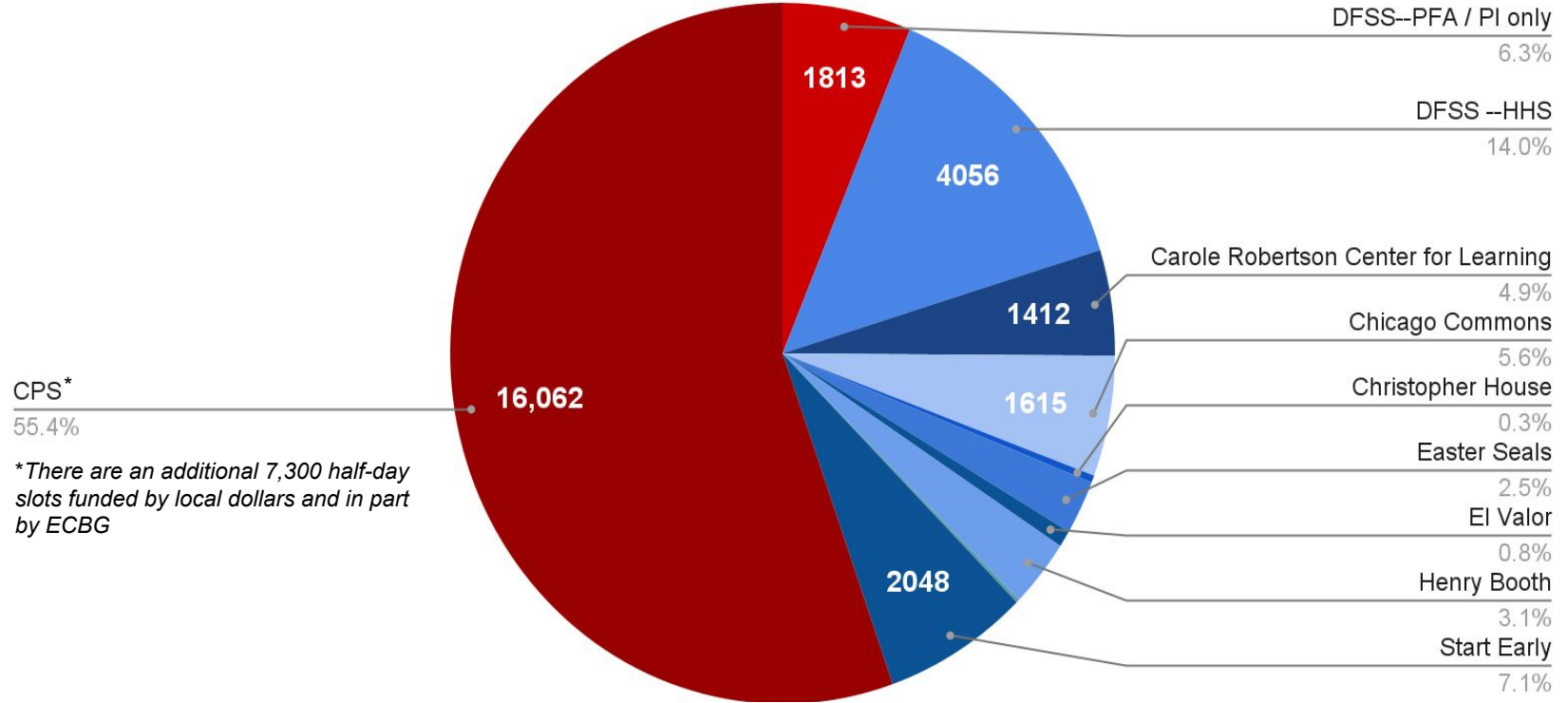
Bethany Patten
Director, Division of Early Childhood
Illinois Department of Human Services



