

(<https://www.actforchildren.org/champion/join-movement/e-advocate>)

This Issue:

In this month's issue of eAdvocate we highlight ways to take action TODAY and into the fall. Check out our stories on the importance of registering to vote (and voting early!), the 2019-2020 Expulsion Survey, and two upcoming parent focus groups lead by the Illinois Early Childhood Funding Coalition.

Join our team for a Voter Registration Webinar Sept 21



Join Stefi Hernandez and Dena Chapman for our Voter Registration Webinar (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4802016287543222542>) on Monday, September 21 from 1 – 2 p.m.

Though Election Day is on November 3, 2020, we strongly encourage you to vote early by mail. Please mark these important dates on your calendar! Not sure if you're registered? Just check your registration status (<https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx>)!

DEADLINE TO:

DATE:

Early Voting

Sept. 24 - Nov. 2, 2020

Register by mail

Oct. 6, 2020

Register in-person

Oct. 6, 2020

Register on-line

Oct. 18, 2020

Vote (Election Day!)

Nov. 3, 2020

More Funding Coalition Focus Groups for Parents, Providers

Thank you to the parents who participated in the Funding Coalition's previous parent focus group! As many parents expressed interest in providing feedback on the Governor's Early Childhood Funding Commission's emerging recommendations, two more focus groups are being held that you can register for at the links below.



- Parent Focus Group (<https://events-actforchildren.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a491I000000MPPr8QAG>): September 25 from 9 - 10:30 a.m.
- Parent and Provider Focus Group (<https://events-actforchildren.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a491I000000McVyQAK>) (hosted in Spanish): September 28 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Please share this information widely with your networks.

2019-2020 Expulsion Survey is Now Live



In 2018, the state of Illinois passed legislation affecting all licensed childcare and preschool programs in the state. Since then, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) has surveyed program administrators each Fall to understand their experiences and identify what supports they need to comply with the expulsion law. Information about program practices, challenges, and access to resources is critical to advocates and state agencies striving to best support your work with children and families. This year's survey is structured to also try to capture the impact of the pandemic and child care closures and changes on expulsion/exclusion practices.

- All licensed home- and center-based programs as well as state-funded early childhood programs are eligible to participate and either lead or assistant administrators can complete the survey on your program's behalf.
- The survey is accessible online using the link below and will take 15-20 minutes. Illinois-based administrators who complete the survey will be able to enter a raffle to win one of five \$50 Amazon e-gift cards as a sign of appreciation for their time. The survey is open until September 30.

Complete the Online IL ECE Administrator Survey (https://uic.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_00mfkD6qyhQoQSN). If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact the principal investigator: Kate Zinsser, Ph.D. (<mailto:kzinsser@uic.edu>)



(<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/fairtax/Pages/default.aspx>)

Vote YES on the Fair Tax

Illinois' current tax structure is unfair. On November 3, Illinoisans will have the opportunity to vote YES on the Fair Tax. Currently, everyone in the state pays the same tax rate, regardless of their income. This is fundamentally unfair because when other taxes such as sales taxes are added, middle- and working-class families pay

significantly more in taxes as a percent of their income than the wealthy.

Under the Fair Tax plan, 97 percent of Illinois residents would see no income tax increase, and there will be greater investments available to our youngest children.

Join one of our upcoming roundtables (<https://events-actforchildren.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a4911000000MT37QAG>) to ask questions and share how we might better support advocacy in your community for the Fair Tax.



Save the Date: Fall into Action on October 7-8

Save the date for the 2020 Illinois Action for Children early care and education (ECE) policy workshops, Fall Into Action! We will update providers, parents, teachers, and advocates on state and federal policies, COVID-19 updates, Fair Tax Act discussions, and how workforce reform will affect ECE in each community. Participants will gather virtually to get a better understanding of what ECE will look like moving forward and an opportunity to ask any questions.

- Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 2 – 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday Oct. 8 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Agenda, details, and registration information coming soon.

Register (<https://events.actforchildren.org/strength-and-resilience/home>), Today! Social-Emotional Symposium is September 26 (Virtual Event)

Now, more than ever, our children need our support.

#ecmh20

ILLINOIS ACTION FOR CHILDREN'S 5TH ANNUAL
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Strength & Resilience: Our New Normal —Families Finding Their Rhythm in 2020

REGISTER TODAY - FREE VIRTUAL EVENT!



Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020

8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

(<https://events.actforchildren.org/strength-and-resilience/home>)

Illinois Action for Children's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Team is pleased to present its 5th annual Social-Emotional Symposium. This year's event will be held online and is aimed at providing support and guidance for parents and providers in helping our children tap into their innate resilience, as we all seek strategies to help navigate these historic and unprecedented times.

WHAT: Strength & Resilience: Our New Normal—Families Finding Their Rhythm 2020

(<https://events.actforchildren.org/strength-and-resilience/home>)

WHEN: Saturday, September 26, 2020 | 8:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

WHERE: Virtual

COST: Free!

Registration is now open (<https://events.actforchildren.org/strength-and-resilience/home>)! We look forward to "e-seeing" you there!

