

# Individual Professional Development Funds | FY26

**4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care**  
**444 E Hillcrest Dr      667 Ridgeview Dr**  
**DeKalb, IL 60015      McHenry, IL 60050**



**July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**

*Revised July 2021, August 2022*

Illinois supports the continuing professional development of child care practitioners. In partnership with the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies, the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Early Childhood (IDHS-DEC) is providing funds to assist an individual in pursuit of professional development in early care and education and school-age care.

*For the purposes of this document:*

- "child care program" or "program" includes child care centers and family child care
- Current /currently is defined as the time of application

## **1. WHO CAN APPLY?**

- Individual practitioners currently employed by center-based programs or family home programs (licensed or license exempt) that provide care as defined by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Individual practitioners include child care center directors, early childhood teachers/assistant teachers, school age teachers/assistant teachers, family home providers and assistants. In addition, child care center support staff (e.g., cook, driver) when appropriate.
- Applicant must be a current member of the Gateways to Opportunity Registry (Registry). Registry membership is free. Practitioners may sign up for the registry at [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com).
- The child care program must be listed on the CCR&R provider referral database and must currently be providing care in Carroll, DeKalb, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, and Whiteside counties.
- The child care program must have no unpaid financial obligation to the CCR&R agency or the IDHS-DEC Bureau of Subsidy Management or Bureau of Quality Initiatives

## **2. ARE THERE PRIORITY PROGRAMS?**

- As applications are received, priority is given to programs currently caring for 50% or more children whose care is paid for by the IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).
- Programs that are full year (at least 47 weeks)/full day (at least 8 hours).
- Programs that are currently caring for infants and toddlers.

## **3. WHAT IS INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?**

- The advancement of knowledge in the field of early childhood/school age for an individual practitioner.

## **4. WHAT CAN INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS BE REQUESTED FOR?**

- Individual registration fees associated with conferences/workshops **not required** by ExceleRate Illinois.
- The conference/workshop must be off-site from your place of employment and must be related to early care and education, school-age care or child care administration/management.
- Fees associated with webinars/online training that is Illinois Gateways to Opportunity Registry-approved.
- Travel/Transportation cost (see application for additional information).
- Lodging cost.
- Costs associated with the following credentials:
  - Child Development Associate (CDA) [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org) 1-800-424-4310
  - Certified Child Care Professional (CCP) [www.necpa.net](http://www.necpa.net) 1-800-458-2644

## **5. WHAT CAN'T FUNDS BE REQUESTED FOR?**

- College tuition assistance. Tuition assistance is available through the Illinois Gateways Scholarship Program. For information on the Gateways tuitions assistance visit [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com) or call 866-697-8278.
- Workshops required under the ExceleRate Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle of Quality. Visit [www.exceletrateillinois.com](http://www.exceletrateillinois.com) for a complete listing.
- Conference/workshops in which the 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care is the fiscal agent (i.e., registration fees are paid to the CCR&R).
- Special events during a conference (e.g., concert, recognition event, reception, etc.).

- The cost of meals or refreshments (unless included in basic registration fee).
- Group/staff training – on-site or off site – arranged by a provider group or child care program.
- Out of state conferences/workshops. Including registration and travel costs.
- Conferences/workshops in which the primary focus in political advocacy and/or sectarian (religious) instruction.
- Advisors, Consultants or Mentors.
- Substitute care.
- Membership fee to a professional organization.

**6. WHAT ARE FUNDING MINIMUMS/MAXIMUMS?**

- The minimum request is \$15.
- The maximum funding amount per event/credential is 80% of the actual cost, as funding allows.
- The maximum funding amount available per person is up to \$500 per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).
- Additional information is on the application, Step 2.

**7. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?**

- Individuals complete and submit an application along with the required supporting documentation (see question 8).
- As applications are received, priority is given to programs currently caring for 50% or more children whose care is paid for by the IDHS CCAP.
- The CCR&R will notify you in writing if your application has been approved or denied, and if approved, the amount in which your request was funded.

**8. WHAT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION IS NEEDED?**

*Italicized items are required at the time of application.* Remaining documentation is to be submitted to CCR&R within 30 days of the event date and/or completion date.

- *Proof of Gateways Registry membership (i.e. copy of membership ID or Professional Development Record).*
- *Announcement and/or outline and description for conference/workshop/online course. Announcement must include fees/cost and sponsoring entity.*
- *W-9 form (the form is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)).*
- Receipt/proof of payment for registration and/or credential fees.
- Documentation of attendance/completion.
- If applicable confirmation/receipt for lodging and/or transportation costs (train, bus).
- [If applicable printout documenting trip mileage \(e.g., Google Maps, Yahoo Maps, etc\).](#)

**9. HOW IS PAYMENT MADE?**

- You will be notified in writing if your application has been approved or denied, and if approved, the amount in which your request was funded.
- Payments will be made and mailed directly to the individual, credentialing body or the child care program named in Step 3 Payment Information Section of the application.
- Individuals/programs that receive payment will be responsible for W-9 documentation and taxes.
- Payment cannot be made until a complete application and required documentation is received.

