

The following proposed regulation will impact small businesses that provide child care, youth or family services:

The Department of Human Services proposed amendments to "Child Care" (89 Ill. Adm. Code 50; 35 Ill. Reg. 17560) implementing PA 96-864 which created the Gateways to Opportunity Program (the Illinois professional development system). This rulemaking provides the framework for awarding Gateways to Opportunity credentials in 5 categories: early care and education; directors; infant/toddler; school-age/youth development; and family services. The rulemaking also details the 2 credential application processes (direct route application and entitled route program) and lists required documentation for each. The rulemaking also breaks credentials down into 4 components (general education; education and training specific to each credential; work and practical experience specific to each credential; and professional contributions specific to a credential). All credentials are reviewed every 5 years. The rulemaking also sets professional knowledge standards for adults working with children, youth, and families that address content areas, competency levels, and alignment with other professional standards.

Bottom Line: Pursuant to provisions of Public Act 96-864, this proposed rulemaking implements the Gateways to Opportunity Program, the Illinois Professional Development System. This rulemaking outlines the framework for awarding the Gateways to Opportunity Credentials. DHS will award Gateways to Opportunity credentials to early care and education, school-age, youth development, and family support practitioners. The Gateways to Opportunity program will also identify professional knowledge guidelines to indicate what all adults who work with children, youth and families need to know, understand and be able to demonstrate to support children's and youth's development, school readiness, school success, families' development, self-sufficiency and well-being. The program will be available through the Direct Route Application Process or the Entitled Route Program. For questions or comments contact Tracie Drew, Chief of Bureau of Administrative Rules and Procedures, Department of Human Services, at (217) 785-9772 or email Tracie.Drew@Illinois.gov.

The following proposed regulation will impact DCFS licensed day care homes, day care centers and group day care homes and entities seeking initial licensure:

The Department of Children and Family Services proposed amendments to "Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes" (89 Ill. Adm. Code 406; 35 Ill. Reg. 17491), "Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers" (89 Ill. Adm. Code 407; 35 Ill. Reg. 17511) and "Licensing Standards for Group Day Care Homes" (89 Ill. Adm. Code 408; 35 Ill. Reg. 17541) implementing PA 96-864, which created the Gateways to Opportunity Program (the Illinois professional development system). These rulemakings require, effective 7/1/12, new day care home applicants and assistants, existing home caregivers and assistants, new and current day care center providers and staff, new group day care home applicants and assistants, and currently licensed home caregivers and assistants to register and establish profiles in the Gateways to Opportunity Registry maintained by the Department of Human Services (DHS) in coordination with the State Board of Education (SBE). The rulemakings also allow DCFS to enroll licensees at time of initial licensure or renewal in the Tiered Quality Rating and Improvements System administered jointly by DHS and SBE. (The system is designed to improve the quality of early childhood care by providing a uniform system throughout the State for comparing licensee operations.)

Bottom Line: The amendments require all new day care home applicants and assistants starting on July 1, 2012 to be registered in the "Gateways to Opportunity Registry." The amendments also require that by July 1, 2012 all currently licensed home caregivers and assistants be registered in the Gateways to Opportunity Registry. The registry allows child care providers to receive resources and tools to improve

the quality and accountability for early care and education. For questions or comments, contact Jeff Osowski, Office of Child and Family Policy, Department of Children and Family Services at (217) 524-1983 or email: CFPolicy@idcfs.state.il.us.

The Pollution Control Board proposed amendments which will impact farm owners or operators of a composting facility in which landscape waste composting material is utilized to operate the compost facility on more than 2% of the property's total acreage:

The Pollution Control Board proposed amendments to "Proceedings Pursuant to Specific Rules or Statutory Provisions" (35 Ill. Adm. Code 106; 35 Ill. Reg. 18492) implementing PA 97-220. The PA and this rulemaking give PCB, instead of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, authority to determine when farm owners and operators will be granted exemptions from statutory limits on landscape waste composting without an EPA permit. (Composting landscape waste on farms is allowed without a permit if no more than 2% of the farm's acreage is devoted to landscape waste composting and no more than 20 tons of landscape waste per acre/per year is applied to the land. To go beyond these limits without a permit, a landowner must request an exemption.) The rulemaking establishes a process for initiating and filing petitions for exemptions, sets content requirements for petitions, and sets time frames for PBC and EPA to respond to petition. The burden of proof is upon the petitioner to demonstrate that a site's soil or crop characteristics demand a larger composting facility or a higher rate of landscape waste application.

Bottom Line: This proposed rulemaking creates a more standardized procedure for farmers and interested parties to follow if they want to increase their composted landscape waste application to their land. It does allow for the option for a public hearing to be held if a public hearing is requested. For questions or comments contact Kathleen Crowley at (312) 814-6929 or email crowleyk@ipcb.state.il.us.
