ILDS 2.0 Initiative

PROGRESS UPDATE

Early Childhood Participation Dataset (ECPDS)

IBM completed its most recent minimal viable project (MVP) of developing the ECPDS data pipeline in early February. The Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) and the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Illinois Interactive Report Card (IIRC) teams continue to build out the ECPDS. Currently, NIU IIRC is refreshing data from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The goal is to have an alpha version of the dataset by the end of June.

The alpha version of the EPCDS will include data from the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), Early Intervention (EI), Preschool for All (PFA) and the Prevention Initiative (PI). Other datasets to be added over time include the Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) and Head Start (HS).

MIECHV shared its data with the ILDS via MIECHV's MIS vendor, Visit Tracker. IDHS is currently amending its agreement with IECAM, IDHS' data developer, to permit IECAM the ability to view and organize MIECHV's data within CloudPak. The goal will be to integrate MIECHV data by the end of November 2023.

For Head Start, the goal is to integrate its data by the end of December 2023, with additional data being added in early 2024. Progress includes:

- 49 (~90%) of Illinois' 55 HS grantees' data can be pulled as of this date. 44 grantees have fully executed data sharing agreements with IDHS, 4 are via an amendment with ISBE that cover four specific school districts with HS programs, and 1 is run by IDHS.

- Data from 6 HS grantees have been transferred from the Nulinx/ KinderSystem COPA MIS Systems' group to IDHS and data from 36 HS grantees have been transferred to IDHS from the ChildPlus MIS System's group.

- Once these data have been cleansed and organized, and have received their CDDA IDs, the data will be connected into the ILDS.

- Work continues in developing an approach for pulling data from HS

Project Goal

ECPDS

DHS: Child Care, Early Intervention, Head Start, Home Visitng

HS Grantee

Funding

Provider Includes QRIS

ISBE: Pre-school for All, Prevention Initiative, K-3 Enrollment, District Run Head Start
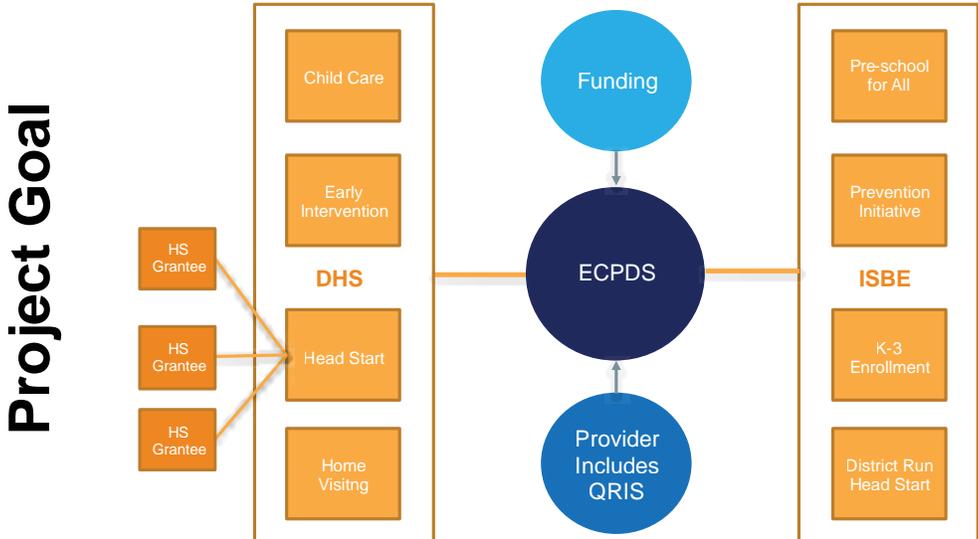
grantees that do not use COPA or ChildPlus as their MIS data collection vendor. This includes signing Data Access and Use Agreements (DAUA) with these grantees, defining a data collection template, and agreeing on a process with IDHS to securely transfer the data from the grantee into CloudPak.

- The ILDS team, in collaboration with Division of Early Childhood (DEC) within IDHS, is beginning SFY24 contract discussions with Nulinx/KinderySystem COPA and ChildPlus.

Early Childhood Participation Dataset Local Communities (ECPDS LC)

After a joint working session, the ILDS team, in collaboration with IECAM, CELFE, Chapin Hall, Chicago Early Childhood Information System (CECIDS), and the Funding Equity Map (FEM) (formerly GEAM) have agreed to work together to develop an integrated ECPDS front end that will optimize users' experience in accessing, understanding, and working with the state's early childhood (EC) data. ISBE is supporting this work through

the new Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B5).

