

**Illinois Action for Children**  
**4753 N. Broadway, Ste. 1200**  
**Chicago, IL 60640**



**July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

*Revised July 2019*

Based on available funding, Illinois Action for Children is offering funds to assist individual pursuit of professional development in early care and education and school-age care. Funds are provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). *For the purposes of this document the term "child care program" includes child care centers and family child care.*

## **1. WHO CAN APPLY?**

- Individual practitioners currently employed by center-based programs or family home programs (licensed or license exempt) that provide care as defined by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Individual practitioners include child care center directors, early childhood teachers/assistant teachers, school age teachers/assistant teachers, family home providers and assistants. In addition, child care center support staff (e.g., cook, driver) when appropriate.
- Applicant must be a current member of the Gateways to Opportunity Registry. Registry membership is free. Practitioners may sign up for the registry at [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com).
- The child care program/provider must be listed on the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) referral database and must currently be providing care in the following county: Cook County.
- The child care program/provider must have no unpaid financial obligation to the CCR&R agency or the IDHS Bureau of Child Care and Development.
- The child care program, where the individual works, must currently be caring for children whose care is paid for by the IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

## **2. ARE THERE PRIORITY PROGRAMS?**

- While it is a requirement for the applicant's child care program to currently be caring for children whose care is paid for the IDHS CCAP, as applications are received, priority is given to programs currently caring for 50% or more children whose care is paid for by the IDHS CCAP.
- Programs that are full year (at least 47 weeks)/full day (at least 8 hours).
- Programs that are currently caring for infants and toddlers.

## **3. WHAT CAN FUNDS BE REQUESTED FOR?**

- Individual registration fees associated with conferences/workshops **not required** by ExceleRate Illinois.
- The conference/workshop must be off-site from your place of employment and must be related to early care and education, school-age care or child care administration/management.
- Fees associated with webinars/online training that is Illinois Gateways to Opportunity Registry-approved.
- Travel/Transportation cost (see application for additional information)
- Lodging cost.
- Costs associated with the following credentials:

○ Child Development Associate (CDA)	<a href="http://www.cdacouncil.org">www.cdacouncil.org</a>	1-800-424-4310
○ Certified Child Care Professional (CCP)	<a href="http://www.necpa.net">www.necpa.net</a>	1-800-458-2644
○ Gateways Credentials (IDC, ECE, ITC, SA, FCC, FSC)	<a href="http://www.ilgateways.com">www.ilgateways.com</a>	1-866-697-8278

## **4. WHAT CAN'T FUNDS BE REQUESTED FOR?**

- College tuition assistance. Tuition assistance is available through the Illinois Gateways Scholarship Program. For information on the Gateways tuitions assistance visit [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com) or call 866-697-8278.
- Workshops required under the ExceleRate Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle of Quality. Visit [www.exceletrateillinois.com](http://www.exceletrateillinois.com) for a complete listing.
- Conference/workshops in which Illinois Action for Children is the fiscal agent (i.e., registration fees are paid to the CCR&R).
- Special events during a conference (e.g., concert, recognition event, reception, etc.).
- The cost of meals (unless included in basic registration fee).
- Group/staff training – on-site or off site – arranged by a provider group or child care program.

- Out of state conferences/workshops.
- Conferences/workshops in which the primary focus is political advocacy and/or sectarian (religious) instruction.
- Advisors, Consultants or Mentors.
- Substitute care.
- Membership fee to a professional organization.

#### 5. WHAT ARE FUNDING MINIMUMS/MAXIMUMS?

- The minimum request is \$15.
- The maximum funding amount per event/credential is 80% of the actual cost, as funding allows; and
- The maximum funding amount available per person is up to \$500 per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).
- Additional information is on the application, Step 2.

#### 6. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

- Individuals complete and submit an application along with the required supporting documentation (see question 7).
- As applications are received, priority is given to programs currently caring for 50% or more children whose care is paid for by the IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)(programs must currently be caring for children whose care is paid for the IDHS CCAP).
- The CCR&R will notify you in writing if your application has been approved or denied, and if approved, the amount in which your request was funded.

