

Public Meeting

August 8, 2025



T E X A S
EARLY LEARNING
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Welcome!

Thank you for joining this meeting. We will begin shortly.

Members of the public are still able request to provide oral public comment today by emailing their request to megan.schneider@tea.texas.gov. Please include your name (as it appears in Zoom), email, organization you are representing, and agenda topic being addressed.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. April 2025 Minutes Approval
3. Public Comment
4. Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan
5. Legislative Updates
6. Updates from TELC Members
7. Upcoming Early Childhood Events
8. Adjourn

Public Comment

Earlylearningtexas.org has a section called Meetings. This houses all the meeting information for past and upcoming meetings as well as the agenda once it's released. Public agendas are posted a minimum of one week prior to the meeting date, along with instructions for submitting public comment.

- Please provide your name, organization, and the agenda topic you are commenting on for the record.
- Each speaker will be allotted three minutes to provide your public comment. When you hear a chime sound at the two-minute mark, this indicates that you will have one minute remaining to wrap up comments.
- Council members may ask questions after each speaker concludes.



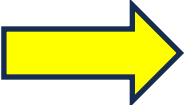
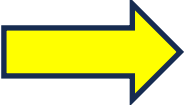
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Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan

2024 – 2026



2024-2026 Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan Goals

	Family Access, Navigation & Engagement	Goal 1	Families can easily meet their basic needs and access the early learning services, programs, and resources they need, and are meaningfully engaged to provide feedback on services.
	Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support	Goal 2	The early learning workforce is well-paid, trained and supported; can reach and obtain the professional development resources they need throughout their careers; and is large enough to meet Texans' needs.
	Local Systems & Partnership Building	Goal 3	Local early learning systems are well-coordinated, appropriately resourced, and successfully support the children and families in their communities.
	Integrated Data & System Coordination	Goal 4	State early learning system entities are collaborating to make family- and data-informed decisions to improve services, programs and resources for children and their families.

Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support

- **Goal 2: Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support**
- **Strategy 2.4** – Retain early learning workforce professionals in the field by providing educational and social support
 - **Action: 2.4.5** – TELC will provide support for workforce preparedness and skill by promoting:
 - **Action: 2.4.7** – TELC will identify and promote current training and coursework that provide professional development around behavioral problems, mental health, parent engagement, and leveraging existing inventories.

INFANT & EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

AUGUST 8 2025

<https://www.tiemh.org/projects/preschool-development-grant-birth-through-5/>



What is IECMHC?

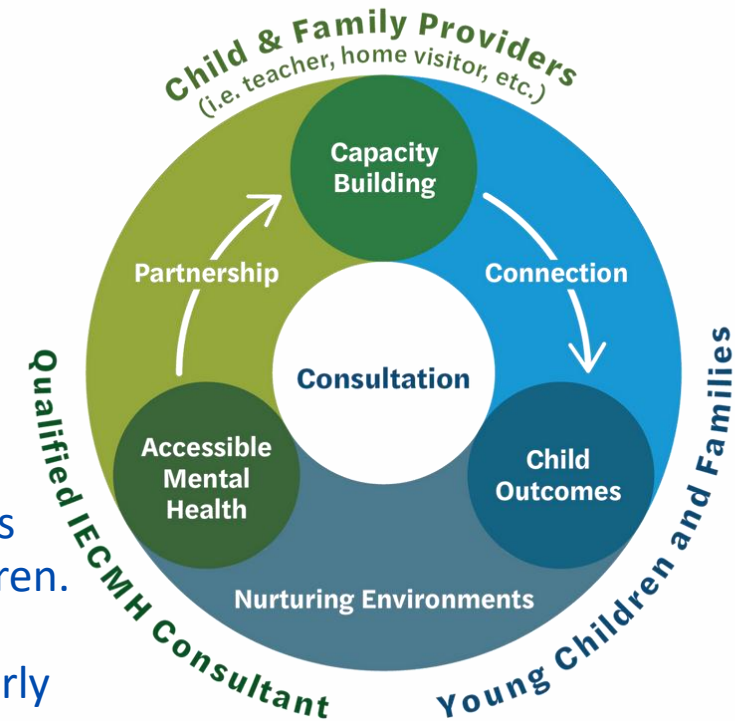
IECMHC has been shown to improve children's social skills and emotional functioning by:

