Illinois Hard to Reach Families Project Evaluation

Recruiting Hard to Reach Families

- Who are the programs?
- Urban/
- Multiple Funding Streams
- Rural
- Child Care only
- Large Suburban/
- preschool only
- Large Suburban/
- Head Start only

Factors affecting families’ access to ECE services

- Social Isolation
- Legal Issues
- Logistic Issues
- Transportation
- Philosophical Differences
- Lack of Trust
- Parent/Family Care
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Family Mental Health
- Housing
- Homelessness
- Public Housing
- Lack of Information on the
- Importance of ECE
- Quality of ECE
- Family Composition
- Single Parent Home
- Teen Parent
- Immigrant Families
- Financial Issues
- Unemployment
- Marginal Employment
- Below 100% FPL

Full Report: http://ecap.crc.illinois.edu

Important Stages

- Change of Mindset
- Identify and Recruit Families
- Collaboration
- Identification to Enrollment
- Sustaining Participation

Program Highlights

- Scholarships
  - Sponsored by Local Businesses
- "Drop-in" Preschool sites

Findings and Recommendations

1. Take services to the families
   - Allocate funding for additional staff time
   - Go to neighborhoods or provide transportation
   - Address transportation plan in funding applications
2. Allow enrollment flexibility
   - Prioritize families with multiple risk factors
   - Allow programs to hold slots
   - Increase funding for additional slots
   - Allow funding to be used for interim services
3. Integrate pre-k with child care
   - Require collaboration with CCR&R
   - Require MOU with CCR&R for pre-k funding
4. Allow age flexibility
   - Base transitions on developmental readiness
   - Ensure smooth transition from 0-3 to 3-5 services
   - Require 0-3 to establish transition plan for each child
5. Collaborate
   - Increase intra-agency collaboration
   - Increase inter-agency collaboration
   - Drop in preschool/interim services
6. Address transportation barriers:
   - Require half-day programs to offer transportation
   - Provide funds to extend half-day to full-day