



PRESS RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Maggie Koller (she/her)
Communications Manager
(309) 233-0434
mkoller@birthtofiveil.com

January 17, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIRTH TO FIVE ILLINOIS AWARDS \$575,000 IN PLANNING GRANTS

Funding Reaches 22 Counties Across Illinois

Birth to Five Illinois has issued \$575,000 in Planning Grants that will help to establish nine Local Early Childhood Collaborations in 22 counties across the State. The grants are funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the Early Childhood Governance and Finance Project of the New Venture Fund. Birth to Five Illinois recognizes the work to establish new Collaborations takes time, commitment, and funding. Grantees will leverage these funds to solidify community partnerships, hire dedicated staff, and develop coordinated intake processes to ensure families are connected to the programs and services for which they are eligible.

In early October 2022, Birth to Five Illinois published the [eligibility requirements](#) for the Planning Grants to Local Early Childhood Collaborations. The lead-time for the application process was intended to allow time for applicants to solidify the SAM.gov registration, secure a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and become Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) certified, per the IDHS requirement. The application opened on October 20 and closed on December 1, 2022.

Angela Hubbard, Grants and Relationship Manager for Birth to Five Illinois, said, "At the start of this process, when Birth to Five Illinois looked at the map of existing Local Early Childhood Collaborations across the State, there were large areas and numerous counties without any indication of a Local Collaboration. Now, thanks to a robust response to this funding opportunity, some of those spaces are now dotted with grant recipients eager to form partnerships, improve Early Childhood Education Care (ECEC) at the community-level, and demonstrate the importance of funding local efforts."

These Planning Grants follow \$2.6 million in Implementation Grants (funded by IDHS) awarded to 24 existing Local Early Childhood Collaboration recipients. Information about all Birth to Five Illinois Grants may be found at www.birthtofiveil.com/grants.

Birth to Five Illinois FY23 Planning Grant Recipients

<u>Collaboration Name</u>	<u>Counties Reached</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
Arcola Community and Economic Development (ACED)*	Douglas County	\$ 48,872
Birth to Five Forum of South Cook County	Cook South	\$ 68,000
Carbondale Early Childhood Impact Table	Jackson and Williamson Counties	\$ 62,000
Clay County 0-5 Advisory Board and Effingham County Early Childhood Collaborative*	Clay and Effingham Counties	\$ 99,000
Northwest Illinois Early Childhood Consortium*	Carroll, Stephenson, Jo Daviess, and Ogle Counties	\$ 52,128
Regional Office of Education #13 Preschool for All Collaboration	Clinton, Washington, and Marion Counties	\$ 62,000
ROE26 IRIS Community Collaboration	McDonough, Fulton, Schuyler, and Hancock Counties	\$ 62,000
Southernmost Illinois Early Learning Special Education Collaborative	Alexander, Pulaski, Johnson, and Massac Counties	\$ 59,070
Villa Park Area Early Childhood Collaborative	DuPage County	\$ 62,000

* Asterisk indicates grants funded by the Early Childhood Governance and Finance Project of the New Venture Fund

###

About Birth to Five Illinois

Birth to Five Illinois' mission is to create a statewide regional infrastructure that will amplify input from communities in the development of policies and funding priorities. We support the mobilization of communities to build and sustain equitable access to inclusive, high-quality early childhood services for all children and families in the state of Illinois.