- promoting healthy adult-child relationships
- reducing challenging behaviors
- reducing the number of suspensions/expulsions from early care/education
- reduce provider stress, burnout, and turnover
- improve school readiness
- improve adult knowledge about social-emotional development

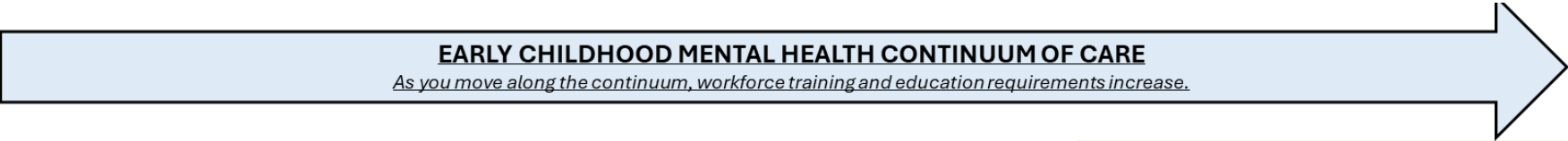
IECMHC is NOT direct therapy. It is a prevention service offered to primarily adults (providers and caregivers) to build their understanding, capacity, and readiness to support young children.

WHERE? IECMHC is happening in over 20 states across the US in all child-serving sectors (early education, early intervention, home visiting and medical settings).

Provider? An IECMH Consultant is a masters-level licensed mental health provider specializing in child development, child and adult mental health, trauma, and reflective practices. There is an IECMHC Center of Excellence that outlines national competencies, a set of skills and knowledge consultants should have in their work.



IECMHC in the EC Continuum of Care



Promotion (Universal/Appropriate for all)

What is it? (Examples)

•Infant and early childhood mental health consultation

- Developmental and behavioral screening for children
- Behavioral health screening for caregivers (depression, anxiety, substance use, domestic violence, etc.)
- Early childhood mental health awareness and education
- Social emotional learning (classroom or program-wide)
- Care coordination
- Referrals and support to access a wide range of services (health care, employment, food, housing, nutrition, etc.)

Who can do it?

•IECMH consultants

- Mental health providers
- Early childhood professionals
- Childcare providers
- Nurses
- Home visitors
- Community health workers
- Promotoras
- WIC (Women Infant Children) workers
- Early intervention staff
- Peer specialists

Prevention (Those at higher risk and/or showing early signs or symptoms)

What is it? (Examples)

•Infant and early childhood mental health consultation

- Parenting support and education groups(e.g. Incredible Years, Circle of Security, Mothers and Babies/Mamas y Bebes), etc.
- Healthy Steps and Pediatric Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Levels 2 and 3 (primary settings)

Who can do it?

•IECMH consultants

- Mental health providers
- Parenting groups: early childhood professionals trained in the model, often co-facilitated with a mental health professional
- Healthy Steps Specialists: generally, a mental health professional, early childhood educator, or nurse with IECMH training

Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment (For those experiencing significant symptoms)

What is it? (Examples)

Assessments and Diagnosis: defining the nature and severity of the problem and making treatment and other support recommendations. Critical to use valid and reliable assessment tools. Diagnosis using the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC:0-5) or the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual (DSM-V).

Treatment: evidence-based, developmentally-appropriate, and culturally-appropriate interventions, such as Attachment and Behavioral Catch-Up, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, Child-Parent Psychotherapy, and Triple P Level 4 or 5.

Who can do it?

Assessment and Diagnosis: licensed and license-eligible mental health providers (psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers), primary care physicians, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners trained in IECMH.

Treatment: licensed and license-eligible mental health providers (psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers), psychiatrists trained in evidence-based models.

