



# IDEC: Early Childhood Transition Progress to Date

March 5, 2026

*\*16 weeks until we are One Early Childhood Agency*



# Early Education & Care Services will Move, Broader Family & School Support

## Will Remain at Transferring Agencies

### IL Dept. of Human Services

- Child Care
- Migrant & Seasonal Head Start
- Head Start Collaboration Office
- Early Intervention
- Home Visiting
  - State Home Visiting
  - MIECHV
  - Maternal Child Home Visiting

- Better Birth Outcomes
- Family Case Mgmt.
- High Risk Infant Follow Up
- Refugee & Immigrant
- Services
- SNAP
- WIC
- TANF

### IL State Board of Education

- Early Childhood Block Grant
  - Preschool for All (PFA)
  - Preschool for All Expansion
  - Prevention Initiative (PI)

- K-12 Evidence Based Funding
- Special Ed.
- Nutrition
- Title I CACFP / School Lunch
- KIDS Assessment

- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)\*

### IL Dept. of Child & Family Services

#### Child Care Licensing

- Child Protective Services
- Adoption & Guardianship
- Institution and Group Home Services
- Investigative Services

#### GOECD

- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)

#### ILDS

- Illinois Longitudinal Data System Reboot

#### Key



*\*Program not included in the initial legislative package. Additional discussions with USDOE and state stakeholders are needed to identify the best approach to support children and families moving forward.*

# The State Can Make Early Childhood Services be less burdensome, more efficient and equitable



Children and families experience difficulties with inputting the **same info** repeatedly, deciphering **eligibility requirements**, and accessing **resources**



Providers spend too much time on **administration** and experience **challenges** with sustaining **multiple state funding streams**



State cannot track **funding for providers** across multiple streams, deliver **services equitably** and **efficiently**, and view **services a single child** accesses or does not access

## ★ North Star

Illinois is on a path to be the best state in the country to raise a family with young children

## 📍 Short-term goal

Ensure seamless transition of services for parents & providers

## 🎯 Agency redesign priorities



- 1 Align programs and program standards toward kindergarten readiness
- 2 Bring data transparency to deliver equity and efficiency
- 3 Design 0-3 services to support families in the most critical years
- 4 Licensing & regulatory processes support the rich diversity of families and providers that serve them
- 5 Align funding streams at the state level, relieving complexity from local and shifting to the state

# Guiding principles for agency operations & decision making

Focus on aligning services toward children achieving kindergarten readiness

There is no such thing as an “Average” child type or "Average" community

Reduce complexity and burden for families and providers

Align around services and functions, not funding streams and compliance

IDEC should explore all pathways that could lead to greater equity and efficiency in service delivery and fiscal management

IDEC should be a stand alone agency (exit fiscal agency) before program administration to test systems

Recognize & design to minimize harm happening in the system, without causing more harm

## Successful transition will involve three elements...

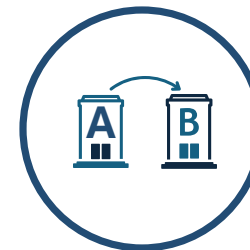
- > People
- > Process
- > Technology

## ...and each element is bucketed into one of three transition categories



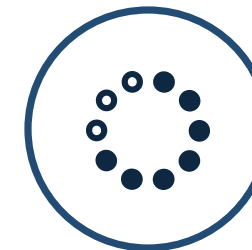
### Redesign, reform, and modernize

*Enhance outdated processes or systems to align to future needs, introducing new solutions where necessary for best-in-class results*



### Lift, shift, & integrate

*Seamlessly move existing processes, systems, & people into new environment to align with its vision & minimize disruption*



### Temporarily retain with transferring agencies



*Delay transition for selected functions, keeping them with the current agency until resources or dependencies are satisfied*



# Objectives | IDEC ON TRACK for essential factors except IDEC's grant management system

	Objectives	Status
 <p>Operations</p>	Engage in impact bargaining and organize new org chart, staff agency for success, and identify permanent facilities	
 <p>Budget and fiscal</p>	Prepare for IDEC's fiscal independence as stand-alone agency by end of Q2	
 <p>Data &amp; Tech</p>	<p>Modernize and align data architecture. Acquire new technology, testing tech, preparing for AI use cases, and ensuring interoperability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully developed GMS not available for FY27 timeline; Backup is mitigating risk.</li> </ul>	
 <p>Change management</p>	Build trust, collaboration, transparency, productive partnership in new team and with legacy agency leadership and teams	



Legend  On track  At Risk

## IDEC on track but prepared in case key activities fall behind

Today, all key activities are on-track or have a clear mitigation path ...

