Family tax credits, which are designed to help low-wage workers boost their earnings and meet their expenses, can make a huge difference in the lives of women and families. Tax credits can be worth thousands of dollars to working families, which helps them make ends meet. Lawmakers need to protect and strengthen family tax credits, which help millions escape poverty and improve their families’ well-being every year.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit for low- and moderate-income workers that is designed to encourage and reward work. It lifts millions of people out of poverty and strengthens low- and middle-income families by increasing overall earnings. It is refundable, so that workers with low or moderate earnings who pay other taxes but have little or no federal income tax liability can benefit from the credit.

The amount of the EITC depends on income, number of children, and marital status. For tax year 2016, the EITC is worth a maximum of $6,269, with a smaller credit for workers not claiming children.

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) is a nonrefundable federal tax credit for families with work-related child or dependent care expenses. It is designed to help families afford child care that enables them to work.

In order to receive the CDCTC, tax filers must pay for care for qualifying children under age 13 or qualifying dependents in order to work, look for work, or (in some cases) go to school. The amount of the credit is a percentage (between 20 and 35 percent, depending on the families’ income) of their child or dependent care expenses (up to $3,000 for one child or dependent and up to $6,000 for two or more children or dependents). The credit is worth a maximum of $1,050 for one child or dependent, and $2,100 for two or more children or dependents.

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is a federal tax credit, worth up to $1,000 per child, designed to help families meet the costs of raising children. It is partially refundable. Tax filers must have earnings to receive the CTC as a refund. They can receive 15 percent of their earnings above $3,000 as a refund, up to the $1,000 per child limit.

Examples:

Jessica, a single mom with three kids, works in a child care center. She has $14,500 in income and $1,500 in child care expenses. For tax year 2016, Jessica would be eligible for an EITC worth $6,269, a CTC worth $1,725, and a CDCTC that is theoretically worth $525. At that level of income, she has no federal tax liability. Because the EITC and CTC are refundable, she could still receive those tax benefits. But she would receive a CDCTC of $0, because it is nonrefundable and she does not have tax liability.

Nicole and David, a married couple who both work full-time at minimum wage jobs, support their two children with their combined annual income of $30,000, and spend $6,000 per year on child care. For tax year 2016, Nicole and David would be eligible for an EITC worth $4,248, a CTC worth $2,000, and a CDCTC theoretically worth $1,120. However, they would only receive a CDCTC of $121 because their federal tax liability is $121.

These family tax credits help women supporting their families on low wages.
IL MIECHV 2016
Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Supporting pregnant women and at-risk families with children from birth to age 5

11 communities
Aurora, Chicago, Cicero, Dekalb County, Elgin, Macon County, Rock Island/Moline, Rockford, Stephenson County, Vermillion County, Waukegan

27 programs
Parents as Teachers
Healthy Families Illinois
Early Head Start

988 families
99% low income
38% Latino
99% female

71% of pregnant women received recommended prenatal care
70% of pregnant women initiated birth control by 8 weeks postpartum
93% of children received recommended well child visits
100% of participants were screened for intimate partner violence

Supporting pregnant women and at-risk families with children from birth to 5 years of age

93% of children were screened for developmental delays at 12 months of age
100% of families were screened for needed services

FOR MORE INFO: www.igrowillinois.org
Illinois Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Overview
July 2016

Funding Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal FY</th>
<th>FFY Start Date</th>
<th>Spending End Date</th>
<th>IL MIECHV Formula</th>
<th>IL MIECHV Competitive</th>
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<td>FFY 2010</td>
<td>7/15/2010</td>
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</table>

Federal MIECHV Benchmarks:
1. Improved maternal and newborn health
2. Reduced incidence of child maltreatment, child injuries and ER visits
3. Increased school readiness and achievement
4. Reduced domestic violence or crime
5. Improved family economic self-sufficiency
6. Improved coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports

Illinois MIECHV Goals
1. Expand or enhance one or more federally-recognized evidence-based home visiting models;
2. Ensure that home visiting is effectively connected to community based organizations and services;
3. Establish a system of universal screening and coordinated intake in target areas; and
4. Enhance or establish an early childhood collaborative in target areas.

