**Section 50.710 Gateways to Opportunity, the Illinois Professional Development System**

a) Subject to the availability of funds, the Department, through its agents, shall administer Gateways to Opportunity.

b) Gateways to Opportunity is a professional development system designed to support a diverse, stable and quality workforce for settings serving children, youth and families specifically to:

1) Enhance the quality of services for children, youth and families;

2) Increase positive outcomes for children, youth and families;

3) Advance the availability of coursework and training related to quality services for children, youth and families; and

4) Identify Core Professional Knowledge for practitioners in settings serving children, youth and families.

c) The Department shall award Gateways to Opportunity Credentials to early care and education, school-age, youth development, and family support practitioners through two application routes, as outlined in Section 50.730.

(Source: Added at 36 Ill. Reg. 16085, effective October 29, 2012)