Vision For the Future & Funding Overview



Early/Head Start and Early Childhood Block Grant Slot Distribution

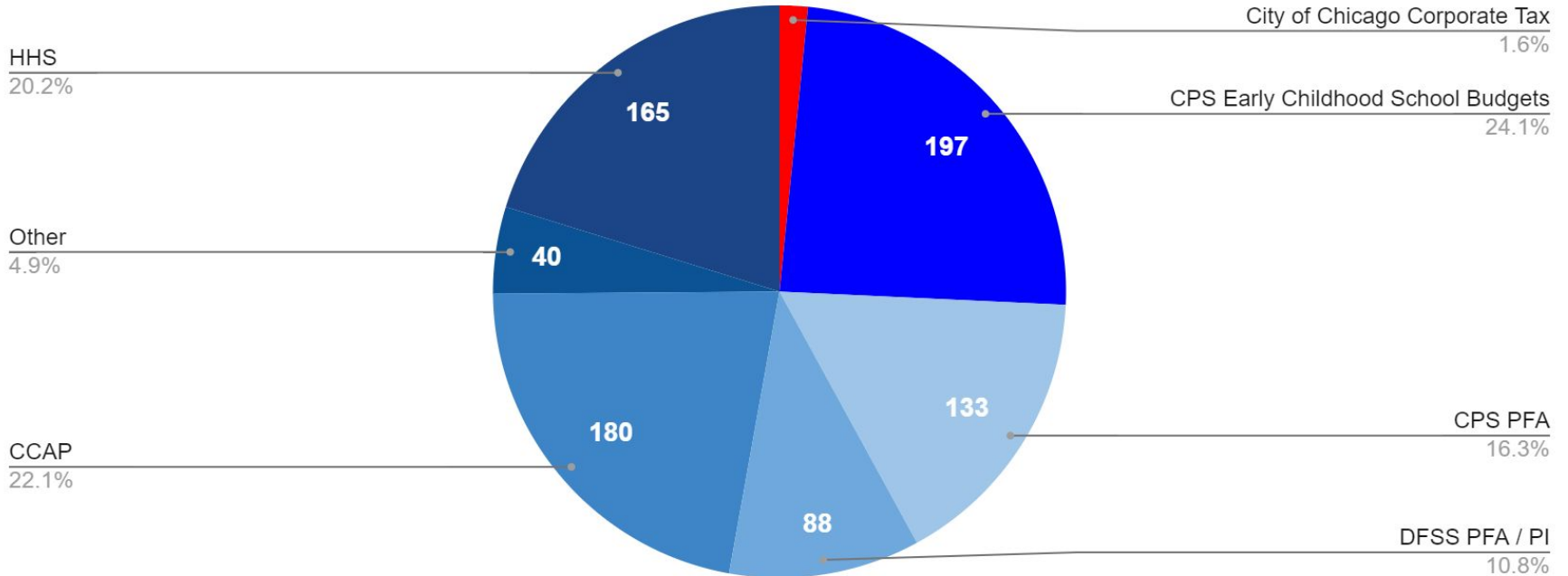


Source: HHS/ ACF/ OHS PIR 2022; DFSS Press Releases and communication; CPS data portal and communication; Head Start Grantee communication. Please note that numbers reflect a moment in time but the overall market share amongst providers represented here remains helpful in providing a high-level overview of Chicago's shared landscape.



Funding Distribution Snapshot

Chicago's Public Dollars for EC, \$M annually



Sources: State of IL FY Budget Book <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FY24-Budget-Book.pdf>, <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/Budget/FY24-IDHS-Budget-Briefing-Book.pdf>, City of Chicago Press Releases and other public documents. Other includes Early Intervention funding, MIECHV, Public Health funding, etc. Does not include Smart Start or recent PFA/ PI COLA increases.



Chicago Department of Public Health

- **Mission:** To work with communities and partners to create an equitable, safe, resilient and Healthy Chicago.
- **Vision:** Everyone in Chicago thrives and achieves their optimal health and wellness.
- **Key Program Areas:**

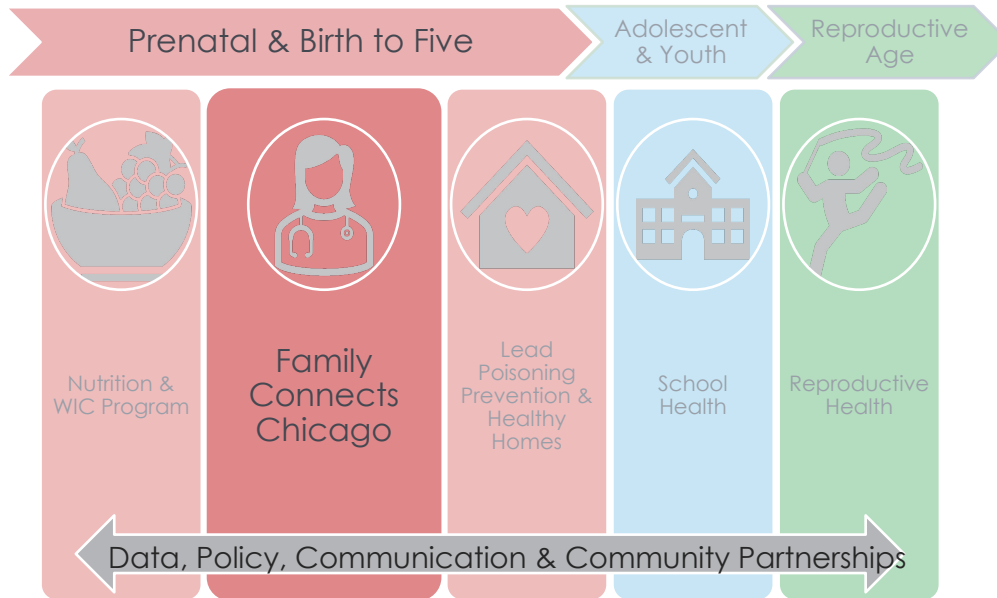
Health Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disease Control• Food Protection• Immunizations• Emergency Preparedness	Community Health <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy Chicago 2025• Environment• Health Equity in All Policies	Maternal, Infant, Child & Adolescent Health <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maternal & Child Health• Adolescent Health• Reproductive Health	Behavioral Health <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Health Clinics & Services• Substance Use• Violence Prevention	Syndemic Infectious Diseases <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HIV, AIDS & STI Resources• Hepatitis• Tuberculosis	Health Data <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Epidemiological Data & Reports• Chicago Health Atlas• Data Requests
---	--	--	---	--	--



