

Here are the key components:

1. Support data analysis. Ability to crosswalk data between child assessment and overall management software data. Programs determine what they want to learn from their data, what questions they want answered, and the data team at the University of Illinois/Center for Prevention Research and Development will help you think about data in ways that you may not have thought of.
2. Identify “high risk” (not expected to meet their developmental target in the spring) children after Fall Check Point. High risk children need more intentional support and by starting earlier rather than waiting until after the Winter Check point could change the outcomes at the Spring Check Point.
3. Support continuous quality improvement.
4. Provide opportunity to store data from year to year.
5. Access data on progress of children in the K-12 system.
6. Improve the transition of children into public schools and to provide kindergarten teachers with information to help them make more informed decisions about instruction.
7. Ability to aggregate data on a statewide level.
8. Use aggregated data plus personal stories to demonstrate that Head Start works. Public Relations is critical in our current environment.
9. Ability to manage and control Head Start/Early Head Start data use at the state level.

As mentioned, OHS plans to release the final standards late summer as they want to get them out before this administration leaves office. We are **worried** about the proposed changes, specifically as they relate to our work with parents and making the increase in duration mandatory. We are a two-generation program and we estimate over 2000 Head Start children would lose services in Illinois with the increase in duration. PLEASE go to www.supportheadstart.org and sign the petition. Remember, do not sign the petition on your work computer but take a minute (yes, it doesn't even take a minute) to sign the petition on your cell phone, home tablet or computer.

OHS just released the Program Instruction on Supplemental Funds to Extend Duration Services. IHSA is planning a webinar in the near future so we can share

information, resources, network and dialog with our Illinois Head Start community. Hopefully this will provide support for those thinking about applying.

FY17 Appropriations - it will be tough to see an increase in funding in FY 17 given the topline budget caps. However, we are supporting the President's budget proposal of a \$434 million increase - \$142 million for COLA and \$292 million for Quality Improvement. In addition, we have been asking for flexibility with the quality improvement funds to allow for uses aside from duration or increase in hours. We need QUALITY dollars to support salaries, facilities, transportation, etc. Please let your Congressional Members know your need for just "plain ole good quality dollars".

No surprises in Illinois, as we still do not have a state budget. Although, last month, Governor Rauner convened the first meeting of the **Cabinet on Children and Youth**. The Children's Cabinet is a high level effort to ensure we are focusing on children holistically and hold ourselves accountable for child and youth outcomes. The Cabinet is comprised of nineteen members including the Office of Early Childhood Development's Executive Director, Kelley Washington. Beth Purvis, Illinois Secretary of Education and the Cabinet's vice-chair, stated her hopes for the team in a press release saying, "Governor Rauner's new structure will support and integrate the state's priorities and initiatives more effectively to identify and address any agency collaboration barriers so we can more thoughtfully and aggressively improve the future for our children". The Children's Cabinet is organized around four primary goals to ensure that Illinois' children are safe, healthy, well-educated, and self-sufficient. Work groups comprised of leaders from each of the participating agencies are currently working to develop population level outcomes and indicators for each goal area. The next meeting of the Cabinet will take place in June (date TBA).

MIECHV is expanding! The 2016 Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant was fully funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Illinois' share of the \$345 million federal program is \$8,688,340; the maximum level available to our State. This grant will allow MIECHV to expand voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to women and families during pregnancy, and to parents with young children up until kindergarten entry.