



*"a catalyst for strong families
and powerful communities
where children matter most."*

Dear Early Childhood Provider,

Illinois Action for Children (IAFC) recently issued a Request for Proposals for potential partner sites for our Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative programs. Based on the number of questions received, we are extending the due date for responses to **June 29, 2018 at 4:30pm.**

To help potential applicants understand the goals of IAFC's Early Learning programs and our expectations of partner sites, we will hold two information sessions prior to the due date. Please consider attending one of the following sessions:

Information Sessions are scheduled for:

Monday, June 11, 2018, 12:00 – 2:00 pm

and

Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Both information sessions will be held at IAFC's Harvey Early Learning Center, located at **14701 Wallace Ave, Harvey, IL 60426.**

Please contact Rayshonda McElroy, Education Manager, at rayshonda.mcelroy@actforchildren.org, if you have any questions. Thank you for your interest in partnering with Illinois Action for Children.

Sincerely,

Bryan Stokes II
Vice President, Early Learning Programs

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Chicago, IL 60640
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773-561-2256 *fax*
(administrative offices)

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312-823-1100 *tel*
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8741 S Greenwood Ave
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17926 South Halsted St
Suite 2 West
Homewood, IL 60430
312-823-1100 *tel*
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Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative Partner Application

Overview

Illinois Action for Children (IAFC) works to ensure that every child in Illinois—particularly those in need—have access to the resources to succeed in school and in life. Since our founding in 1969, IAFC has created systems of early care and education that help strengthen families and communities. Our mission is to be a catalyst for organizing, developing and supporting strong families and powerful communities where children matter most. In particular, we are committed to serving families from Illinois' priority populations—families experiencing homelessness, families in deep poverty (below 50 percent of the federal poverty level), families involved in the child welfare system, and children with special needs.

Through its Early Learning Department, IAFC partners with early learning centers in west and south suburban Cook County to implement the Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative programs. Preschool for All (PFA) and Prevention Initiative (PI) are state-funded early childhood education programs administered by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). For the FY 2019 program year, ISBE conducted a re-competition of all PFA and PI grants. IAFC has applied for funding and expects a response in June 2018. Our goal is to implement high-quality programming by providing highly-qualified staff, enriched quality early childhood materials for learning, ongoing professional development for staff, resources for families, and partnerships with local School Districts.

Through this application process, IAFC seeks to partner with early learning centers that are committed to providing high-quality, birth-to-five programs for all families for the FY 2019 program year (July 2018 – June 2019). Current partners and prospective partners are invited to apply. Eligible applicants must serve high-need communities in Cook County that currently have insufficient early learning options for the population of eligible children.

Program Models

IAFC implements the Creative Curriculum as the research-based curriculum for all PFA and PI classrooms. The Project Approach is integrated into the curriculum to support holistic instruction that reflects the interests of children. Teacher Coaches are assigned by IAFC to support high-quality instruction through coaching, embedded professional development, and reflective practice. Classroom supplies, parent engagement activities, and monthly field trips are provided from grant funds for all enrolled children.



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Children receive developmental and social-emotional screening using age-appropriate screening tools (ASQ-3, ESI-R and ASQ-SE2).

The center-based PI program serves children from six weeks to three years of age. IAFC assigns a teacher with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood or Child Development to each partner classroom as a member of the teaching team to promote high-quality instruction. A Parent Educator, trained in the Parents as Teachers curriculum, is assigned to support families through home visits, socialization activities, resources, and case management. Children are prepared for a smooth transition to a three-to-five program.

PFA serves children from three to five years of age. IAFC assigns a teacher holding a Professional Educator License with an Early Childhood endorsement. This teacher partners as a member of the teaching team to support high-quality instruction and curriculum implementation. Sites may apply to provide PFA in a full-day setting (comparable to a school day in the local district) or partial-day (2.5 hour minimum). In partial-day sites, the licensed teacher will float between two classrooms. Sites opting for a full-day should be committed to serving families from priority populations (children experiencing homelessness, children with special needs, families with limited English-language proficiency, children in foster care, and teen parents).

These Program Models have been proven effective for helping to ensure that children are prepared for kindergarten and a successful life.

Application Submission

Applications are due no later than June 29, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after this time will not be reviewed.

Please mail or deliver your application to:

Illinois Action for Children
Attn: Early Learning Partner Application
17926 South Halsted St.
Homewood, IL 60440

You may also submit this application via email to: Luz.ibarra@actforchildren.org. Please include "PFA/PI Application" in the email subject.



