

## Home Visiting Specialists (Central Illinois)

The Erikson DCFS Early Childhood Project is seeking Home Visiting Specialist to serve families in central Illinois as part of an innovative, ongoing state-wide collaboration between the Erikson Institute and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Through this collaboration, Home Visiting Specialists seek to integrate an understanding of child, parent, family, and trauma history, with the goal of linking child welfare involved young children and their families to home visiting services to maximize child and family functioning.

### Roles & Responsibilities:

This position offers an opportunity to work with child welfare case managers and early childhood home visiting programs to reduce the systemic barriers which presently prevent successful linkage to this underserved population. The Erikson DCFS Early Childhood Project believes that the best way to support young children is to assure that their families and primary caregivers have sufficient support during the critical first 1,000 days of a child's life.

Home Visiting Specialists gather and organize in-depth information regarding MIECHV home visiting program locations, eligibility criteria, and referral processes and closely follow individual referrals made to home visiting for child welfare involved families with young children. Home Visiting Specialists offer collaborative support to assure referrals result in successful engagement, and track barriers to successful engagement. Team members must employ flexible thinking to reduce barriers between systems that provide families with needed support. The position also includes: long term follow-up with home visiting programs, keeping data regarding family well-being measures, maintain supportive relationships with external collaborators to assist them in partnering with the child welfare system and composing documents sharing lessons learned with IDCFS, Governor's Office of Early Childhood, Ounce of Prevention, IDHS and other state-wide efforts on community systems building.

The Erikson DCFS Early Childhood Project offers the opportunity to work on a dynamic team where individual and group reflective supervision and ongoing support for professional development is provided.

We are seeking Home Visiting Specialists to cover different parts of the state of Illinois. Coverage areas are wide and periodic travel throughout the regions is a part of the position responsibilities. We are looking to fill in:

**The Central Region:** All counties south of I-80 and North of I-70. The corner counties would be Rock Island, Iroquois, Calhoun, and Clark.

**Qualifications:**

- Master's degree in Child Development, Psychology, Counseling, Social Work, or other related field
- Ideally a minimum of three years of professional experience working with young children, working in child welfare, home visiting and/ or early childhood programs.
- Competence in knowledge of child development and family engagement
- Competence in interacting with persons from a wide range of ages, from various socio-economic statuses, races, cultures, and gender in a sensitive manner
- A valid driver's license and access to a car for job related travel with ability to climb stairs and spend extended periods of time traveling, visiting agencies and interacting with others
- Facility with programs used to keep appropriate data
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, as well as self-directed organizational skills

**About Erikson Institute**

We are the premier early childhood development organization committed to ensuring that all children have equitable opportunities to realize their potential.

Erikson Institute's graduate school uniquely prepares child development, education, and social work leaders to improve the lives of young children and their families. Our impact and influence are further amplified through our innovative academic programs, applied research, direct services in the community, and advocacy and policy and leadership.

Erikson Institute is an equal opportunity employer. We consider all applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, veteran status, or any other classes protected by federal, state, or local laws. In addition, Erikson Institute provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and applicable state and local laws (including during the application or hiring process).

To learn more, please visit our web site at [www.erikson.edu](http://www.erikson.edu)

**To Apply:**

Please e-mail cover letter and resume to:

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Erikson Institute  
[Brianne.Spayer@illinois.gov](mailto:Brianne.Spayer@illinois.gov)

No phone inquiries please.