

## **Responding to the Preschool for All (PFA) Request for Proposals (RFP) Sections on “Statement of Need” and “Population to Be Served”**

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for funds from the Preschool for All Children program requires that proposal writers prepare sections on “Statement of Need” and “Population to Be Served” for proposals. If you are writing a proposal to become a new Preschool for All grantee, or if you are applying for Preschool for All funds to expand your services, information from the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) and other sources will be useful in completing these sections of your proposal.

### **What Information Does IECAM Provide?**

IECAM currently offers its information by township and county, but not by municipality. To get to the information you need about the area you plan to serve on the IECAM Web site, please use the “Create Standard Report” which will be available approximately March 15. To use that feature, please follow these steps:

- Go to the IECAM map page at <http://128.174.128.253/IECAM/>.
- In the Task Bar on the lefthand side of the page, you will see a series of tasks. Click on “Create Standard Report.”
- A pop-up window will appear. In the “Select Report” options, select “Response to PFA Request for Proposals.”
- In the “Select Geographic Areas” options, select the desired area, typically county or township.
- *If you want to use township but don’t know your township*, first click on the “Find Townships” button. A new window will appear that shows a map of Illinois and a “Select county” box. Select your county from the box. The map redraws to that county, divided into townships, with some of the larger municipalities plotted on the map. You can identify your township on the map if you know your location in the county. Then close this window and go back to the Geographic Areas option and select your township.
- After selecting the Report and Geographic Area, click on the “Submit” button. The system will generate this standard report for your selected geographic area.

NOTE: If you do not know your exact location in the county, you can contact your local public library to find out in which township you are located.

For example, if you are interested in Cunningham Township in Champaign County, the IECAM data you will retrieve about that area will include a table of statistics on the following:

### **Cunningham Township**

- Population (2005 estimates) Number of children 3 and 4 years
- 100% Federal Poverty Level (2005 estimates) number of children 3 and 4 years
- 185% Federal Poverty Level (2005 estimates) number of children 3 and 4 years
- 400% Federal Poverty Level (2005 estimates) number of children 3 and 4 years
- Number of households speaking Spanish at home that are linguistically isolated
- Number of households speaking other non-English languages at home that are linguistically isolated
- ISBE PreK/PFA (FY2007) proposed capacity
- Head Start (FY2007) funded enrollment

## **Who Is Intended to Be Served by Preschool for All?**

As Preschool for All expands and makes the transition from the previous State Pre-K program that served only at-risk children, first priority in awarding grants must be given to applicants that propose to serve primarily children who have been identified as being at risk of academic failure. At-risk children are those who, because of their home and community environment, are subject to such language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages that they have been determined, as a result of screening procedures, to be at risk of academic failure. A disproportionate share of all children considered to be at risk come from low-income families, including low-income working families, homeless families, families where English is not the primary language spoken in the home, or families where one or both parents are teenagers or have not completed high school. However, neither a child's membership in a certain group nor a child's family situation should determine whether that child is at risk.

Second priority in awarding grants must be given to applicants proposing to serve primarily children whose family's income is less than four times the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2) (see Appendix B for 2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines). For each child whose participation is based on the family's income, the successful applicant must collect evidence of family income levels.

For purposes of the RFP, "programs serving primarily at-risk children" are defined as those programs which:

1. Have 51 percent or more of the enrolled children identified as at risk;
2. Prioritize at-risk students over non-at-risk students when making enrollment decisions; and
3. Have taken specific, proactive measures to ensure that parents of potentially at-risk children in the community are aware of the availability of the opportunity for preschool education through the program.

Applicants are asked to define the risk factors that they will address in their program, based on the needs of their communities.

## **What Other Information Sources Will I Need to Consult?**

In addition to the information that IECAM provides, you will need information from other sources to complete these sections of your proposal. Your local public library can be helpful to you and may be able to suggest sources specific to your community. Your local or nearby Head Start program conducts a community needs assessment for its Head Start grant proposal every three years and updates it annually, and may also have additional information that you can use. Keep in mind that Illinois does not want to lose federal Head Start dollars and that PFA proposals can benefit by demonstrating awareness of and collaboration—not competition—with nearby Head Start programs.

The Web sources listed below will provide you with much of the information required in the RFP on a variety of topics.

### ***Education levels of parents***

Educational level of population—not specifically parents—by city or county:

[http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)

Enter your city and state on this Web page to receive a “fact sheet” on social, economic, and housing characteristics. For larger cities (65,000 or more), data will be for 2006; for smaller cities, the data will be the 2000 Census data.

Illinois Department of Public Health Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

<http://app.idph.state.il.us/brfss/countydata.asp>

Choose “Demographics” and your county to retrieve 2004-2006 data.

### ***Rates of infant mortality, birth trauma, low birth weight, or prematurity***

Illinois Department of Public Health “Health Statistics”

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infant/infmort0305.htm>

The number of Illinois infants who died before their 1st birthday and the mortality rates per 1,000 live births by state and county are contained in a table for 2003 - 2005.

*Birth Defects and Other Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in Illinois 2001-2005: A Report on County-specific Incidence (PDF format). Epidemiologic Report Series 07:06* Springfield, IL: Illinois Department of Public Health, June 2007.

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/epi/pdf/report05.pdf>

Information is provided in this report about congenital anomalies (birth defects) and other serious neonatal conditions by counties in Illinois, including low birth weight and birth defects.

You may also want to contact your local Public Health District office to ask if they have or can direct you to additional or more up-to-date information.

### ***The district’s rate of dropouts, retention, truancy, teenage pregnancies, and homeless students***

Interactive School Report Card Web site:

<http://iirc.niu.edu/default.aspx?tsource=home>

Choose school district, “About Students,” and “Educational Environment” to find data on parental income, truancy, and dropout rates. If you plan to serve a larger area than one school district, be sure to look at the data on all the districts in the geographic area in which you are interested.

Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs.

<http://app.idph.state.il.us/data/CommunitySummary.asp?menu=1>

County and township level data, including high school dropout rates, are included on this site. Unfortunately, some data on this site are fairly old.

Illinois Department of Public Health. “Total number of babies born to Illinois teenagers, by state and county, for 2004-2005” table.

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0405.htm>

This sites provides information on births to teenagers by county for 2004-2005.

### ***Rates of child abuse and neglect***

Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics

<http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/CANTS2006.pdf>

Look for statistics by county on page 9, Table 7.

### ***The prevalence of homelessness***

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC)

Homeless Assistance Programs - Illinois

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/local/index.cfm?st=il>

Click on a CoC number that includes your county.

Click on 2006 Homeless Assessment Data

Call your local school district to ask if they have additional information about numbers of homeless students.

### ***Information regarding drug/alcohol abuse***

Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (including alcohol-related risk) by county

<http://app.idph.state.il.us/brfss/countydata.asp>

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Illinois County Profiles, including drug arrests and seizures

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/index.cfm?metasection=forms&metapage=CountyProfiles>

Choose your county and click on "View PDF" to see the report for 2004.