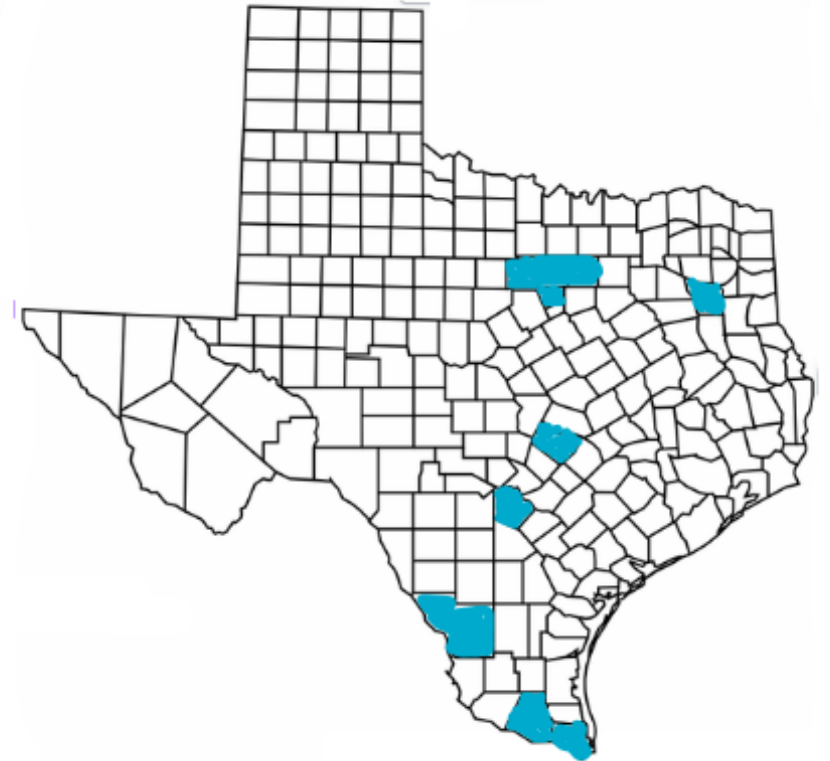


An IECMHC would work with community partners with access to child serving programs, then in tandem with home visitors, early educators, pediatricians, and clinical staff to support the adults in a child’s life.

State recommendations include hiring IECMHC’s in organizations with infrastructure to support mental health providers and supervision.

Implementation Sites/Areas

- Any Baby Can (ABC) - Travis County
- Champions for Children (CFC) - Smith County
- Easter Seals Rio Grande Valley (ESRGV) - Cameron and Hidalgo County
- Family Services of San Antonio (FSSA) - Bexar County
- My Health My Resources Tarrant County (MHMR-TC) - Tarrant, Parker, Hood, and Palo Pinto Counties
- People's Community Clinic (PCC) FQHC- Travis County
- Serving Children And Adults in Need (SCAN) - Webb County





Menu of Services

For Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Strengthening Staff Capacity	Child and Family Focused Consultation	Classroom and Group Consultation	Programmatic Consultation	Systems-Wide Orientation	Promoting Fairness and Access to Resources
Needs Assessment and Data Analysis	Partner and support caregivers/community providers.	Observations	Program Evaluations	Community Collaboration	Training
Training Workshops	Mental and Behavioral Health Screening	Positive Support Strategies	Sustainability Planning	Advocacy for Access	Data-Driven Initiatives
Reflective Practice	Facilitate Reflective Case Consultation	Communication Support	Facilitate Reflective Case Consultation	Interagency Communication	Community Partnerships
Mentoring/Coaching	Build health and trusting relationships	Parent Education Groups	Policy Review	Resource Navigation	Policy Development

Impact of IECMHC

Annual outputs expected for a 1.0 FTE IECMH Consultant

	<i>Count</i>	<i>Description</i>
# of early childhood programs served	3	Child or family serving programs that receives weekly consultation for 6 – 12 months to make program-wide quality improvements in practice, policy, and communications that focus on the well-being of early childhood professionals, families, and children (e.g., staff wellness, program climate, and family engagement).
# of early childhood professionals served	95	Early childhood professionals who received one-on-one consultation (weekly for 3- 6 months) focused on helping that professional to hone skills, build knowledge, and address situations that challenge them in their work; benefits expected to be accrued by all families and children served by that professional thereafter.
# early childhood professionals trained	600	Early childhood professionals trained by an IECMH Consultant, including IECMH-focused topical trainings and ongoing or topical trainings at the center or program level.
# of children/ families impacted	2250	Children/families impacted by one-on-one consultation (weekly for 3-6 months) to address specific developmental, social, emotional and/or behavioral concerns.