Chicago Department of Public Health

Bureau of Maternal, Infant, Child, and Adolescent Health

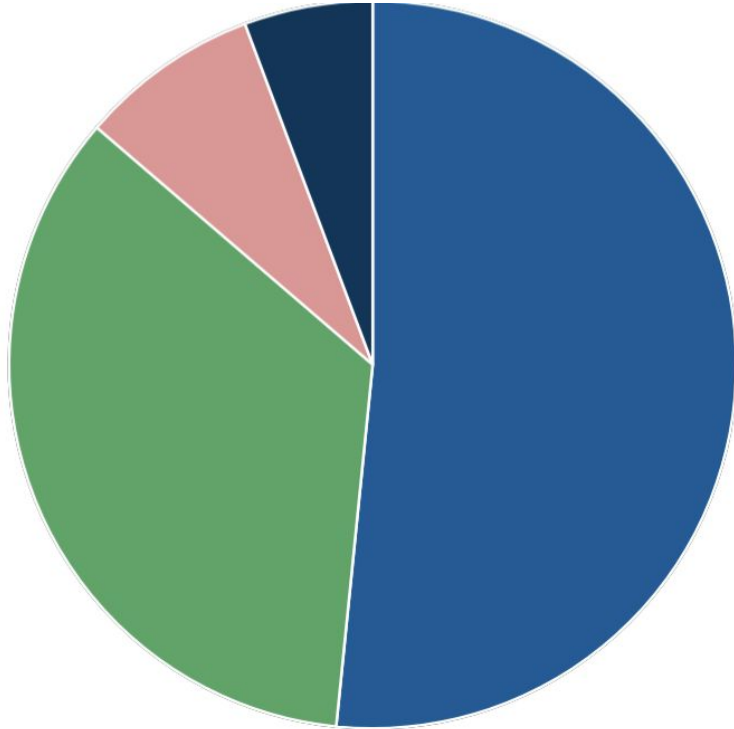
MICAH Bureau Programming



Family Connects Chicago Goals:

- *Scale citywide to offer services to all 28,000 families welcoming newborns in the city*
- *Fully integrate in Chicago's prenatal to 5 continuum of care by:*
 - *building a universal system of support for all families with newborns*
 - *servicing as a bridge to link families with needed resources, particularly early childhood services and longer term supports*