- ✓ Operations
- ✓ Budget and fiscal
- ✓ Change management
- ✓ **Data and Tech:** IDEC is actively mitigating risks (e.g., implementing an 'out-of-the-box' solution for IDEC's FY27 GMS)

... If activities fall-off track, there are two scenarios that could happen in the next year

- 1 Partially transition select programs and services
  - A. DCFS & ISBE program transition, delay DHS for 1 year
  - B. DCFS program Transition, delay ISBE and DHS for 1 year
- 2 All program and services are delayed until FY28
  - Continue to plan for program alignment & staff transition
  - Creates gap in staff transition
  - IDEC will have a significant number of exempt staff

IDEC will provide a status update in **April** and recommendation to pivot, if needed.

## Immediate Redesign Priorities for IDEC

### Child Care Licensing Process

Create and communicate a package of licensing changes that simultaneously simplify and strengthen regulations for child care settings that seamlessly connect to a continuum of quality and support.

### Early Intervention Services

Design ways to increase access to and participation in essential 0-3 services for families with young children with special needs, differentiated by region and community assets and needs.

### Funding Alignment

Design early childhood funding approach that promotes equitable and inclusive access to quality services that meet the needs of children and families, with a particular focus on investment prioritization and system sustainability.

### Technology Improvements

Ensure technology infrastructure is in place to simplify and ease the burden for families and providers while enabling the state to efficiently and equitably administer services that meet the diverse needs of families in the state.

# ~8,000 Touchpoints

**Bi-monthly  
Listening  
Sessions**

**CHIBYDESIGN  
Design Sessions**

**Transition Advisory  
Committee**

**Full Early  
Learning Council**

**Early Learning  
Council Committees**

**Child Care  
Advisory Council**

**Illinois Interagency  
Council on Early  
Intervention**

**ECACE Consortium  
Advisory Council**

**Workgroups**

**Other Regional or  
Program Specific  
Advisories**

**Listening Survey on  
IL ECE Governance  
Transition**

**Regional Listening  
Sessions**

**More to  
come!**

**We have been engaging in many ways, and there continue to be opportunities to engage.**

# Family spotlight

*“My daughter aged out of the [Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)] program just this month. She just turned 3 this month. I was able to go through her pediatrician, and they was able to get me into occupational therapy there and ... She now has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) through the school. And she receives some of the services there that she needs”.*

– Parent and Family Engagement Specialist, Peoria County



# Aligned systems of support strengthen family's ability to more easily and equitably access resources and services for their children.



Cross-Sector Collaboration



Shared Referral and Navigation Pathways



Data Informed Decision-Making



Family Centered Design



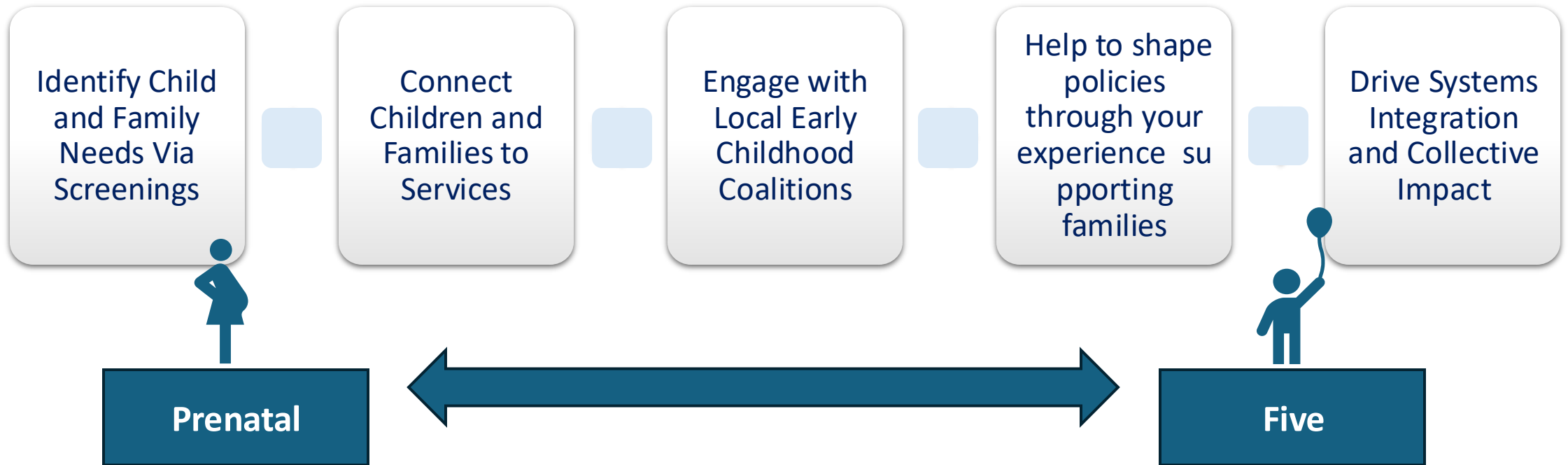
Equitable Access to Services



Sustainable Infrastructure and Funding Alignment



# The Role of Pediatricians in the Early Childhood System



# WORKGROUPS & OTHER TRANSITION UPDATES

Transition Advisory Committee (TAC)

## Family Services Workgroups (FSWs):

Family articulation, design, redesign of supports they need alongside providers articulating what they need to deliver for families.