IECAM is currently learning CloudPak's mapping functionality. This includes its Geocoding functionality and map visualization. The goal is to develop enrollment maps as a Proof of Concept (POC) to demonstrate the added benefits that access to the ECPDS could have on IECAM's Regional Reports and Database Search Screens.

The ILDS Team, in collaboration with IECAM and CELFE, have contracted with Collaborative Communications to design a draft version of the ECPDS user interface. Collaborative Communications is currently in the discovery phase, conducting interviews across Illinois' multiple EC stakeholder groups such as Birth to Five, CECIDS, and Head Start that will be followed by clarifying surveys to a larger audience. These will help inform the drafting of the interface design. This interface design will be used to support future updates to IECAM.

Preliminary ECPDS Front-End Functional Framework

Phase 1
- Demographics
- Enrollment
- Providers
- Capacity

Phase 2
- Funding
- Workforce
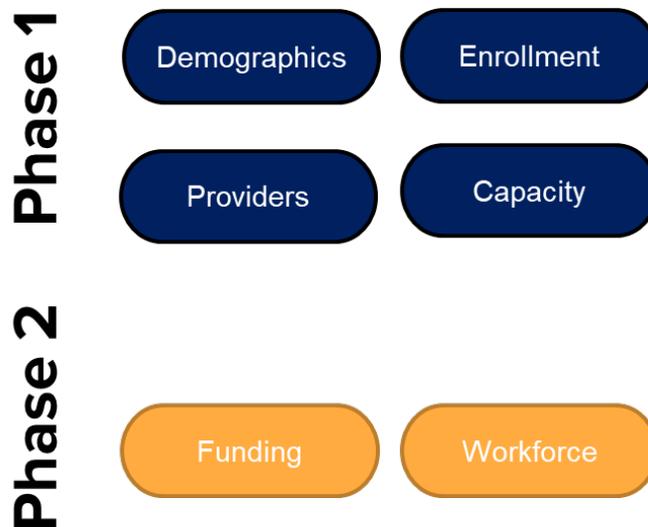
High School to College to Career (HS2C2C)

The HS2C2C development team at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) spent time with IBM to better understand how to connect and manage data within CloudPak, leveraging the learnings from the ECPDS team's work. ISAC is currently developing a staging database that will house data provided by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), and Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). ISBE will also provide data to this effort via NIU.

The ILDS team is working to extend the data agreement for this project through December 2023. Future funding, a cost-effective approach, and overall direction for this project post-December 2023 are still up for discussion, including how best to stage and link agency data. The current linking approach mixes approaches used for HS2C, C2C, and the use of the CDDA-ID. Future work also requires the signing of the C2C agreement which expires June 30, 2023. These discussions are ongoing.

The ILDS Team is working with DoIT to consider options to demonstrate how CloudPak can replicate the functionality of the C2C Institutional Research Portal. Possible approaches include building reporting and interactives in Python or leveraging SDP's Tableau functions.

Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Educator Workforce Standing Dataset (ECES-EWSD)

The ILDS team continues working with ISBE on developing a project charter for an ECES-EWSD. This project is also partially funded by the new PDG B5 grant.

In anticipation of an ECES-EWSD, the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA), has begun sending its Gateway Registry data to IDHS. Prior to bringing this data into CloudPak, the ICCRRA team needs to receive a CloudPak account and complete a data agreement. At this point, INCCRRA has requested a CloudPak account and IECAM is working on a data agreement for this data. Once the data is brought into CloudPak, it will eventually be treated as a curated dataset.

Additionally, NIU IIRC is being funded to help develop a curated dataset using data from the Educator Licensure Information System and the Educator Information System. NIU IIRC will work with ISBE to accomplish this task. The goal is to combine data from ISBE, IBHE, ISAC, ICCB, DHS, and IDES to create a Standing Dataset. With all involved agencies aligned on collectively developing this dataset, conversations are now focused on determining the best approach to combine their data. Once completed, this dataset will provide information about each educator's education experience, including possible financial aid, workforce outcomes, and whether the person is still in the education profession.

ILDS 2.0

ILDS Playbook

The ILDS Playbook continues being updated as new work and processes are being developed. Processes currently being documented include the Curated Dataset Process, the Standing Dataset Process, and an updated version of the Unified Data Request Process. The ILDS 2.0 Team is also in the process of updating the approach to Data Virtualization and outlining how agencies could use CloudPak as a staging environment. This work is occurring in concert with the SDP team.

Unified Data Project Request Process Development and Implementation

The ILDS 2.0 Team continues to refine and optimize the Unified Data Project Request Process while testing the process with both an internal and external organization. At this point, the optimal process begins with a data request being submitted directly to the ILDS team. Once the ILDS team determines the data request meets the criteria, the data request is circulated to the applicable ILDS agencies where it is in discussion and managed until the data request has been approved by each of the applicable ILDS agencies.