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Partner Expectations

1. Willingness to partner fully with IAFC to implement a high-quality program, including clear and regular communication with IAFC staff.
2. Adhere to an enrollment process that ensures current physical exams and immunization records are on file for every child at enrollment.
3. Employs a minimum of two qualified teaching staff in each classroom, where at least one of them meets the following qualifications:

Prevention Initiative	Preschool for All
<p>Must hold either an Associate's Degree in Child Development, Early Childhood Education or equivalent with coursework or training relevant to this age group, or a valid Child Development Associate credential.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>Must have at least sixty semester hours (or 90 quarter hours) of college credit with six semester or nine quarter hours in child development or ECE courses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>Must hold or obtain Gateways to Opportunity Infant Toddler Credential Level 4 or Early Childhood Education Credential Level 4 (within six months of hire).</p>	<p>Must hold either an Associate's Degree in Child Development, Early Childhood Education or equivalent, or a valid Child Development Associate credential.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>Must have at least sixty semester hours (or 90 quarter hours) of college credit with twelve semester hours in child development or ECE courses and either 10 hours of ECE observation or 200 hours of documented ECE work experience.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>Must obtain ISBE Paraprofessional Certificate within 30 days of hire (paid for by IAFC).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>Must hold or obtain Gateways to Opportunity Early Childhood Education Credential Level 4 (within six months of hire).</p>

4. Site Director holds a minimum of Level 2 Gateway credentialing or commitment to earn within one year.
5. Site holds an ExceleRate™ rating of Silver or above or commitment to earn a Silver or Gold rating within one year.



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6. Commitment to providing quality throughout the entire early learning center and willingness to engage in continuous quality improvement planning, supported by IAFC staff.
7. Intentional outreach and recruitment activities and a commitment to full enrollment.
8. Regular attendance at quarterly Director/ Owners meetings and monthly meetings with Teacher Coaches.

Site Profile

Name of Center: _____

Address: _____

Director Name: _____

Owners Name: _____

Email: _____ Telephone _____

Number of Children served by age group:

_____ Infants _____ Toddlers _____ Two's

_____ 3yrs _____ 4yrs _____ 5 yrs _____

Number of classrooms and staff for each room.

Room Name	Age Group	Classroom capacity and current enrollment	Name and Credentials of Teaching Staff



Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative Partner Application

If your current staff does not meet IAFC's credential requirements, how will your site meet these expectations during the 2018-2019 program year?

Current ExceleRate Rating:

Current Accreditation:

If your site does not currently hold an accreditation or ExceleRate rating, what is your plan and timeline to achieve one? What support will you need?

Proposed Programming

Please indicate which program your site wishes to partner with IAFC to provide:

_____ Preschool for All _____ Prevention Initiative _____ Both

Using the same room names as above, please indicate the classrooms to be included in this partnership:

Room Name	Prevention Initiative	Partial-Day Preschool for All	Full-Day Preschool for All	Not Included

Comments/additional explanation of the program plan:



Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative Partner Application

Recruitment and Outreach

How does your program currently recruit children and families? What methods and strategies do you implement?

Please describe the demographics of the geographic area(s) served by your program by answering the questions below.

What are the needs of children and families in your program? How does your program meet those needs?

Illinois has identified children in deep poverty (below 50 percent of the federal poverty limit), children in the child welfare system, children experiencing homelessness, and children with special needs as *Priority Populations*. How does your program reach and serve these populations?

Does your program maintain current physical examinations for all enrolled children, including immunizations?

Support for Staff

Do you have space for teachers to have lunch or meet with each other and/or Teacher Coaches?

Yes No

What is your site's approach to professional development?

Do you have team meetings with your staff? How often?



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How will you ensure that all teaching staff in the Preschool for All or Prevention Initiative program will have the ability to participate in meetings with teacher coaches and to attend professional development workshops?

How does your site hire and retain qualified staff?

Will staff employed for the PFA/PI programs be hired on a part-time or full-time basis?

How will salaries be determined?

Commitment to Quality

If your program is selected as a partner, will you commit to attend or send the site director to all IAFC director's meetings and director professional development opportunities?

How will you make this program a partnership between IAFC and your program?

What are your views on Continuous Quality Improvement?

What are your views on change?

How will you ensure that all staff your site will abide to PFA Policies and Procedures?



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What are your goals for your program?

How will PFA/PI benefit your program? Please describe the changes you anticipate and expect, how this can help staff, how you plan to use this to increase quality throughout your program?

Signature of Owner _____ Date _____

Signature of
Director _____ Date _____