**10. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION?**

- Ongoing as funds allow.
- Please see question #8 regarding remaining required supporting documentation – due within 30 days after the event.
- CCR&R will receive applications + supporting documentation throughout the year; however, for applications to be considered, all applications + supporting documentation must be received at the CCRR by **June 15, 2026**.

**11. WHERE ARE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED?**

**4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care**  
667 Ridgeview Dr  
McHenry, IL 60050  
[jennifers@four-c.org](mailto:jennifers@four-c.org)

**12. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Jennifer Schwartz  
667 Ridgeview Dr  
McHenry, IL 60050  
815-344-5510 x160  
jennifers@four-c.org

**13. DO THE FUNDS NEED TO BE REPAYED?**

- This is a grant program, which means funds do not generally need to be paid back. However, the grant funds come from the State of Illinois, and certain policies and procedures must be followed.
- In the event that payment is made for a conference/workshop, but you or an alternate are unable to attend, the individual/child care program will need to work with the CCR&R regarding the return of funds.
- In the event that payment is made for a credential and the individual withdraws or does not complete the process, the individual/child care program will need to work with the CCR&R regarding the return of funds.
- In the event payment is made for a credential and the program withdraws or does not complete the process (defined as the required steps), the child care program will need to work with the CCR&R regarding the return of funds.
- In the event of over or improper payment or reimbursement, appropriate arrangements will need to be made with the CCR&R regarding return of funds.

**14. WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

Application, payment for activity, and activity must occur within the current funding cycle (7/1/25-6/30/26).

- Only completed applications will be considered.
- Applicants must use the provided application for July 2025-June 2026.
- Faxed/electronic applications will be accepted.
- Funding is limited and not guaranteed.
- Maximums are in place; however partial funding may be awarded.
- Payment cannot be made until a complete application and all required supporting documents are received.

## Individual Professional Development Application Form

**4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care**

**444 E Hillcrest Dr      667 Ridgeview Dr**  
**DeKalb, IL 60015      McHenry, IL 60050**



**July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**

The current year application form must be used. This application may not be reformatted.

- ➔ Please type or print using black or blue ink
- ➔ Complete **all fields**; use “NA” if not applicable – **do not leave any field blank**
- ➔ Refer to the Individual Professional Development Instructions and Requirements
- ➔ Be sure to review the checklist in Step 4

**STEP 1: Applicant Information**

Applicant First Name:				Applicant Last Name:			
Applicant Address:							
City:		State:		Zip Code:		County:	
Mailing address (if different):							
Program Phone #: (    )				Email: <input type="radio"/> Personal <input type="radio"/> Program			
Gateways Registry #							
Program is: <input type="radio"/> Licensed Child Care Center <input type="radio"/> License Exempt Child Care Center <input type="radio"/> Licensed Family Child Care <input type="radio"/> License Exempt Family Child Care							
Program (work site) Name:							
Program (work site) Address:							
City:		State: IL		Zip Code:		County:	
What date did you begin employment at this site?				Month:		Date:	
				Year:			
Role: check the one that best describes your current position:							
<input type="radio"/> Director / Administrator	<input type="radio"/> Assistant Director	<input type="radio"/> Director / Teacher	<input type="radio"/> Teacher	<input type="radio"/> Assistant Teacher	<input type="radio"/> Substitute / Floater	<input type="radio"/> Other: _____	
<input type="radio"/> Family Child Care (FCC)	<input type="radio"/> FCC Assistant	<input type="radio"/> Group FCC Provider	<input type="radio"/> Group FCC Assistant	<input type="radio"/> School Age Child Care Teacher	<input type="radio"/> School Age Child Care Assistant		
Age group YOU currently provide care for (center staff, check 1 primary age range; FCC providers check all that apply):							
<input type="radio"/> Infants 6 wks – 14 mos	<input type="radio"/> Toddlers 15-23 mos.	<input type="radio"/> Twos 24-35 mos	<input type="radio"/> Preschool 3-5 years	<input type="radio"/> School Age K-12 years	<input type="radio"/> Not Applicable		

Please have the *Program Administrator* complete the following formula to determine the percentage of children in your program receiving IDHS child care financial assistance.

To calculate: Total Number of children with IDHS Financial Assistance **DIVIDED** by Current total Enrollment **MULTIPLIED** by 100 **EQUALS** Percentage of Children Receiving IDHS Assistance. (FCC providers: include your own children, under age 13, in enrollment)

$$\frac{\text{\# of IDHS Children}}{\text{Current Total Enrollment}} \times 100 = \text{Percentage of IDHS Children} \%$$

**STEP 2: Funding Request Information**

- The minimum request is \$15
- The maximum funding amounts per event/credential listed in the charts below, and
- The maximum funding amount available per person is up to \$500 per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30)

**To be eligible for travel and/or lodging funding:**

- Event location must be at least 60 miles (one way) from the individual's place of business
- Travel, when requesting mileage, only applies to the principal driver
- Lodging is available up to 2 nights