Our internal testing partner has been the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). DCFS' data request involves accessing ECPDS and combining the data within ECPDS with DCFS' Child-In-Care data. Since DCFS already uses CloudPak to manage its data, connecting DCFS data to ECPDS within an ILDS project should be simpler than working with an organization whose data is external to ILDS' CloudPak. At this point, IDHS and ISBE have approved the data request and the ILDS team is finalizing the needed DAUA. Part of this learning process has included better defining

Updated Unified Data Project Request
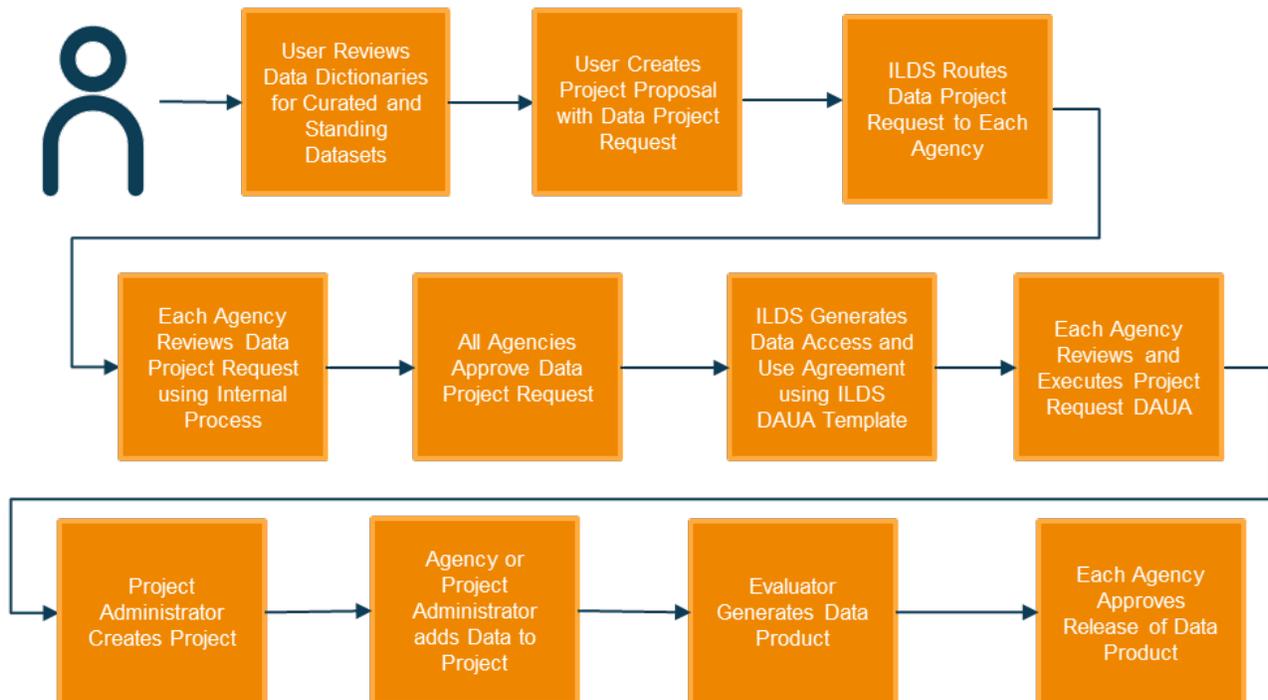
contractors and subcontractors within the DAUA, which is a step that will be included in all future DAUAs.

The Illinois Workforce Education Research Collaborative (IWERC) is our external testing partner. They submitted a data request to conduct a longitudinal analysis of the ECPDS. Some of this work was already completed as part of validating the ECPDS, however, to publish this work, IWERC requires its own project DAUA. The goals are to better understand the paths children may follow when using Early Childhood services, as well as the number and types of children receiving various service combinations.

While currently manual, the NIU team continues working on automating the data request forms. The ILDS 2.0 Team is also in conversations with DoIT to determine the optimal process for automating the request dissemination and workflow processes.

Department of Innovation and Technology and the State Data Practice

Conversations are ongoing regarding the full implementation of the ILDS 2.0 requirements and future funding considerations for services provided by DoIT for ILDS. Examples of the current services being provided are DoIT's technical support of CloudPak and SDP's support of Tableau. Future support may include supporting ILDS' use of software packages such as Service Now, which could be used to assist in automating much of the currently manual data request and user authorization process.