



A Tool for Quality & Accountability

The Gateways to Opportunity Registry is a resource and tool to drive quality and accountability for early care and education, school-age and youth development practitioners and programs. The Registry tracks professional attainments and completion of training requirements by individual practitioners, from college coursework to community-based training. For Registry Members, the system maintains a permanent record of these achievements (a Professional Development Record), which can be updated on a regular basis.

What and who will be a part of the Registry?

The Registry has 3 components:

- practitioner membership
- trainer approval
- training approval

The trainer and training approval process recognizes and validates the caliber of trainers and trainings in order to strengthen the integrity of the professional development system in Illinois. The Registry is a voluntary system open to practitioners who work directly and indirectly to support children (birth to 21) and their families.

What are the benefits of the Registry?

For Practitioners – Registry membership is a symbol of dedication to the field and to advancing one's own professional development. Members receive a Professional Development Record that highlights their accomplishments in terms of education and credentials, and lists all Registry-approved trainings they have attended. A certificate is provided that will honor each recipient's unique training and professional development.

For Administrators/Employers – Staff membership in the Registry makes the task of tracking staff professional development easier and provides a verifiable and uniform source for a Professional Development Record. Employers can feel assured of the quality of Registry-approved trainings, which is especially important if they provide support for staff to attend trainings.

For Professional Development Entities & Trainers – Becoming an approved trainer and submitting trainings for approval allow trainers and agencies to market their trainings via an online, statewide training calendar. The trainer and training approval is a visible symbol of commitment to providing quality training opportunities and experiences for attendees. Practitioners will want the trainings they attend to show up on their Professional Development Records and will begin to seek out those trainings that have the Registry's stamp of approval.

The Registry will also:

- Allow practitioners to identify areas of specialization and gaps, which will assist them in creating a professional development plan.
- Provide membership that belongs to the individual and that can be taken with them from employer to employer; community to community; and perhaps, state to state.
- Help track an individual's progress toward meeting DCFS in-service requirements, while providing an incentive for earning more than the minimum clock hours required.
- Respect individual confidentiality and privacy, and allow individuals to choose their own privacy preferences.

For more information on the Gateways Registry visit www.ilgateways.com.



1226 Towanda Plaza | Bloomington, Illinois 61701 | Telephone: (866) 697-8278 | www.ilgateways.com



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