



updates on issues that matter to you  
from **Illinois Action for Children**

## Preliminary Federal Budget Released

On February 26, 2009, President Barack Obama unveiled his preliminary FY 2010 budget. The Budget, according to the President, "lays out a plan for our Nation to get back on its feet and restore our competitiveness in this new century."

As part of the Budget, President Obama will continue the down payment he made in early childhood education, specifically Head Start, Early Head Start and the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in the American Recovery and Reinvestment and Act of 2009 (ARRA). The president's budget, as proposed, will increase funding for affordable, high-quality child care, expand Head Start and Early Head Start, create incentives for states to build comprehensive "Zero to Five" systems and ensure early childhood education programs yield strong results for children.

The Budget is still in the planning stages and more details will be released in coming weeks. To read more about the President's plans for the Budget and to check for updates, please click [here](#).

## Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative Request for Proposals Released

The Preschool for All Children (3 to 5) and Prevention Initiative (Birth to 3) – 2010 Request for Proposals (RFP) for new funds have been released. The RFPs are available online [here](#) and can also be obtained by contacting the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Early Childhood Division at 217-524-4835.

Bidders conference information has also been released. Times and locations are listed below:

### **Preschool for All**

#### Springfield

Prairie Capital Convention Center

1 Convention Center Plaza

#### Chicago Heights

Prairie State College

202 S. Halsted Street

Monday, March 23, 2009

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lower Level, Meeting Room B-11

Parking Ramp at 7th & Washington

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Auditorium

Park in Lot D

### **Prevention Initiative\***

#### Springfield

Prairie Capitol Convention Center

9th & Washington Street

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

#### Chicago Heights

Prairie State College

202 S. Halstead Street

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

\* Please note: You must register for the Prevention Initiative Bidders Conference. The registration form can be found [here](#).

Public school districts, university laboratory schools approved by ISBE, charter schools, area vocational centers, and public or private not-for-profit or for-profit entities with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to young children and their families are eligible to submit proposals for the Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative programs.

More information about the bidders conferences and how to register are available [online](#). If you have any questions about the RFP process or the Preschool for All program in general, please contact Samir Tanna at [tannas@actforchildren.org](mailto:tannas@actforchildren.org) or (773) 697-6134.

## **New QRS Guidelines**

Effective February 9, the Quality Rating System (QRS) has changed its eligibility to be more accessible to providers. The changes are as follows:

- Licensed family child care providers must be currently caring for a minimum of 1 Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) child. The previous requirement was 3 CCAP children.
- Licensed Centers must be caring for a minimum of 10% CCAP children. The previous requirement was 25% CCAP children.
- A provider must be licensed for 1 year before applying to QRS. The previous requirement was 2 years.

QRS is a voluntary system available to License-Exempt Family Child Care Providers, Licensed Family Home Child Care Providers, and Licensed Centers. The System offers a quality add-on rate to the CCAP standard daily reimbursement rate for providers that meet specific quality criteria. For more information about QRS and the new guidelines, click [here](#).

## REMINDER: Early Registration Ends Friday for Spring Into Action 2009

On Friday, March 6, early registration and reduced hotel room rates for Illinois Action For Children's Spring Into Action Public Policy Conference end. Details about the conference are provided below.

Spring Into Action Public Policy Conference  
March 24-25, 2009  
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center  
701 E. Adams Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Click [here](#) for more information or contact Maya Tillman at (773) 697-6137 or [tillmanm@actforchildren.org](mailto:tillmanm@actforchildren.org).

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