**Section 43.130 Award of Early Childhood Construction Project Grants**

a) Not-for-profit Applicants/Applicants that are not School Districts with Populations Exceeding 500,000

1) The Board is authorized to make Grants to public school districts and not-for-profit entities for Early Childhood Construction Projects. These Grants shall be paid out of monies appropriated for that purpose.

2) Applicants will be evaluated and scored as outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity and in accordance with this Part. Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants in a priority order from available State funds. Priority order permits the Board to give preference to *projects located in communities in the State with the greatest underserved population of young children, utilizing Census data and other reliable local early childhood service data* (Section 5-300(c) of the Act).

b) Applicant School Districts with Populations Exceeding 500,000

A school district with a population exceeding 500,000 that submits a complete and accurate application in compliance with the Act and this Part shall be awarded Grants totaling at least 20% of the total amounts awarded for each school year when Grants are awarded, as provided by the Act.

(Source: Amended at 45 Ill. Reg. 11564, effective September 3, 2021)