

RIGHT TO CARE!

Powered by We, the Village

April 11, 2022

We, the Village Coalition applauds the General Assembly for supporting Illinois families, communities, and the early childhood workforce in the FY23 budget, and we're grateful for Gov. Pritzker's stated plans to sign it into law. Increased investments in the Early Childhood Block Grant, Early Intervention, and Home Visiting services will help put Illinois on course to become the best state to raise a family.

We advocated for a 10 percent increase in several key early childhood priorities and are pleased to have received growth in nearly every area: the full 10 percent boost in the Early Childhood Block Grant; 6.5 percent restoration of last year's Early Intervention cut, and a combined 6 percent increase in the IDHS Home-Visiting lines (after about two decades without state funding improvements). It is unfortunate that the Child Care Assistance Program did not receive an increased state investment in the FY23 budget, but we appreciate the program experienced no decrease in funds as it did last fiscal year and that provider reimbursement rates are on track for increases in the next year – one of several investments we must still make to lift-up the early childhood workforce. In fact, we urge that a significant portion of new FY23 funding be dedicated to compensation improvements for this “workforce behind our entire workforce.”

These increased investments in early childhood are meaningful steps in advancing the recommendations of the bipartisan Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding (“Early Childhood Funding Commission”) – goals for greatly strengthening our state’s system of birth-to-5 supports, and to which we remain firmly committed. Thousands of Illinoisans participated in the We, the Village Coalition's Right to Care Campaign efforts urging policymakers to increase early childhood resources in the state budget, and we are eager to continue advocacy in support of all the Funding Commission’s recommendations.

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We, the Village Coalition is a statewide group of advocates, non-profit organizations, child care providers, school districts, parents and others who have come together to fight for the well-being of Illinois' youngest children.

We, the Village Coalition is powering the Right To Care Campaign.
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