Illinois MIECHV Formula Grant Overview
- The thirteen funded MIECHV community collaborations are: Southside Cluster (Englewood/ West Englewood/ Greater Grand Crossing in Chicago); Cicero; Elgin; Rockford; Macon County; Vermilion County; Austin; North Lawndale; Peoria; Stephenson/Jo Davies Counties; Kankakee County; East St. Louis; and a Mid-Central Cluster (McLean, Piatt and Dewitt Counties)
- Funding for each of these collaborations includes: home visiting programs (additional HV slots), and Coordinated Intake (CI) worker(s). Coordinated Intake serves as a hub for HV in each community; families complete an assessment tool.
- Funding also supports benchmark evaluation, professional development, Infant Mental Health consultation, linkages to Medical Homes, the Universal Newborn Support System project, the Home Visiting-Child Welfare pilot project, the Home Visiting for Homeless Families demonstration project, “Mobile” DVD project, “iGrow” public awareness campaign, and systems building.
- Oak Park-River Forest is now piloting or planning Coordinated Intake. Evanston and Sycamore have also indicated interest in a Coordinated Intake pilot.

Illinois MIECHV Competitive Grant Overview
- **Doula Randomized Control Trial** (University of Chicago Chapin Hall): Aurora, Roseland, Pilsen, and Rockford.
- **Doula Expansion** (Ounce of Prevention Fund): Danville, Rock Island, Garfield Park, and Waukegan.
- **Fussy Baby Network Enhancement Training** (Erikson Institute): Pilot sites are Joliet and HFA Chicago; Wave 1 sites are Metropolitan Family Services (Chicago), Family Focus Englewood, CH+A (Bloomington), Children’s Home Association (Peoria), and Macon County Health Department (Decatur). Wave 2 sites are: DuPage County HD (Wheaton), Erie Family Health Center (Chicago), Shelter, Inc. (Arlington Heights), and Teen Parent Connection (Glen Ellyn). Sinnissippi Centers (Sterling) was contracted as a non-training comparison site.
Tell members of Congress to OPPOSE cuts and caps on Medicaid which will harm children’s health and vital programs and services in Illinois.

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(866) 877-3303

Get Involved: protectourcareIL.org

#ECHealthDay  #ILSaveACA  #SaveMedicaid
Power to the Profession

Despite compelling evidence regarding the importance of teachers’ knowledge, skills, and well-being, required qualifications and compensation for early childhood educators vary greatly across states and by program type. The 2015 report *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation* highlighted the urgent need to address the fragmented early childhood workforce who work with children birth through age eight across early learning settings. ¹

As more public and private money is invested in early childhood education, the early childhood education profession must be elevated to ensure that current, and future, resources are put to the best use: delivering the best outcomes for children. Just like nursing, law, and medicine, the early childhood education profession needs to determine the unique role of the profession, who is qualified to implement effective practices, how they are educated, a compensation structure, and accountability guidelines. By defining the early childhood education profession, a better case can be made to the public about the need for increased investments in high-quality early education.

**What is Power to the Profession?**

Power to the Profession is a two-year collaborative initiative to establish the shared framework of knowledge and competencies, qualifications, standards of practice, and compensation for all early childhood educators who work with children birth through age eight across a variety of early learning settings.

Power to the Profession is designed to put the profession itself front and center with multiple opportunities for engagement throughout the two year process. Early childhood educators, researchers, and others invested individuals will join the national conversation through local forums, focus groups and online surveys. A national Task Force has been convened to use this feedback from the field and available research to establish the shared framework for the profession. This Task Force is made up of fifteen national membership organizations that represent and engage large groups of early childhood education professionals². A diverse group of national stakeholders including over thirty organizations with systems-level influence is providing guidance and feedback throughout the Power to the Profession process.

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¹ In 2015, *The Institute of Medicine* and *National Research Council* released their seminal report, *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation.*

² The national task force of organizations leading this initiative are: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers, Associate Degree Early Childhood Teacher Educators, Child Care Aware of America, Council for Professional Recognition, Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children, Early Care and Education Consortium, National Association for Family Child Care, National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Education Association, National Head Start Association, Service Employees International Union, ZERO TO THREE.
How will Power to the Profession strengthen policies and funding for the early childhood education profession?

Once the shared framework of knowledge and competencies, qualifications, standards of practice, and compensation is established, a comprehensive policy and financing strategy will guide the frameworks’ adoption and implementation at the local, state, and federal levels. A large-scale communications effort will help build the public will required to promote and implement the framework.

Without this profession-led leadership, shared framework, and comprehensive policy and financing strategy, the early childhood education profession will continue to be loosely defined, fragmented, inconsistently prepared to implement effective practices, and inadequately compensated and supported.

Stay informed

Learn more about Power to the Profession, sign up for regular updates, and inform the development of the shared framework for the early childhood education profession by visiting NAEYC.org/profession.