



## A HISTORIC TIMELINE

2016
<p>The Illinois State Board of Education announces a re-competition of Preschool For All (PFA) and Prevention Initiative (PI) grants, prompting members of the community to discuss strategies to provide more high-quality, birth-to-five programs for families. ISBE delays that re-competition to the 2016-17 school year, and extends funding for one more year to existing programs.</p>
<p>In preparation for the release of the re-competition in 2017-18, current PFA grant recipients come together with other School Districts, community-based early learning centers, and non-profit organizations to outline current services and future community collaborations in order to support additional children.</p>
<p>A core group of leaders research and conduct site-visits over 12 months to area early learning community networks to explore their missions, structure, and operations, including Addison Early Childhood Collaborative, Bensenville Early Learning Collaborative, Evanston Cradle to Career, Collaboration for Early Childhood (Oak Park), and The Alliance for Early Childhood. The findings fuel the vision to launch a new early childhood community collaboration in Niles Township.</p>
<p>Multiple community-based early education directors and family child care providers participate in a conversation to discuss aspirations for the early childhood community. Collaboration with public schools, professional development, and parent engagement are identified as priority areas.</p>
2017
<p>The Illinois State Board of Education releases the RFP as part of the re-competition of Preschool For All (PFA) and Prevention Initiative (PI) grants. The grants emphasize cross-sector community collaboration.</p>
<p>Birth-to-third grade alignment is one of The Illinois State Board of Education’s priorities. Members of the community attend the Birth-to-Third Grade (B-3) Continuity Project annual conference and webinars to learn how to strengthen education, supports, and services for children and families from early childhood programs into early elementary settings.</p>
2018

<p>Multiple community-based early education directors and family child care providers participate in a conversation to discuss aspirations for the early childhood community. Collaboration with public schools, professional development, and parent engagement are identified as priority areas.</p>
<p>A symposium is hosted with over 120 stakeholders featuring Geoffrey Nagle, President and CEO of Erikson Institute, who presents new research revealing the crucial, lifelong importance of a child’s first three years of life. Afterwards a panel of local leaders discuss strategies to mobilize the community to support positive early childhood development.</p>
<p>The Skokie-Morton Grove area is selected as 1 of 5 research cities in Illinois to participate in Erikson Institute's Early Development Instrument (EDI) research project funded by the McCormick Foundation. Data derived from the EDI will show how programs, services, and systems can be better coordinated based on strengths and needs, as well as plan for future interventions. The other communities involved in the pilot include: 1) Greater East St. Louis, 2) Kankakee/Bourbonnais, 3) Chicago Austin Community and 4) Oak Park.</p>
<p>Members of Niles Township LAN 41 jointly submit a grant for \$110,000 to DCFS to address the early learning, social-emotional, and mental health of families with young children ages birth to eight-years-old in our community.</p>
<p>The ECA is one of nine community collaborations selected as an inaugural cohort of the Partner Plan Act Collaboration Institute to receive yearlong, targeted consultation and individualized coaching to build a new local early childhood collaboration, beginning with formal governance structure.</p>
<p><b>2019</b></p>
<p>A Charter Workgroup Team is formed to draft the ECA charter, including the purpose, goals, roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes. A strong representation of the early childhood community work over 6 months to finalize the Charter.</p>
<p>A coalition of over 50 community organizations, schools, and leaders in Evanston and Skokie join together to host “Lifting Up Early Childhood,” a series of three community events between November 2019 and April 2020 to highlight the importance of early childhood and encourage community support.</p>
<p>The Early Childhood Alliance hosts a kick-off meeting so a large number of community partners can learn about the ECA, endorse the newly written Charter, select the Steering Committee, and get involved in the “Lifting Up Early Childhood” initiative.</p>
<p><b>2020</b></p>
<p>Niles Township Local Area Network (LAN 41) has recently been awarded DCFS funding to hire a part-time consultant to build the operating structure between LAN 41 and the ECA this</p>

summer. Beginning July 1, additional DCFS monies will be used to hire a part-time Early Childhood Resource Specialist who will carry out the shared early childhood intervention and support operations of LAN/ECA.