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# Erikson Institute Early Childhood Leadership Academy ecla@erikson.edu

# **Erikson Institute**

## **Executive Fellows Program**

August 3-5 and September 28-30, 2022

Erikson Institute's Executive Fellows Program provides Illinois leaders in the legislative, legal, educational, governmental sectors, as well as other sectors connected to early childhood, with a comprehensive understanding of the long-term benefits of quality early childhood experiences. Building this knowledge informs decision-making in their respective fields and illuminates policy opportunities to improve programs and service for children and families.

### THE EXPERIENCE

In an effort to inspire cross-sector collaboration, leaders participate in multi-day sessions in August and September. National experts lead seminars each day, covering:

- Brain Development
- Relationship Attachment Theory
- Toxic Stress and Trauma
- Workforce Shortages
- Inequities, and more.

The program weaves in activities and includes a service day where leaders spend a half-day assisting early childhood teachers in the classroom at home- or centerbased early learning locations in Chicago.

Past participants of the program included state representatives and senators, senior leaders of state agencies, family court judges, high-ranking law enforcement officials, state's attorneys, school board members, superintendents, faithbased leaders and additional community leaders.

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#### THE BENEFITS

The program creates a dynamic and safe atmosphere that fosters candid discussions and the cohort is constructed of individuals with distinct and diverse perspectives.

Successful engagement in the program fosters thought partnership and gives leaders a lens that helps to:

- Thoughtfully examine how policies affect young children and families.
- Shift legislative and organizational policies to dismantle barriers and ensure families equitable access to resources.
- Understand their influence and roles in addressing racial equity issues.
- Increase investments in early childhood programs and services.
- Engage community voices in the decision-making process; and much more.

SEPTEMBER 2022

#### **AUGUST 2022**

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