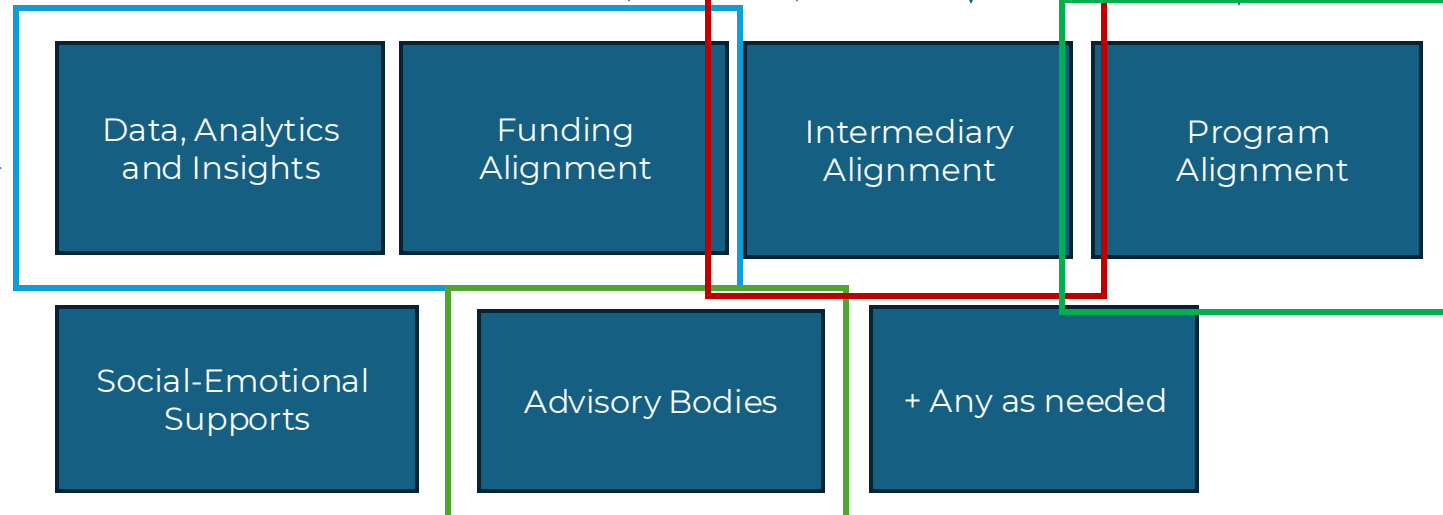


## FSWs

- Largest stakeholder group is family/parents
- Second largest stakeholder group is provider

## Support Workgroups:

Actions that enable innovations in systems and processes



## Support Workgroups

- Building systems in service to programs families want/need
- Starting with mapping current state
- Starting with mechanics of alignment
- Innovations come or go through Family Service Wgs.

# Purpose of Family Service Workgroups

## Supporting Multilingual Learners

- Identifying multilingual learners consistently across programs;
- Providing appropriate linguistic and cultural supports for children in early childhood programs (e.g., professional development); and
- Creating recommendations for seamless transitions from early childhood to K-12 for multilingual learners and their families.

## Supporting Children with Disabilities and Developmental Delays

- Promoting inclusion of children with disabilities and developmental delays in their natural environment/least restrictive environments
- Improving social-emotional skills and knowledge (outcomes)
- Creating seamless transitions from services under IDEA Part C/Early Intervention to IDEA Part B 619/ECSE, and then onto IDEA Part B 611/K-12
- Identifying opportunities for structural program alignment between Part C and Part B 619 (e.g., determine connections under one agency or multiple agencies)
- Identifying professional development opportunities for early childhood practitioners (e.g., child care, etc.)



# Additional Transition Workgroup Meetings



- **Workgroup Meetings**
  - Supporting Children with Disabilities and Developmental Delays, Tuesday, March 10, 1:00-2:30 pm
  - Transition Advisory Committee, March 18, 2026, 5:30-7:00 pm
  - Data, Analytics and Insights Workgroup, Thursday, March 26, 1:00-2:30 pm
  - Program Standards and Alignment Workgroup. Thursday, March 26, 4:30-6:00 pm
  - Advisory Workgroup, Monday, March 30, 4:00-5:30 pm
- **Early Learning Council**
  - ELC Health and Home Visiting, Monday, March 16, 1:30-3:00 pm
  - EC Courses for Licensing Ad Hoc Committee, Wednesday March 18. 2026, 2:30-4:00 pm
- **Website**
  - Explore the Early Childhood Transition website for updates and meeting summaries: <https://idec.illinois.gov/>
- **Workgroup Meetings**
  - Lean more about attending workgroups: <https://idec.illinois.gov/idec-education-care-transition-planning/engagement-opportunities-and-listening-sessions.html>

# We want to hear from you!

## Complete the Transition Feedback Survey



[Feedback Form \(English\)](#)



[Feedback Form \(Spanish\)](#)



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