2024 Family Connects Chicago Program Funding Estimates

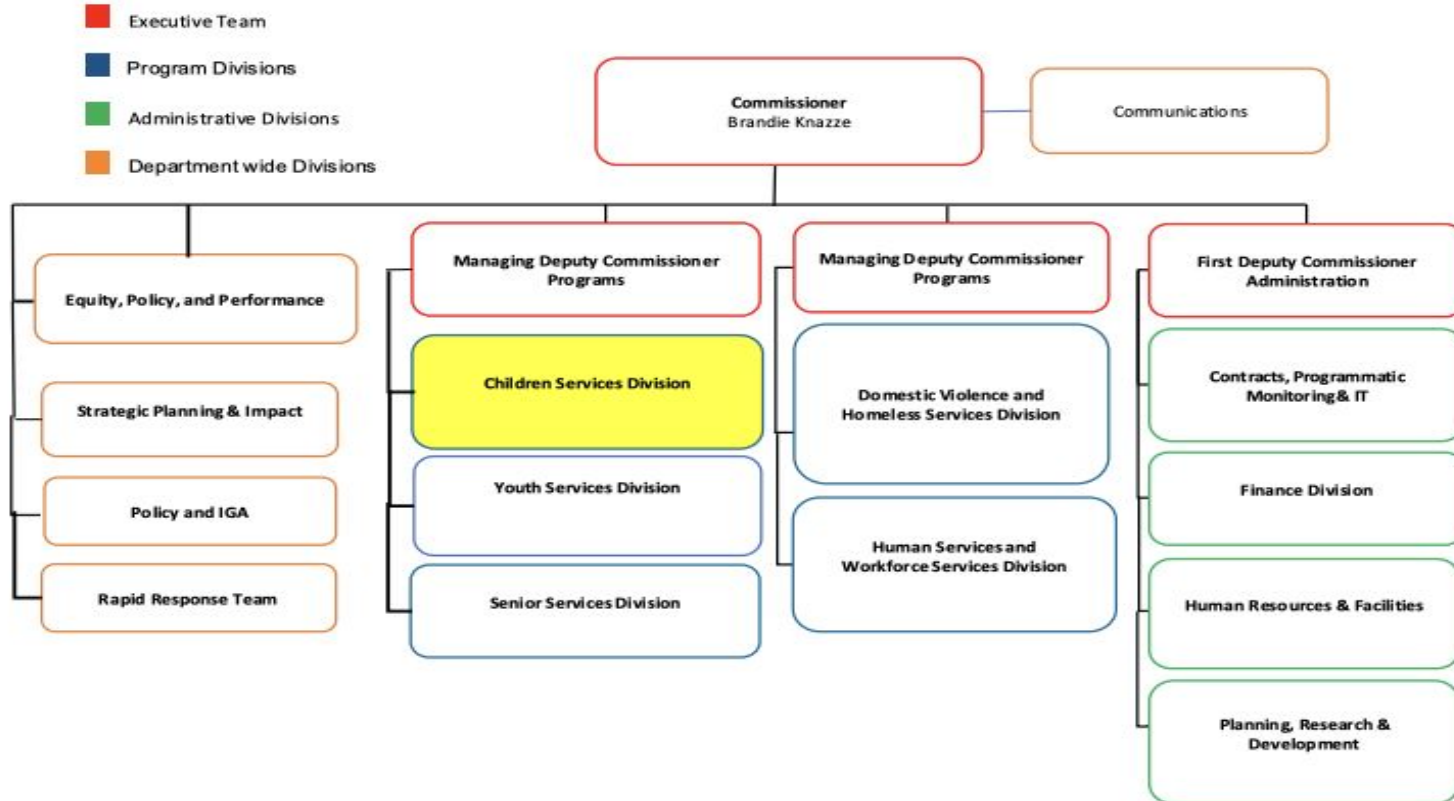


Estimated Annual Total Program Cost: **\$12,192,844**

- Chicago Recovery Plan Allocation
- IDPH MCH Title V Block Grant
- IDHS Chicago Family Connects Grant
- City of Chicago Corporate Funds

NOTE: The \$6,291,684 allocation is a non-recurring, one-time CRP investment of ARPA funds - \$25M in total through 2026.

Organizational Chart





Department Mission

Working with community partners, we connect Chicago residents and families to resources that **build** stability, **support** their well-being, and **empower** them to thrive.

DFSS priorities include:

- Delivering and supporting high quality, innovative, and comprehensive services that empower clients to thrive;
- Collaborating with community partners, sister agencies, and public officials on programs and policies that improve Chicagoans' lives and advance positive systemic change;
- Informing the public of resources available to them through DFSS and its community partners; and
- Stewarding DFSS's resources responsibly and effectively.

Children Services Division priorities include:

- Engage parent, family, and community in activities that support positive early learning outcomes for children and,
- Build awareness of early childhood opportunities with populations that have been historically marginalized by status quo systems.