#### 7. WHAT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION IS NEEDED?

*Italicized items are required at the time of application.* Remaining documentation is to be submitted to CCR&R within 30 days of the event date and/or completion date.

- *Proof of Gateways Registry membership (i.e., copy of membership ID, or Professional Development Record).*
- *Announcement and/or outline and description for conference/workshop/online course. Announcement must include fees/cost and sponsoring entity.*
- *W-9 form (the form is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)).*
- *Credentials: written estimated timeline with dates that describes how you will reach your goal of obtaining a credential.*
- Receipt/proof of payment for registration and/or credential fees.
- Documentation of attendance/completion.
- If applicable confirmation/receipt for lodging and/or transportation costs (train, bus).
- If applicable printout documenting trip mileage (e.g., Mapquest, Yahoo Maps, etc).

#### 8. HOW IS PAYMENT MADE?

- You will be notified in writing if your application has been approved or denied, and if approved, the amount in which your request was funded.
- Payments can be made and mailed directly to the conference sponsor, individual, credentialing body or the child care program named in Step 3 Payment Information Section of the application.
- Individuals/programs that receive payment will be responsible for W-9 documentation and taxes.
- Payment cannot be made until a complete application and required documentation is received.

#### 9. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION?

- Ongoing as funds allow.
- Year End Deadline: applications and all supporting documentation must be **received** at **Illinois Action for Children** by **June 5, 2020**.

#### 10. WHERE ARE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED?

- **Illinois Action for Children**  
**Attn: Individual Professional Development Funds**  
**4753 N. Broadway, Ste. 1200**  
**Chicago, IL 60640**

#### 11. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

- **Jacqueline Melendez (773)564-8756 [melendezj@actforchildren.org](mailto:melendezj@actforchildren.org)**

#### 12. DO THE FUNDS NEED TO BE REPAID?

- This is a grant program, which means funds do not generally need to be paid back. However, the grant funds come from the State of Illinois, and certain policies and procedures must be followed.

- In the event that payment is made for a conference/workshop, but you or an alternate are unable to attend, the individual/child care program will need to work with the CCR&R regarding the return of funds.
- In the event that payment is made for a credential and the individual withdraws or does not complete the process, the individual/child care program will need to work with the CCR&R regarding the return of funds.
- In the event of over or improper payment or reimbursement, appropriate arrangements will need to be made with the CCR&R regarding return of funds.

**13. WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

- Application and activity must occur within the current funding cycle (7/1/19-6/30/20).
- Only completed applications will be considered.
- Applicants must use the provided application for July 2019-June 2020.
- Faxed/electronic applications will not be accepted.
- Funding is limited and not guaranteed.
- Maximums are in place; however partial funding may be awarded.
- Payment cannot be made until a complete application and all required documents are received.

# Individual Professional Development Application Form

**Illinois Action for Children**  
**4753 N. Broadway, Ste. 1200**  
**Chicago, IL 60640**



**July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

The current year application form must be used. This application may not be reformatted.

- ➔ Please type or print using black or blue ink
- ➔ Complete **all fields**; use "NA" if not applicable – **do not leave any field blank**
- ➔ Refer to the Individual Professional Development Instructions and Requirements
- ➔ Be sure to review the checklist in Step 4