**2A: Workshop/Online Training / Conference**

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

I am requesting Professional Development Funds to (check all that apply):	Conference/ Workshop	Credential
Implement better practices/program improvements		
Meet DCFS training requirements		
Meet CCAP Health & Safety training requirements		
Obtain qualifications for a new position		
To obtain a credential (new or renewal)		
Meet accreditation standards		
Other (list):		
Training Hours and type of credit (check all that apply):	Check Type	# of hours
DCFS clock hours		
Continuing Education Units (CEUs)		
Child Development Associate (CDA) clock hours		
Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU)		
Other (list):		

Total Amount(s) Requested	CCR&R MAX	Actual Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop /Off-Site Training Registration Fee	80% of the actual cost, as funding allows	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Webinars/Online Training Modules Registration Fee		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference Registration Fee		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel/Transportation (mileage / train / bus) Mileage reimbursed @ \$0.70/mile. Actual mileage one way ____ x 2= ____ x .70 = Actual Cost		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Lodging: maximum nights, up to 2 per event Cost per night \$____ x ____ nights = Actual Cost		\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>		\$
To calculate 80% of the actual cost: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div>             Total Amount _____              Total Requested (2A) _____           </div> <div>             _____              X 0.80 =              _____           </div> </div>		
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED 2A</b> (amount entered after calculating 80%)		\$

**2B: CREDENTIAL**

For credential funds request, complete below:	Actual Cost	CCR&R Max 80%	Amount Requested
<b>Child Development Associate (CDA)</b>	<i>Costs are as of August 1, 2025 per respective websites</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment Fee (\$525 online/ \$600 for paper)	\$525/\$600	\$420/\$480	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Credential Renewal Fee (\$250 for online/\$300 for paper)	\$250/\$300	\$200/\$240	\$
<b>Certified Childcare Professional (CCP)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Credential Fee	\$350	\$280	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Credential Renewal Fee	\$49.95	\$40	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Other</b> (to calculate 80%, multiple the actual cost by 0.80)			
CARE Courses	varies	80%	\$
CDA Online Training Course	varies	80%	\$
CCP Online Training	varies	80%	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Care Course <input type="checkbox"/> CDA Online <input type="checkbox"/> CCP Online Course Title(s):			
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED 2B</b>			\$

**STEP 3: Payment Information**

Have you received funding from another source to assist with conference, workshop, or credential fees? ☐ NO ☐ YES

If yes, explain and list amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Request is being made for (check all that applies):

☐ Workshop ☐ On-line ☐ Conference ☐ Credential

If requesting funding for travel/transportation and or lodging, provide the following information:

- Mode of transportation: ☐ Car ☐ Train ☐ Bus ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Did you/will you ride with someone? ☐ NO ☐ YES If yes, who \_\_\_\_\_
- Did you/will you share a room with someone? ☐ NO ☐ YES If yes, who \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED (2A + 2B) \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Requesting payment(s) be made to:

☐ Applicant ☐ Child Care program ☐ Credentialing body

Make Check Payable To: \_\_\_\_\_

Must match Box 1 of the W-9 form

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant ☐ Social Security Number/ or ☐ FEIN Number (REQUIRED): \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 4: Application Checklist and Authorization**

- ☐ I completed all areas of the current application. If a question was not applicable, I inserted N/A.
- ☐ I signed and dated my application.
- ☐ I attached all required supporting documentation as noted in Question #8
- Proof of Gateways Registry membership (i.e., copy of membership ID, or Professional Development Record).
  - Announcement and/or outline and description for conference/workshop/online course. Announcement must include registration fees/ cost.
  - W-9 form (the form is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)).
  - Receipt/proof of payment for registration and/or credential fees.
  - Documentation of attendance/completion.
  - If applicable confirmation/receipt for lodging and/or transportation costs (train, bus).
  - If applicable printout documenting trip mileage (e.g., Google Maps, Yahoo Maps, etc.)
- ☐ The payment information I have submitted is correct.
- ☐ I have made a copy of this application for my records.
- ☐ I have read, understand and agree to FAQ #13 (return of funds).
- ☐ I understand that an incomplete application (not answering questions or attaching supporting documentation) will delay the review process.

*I have completed all documentation that was requested in the instructions and requirements. I certify that the above information is true and accurate, that I have not been indicated of child abuse and neglect and that my name or the names of my employees (if applicable) are not listed on the child abuse tracking system. Further, I grant permission for a representative of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services or their agent to release information about my pending or current Day Care Home, Day Care Group Home or Day Care Center license if applicable to my application.*

Applicant Signature

Date

Administrator Signature

Date

➔ **Payment cannot be made until a complete application and required documents are received.**

➔ **Deadline:** Applications and all supporting documentation must be received at 4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care by **June 15, 2025.**

**Return application and all required documents to:**

**Jennifer Schwartz**  
**4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care**  
**667 Ridgeview Dr. McHenry, IL 60050**  
**815-344-5520/jennifers@four-c.org**

**CCR&R USE ONLY:**

Date Received:	Reviewed by:	Complete? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Date / Amount \$		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pending Date/Reason		
<input type="checkbox"/> Communicated with applicant: date / message		
<input type="checkbox"/> Denied Date / Reason		