

JB Pritzker
Governor



Teresa Ramos
Secretary

March 23, 2026

Tim Anderson
Secretary of the Senate
State House
Room 058
Springfield, Illinois 62706

John W. Hollman
Clerk of the House
State House
Room 420
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Emailed to reports@ilga.gov

Dear Secretary Anderson and Clerk Hollman,

Subsection 1-10(b)(25) of the Illinois Procurement Code provides an exemption from some of the Code's requirements for purchases that are necessary for the Department of Early Childhood to design and build integrated, operational systems of programs and services. Products and services procured under this exemption must be for use only by the Department.

The Code requires the Department to report to the General Assembly quarterly with a list of expenditures and contracts for which the Department uses this exemption.

The document attached to the email with this letter provides the list as of the end of December 2025.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bazan
Chief Fiscal Officer

Enclosure

Cc: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

Quarterly Report of Expenditures and Contracts Using Procurement Exemption
As of 12/31/2025

Vendor	Title	Contract Description	Contract Begin Date	Contract End Date	Expenditures in Prior Quarters	Expenditures this Quarter	Cumulative Expenditures
Afton Partners, LLC	Fiscal & Data Analysis	Lead the funding design work, including modeling an integrated funding approach and supporting workgroups and the Transition Advisory Council	3/4/2025	6/30/2026	\$1,516,542.50	\$590,152.50	\$1,516,542.50
All Children Thrive, Inc	Service Design, Family, Stakeholder Engagement, & Policy Development	This project will inform the Illinois Department of Early Childhood's (IDEC's) early childhood program and service redesign, family and stakeholder engagement, and policy development.	5/13/2025	6/30/2026	\$208,577.00	\$75.00	\$208,652.00
Boston Consulting Group	Change Management & Reorganization Support	Boston Consulting Group (BCG) will assist IDEC leadership in designing a new organizational and operational chart, developing and implementing project management supports, and developing a central operational transition plan for the new agency to function to administer programs in a more seamless way starting July 1, 2026, and beyond	5/9/2025	6/30/2026	\$4,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00
ChiByDesign	Program Design	The purpose of this agreement is to simplify and improve access to and navigation of programs administered by IDEC by August 1, 2026. ChiByDesign will collaborate with stakeholders (e.g., parents, childcare providers, early childhood workforce, and state staff) using co-design and anti-racist design principles to develop recommendations for a streamlined, equitable early childhood service delivery system.	4/14/2025	6/30/2026	\$1,745,130.64	\$872,565.32	\$2,617,695.96
Foresight Law & Policy Consulting	Law & Policy Consulting	Foresight Law + Policy will build upon the engagement and analysis support completed as part of previous Preschool Development Grant efforts. In particular, to inform IDEC's early childhood program and service redesign, family and stakeholder engagement, and policy development.	4/10/2025	6/30/2026	\$52,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$67,500.00

Stomping Grounds Strategies	External Communications Support	The Illinois Department of Early Childhood (“IDEC”) is undergoing a significant transition that requires comprehensive communication support to ensure clear, consistent, and effective messaging both internally and externally.	4/21/2025	6/30/2026	\$61,500.00	\$63,750.00	\$125,250.00
Third Sector Intelligence	Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)	The purpose of this project is to establish the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) for IDEC to streamline data integration, improve decision-making, and enhance service delivery for early childhood programs across the state.	6/10/2025	6/30/2026	\$880,756.00	\$393,528.00	\$1,274,284.00
Clarity Partners	Data Discovery	Identify relevant early childhood data sources, including map of relationships; gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for optimization; and recommendations for data integration, cleansing, and enrichment	3/24/2025	6/30/2026	\$46,965.00	\$14,027.50	\$60,992.50
Carahsoft Technology Corp	Wonderschool	technology services and software solutions from Wonderschool to enhance the agency’s operational data ingestion, data flow logic, and user portals. This procurement will support the integration of provider data, improve administrative efficiency, and streamline access to early childhood services across Illinois	6/27/2025	6/30/2026	\$5,472,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,472,000.00
Child Trends	Statewide Governance & Infrastructure	This project will result in a set of rules, processes, and responsibilities that can dictate how IDEC will collect, organize, store, manipulate, use, and protect the data. For IDEC this would include abiding by all federal and state privacy laws and regulations and respecting the original data contributors. IDEC is already launching the state’s Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).	11/3/2025	6/30/2026	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00