<b>STEP 1: Applicant Information</b>						
Applicant First Name:			Applicant Last Name:			
Applicant Address:						
City:		State:		Zip Code:		County:
Mailing address (if different):						
Phone #: ( )			Email (optional): <input type="radio"/> Personal <input type="radio"/> Program			
Gateways Registry #						
Program is: <input type="radio"/> Licensed Child Care Center <input type="radio"/> License Exempt Child Care Center <input type="radio"/> Licensed Family Child Care <input type="radio"/> License Exempt Family Child Care						
Program (work site) Name:						
Program (work site) Address:						
City:		State: IL		Zip Code:		County:
What date did you begin employment at this site?			Month:	Date:		Year:
Role: check the one that best describes your current position:						
<input type="radio"/> Director / Administrator	<input type="radio"/> Assistant Director	<input type="radio"/> Director / Teacher	<input type="radio"/> Teacher	<input type="radio"/> Assistant Teacher	<input type="radio"/> Substitute / Floater	<input type="radio"/> Other: _____
<input type="radio"/> Family Child Care (FCC)	<input type="radio"/> FCC Assistant	<input type="radio"/> Group FCC Provider	<input type="radio"/> Group FCC Assistant	<input type="radio"/> School Age Child Care Teacher	<input type="radio"/> School Age Child Care Assistant	
Age group YOU currently provide care for (center staff, check 1 primary age range; FCC providers check all that apply):						
<input type="radio"/> Infants 6 wks – 14 mos	<input type="radio"/> Toddlers 15-23 mos.	<input type="radio"/> Twos 24-35 mos	<input type="radio"/> Preschool 3-5 years	<input type="radio"/> School Age K-12 years	<input type="radio"/> Not Applicable	

Please have the *Program Administrator* complete the following formula to determine the percentage of children in your program receiving IDHS child care financial assistance.

To calculate: Total Number of children with IDHS Financial Assistance **DIVIDED** by Current total Enrollment **MULTIPLIED** by 100 **EQUALS** Percentage of Children Receiving IDHS Assistance. (FCC providers: include your own children, under age 13, in enrollment)

$$\frac{\text{\# of IDHS Children}}{\text{Current Total Enrollment}} \times 100 = \text{Percentage of IDHS Children} \%$$

## STEP 2: Funding Request Information

- The minimum request is \$15
- The maximum funding amounts per event/credential listed in the charts below, and
- The maximum funding amount available per person is up to \$500 per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30)

**To be eligible for travel and/or lodging funding:**

- Event location must be at least 60 miles (one way) from the individuals place of business
- Travel, when requesting mileage, only applies to the principal driver
- Lodging is available up to 2 of the nights

**2A: Workshop/On Line Training / Conference**

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting Professional Development Funds to (check all that apply):	Conference/ Workshop	Credential
Implement better practices/program improvements		
Meet DCFS training requirements		
Meet CCAP Health & Safety training requirements		
Obtain qualifications for a new position		
To obtain a credential (new or renewal)		
Meet accreditation standards		
Other (list):		
Training Hours and type of credit (check all that apply):	Check Type	# of hours
DCFS clock hours		
Continuing Education Units (CEUs)		
Child Development Associate (CDA) clock hours		
Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU)		
Other (list):		

Total Amount(s) Requested	CCR&R MAX	Actual Cost									
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop /Off-Site Training Registration Fee	80% of the actual cost, as funding allows	\$									
<input type="checkbox"/> Webinars/Online Training Modules Registration Fee		\$									
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference Registration Fee		\$									
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel/Transportation (mileage / train / bus) Mileage reimbursed @ .58/mile. Actual mileage one way ____ x 2= ____ x .58 = Actual Cost		\$									
<input type="checkbox"/> Lodging: maximum nights, up to 2 per event Cost per night \$____ x ____ nights = Actual Cost		\$									
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>		\$									
To calculate 80% of the actual cost: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">Total Amount</td> <td style="width: 40%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total Requested (2A)</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">X 0.80 =</td> </tr> </table>				Total Amount			Total Requested (2A)				X 0.80 =
	Total Amount										
	Total Requested (2A)										
		X 0.80 =									
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED 2A</b> (amount entered after calculating 80%)		\$									