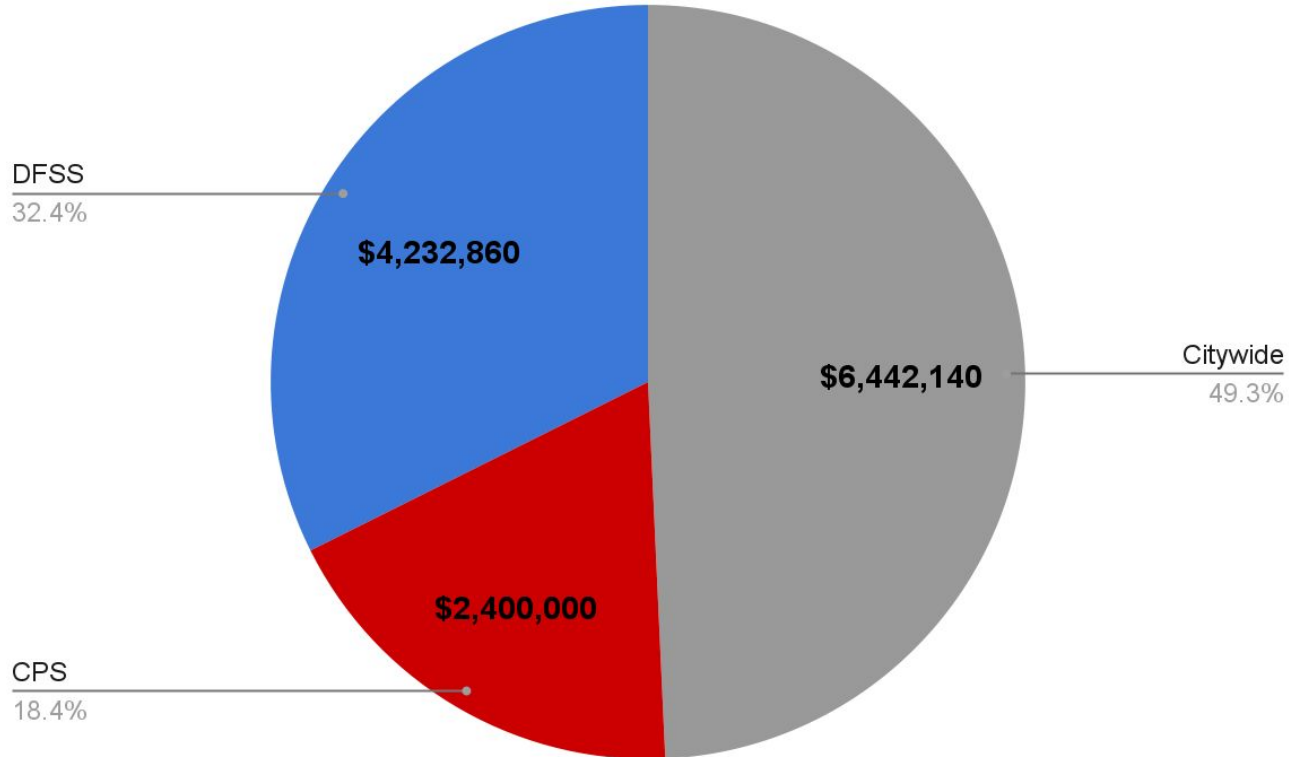


Department Goals

- Four goals were developed and included in 2019. These goals were structured with the intent of ensuring the inclusion of a strong network of Community Based organizations (CBO) and raising quality in early learning settings serving children and families, birth – 5 ensuring children are kindergarten ready.
- The overarching desire to ensure that the early learning system in Chicago continues to include both CBO's and CPS and respects parent choice.
- **Reduction in Family Support Staff Caseloads** to allow for deeper engagement and opportunities to assist parents in achieving goals for themselves, their family and their children.
- **Continuity of Relationships** to ensure children are able to develop trusting relationships that will follow them through birth to three and where possible birth to 5.
- **Increase Staff Salaries / Salary Parity** – Internal process developed to ensure any increase in funding would be allocated with a restriction that CBO's must first increase salaries.
- **Kindergarten Readiness** – Ensure children who leave early learning programs are K-Ready and able to succeed in kindergarten through 3rd grade.



City of Chicago Corporate Tax Fund Investment in Early Learning (\$13M)





Breakout of \$6.4M in Citywide investments

Investment Area	Amount
Chicago Early Childhood Integrated Data System (CECIDS)	\$530,000
Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship (CELWS)	\$3,000,000
Chicago Public Library	\$25,000
Community Needs Assessment	\$207,000
Family Community Engagement	\$400,000
Early Learning Hotline	\$1,302,399
Every Child Ready Chicago	\$28,687
Strategic Communications and Recruitment	\$949,054
Total Investment	\$6,442,140

Office of Early Childhood Vision

The vision of the Office of Early Childhood Education (OECE) is to ensure all Chicago children and families engage in high-quality early learning experiences that lead to success in early grades and beyond.



High Quality Programs



Attendance and Family Engagement



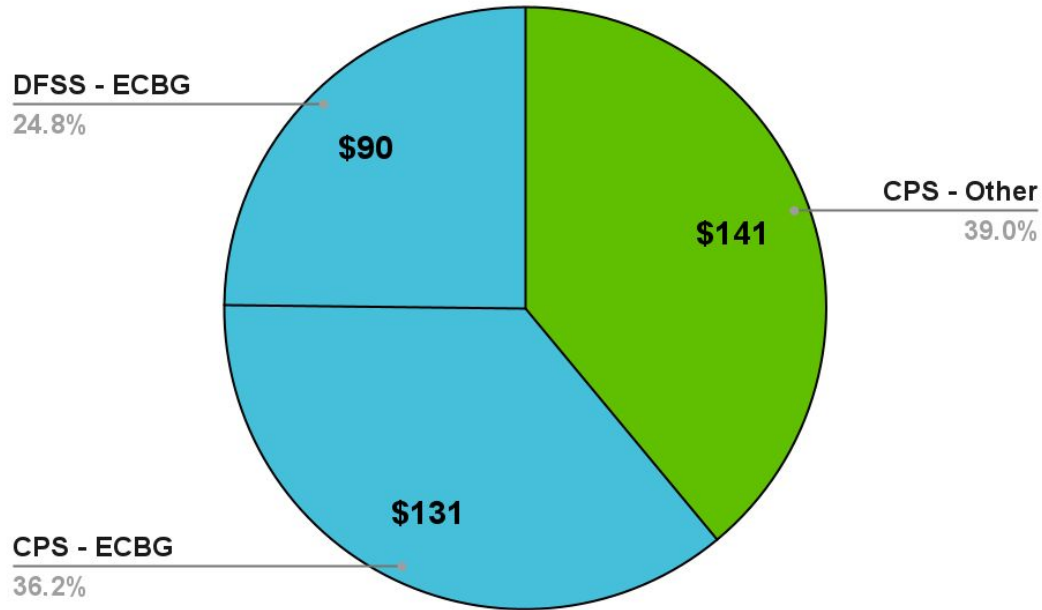
Access and Enrollment



Alignment of P-2 Systems

- *Improve preschool program quality to ensure all classrooms are rated GOLD on ExceleRate IL*
- *Increase access to full-day preschool within identified community deserts prioritizing priority populations*
- *Align P-2 policies, systems and resources to deliver a differentiated seamless early grade experience for students and families*

FY24 CPS PreK Budget (\$363M)



- By statute, CPS receives 37% of the state's Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) - currently \$221M*
- The \$90M in ECBG allocated to DFSS from CPS includes:
 - \$44.2M for PFA (ages 3 to 5)
 - \$44.2M for PI (prenatal to age 3)
 - \$1.5M for Scholarships
- CPS utilizes \$141M in local/other funds to supplement preschool programming

*Though the state's ECBG has been increased for FY24, these additional dollars have not yet been allocated to CPS for FY24

Nation-Leading Early Childhood

Strengthening and growing early childhood requires field sustaining funding reform and investment in affordability for families.

- Smart Start Illinois will **build on federal relief funded innovations** and take steps to realize goal of making Illinois the best state in the country to raise young children.
- These investments pair with Preschool for All expansion to set a **national model for early childhood services**.

