

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY

OVERVIEW

September 13, 2021



Governor's Office of
Early Childhood Development



Today we will cover:

- Background and Scope of the Challenge
- Vision of the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity
- Membership
- Structure and Function
 - Full Transfer of AAS
 - New ISBE Policies
- Student Support Services and Funding
- Institutional Financial Supports
- Goals and Reporting
- Advisory Committee
- Consortium Kick-Off Meeting
- Resource List

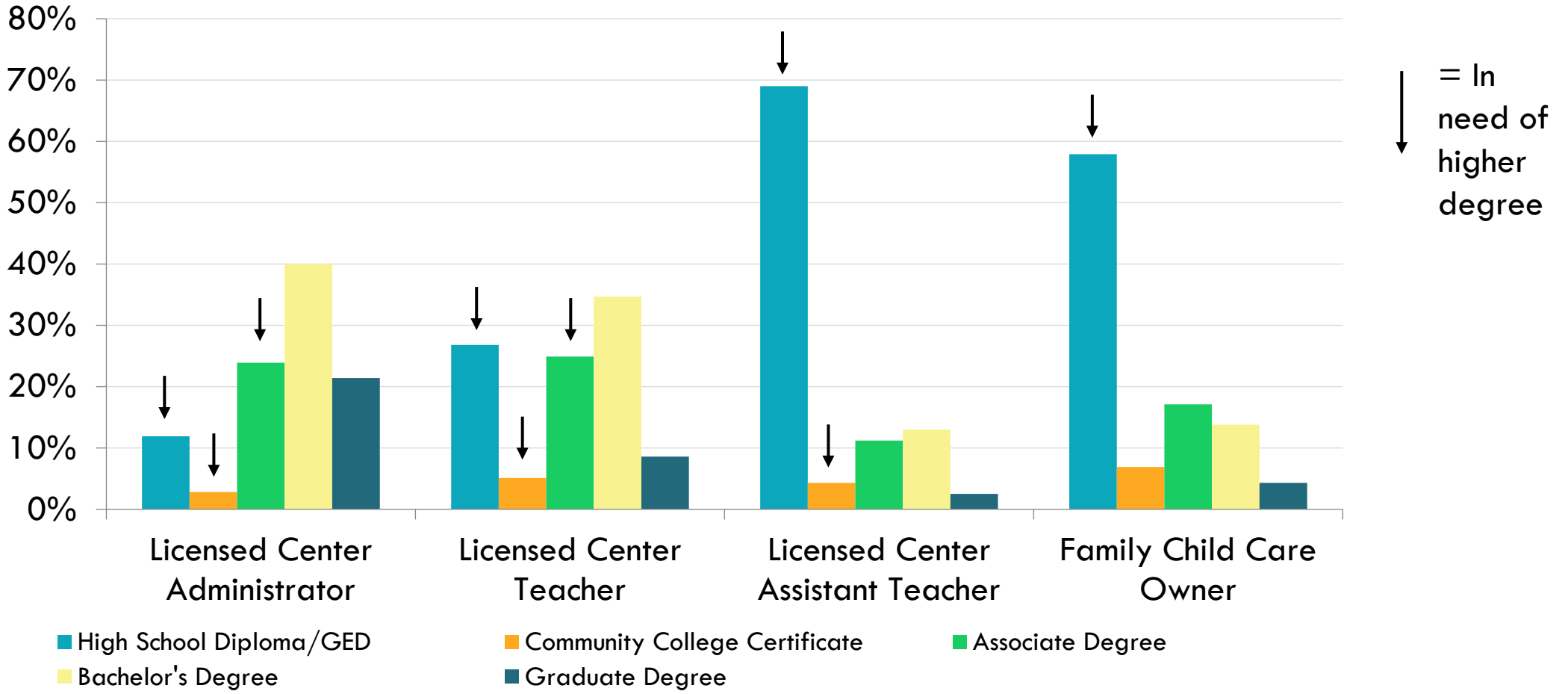


Background: Supporting ECE Workforce Development

- Illinois has developed a stackable credentialing system to create career opportunities for the early childhood care and education workforce
 - Gateways to Opportunity Credentials are competency-based and aligned with state and national standards
 - 99% of Illinois institutions of higher education are entitled to offer the Gateways credentials
 - An array of assessment and instructional tools, developed by faculty, are [available online](#)
 - Illinois and City of Chicago policies support the acquisition of the Gateways credentials
- Higher Education Strategic Plan, [A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth](#), focus on educator workforce shortage, especially early childhood educator workforce



Early childhood workforce is in need of upskilling to meet the educational needs of children



Current barriers to increasing degree completions

- Lack of supports for working adults to succeed in college
 - Guidance, academic supports, and other supports not available and not at times working students need them
- Student teaching requirements that don't allow incumbent workforce to stay on the job
- Scholarship resources are exhausted each year, leading to interruptions in students' progress



Consortium target: 8,000 who need Bachelor's degree and 20,000 who need Gateways credentials up to an associate degree

	Teachers	Assistant Teachers	Totals
High School/GED	4,463	11,907	16,370
Some college	1,570	585	2,155
CC Certificate	1,570	786	2,356
Associate Ready (Sum above categories)	7,603	13,278	20,881
Associate Degree (Bachelor's ready)	5,619	2,051	7,670



Source: Gateways Registry, Data pulled March, 2020

Resources

- [Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act](#)

THANK YOU!

