2015 ILLINOIS ECE CREDENTIAL ALIGNMENT SUPPORT PROJECT
FOR GATEWAYS ENTITLED TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

PROJECT CONTEXT
In August 2015, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) approved changes to the Gateways ECE Credential requirements. Gateways entitled institutions will be required to meet these changes by July 1, 2016. These changes create an opportunity to better support candidates and working professionals in completing certificates and degrees that are aligned to recognized credentials.

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), in partnership with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD), the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA), the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), <u>seek applications from two year institutions for financial and technical support</u> to align early childhood programs with the Gateways ECE Credential Levels and in doing so improve the stackability of certificates and degrees offered. The funds for this project are federal dollars through the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, administered by INCCRRA, and available for disbursement by INCCRRA to applicants selected to participate in the project.

PROJECT SCOPE
The primary goal of this project is to create a transparent, seamless educational pathway for candidates and working professionals to complete aligned certificates, degrees and credentials. <u>This project will provide up to $3,000.00 in financial support for faculty stipend or release for this work</u>. This work will take place between Fall 2015 and June 2016 and will include:
- collaborating with the Technical Assistance Team,
- analyzing degrees and certificates for alignment,
- evaluating program marketing and advisement materials to promote pathway transparency,
- making needed revisions, and
- participating in regional meetings.

INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY
Applicants must be two-year public and private institutions offering ECE degrees and certificates. Applicants must be ECE Gateways entitled institutions. Only one application per institution will be accepted.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION/PROJECT TIMELINE
Applications will be due 10/21/15. Participants will be notified of acceptance by 10/30/15 and work will begin on or around 11/2/15. Applications should be submitted electronically via email to INCCRRA at the following email address commcollegeRFP@inccrra.org. Any questions regarding the application or project may also be directed to INCCRRA at this email address.

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INSTITUTION CONTACT INFORMATION		
INSTITUTION		
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE		

PROJECT LEAD FACULTY CONTACT	
NAME	
TITLE	
TELEPHONE	
EMAIL	

FISCAL CONTACT	
NAME	
TITLE	
TELEPHONE	
EMAIL	

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT APPLICATION	
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION List all current ECE Programs (certificates and degrees) at your institution and approximate annual enrollment	
GATEWAYS ENTITLEMENT List current Gateways entitlement levels for ECE	
ARTICULATION Please list all institutions with which you have a current articulation agreement with any of your ECE degrees	
PROJECT DELIVERABLES	

Participating institutions are expected to complete the project deliverables outlined below in consultation with Technical Advisors provided by the state project team.

- A completed needs assessment which includes review of: the alignment and stackability of current degrees and certificates with Gateways Credentials; advisement procedures that reflect and promote credential embedding and alignment; and marketing and informational materials (websites, catalogs etc.) that reflect and promote credential embedding and alignment.
- A prioritized work plan based on the needs assessment.
- Documented implementation of the work plan for the project period and sustainability beyond.
- Participation in regional meetings and collaboration with statewide colleagues.
- Preparation of a final report summarizing work accomplished and future steps.
- Uploading of work products to the HERO website.
- Preparation a final financial report.

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
FACULTY STIPEND/ RELEASE TIME DISTRIBUTION	$ AMOUNT	NAME, TITLE
PROJECT LEAD FACULTY MEMBER		
ADDITIONAL FACULTY (OPTIONAL)		
ADDITIONAL FACULTY (OPTIONAL)		
ADDITIONAL FACULTY (OPTIONAL)		
TOTAL	$3,000.00	

INSTITUTIONAL ASSURANCE		
The institutional signatures below indicate institutional support for the participation of project team members and all project requirements and deliverables described above.		
	SIGNATURE	DATE
LEAD PROJECT FACULTY		
PROGRAM DEPARTMENT / UNIT CHAIR		
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER OR DESIGNEE		