- Minimize child care deserts, raise child care wages, address the teacher shortage, and expand child care quality through investment in **Smart Start contracts, apprenticeships, and scholarships**.
- Stabilize and support **Early Intervention**, ensuring that children with delays and disabilities receive the services needed for healthy development.
- Sustain and expand **Home Visiting**, rooted in innovative funding practices successfully tested with relief dollars.



DIVISION OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD

OVERVIEW

Home Visiting supports pregnant people and parents with young children ages 0-5 who live in communities that face greater risks and barriers to achieving positive maternal and child health outcomes.

Home Visiting Service Programs Include:

- Improve maternal and child health;
- Prevent child abuse and neglect;
- Reduce crime and domestic violence;
- Increase family education level and earning potential;
- Promote children's development and readiness to participate in school; and
- Connect families to needed community resources and supports.

Goals for FY24:

- Sustain slots expanded with federal relief funds.
- Align all grantees with cost model for services.
- Invest in infrastructure to support expanded service delivery.
- Outcome: Solidify model and **create approximately 310 additional slots** anticipated to serve approximately 440 additional families.

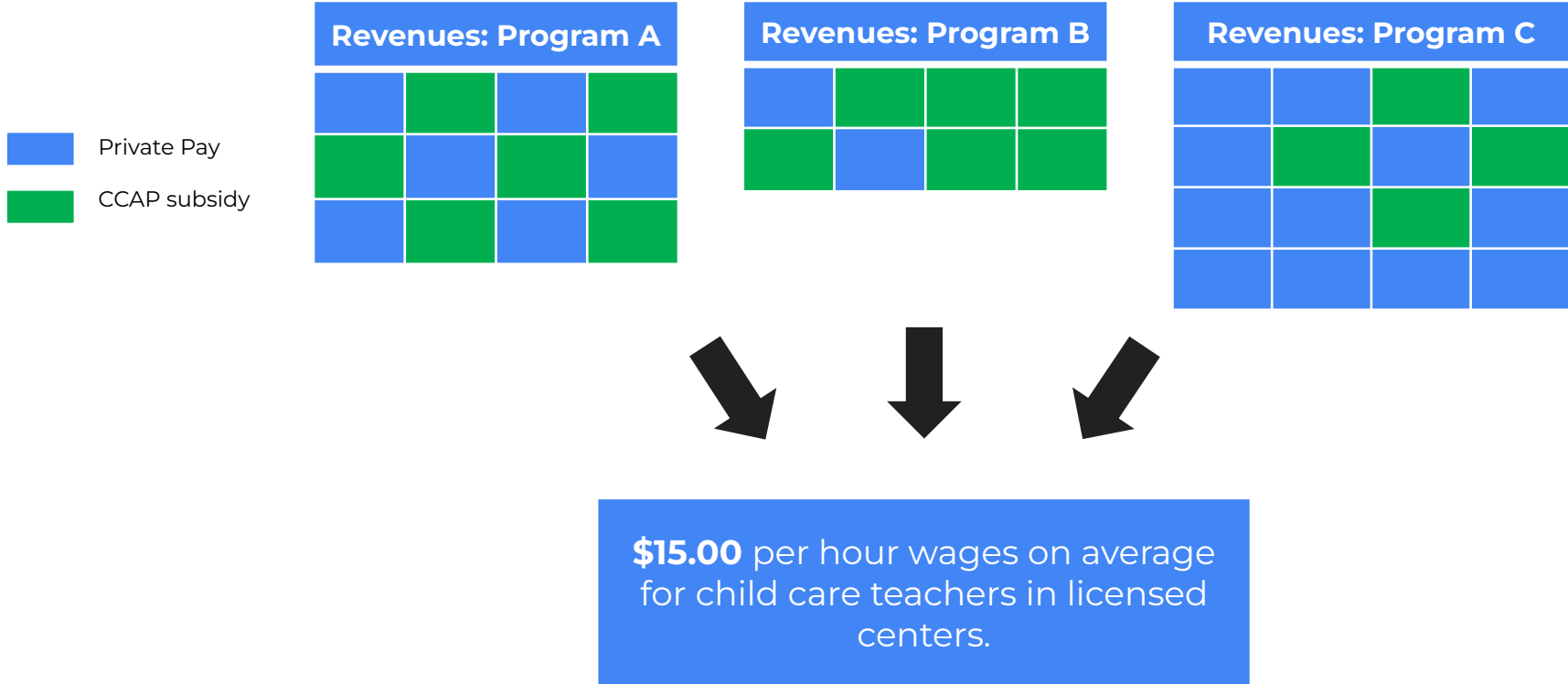
Goals for FY25:

- Equitably expand slots (into new communities in partnership with ISBE) across existing and/or new grantees, maintaining gains made in SFY24.
- Outcome: Build on foundation and **serve approximately 500-650 additional families** above SFY24 levels.

Find more information about home visiting services in your community at iGrowIllinois.org.