**2B: CREDENTIAL**

For credential funds request, complete below:	Actual Cost	CCR&R Max 80%	Amount Requested
<b>Child Development Associate (CDA)</b>	<i>Cost are as of July 1, 2019 per respective websites</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Packet	\$25	\$20	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment Fee (\$500 for paper / \$425 online)	\$425/\$500	\$340/\$400	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Credential Renewal Fee (\$150 for paper / \$125 for online)	\$150/\$125	\$120/\$100	\$
<b>Certified Childcare Professional (CCP)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Packet	\$25	\$20	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Credential Fee	\$325	\$260	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Enrollment (including packet)	\$350	\$280	
<input type="checkbox"/> Credential Renewal Fee	\$49.95	\$40	\$
<b>Gateways Credentials</b>			
Indicate Credential and level:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Director Credential	I II III	<input type="checkbox"/> School Age Youth Development Credential	2 3 4 5
<input type="checkbox"/> ECE Credential	2 3 4 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Child Care Credential	2 3 4 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Infant/Toddler Credential	2 3 4 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Specialist Credential	2 3 4 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee	\$65	\$52	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Level Advancement Fee	\$65	\$52	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Credential Renewal Fee	\$65	\$52	\$
<b>Other</b> (to calculate 80%, multiple the actual cost by 0.80)			
CARE Courses	varies	80%	\$
CDA Online Training Course	varies	80%	\$
CCP Online Training	varies	80%	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Care Course <input type="checkbox"/> CDA Online <input type="checkbox"/> CCP Online Course Title(s):			
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED 2B</b>			\$

**STEP 3: Payment Information**

Request is being made for (check all that applies):

- Workshop    On-line    Conference    Credential

If requesting funding for travel/transportation and or lodging, provide the following information:

- Mode of transportation:    Car    Train    Bus    Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Did you/will you ride with someone?    NO    YES If yes, who \_\_\_\_\_
- Did you/will you share a room with someone?    NO    YES If yes, who \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED (2A + 2B) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Requesting payment(s) be made to:

- Workshop/Conference/On-Line Sponsor    Applicant    Child Care program    Credentialing body

Make Check Payable To:

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant  Social Security Number/ or  FEIN Number (REQUIRED): \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 4: Application Checklist and Authorization**

- I completed all areas of the current application. If a question was not applicable I inserted N/A.
- I signed and dated my application.
- I attached all required supporting documentation as noted in Question #6
  - Proof of Gateways Registry membership (i.e., copy of membership ID, or Professional Development Record).
  - Announcement and/or outline and description for conference/workshop/online course. Announcement must include registration fees/ cost.
  - W-9 form (the form is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)).
  - Credentials: written estimated timeline with dates that describes how you will reach your goal of obtaining a credential.
  - Receipt/proof of payment for registration and/or credential fees.
  - Documentation of attendance/completion.
  - If applicable confirmation/receipt for lodging and/or transportation costs (train, bus).
  - If applicable printout documenting trip mileage (e.g., Mapquest, Yahoo Maps, etc.)
- The payment information I have submitted is correct.
- I have made a copy of this application for my records.

*I have completed all documentation that was requested in the instructions and requirements. I certify that the above information is true and accurate, that I have not been indicated of child abuse and neglect and that my name or the names of my employees (if applicable) are not listed on the child abuse tracking system. Further, I grant permission for a representative of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services or their agent to release information about my pending or current Day Care Home, Day Care Group Home or Day Care Center license if applicable to my application.*

Applicant Signature	Date	Administrator Signature	Date
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➔ **Payment cannot be made until a complete application and required documents are received.**

➔ **Deadline:** Applications and all supporting documentation must be received at **Illinois Action for Children by June 5, 2020.**

**Return application and all required documents to:**

**Illinois Action for Children**  
**Attn: Individual Professional Development Funds**  
**4753 N. Broadway St., Ste. 1200**  
**Chicago, IL 60640**

**CCR&R USE ONLY:**

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ First time application for current FY? Yes / No

Pending Date \_\_\_\_\_ / Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Denied Date/\_\_\_\_\_ / Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Date/\_\_\_\_\_ / Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_