

POLICY PRIORITY: STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE

Cross-system Preparation, Professional Development & Support



Budget

- Appropriation of **\$5.25M in FY 2025 to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to implement the Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program** for the first time since its authorization in 2022
- Appropriation of **\$5M in FY 2025 to ISAC to operate the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) scholarship program**, partially replacing expiring federal funds
- Appropriation of **\$2M in FY 2025 to the Illinois Department of Public Health to continue mental health trainings for the frontline pediatric workforce**



Legislation

- Passage of the FY 2025 Budget Implementation Act (HB 4959; Pub. Act 103-588), which, among other provisions, **makes permanent the ECACE scholarship program**



Administration and Implementation

- Continued growth of the **statewide registry of Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health (I/ECMH) consultants**, with **189 consultants (31.25% increase over FY 2023)** across all 102 counties
- Continued administration of the **ECACE scholarship program**, awarding roughly **\$78M in FY 2024**, reaching **4,700 students**
- Ongoing trainings for clinicians to use **DC:0-5, an age-appropriate mental health diagnostic tool**, as required by Pub. Act 101-654, reaching nearly **500 professionals**



Public Awareness and Engagement

- Release of an **equity analysis of I/ECMH Consultation in Illinois**, coupled with a series of presentations led by the Erikson Institute to inform advocates of the report's key findings

POLICY PRIORITY: STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE

Strong State & Community Structures



Budget

- Appropriation of **\$14.2M in FY 2025 to establish the Illinois Department of Early Childhood**, a new unified agency that will administer the state's early childhood education and care services beginning in FY 2027



Legislation

- Passage of the **Department of Early Childhood Act** (SB 1; Pub. Act 103-594), authorizing the creation of a new state agency that will simplify and improve the administration of programs currently operated by three separate agencies



Administration and Implementation

- Application for the federal **Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Renewal Grant**, under which Illinois, if selected, could receive up to \$27M over three years to strengthen coordination, quality and outcomes of prenatal-to-age-three and early childhood services