WINTER NEWSLETTER

PROVIDER CONNECTIONS

DECEMBER 2025

As the year winds down, we're excited to share the latest updates, resources, and highlights from Provider Connections. From helpful tips to important reminders, this edition has everything you need to stay connected and supported in your work with Early Intervention.

Reminders

- We want to continue to remind providers to be paying attention to their credential expiration date and be sure they are sending in their renewal application 60 days before their expiration date to avoid inactivation.
- While you are able to reach out to DCFS to have your background check expedited there, it is reviewed by the Provider Connections team with the group that it was sent out with. Meaning the process is still 4-6 weeks.
- Submit your paperwork first- When changing employers, be sure to notify Provider Connections by sending your updated service matrix and making the corresponding update in IMPACT. We can't process your paperwork until IMPACT reflects this change, and delays here will slow the transfer of your information into Cornerstone.

Resources

The Provider Connections website offers a wide range of resources for new providers, renewing providers, families, and more. A great place to start is the Provider Handbook, which is available directly on our site.
You'll also find instructional videos that walk you through how to use the website, how to complete an application, how we work with DHS, and other important topics.
Be sure to visit our page dedicated to Early Intervention partners, where you can access their websites—each filled with additional information and tools that will support you throughout your EI journey.
We encourage you to take some time to explore the many helpful resources available on our website.

Upcoming Closures

Provider Connections has an administrative closure 12/24/2025-01/01/2026.
We will be returning to regular business hours on 01/02/2025.

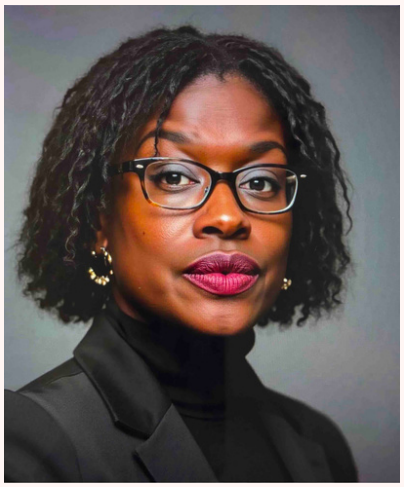
2025 IN REVIEW

As we wrap up another successful year at Provider Connections, we're proud to share some of the highlights from 2025. Our team credentialed and enrolled more than 4,700 credentialed providers, helping to strengthen the Early Intervention workforce across Illinois.

We also launched updated training videos to better support both new and returning providers, and our staff represented Provider Connections at several statewide conferences, connecting with partners and sharing valuable information.

This year, we focused on increasing our social media presence, keeping providers informed with more updates, reminders, and resources than ever before. Through it all, we've remained committed to delivering high-quality customer service to the EI community.

Thank you to everyone who played a role in making this year such a success. We look forward to continuing this work together in 2026!



PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: MICHELLE MOORE

I'm Michelle Moore, a Developmental Therapist and Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over seven years of experience supporting infants, toddlers, and their families in the Illinois Early Intervention Program. My work focuses on parent coaching, developing individualized resources, and strengthening healthy family relationships.

I began my EI career as a Service Coordinator with CFC 11 at Rush University Medical Center, where I gained valuable experience in documentation, evaluation coordination, and continuity of care. This sparked my passion for providing direct services and led me to pursue my DT and LCSW credentials.

What I love most about Early Intervention is creating a supportive, non-judgmental space where families can find clarity, balance, and stronger connections with their children and themselves. My practice is grounded in evidence-based approaches. I'm certified in Reciprocal Imitation Teaching (RIT), an ABA-based strategy that supports imitation and learning skills for neurodivergent children. I also partner with Northwestern University's Early Intervention Research Group on their "Reduce the Wait" initiative, promoting early assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

For new or aspiring EI providers, my advice is to approach families with empathy and collaboration. True progress comes from working as a team, addressing root causes, and empowering families with practical strategies that build long-term resilience.

Thank You for a Wonderful Year!

As 2025 comes to a close, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our dedicated providers and partners across the Early Intervention system. Your commitment, collaboration, and hard work have made this year a success and continue to make a difference for children and families across Illinois. We look forward to continuing our partnership in 2026 as we work together to support and strengthen Early Intervention.

— The Provider Connections Team