



Illinois initiates its first-ever early childhood construction program

Following years of advocacy, the Latino Policy Forum is pleased to announce that Illinois' \$45 million early childhood construction program is now underway. The purpose of this initiative is to increase the availability of early childhood services in high-need, underserved communities by constructing and renovating early childhood facilities.

The Capital Development Board, in consultation with the Illinois State Board of Education, is administering the new competitive grant program. Resources for this initiative will be distributed in two phases, with \$25 million scheduled to be released during the initial funding period. Following the release of the Request for Applications earlier this week, applicants have until November 30, 2011 to submit a proposal.

Public school districts and private nonprofit entities with experience in providing services to young children and families are eligible to apply. Applicants may apply for up to \$5 million, however, all grant applications require a 10% local match.

The Space Capacity Committee of the Illinois Early Learning Council, in coordination with the Capital Development Board, is in the process of generating a FAQ document pertaining to the program. The State is also working with [IFF](#) to provide further guidance through a free technical assistance webinar.

To learn more about this exciting initiative, please visit the Capital Development Board's website at: <http://www.cdb.state.il.us/ecgp.shtml>.

The Latino Policy Forum will post updates on its [Facebook](#) page as further information becomes available.

If you have any questions, please contact [Martin Torres](#).

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