



# How to Become an Implementation Site in Illinois

August 2023

Since 2017, Illinois has worked across early childhood education and care systems to create implementation sites throughout the State. Below we outline the updated process for each Early Childhood Sector that the Pyramid Model State Leadership Team recommends for becoming an Implementation Site in Illinois.

## ISBE

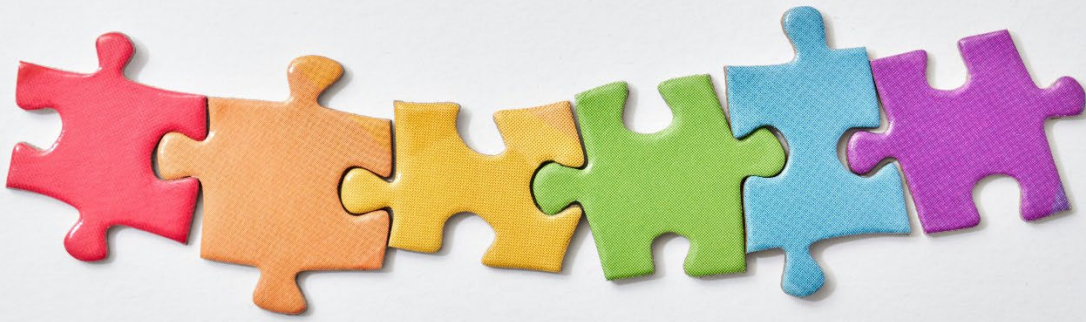
1. [Optional] Attend the online Pyramid Model overview training developed by the State Leadership Team, titled "*Building Positive Social-Emotional Skills for ALL Children: Introducing the Pyramid Model Framework.*"
  - a. Register for training at [Gateways iLearning site.](#)
2. Options, not all required, for Pyramid Model trainings/workshops
  - a. Request E-modules from [Early Childhood Professional Learning \(ECPL\)](#)
  - b. Cohort registration through STAR NET for virtual facilitated training for special education staff or inclusive preschool programs. ePyramid Modules are received as part of this cohort.
  - c. Take the in-person Pyramid Model workshop offered through STAR NET
  - d. Private preschools will purchase ePyramid Courses from Pyramid Model Consortium (PMC).
  - e. Preschool for All/Expansion and blended programs have options to access training at no cost.
3. [Pyramid Model Implementation Exploration and Readiness Series](#)
  - a. 3-1-hour virtual modules are available to leaders on the PMC website at no cost to participate
  - b. PFA/E and blended programs leaders will participate in the Implementation Exploration and Readiness Series after programs have completed the Pyramid Module trainings. Opportunities may be available to attend one facilitated virtual meeting for program leaders.
4. Implementation site application
  - a. Program receives application after having taken the e-modules/attending in-person training workshop and/or taking part in the readiness series
  - b. Applications are currently released annually
5. Process to receive coaching support
  - a. To receive an implementation process coach, programs will earmark \$5000 first year and \$3000 other years from their PFA/E grant /local funding to receive support from an implementation process coach monthly (i.e., 4-6 hours per month)
  - b. Program leaders & implementation process coaches will sign a Letter of Agreement/MOU that identifies expectations for each other.
6. Contact your lead agency regarding implementation, financial commitment and supports:
  - a. [earlychi@isbe.net](mailto:earlychi@isbe.net)

## Child Care

Pyramid Model Implementation in Child Care is a coordinated effort between Gateways to Opportunity and local Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. Applications for Implementation Sites will be available twice a year beginning in 2024.

