

Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map

Integration of Early Childhood Data in State Longitudinal
Data Systems
May 26, 2011

Elliot Regenstein
EducationCounsel LLC
Elliot.regenstein@educationcounsel.com

IECAM: Why we needed it

- ❑ Illinois' primary state funding stream for early learning, the Early Childhood Block Grant, is a competitive grant.
 - Illinois law prior to 2006 required funding to serve exclusively at-risk children, and now requires that programs serving those children be prioritized.
 - Starting in 2003, the Block Grant entered a period of rapid expansion.
- ❑ Because funds are not distributed by formula, the state needed a way to ensure that grants were reaching the communities with the greatest need.
 - The Illinois State Board of Education, which administers the block grant, was interested in better data to inform the awarding of expansion grant.

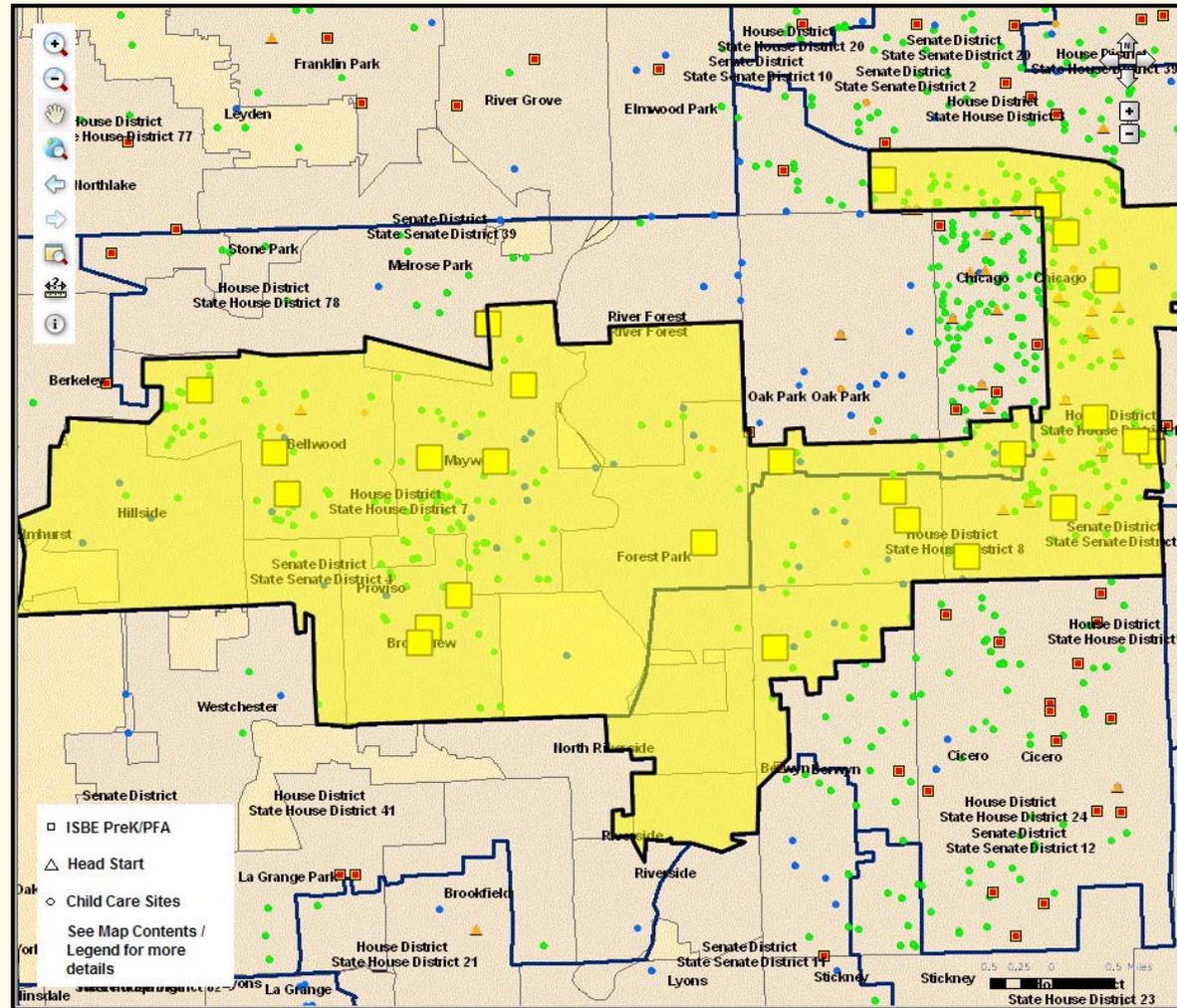
IECAM: How it was created

- ❑ In June 2005, the Illinois Early Learning Council called for a concerted effort to create an interactive, Web-based tool—to be called the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)—to support “transparent” decision-making frameworks for awarding funding for Preschool for All.
- ❑ At the Council’s request, Chicago Metropolis 2020 and the University of Illinois’ Early Childhood and Parenting (ECAP) Collaborative worked together on the IECAM project.
 - The creation of IECAM was a true public-private partnership. Financial support came from foundations (the Joyce Foundation, Irving Harris Foundation, Grand Victoria Foundation, McCormick Foundation, CME Foundation, and Spencer Foundation) and public entities (the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and the University of Illinois).

IECAM: What it does

- ❑ IECAM (<http://iecam.crc.illinois.edu/about.html>) is now a site that maps early childhood services and community demographic information - showing how early childhood assets relate to community need.
 - The IECAM Web site currently includes data on licensed and license-exempt center-based care; licensed family child care; Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant Head Start; the Early Childhood Block Grant; and infant and toddler programs (including programs funded through the Early Childhood Block Grant).
 - Demographic data on population distribution, family income, and language spoken at home is also included on the site.
- ❑ Data is available in map or tabular form, and can be sorted by county, state or federal legislative district, municipality, zip code, or other regional boundaries.

IECAM: What it looks like



IECAM: The ongoing relationships

- ❑ IECAM maintains a close relationship with the Illinois State Board of Education, which uses its data to inform Early Childhood Block Grant awards.
 - IECAM also provides valuable information to legislators, advocates, researchers, communities, and others.
- ❑ IECAM has a technical advisory committee -- which will now be led by Voices for Illinois Children, a leading statewide advocacy organization.
 - The technical advisory committee includes representation from the Early Learning Council and the advocacy community.
- ❑ Representatives from IECAM have long played an active role in the Illinois Early Learning Council and its Data Work Group.