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## \$6M Funding Opportunity to Support ECEC Enrollment Campaign

*IDHS-DEC is funding \$6M in ECEC Community Outreach grants. INCCRRA will administer the RFP, which will be available on Thursday, May 19, 2022. The RFP deadline will be June 16, 2022.*

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As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) field nationally continues to face under-enrollment and staffing shortages. The state of Illinois is placing a priority on increasing the number of children enrolled in ECEC programs.

As part of Illinois' Learning Renewal efforts, Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) II funding has been allocated to the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) to support development of an early childhood awareness and enrollment campaign that has statewide reach, is tailored locally, and focuses on family and community engagement strategies that promote the importance of early learning and the availability of early childhood programs and supports to families.

To help support the success of the enrollment campaign, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Early Childhood (DEC) is funding an ECEC Enrollment Community Outreach grant to focus on local family and community engagement strategies. INCCRRA will administer the grant Request for Proposal (RFP) process, awarding of grant dollars, reporting, and evaluation of grantees.

Grants will be available to 39 Illinois [Birth to Five regions](#) covering all 102 Illinois counties. These grants will provide \$6M in funding for local community outreach to increase enrollment. Funding will be based on the number of children under 12 in each county and will range from \$24,000–\$2,000,000 per Birth to Five region. Priority will be given to applicants that focus on Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) enrollment and those areas with the largest enrollment decreases.

To apply, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Established agency/organization focusing on issues related to early childhood education and care.
- Agency/organization must reside in the Birth to Five Illinois Region for which they are requesting funding.
- Applicant must be a legal entity and have the capacity to serve and implement state funds.
  - Applicant is not required to hold 501c3 status.
- Agency must be [GATA certified](#).
- Applicant must be in good standing with the state of Illinois.
- Agency must have a [Unique Entity ID](#).

**The grant RFP application, helpful links, and resources will be available Thursday, May 19, 2022 on the [INCCRRA website](#).**

A live information meeting will be held in early June to provide information about the RFP process, what to expect, and answer questions. A recording of the meeting will be posted on the webpage within 48-hours. Visit the [INCCRRA website](#) for meeting details.