



# FY 2020 Early Childhood Block Grant

## Funding for Our Youngest Learners

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the fiscal year 2020 Early Childhood Block Grant, which includes funding for Prevention Initiative (birth to age 3), Preschool for All (ages 3 to 5), and Preschool for All Expansion (ages 3 to 5).

Grants will increase access to early health and learning services for children from birth to age 5. **pending appropriations by the General Assembly.** The grant will fund only the expansion or creation of Prevention Initiative, Preschool for All, and Preschool for All Expansion programs and will prioritize programs that propose to serve children in areas with fewer resources.

Please note: Chicago Public Schools will receive a separate grant for early childhood services, so this RFP will fund only programs outside the City of Chicago.

**ISBE made the following improvements in the RFP to increase clarity and equity for applicants.**

### ALL GRANTS

**Eligibility:** Currently funded and new Early Childhood Block Grant applicants from public or private not-for-profit or for-profit entities with experience in providing educational, health, social, and/or child development services to young children and their families.

**Use of Funds:** Existing grantees must use funds to supplement, not supplant, any ECBG program funding. New applicants should review program requirements.

**Priority:** Priority shall be given to awardable proposals from entities that propose to offer services to children who reside in Evidence-Based Funding Tier 1 or Tier 2 district boundaries and that can document a local gap in service provision in their area. After all Tiers 1 and 2 proposals have been funded, proposals from Tiers 3 and 4 will be considered based on the evidence of need and their score. Proposals that score under 60 points will not be funded. (View FY 2019 EBF Tiers at [isbe.net/ebfdist](https://isbe.net/ebfdist)).

**Proposal Submission:** Submit via the ISBE attachment manager, by mail, or hand delivery to 100 N. First St., Springfield. Applications are due to ISBE no later than June 10, 2019.

**Streamlined Scoring Rubric:** Every item can receive a maximum of five points. Point scale criteria have clear definitions. Tier 1 and Tier 2 prioritization is embedded throughout.

### Streamlined Program Narrative Requirements:

Proposals must respond to the required sections. Additional information will not be accepted and will not be considered within the scoring outline.

**Grant Cycle:** Four-year funding cycle.

### PRESCHOOL FOR ALL EXPANSION ONLY

**Children Served:** Children must be at least 3 years old and not age eligible for kindergarten. Eighty percent of enrolled children must have at least two risk factors or one highest priority selection factor according to the state determined weighted eligibility form.

### PREVENTION INITIATIVE ONLY

**Home Visiting:** For the home visiting model, the doula home visitor ratio is lowered to 1:3. There is no monthly group requirement. For the center-based model, two home visits and four group meetings are required for family education.

**Teacher Qualifications:** Center-based staff must meet, at minimum, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Qualifications for Early Childhood Teachers and Assistants.

**Questions? Email [earlychi@isbe.net](mailto:earlychi@isbe.net) or call (217) 524-4835.**



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