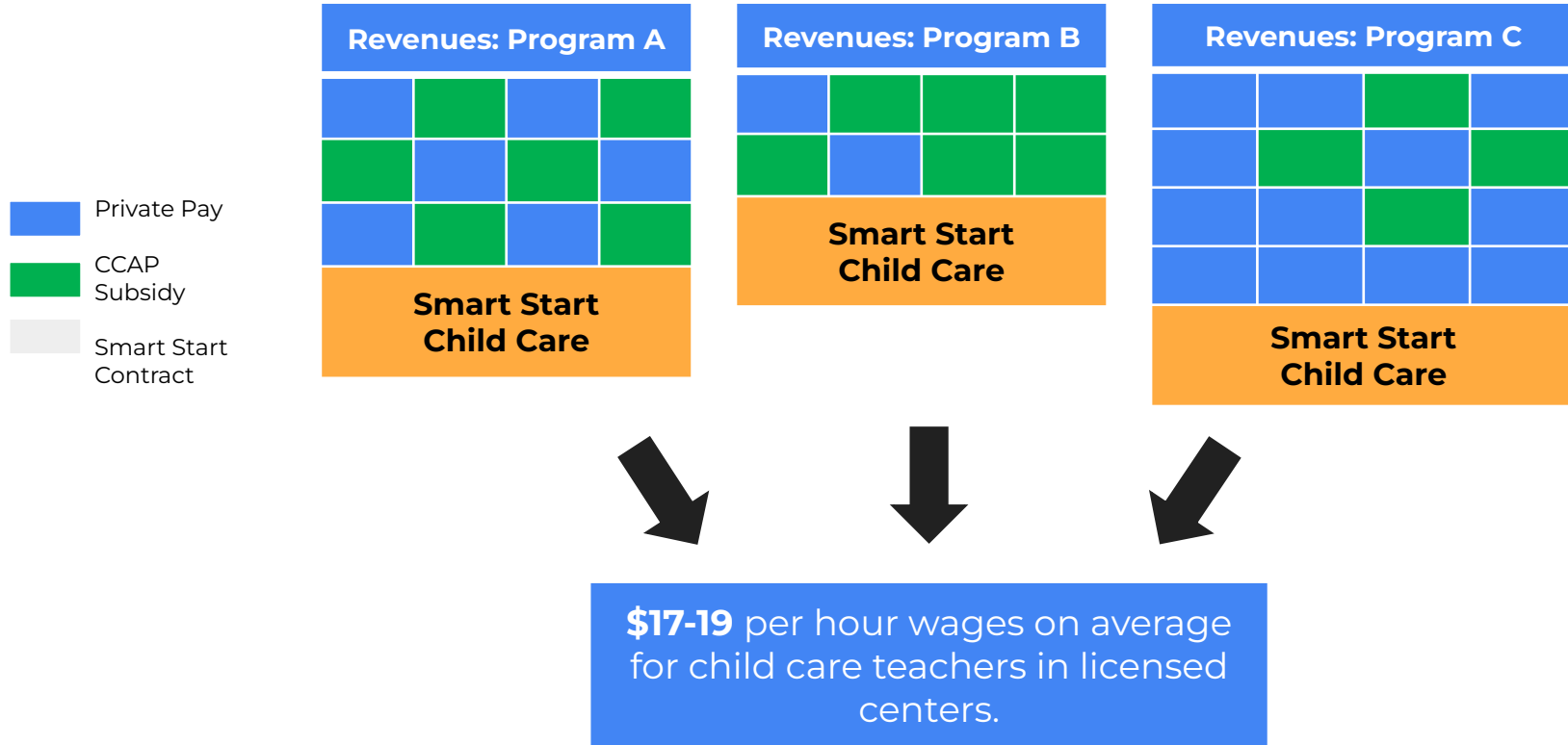
Smart Start Child Care

Today, the cost to provide child care is more than parents can afford, and a provider's revenues aren't enough to pay an attractive wage – currently being sustained by limited-time federal relief funding