Impact of IECMHC

(continued)



	Outcome	Indicator
Improving Children's Social-Emotional & Behavioral Functioning	Improved social and emotional skills in young children in early childhood programs served	%young children increasing social and emotional protective factors
	Reductions in reports of behavioral challenges in young children	%young children decreasing social and emotional risk factors
Improving Early Childhood Professionals' Wellbeing	Early childhood professionals reporting reductions in burnout and compassion fatigue and increased job satisfactions	%early childhood professionals reporting reductions in burnout
		%early childhood professionals reporting improvement in job satisfaction
		%early childhood professionals reporting reduction in compassion fatigue
	Reductions in staff turnover in early childhood programs (resulting in less disruption in child/family-caregiver relationships and contributing to better outcomes for children and families)	%reduction in staff turnover
	Parents/caregivers reporting improved relationships with their young children	%parents/caregivers reporting improved parent/caregiver-child relationships
Improving Parent/Caregiver Wellbeing	Parents/caregivers reporting improved relationships with their young children	%parents/caregivers reporting improved parent/caregiver-child relationships
	Parents/caregivers reporting reductions in stress	%parents/caregivers reporting reductions in stress

Status Update - PDG B-5 IECMHC Project

	ACTIVITIES	STATUS
IECMHC Texas Model Development	Define IECMHC in Texas	Complete – see IECMHC Landscape Analysis report , IECMHC Implementation Science report , and program brochure
	Create a set of recommendations for a Texas IECMHC program	Complete – see reports (above) and the overview of the recommendations .
	Create a Program Manual for IECMHC	70% Complete – 2 of 4 sections are complete (IECMH Orientation and Competencies). Will publish online one section at a time and compile in December 2025. Third section (training) is in design stage, and forth section (evaluation) is in the writing stage.
Workforce Development	Training and Recruitment	Complete– IECMHC training through Georgetown University , Pyramid Model , Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN), and DECA (I/T and Clinical) training are complete.
		In progress – Reflective supervision trainings: 2 tracks – an intensive for 20-30 participants to learn to provide RS and 3 offerings of an orientation to RS for 300 participants total.
		In progress – Pyramid Model training for 960 participants to be offered in fall 2025.
Demonstration Pilot	Providing IECMHC in 6 Texas communities	In progress – Pilot programs in Bexar, Hidalgo, Hood, Palo Pinto, Smith, Tarrant, Travis, Parker, and Webb Counties. Concludes December 2025.
Outreach	Develop collateral for outreach	Completed – Logo, brochure , menu of activities, elevator speech, content for grant writing.
	Create promotional videos	80% complete – Promo videos for ECCE settings and ECI settings complete. Editing in progress for video for home visiting settings.
Pilot Evaluation	Data collection plan	Complete – services and data collection have begun. Collaborating with statewide evaluation, as well as looking at more IECMHC-specific measures of impact.
	Pilot evaluation report	To complete in December 2025.

IECMHC is developing in Texas

Progress & Resources for ECCE:

- Piloting 7 implementation sites
- Reflective supervision established
- Communications Development - branding, brochure, outreach materials
- Evaluation plan for pilot established
- 2 Chapters (of 4) Statewide Manual Published - establishing standards for implementing IECMHC across EC sectors
- Two IECMHC Promo Videos Produced - ECCE promo and ECI promo

Other Resources:

- Landscape Analysis Report - understanding IECMHC instate and nationally
- Implementation Science Report - recommendations for a statewide system
- Evaluation plan for pilot established
- Cross-Sector IECMHC State Advisory Committee created
- Interim Sustainability Report
- 19 IECMH Consultants and Supportive Staff Completed a 9-month Certificate program in IECMHC through Georgetown University

