

# State Policy and Budget Updates

Legislative Session Recap & Restore Illinois Efforts

June 30, 2020



illinois  
**action** for  
children

Building Strong Families  
& Powerful Communities™





# Today's Agenda

- Illinois General Assembly Session Recap
  - FY21 Budget
  - Early Childhood Legislation
- Federal COVID-19 Relief
- Restore Illinois Plan
  - Phase 1 & 2 Emergency Child Care
  - Phase 3 & 4 Child Care Guidance and Supports
- Upcoming opportunities to engage
- Q&A

*In Loving Memory*

**Maria Whelan**



We are heartbroken to tell you that our beloved leader, Maria Whelan, passed away unexpectedly on June 10, 2020.

Maria was a fiercely powerful voice for children and families who inspired all of us with her determination, kindness, and empathy.





# 2020 Legislative Session

- Due to COVID-19, legislators stopped going to Springfield in March and session days were canceled until May
- Met in Springfield for 5 days to pass the FY21 state budget and just a few pieces of critical legislation
- IAFC and our advocacy partners had to adapt our advocacy strategy to the shortened session and lack of in-person meetings

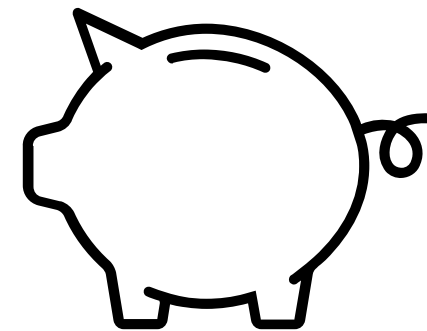
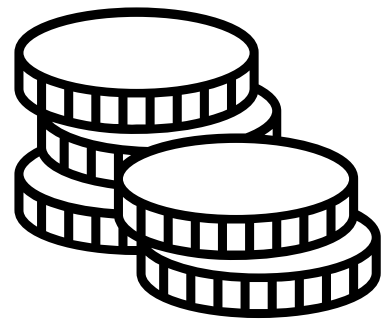
# FY21 State Budget

**\$42.9 B**

Total FY21 general funds budget

...built on authorization to borrow

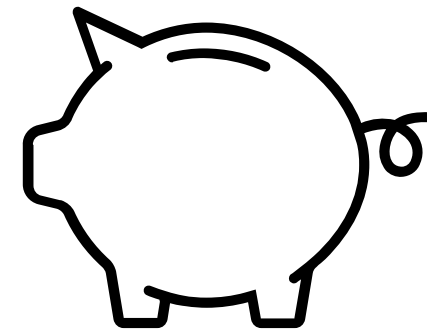
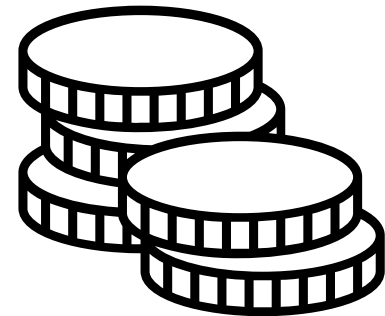
**\$5 B**



# FY21 State Budget

**\$7.4 B**

estimated shortfall, without additional federal relief and Fair Tax



# Federal Relief Efforts

**\$3.5 B**

Federal COVID-19 relief funding received

Small business/child care centers assistance	<b>\$636 million</b>
Household and community support programs	<b>\$458 million</b>
Healthcare providers for pandemic related stability payments	<b>\$830 million</b>
Local governments for reimbursements of COVID-19 related costs	<b>\$250 million</b>
State Agency COVID-19 related expenses	<b>\$1.5 billion</b>

# FY21 State Budget: ECE Programs

**Overall, FY21 appropriations for Early Care and Education services are positive, given the extremely challenging fiscal realities**

- Mostly flat funding, but with some increased investments too
- This is indicative of the priority level the General Assembly and Administration place on ECE



# FY21 State Budget: ECE Programs

## Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

- State GRF level funding at \$430.6M
- Federal appropriation was increased by \$138M
  - \$20 million in CCDBG base funding increase
  - \$118 million in one time CARES ACT funds

# FY21 State Budget: ECE Programs

## Early Intervention (EI)

- State GRF Increase to \$115.9M
- \$7.2M increase will be used to cover increased caseload
- We continue to advocate for a rate increase for EI providers

# FY21 State Budget: ECE Programs

## **Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG)**

- State GRF level funding – \$542.7M
- The block grant funds Preschool For All, Preschool for All Expansion and Prevention Initiative

# FY21 State Budget: ECE Programs

## Home Visiting (HV)

- State GRF Level Funding - \$16,910,300
- Home Visiting programs include Parents Too Soon and Healthy Families.

