

## FREE Communities of Practice - Available for NEW and EXPERIENCED Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion (PFA/PFAE) Program Leaders

Since 2011, [Early Childhood Professional Learning \(ECPL\)](#) has been funded by the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) to provide professional learning to state funded preschool programs. To build a system of sustaining supports for early childhood leaders across Illinois, ECPL is excited to offer Communities of Practice (CoPs) designed for role-alike program staff. A Community of Practice is a welcoming group of professionals who come together to reflect on real-world challenges, share strategies and tools, and learn from one another. By joining, you'll have the opportunity to connect with peers, exchange fresh ideas and useful resources, and engage in collaborative problem-solving around real world challenges to strengthen both your leadership skills and the programs you lead. If you are interested in participating, fill out and submit the survey (link provided below).

**Please note:** All leaders are encouraged to participate in a CoP even if they are receiving ECPL coaching.

### What is involved if you choose to participate?

Please take a few minutes to listen to a brief presentation called, "[Overview of ECPL Communities of Practice](#)." This presentation will give you details about the Communities of Practice sessions provided throughout the year, as well as some information about the benefits of participating in a CoP.

Participant expectations include:

- Administrator/Directors/Program Leaders attend a virtual orientation meeting with the assigned CoP facilitator and other program leaders in [their area](#).
- Participants will complete a brief needs assessment survey prior to the start of the CoP based on six areas of program support in order to identify the topics of focus for CoP meetings.
- Participants will attend regularly scheduled virtual meetings on a monthly basis to interact with their colleagues around topics of shared interest. Participation is informal (e.g., come as you are, contribute what you can), respectful, supportive, and solution-focused.
- Participants will complete an exit needs assessment survey based on the six areas of program support to evaluate progress and determine future improvement goals.

### How do I register to participate in a Community of Practice, and when is registration due?

Complete the [ECPL CoP Interest Survey](#) to indicate your desire to participate, your preferred day/time for virtual meetings, and your areas of interest for CoP sessions. Please fill out and submit the ECPL CoP Interest Survey by **the close of business on September 23, 2025**.

Leaders who indicate interest will be notified of the monthly meeting dates and times by late September/early October.

To request additional information send email to:

Laurel Mateyka, CoP Project Manager

[lmateyka@cntmail.org](mailto:lmateyka@cntmail.org)