By December 2025:

- Pilot service evaluation report
- Final Sustainability Report
- Full Statewide IECMHC Manual
- Another IECMHC Promo Video:
 - Home Visiting



All resources can be found here: <https://www.tiemh.org/projects/preschool-development-grant-birth-through-5/>

What is Next

What We Know

- PDG Pilot Project Ends December '25
- Completed IECMHC State Manual
- Pilot Service Evaluation Report
- Sustainability Report
- Home Visiting IECMHC Promo Video
- Approved activity for TWC-CCQ Funds, & MIECHV Funds

What We Don't Know

- IMH Funding Climate
- Ongoing support for T/TA center:
 - statewide implementation oversight
 - model fidelity
 - workforce training & development
 - statewide service evaluation

Contact Information



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Learn More: <https://www.tiemh.org/projects/preschool-development-grant-birth-through-5/>



Integrated Data & System Coordination

- **Goal 4: Data & System Coordination:** State early learning system entities are collaborating on family- and data-informed decisions about the Texas Early Learning System to improve services, programs, and resources for children and their families.
 - **Strategy 4.1:** Develop an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) to strengthen data sharing across agencies and better inform state-level policy and program improvement.
 - **Strategy 4.2:** Support data utilization by communities and stakeholders using data platforms to inform quality improvement actions and local systems planning.

What is an ECIDS?

A statewide Early Childhood Integrated Data System that:

- Connects child-level data from three state agencies:
 - TEA
 - Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
 - Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Enables cross-agency analysis of service access, eligibility, and gaps
- Supports policy, planning, and investment decisions to promote positive outcomes for young children and their families
- It does not replace existing systems—it connects them

What core questions will an ECIDS answer?

1. What is the **total population** of families and children birth to 5?
2. What is the population of families and children **eligible for** early childhood services and programs?
3. What is the population of families and children **with access to** early childhood services and programs?
4. Which potentially eligible families and children **are/are not being served** by early childhood services and programs?
5. Are the state's children, starting at birth, healthy and on track to succeed?

See the [Early Childhood Integrated Data System Roadmap](#) for more details.

Early childhood services and programs included are:

§TEA:

§Public School PreK

§Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

§TWC:

§Child Care Services (CCS; child care subsidies)

§HHSC:

§Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

§Family Support Services (FSS)

Integrated Data & System Coordination

- **Goal 4: Data & System Coordination:** State early learning system entities are collaborating on family- and data-informed decisions about the Texas Early Learning System to improve services, programs, and resources for children and their families.
 - **Strategy 4.3:** Increase alignment and coordination across agencies to improve family access, navigation, and engagement.

Eligibility Screener & Early Childhood Texas Update

- Scheduled to launch in late August
- Multiple Agency Project: TWC, TEA, Head Start
- Four focus groups:
 - Parents
 - Providers
 - Parents and Providers that speak Spanish
 - Eligibility specialists from all three programs



Legislative Updates



Updates from TELC Members

Early Intervention Specialist Credentialing

Health and Human Services Commission Early Childhood Intervention has added new qualifying and related degrees that meet the minimum requirements for the Early Intervention Specialist credential.

- Qualifying degrees now include:
 - Child Life
 - Infant and Toddler Studies
 - Infant and Toddler Development
- Related degrees now include:
 - Child Development
 - Early Childhood Education (Early childhood–grade 6 or Pre-K–grade 3)
 - Family Sciences or Family Studies
 - Nursing
 - Rehabilitation Therapy

See the full list at: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/providers/assistive-services-providers/early-childhood-intervention-programs/eci-training-technical-assistance/early-intervention-specialist-ipdp-credentialing>



Updates from TELC Members



Upcoming Early Childhood Events

Upcoming Early Childhood Events

[Texas Developmental Screening and Surveillance \(Tx DSS\) ECHO](#)

2nd Friday of each month from 1-2pm CT

Upcoming TELC Meeting Dates

October 24, 11am to 1pm

Adjourn



Thank you for your time! The meeting slides and recording will be posted at:

www.earlylearningtexas.org/

Next meeting:

October 24, 2025 from 11am to 1pm