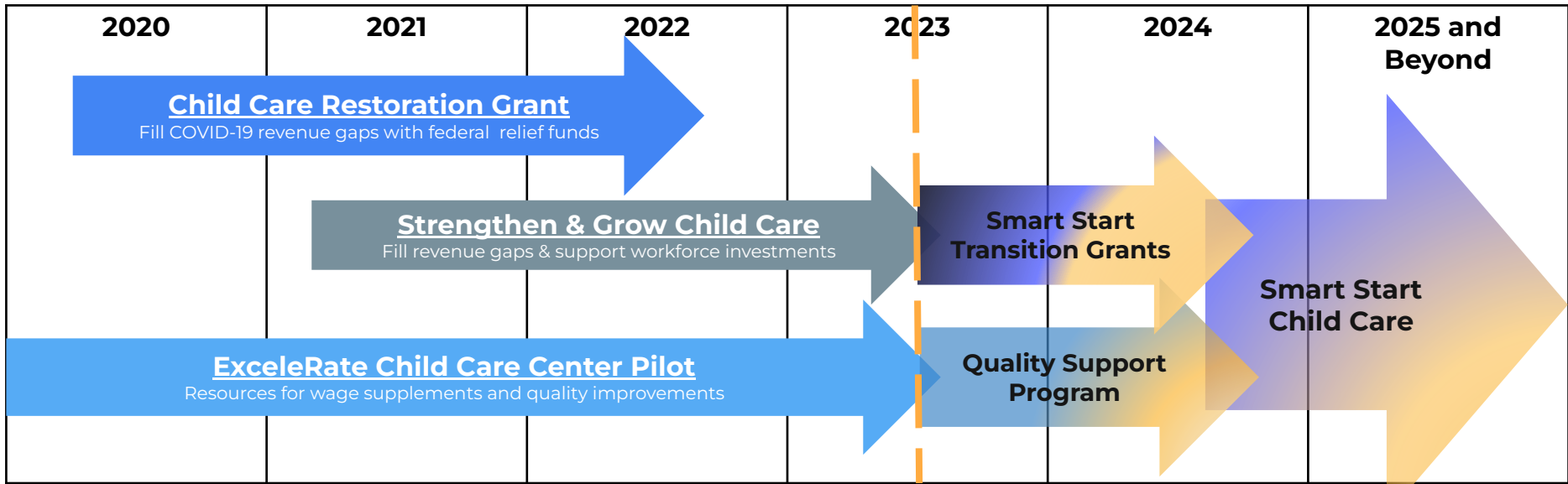


Smart Start Child Care

Smart Start Child Care can address this with investments programs need to pay attractive wages without raising costs for families



Smart Start Child Care



We are here

Smart Start Transition Grants form the bridge to Smart Start Child Care

- Infant-toddler classroom (\$28,000/yr) awards are larger than Preschool awards (\$24,000/yr) to account for staffing / operational cost differences.
- Providers must invest 75% of award in personnel, up from 50%.
- Eligible providers qualify for additional funding for quality supports.



We want to hear from you!

Give your input on new Child Care Workforce Compensation Grants!

IDHS is conducting a series of provider focus groups to seek input on how the grants should be designed. Focus groups are virtual and will be available in Spanish to meet providers' needs.

- Wednesday, September 27 from 6:30-8pm CST. [Click here to register!](#)
- Saturday, September 30 from 9:30-11am CST. [Click here to register!](#)

¡Queremos escuchar de ustedes!



DIVISION OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD

¡Brinde su opinión sobre los nuevos Subvenciones de Compensación de la Fuerza Laboral de Cuidado Infantil!

IDHS está llevando a cabo una serie de grupos de enfoque con proveedores para recabar opiniones sobre cómo deben diseñarse las subvenciones. Los grupos de enfoque son virtuales y estarán disponibles en español para satisfacer las necesidades de los proveedores.

- Miércoles, 27 de septiembre, de 6:30 a 8 pm CT. [¡Haga clic aquí para registrarse!](#)
- Sábado, 30 de septiembre, de 9:30 a 11 am CT. [¡Haga clic aquí para registrarse!](#)

OVERVIEW

Early Intervention is a federal entitlement program covering 16 core services including speech, physical, occupational, developmental, and other therapies, plus service coordination.

Early Intervention services:

- Enhance child development
- Build family capacity
- Minimize future need for special education services

Goals for FY24:

- Increase rates by 10% to support workforce recruitment and retention and ease service delays. This was completed 7/1/23.
- Release Early Intervention Incentive Payments of up to \$1,300 for each EI service provider. This will take place in 2023.

Goals for FY25:

- Early Intervention cost modeling to inform future rate-setting.
- Demonstration projects to test out new methods of providing infrastructural support for families with greater needs.
- Service Coordinator recruitment and workforce development.
- Research into lessons learned from other states.
- Partner with EI service providers to best understand their needs and the supports they need.

To find your local Child and Family Connections office, call 800-843-6154.



What We Heard From You

Improved
Communication &
Transparency

Alignment,
Coordination, &
Infrastructure

Governance,
Accountability
, & Monitoring

Equitable
Distribution of
Funding & Slots

Actionable
and
Accessible
Data

Greater access For
Families Facing the
Most Barriers

Adequate
Support &
Compensation
for Early
Childhood
Workforce



Strengths to Build On

1

Family
Connects

2

CECIDS

3

Increase in
scholarships

4

Increase
in equitable pay

5

Illinois
First Step

6

Collaboration with Birth
to Five

7

Network of community
based organizations

8

Collaboration
with Head Start

9

SMART Start



Panelist Q&A



ECRC

Every Child Ready Chicago (ECRC) is a **public-private advisory body** focused on ensuring that **all Chicago children are prepared for kindergarten success.**

This collective effort aims to **streamline and unite** prenatal-to-five systems and support services, **creating a cohesive early childhood infrastructure.** Building upon Chicago's robust history of investing in early learning opportunities from birth, ECRC strives to **establish an equitable and effective prenatal-to-five system** to benefit our city's youngest learners.



Call to Action

- **Jamboard** will be open for your comments through **October 2nd** to continue to share your recommendations regarding forecasting how to leverage SmartStart funding and improving the early childhood ecosystem that did not get addressed today.
- **Sign up** to participate in the **ECRC Advisory Committee** as we advance planning and discussion.
- **Complete the survey** to share your feedback around the Town Hall and how we can improve on further communication and experiences regarding the early childhood landscape
- Check back on the **ECRC website** for the **meeting recording** and **additional information** and FAQs



Thank You!

Thank you for your participation today, and we look forward to future collaboration!