

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

ExceleRate® Illinois Award of Excellence for Family & Community Engagement

Why should I go for the Award of Excellence for Family & Community Engagement?

The Award of Excellence for Family & Community Engagement recognizes programs that meet a high-level of quality, and excel in the area of engaging families and the community.

Why should I utilize the supports to go for this Award?

The standards for the Awards of Excellence for Family & Community Engagement represent a high bar for programs. By utilizing the supports for this Award, programs will be provided with hands-on assistance to create a foundation for family and community engagement, as well as to establish program wide Family & Community Engagement Standards. Support coaches are available to attend parent meetings, work one-on-one with staff, and provide external referrals for family support services.

How long will it take me to apply for this award using supports?

The length of time it will take for programs to apply for this Award using supports varies, based on its score on the self-assessment:

- If you score 5 out of 7 on the self-assessment, your cohort involvement will last three months, before submitting a completed application and portfolio to the state.
- If you score 4 out of 7 on the self-assessment, your cohort involvement will last six months, before submitting a completed application and portfolio to the state.
- If you score 3 or less out of 7 on the self-assessment, your cohort will last twelve months, before submitting a completed application and portfolio to the state.

Where are supports located geographically?

While the geographic scope of this grant is limited to supports events being held in Cook County, other resources will be made available to programs located outside of this region.

What kind of resources are available through the supports route for the Award of Excellence for Family & Community Engagement?

The supports for the Award of Excellence for Family & Community Engagement will include instructional tools, Family & Community Engagement content area experts, self-assessments, cohort plans, on-site coaching, and webinars.