The following **free** trainings are recommended for program administrators/directors to complete prior to applying to be a Pyramid Model Implementation Site:

1. [Building Positive Social-Emotional Skills for ALL Children: Introducing the Pyramid Model Framework](#).
  1. Created by the Illinois State Leadership Team, this one-hour training is available through [Gateways i-learning System](#). Gateways Registry membership is required to access course.
2. [Pyramid Model Implementation Exploration and Readiness Series](#).
  1. This three-hour course is designed to help you gain an understanding of the Pyramid Model Program-wide implementation process and gives you the information you need to determine if this is the right time for your program to implement the framework. This is a free-training, and no credit is available at this time.
3. Implementation site application
  1. Applications for Implementation Sites will be available twice a year beginning in 2024.
  2. Up to eight programs will be accepted during each application period.
  3. Programs will be selected through the use of a rubric, coach availability, and funding availability.
4. Process to receive coaching support
  1. Programs will be assigned a Process Coach to support the work of the Leadership Team.
  2. Program leaders & implementation process coaches will sign a Letter of Agreement/MOU that identifies expectations for each other.
5. Professional Development
  1. Pyramid Model professional development will be scheduled through your process coach and offered through local Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies.
  2. There is currently no cost to programs to receive coaching or participate in professional development.
  3. Pyramid Model trainings/workshops offered in person, virtual, and/or online through ePyramid. Courses include
    - i. Pyramid Model Preschool Module Series: in-person or virtually
    - ii. Pyramid Model Preschool Module Series: in-person or virtually
    - iii. Infant Toddler ePyramid Module Package – online
    - iv. Preschool ePyramid Module Package – online
    - v. Birth to 5 ePyramid Module Package – online – Spanish package available
    - vi. Other opportunities for professional development are available as programs move towards fidelity.
6. For information on Pyramid Model implementation and professional development opportunities, please contact your local [Child Care Resource & Referral Agency](#)
7. For questions about implementation, please email [pyramidmodelcc@inccrra.org](mailto:pyramidmodelcc@inccrra.org).



## Head Start

1. [Optional] Attend the online Pyramid Model overview training developed by the State Leadership Team, titled “*Building Positive Social-Emotional Skills for ALL Children: Introducing the Pyramid Model Framework.*”
  - a. Register for training at [Gateways iLearning site.](#)
2. Pyramid Model trainings/workshops offered in person or virtual.
  - a. Programs will have 2 options to access trainings.
  - b. Access e-modules by contacting Illinois Head Start Association (IHSA), Director of Learning, Catherine Welsh, [cwelsh@ilheadstart.org](mailto:cwelsh@ilheadstart.org); offered at no cost to programs.
  - c. In-person or virtual trainings of the Infant Toddler and Preschool Modules are offered for a small registration fee; Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) programs utilize their T/TA funds.
3. [Pyramid Model Implementation Exploration and Readiness Series](#)
  - a. 3-1-hour virtual modules are available to leaders on the PMC website at no cost to participate
  - b. Ongoing promotion of the Readiness Series; attend webinar prior to submission of application; assist programs with making connections between the Pyramid Model and their current SEL curricula; possibility adding a new tab to our website, “Pyramid Model”; list current implementation sites; links to the Readiness Series, Consortium website, spotlight Implementation Sites, etc.
4. Implementation site application
  - a. Each application is reviewed by STG (T/TA Partners) and IHSA
  - b. If needed individual meetings are established with an applicant to review readiness
  - c. Applications are currently released annually
5. Process to receive coaching support
  - a. The implementation process coach is assigned by our T/TA partners.
  - b. Each HS/EHS grant recipient provides 50% of the training cost and IHSA supports the other 50%.
6. Contact your lead agency regarding implementation, financial commitment and supports:  
[info@ilheadstart.org](mailto:info@ilheadstart.org)

## Early Intervention

1. Pyramid Model trainings/workshops offered in person or virtual.
  - a. Training is scheduled through [EITP](#) and local implementation teams.
  - b. The following offerings will be available as part of Pyramid Model Implementation:
    - i. Overview of Pyramid in Early Intervention
    - ii. Pyramid Model Practices in Early Intervention (e-modules)
    - iii. Group coaching opportunities
  - c. There is currently no cost to programs to complete the e-modules or trainings.
2. Contact [Pyramid-El@illinois.edu](mailto:Pyramid-El@illinois.edu) for more information about Pyramid Model implementation in IL Early Intervention.

Additional questions can be directed to the Illinois Pyramid Model State Lead at [ILPyramidModel@gmail.com](mailto:ILPyramidModel@gmail.com)