# FY21 State Budget: ECE Programs

## Other Budget Items:

- \$100 million was reappropriated for Early Childhood Capital Grants
- \$270 million was appropriated for the Child Care Restoration Grants.
- \$14.5 million was appropriated for Census outreach activities



# FY21 State Budget

Now more than ever, the Fair Tax is critical! More Illinois families are experiencing financial hardships and there is greater need for services, but less revenue to maintain or increase state investments

**\$1.3 B**  
in FY21

**\$3.0 B**  
annually

**Vote YES on Fair Tax in November**

# Restore Illinois: Child Care Reopening

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# Restore Illinois

- In March, Governor Pritzker issued a statewide stay-at-home order, which closed all non-essential businesses
- Emergency child care for children of essential workers was considered an essential service
- Emergency child care structure set up in a matter of days prior to stay-at-home order
  - Licensed centers, or new applicants, could apply for DCFS emergency license
  - Licensed homes and license-exempt homes could provide emergency child care for up to 6 children and be exempt from emergency license
  - Certain license exempt centers could offer emergency care and remain exempt from emergency license
- We don't know the full scope, but around at least 3,000 providers statewide provided emergency child care

# Restore Illinois

## Financial supports to early childhood providers during Phases 1-3

- Emergency child care provider stipends
- CCAP attendance exemption through June
- Enhanced CCAP rate (30%) for children of priority essential workers in care
- Free personal protective equipment (PPE) boxes for emergency child care providers

# Restore Illinois

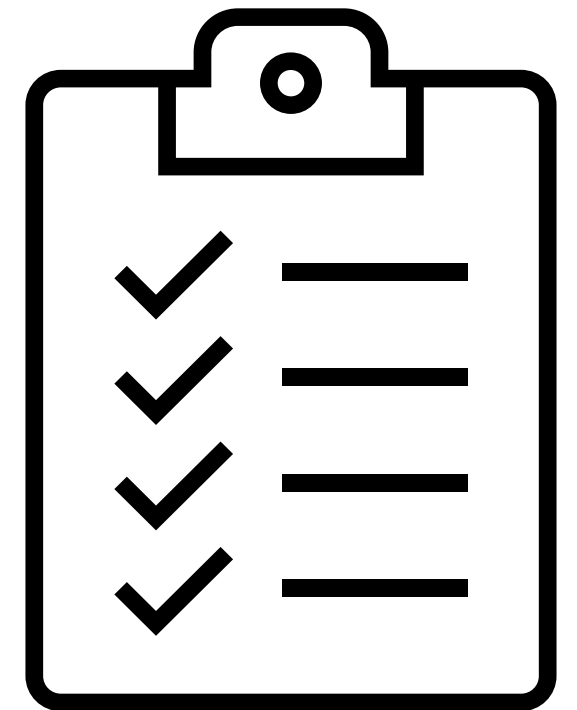
## Financial supports to families during Phases 1-3

- Essential workers who would normally not be income eligible were eligible for CCAP
- \$1 copays for all families on CCAP
- Automatic redetermination for families whose CCAP case came up during this time



# Restore Illinois

- Phase 3 and Phase 4 Guidance for reopening child care issued by DCFS, informed by Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Guidance can be updated according to public health developments and trends
  - It is critical that child care guidance remain aligned with best practices informed by public health community



# Restore Illinois

- Providers should submit Reopening Plan to DCFS, detailing how their program is meeting the DCFS guidance
  - Enhanced Risk Management Plan
  - Personal Protective Equipment Operational Plan
  - Enhanced Staffing Plan
- Phase 3 and Phase 4 Guidance Highlights
  - Smaller, stable groups
  - Daily arrival/departure procedures, including daily health checks (temperatures, symptoms)
  - PPE should be worn in facility
  - Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures
  - Communication plans
    - How are parents notified of a positive case in child care? How do families notify program of case?
    - How are the local health department and DCFS notified?

# Restore Illinois

## Financial Resources for Phase 4

- **Business Interruption Grant Program (BIG): Child Care Restoration Grants**
- Child Care Restoration Grants should help providers cover the costs of lower capacity and meet additional standards in guidance

# Opportunities to Engage

- Join the ECE Funding Coalition!
- Complete Your 2020 Census!
- Register to Vote!

# Opportunities to Engage

## Upcoming Events!

- Introduction to the ECE Funding Coalition
- Winning a Fair Tax for Illinois
- Voter Registration Guide and Toolkit
- All Children, All Families
- Fall Into Action



# QUESTIONS?

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