



Illinois Department of Human Services

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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

From: Ann Freiburg, Chief ^{AmF}
Bureau of Early Intervention

Date: March 5, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

The Bureau is currently reviewing feedback from their Illinois Department of Public Health contacts about the possibility of expanding the number of families that can be seen in person.

The new Small Business Administration Loan and Grant Programs has announced a special application time period under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to assist very small businesses, such as childcare, early care and education and Early Intervention programs with financial support. **This exclusive application period from February 24, 2021 to March 10, 2021 is available only to businesses with fewer than 20 employees.** Applications for the overall Paycheck Protection Program are due no later than **March 31, 2021**, for all businesses, but program funding may run out before then. Several resources are available at: <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/early-care-and-education-providers-taking-advantage-new-small-business-administration-loan-and-grant>.

The Bureau appreciates those who have reached out about two emerging issues. The first issue relates to ongoing referrals from primary referral sources. To improve communication, a [memo](#) for referral sources was posted on the Provider Connections website on October 8, 2020 . In addition, an [infographic](#) has been developed for sharing with referral sources. We all have an obligation to ensure that referral sources and families know that we are continuing to provide services. The second issue relates to Early Intervention services in childcare settings. Licensed childcare providers are required to allow classroom visitors who address the health, safety, and education of the children in their care. Visitors are to be masked and follow the childcare provider's safety precautions. If you encounter difficulty accessing a licensed childcare provider's facility, please review the [guidance](#) regarding visitors that can be found on page 7, Section C.1.d. with them.

The vaccine for COVID-19 continues to be an important tool for helping us get back to normal. Vaccine distribution is localized. You will need information specific to your county/region of the State. To find where you can get a vaccine, visit <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>. You may also access information from your local county

health department: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/contact-us/idph-regional-health-departments>.
If you live in the city of Chicago, visit <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid19-vaccine/home/latest-updates.html>.

The [Illinois Department of Public Health website](#) continues to be the best source of information on [regional conditions](#) and the activities currently restricted and permitted within each region. For more details about approved activities within each tier, review the [updated plan](#).

Continue to monitor the [Provider Connections website](#) often as all updates to policy and procedure will be posted here. The [EITP website](#) and [Facebook page](#), and the [EI Clearinghouse website](#) should also be monitored for information and resources.

Stay safe and know that we appreciate all you do for infants, toddlers, and families!