



EPEL
Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning

Proud Moment for EPEL: Karen Ceballos Earns Statewide Fellowship



Karen Ceballos

Basics of Greater Elgin Coordinator
Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning



Congratulations to Karen Ceballos on Her Selection to the Maria Whelan Leadership Institute's Emerging Leaders Fellowship

Illinois Action for Children announced the 2026–2027 cohort of the Emerging Leaders Fellowship through the Maria Whelan Leadership

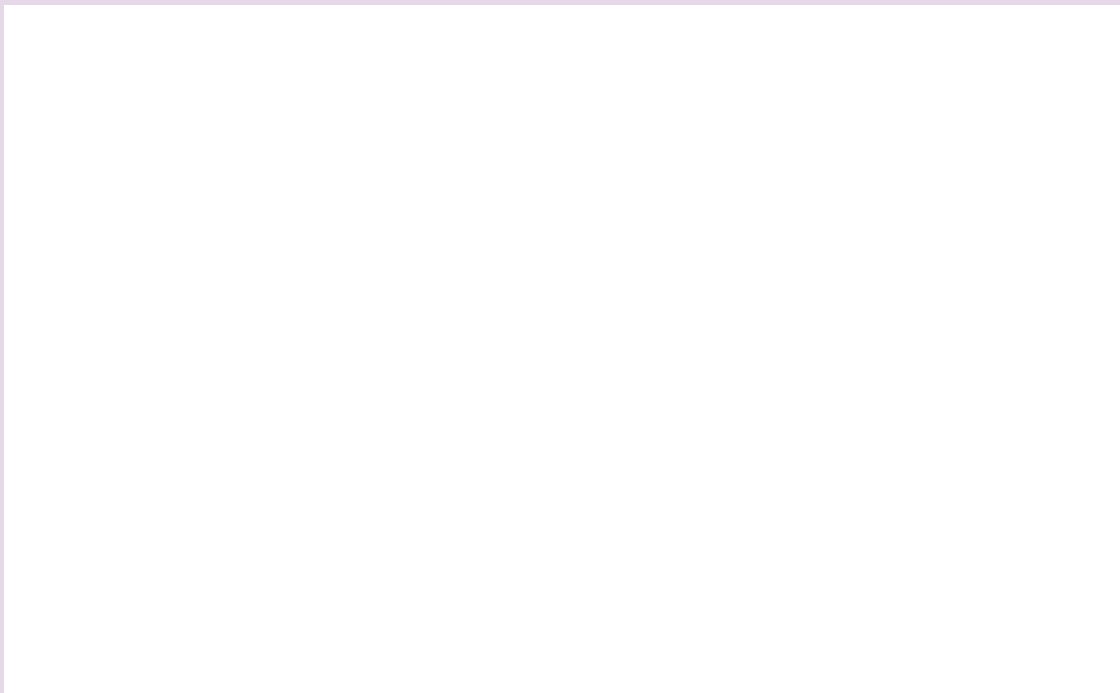
Institute. We are proud to share that Karen Ceballos, CHES®, EPEL's Basics of Greater Elgin Coordinator, has been selected as one of this year's fellows.

In her role at EPEL, Karen leads initiatives that strengthen family engagement, build community partnerships, and support early brain development through The Basics of Greater Elgin. With a background as a maternal and child health programs coordinator, she brings extensive experience in prevention education, program development, and health promotion. Karen works collaboratively across systems to improve outcomes for children and families and is deeply committed to advancing equity through stronger early childhood policies and practices.

Karen's leadership, dedication, and passion are making a meaningful impact throughout our community. We are honored to have her representing EPEL and The Basics of Greater Elgin as she continues to grow as a leader and champion for young children and families.

Congratulations, Karen, on this well-deserved recognition! We also congratulate all of this year's Emerging Leaders Fellowship recipients and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make across Illinois.







2025-2026 Emerging
Leaders Fellows

Maria Whelan
Fellowship

Vision: Young children and their families in the Greater Elgin Area have equitable opportunities to thrive.

Mission: EPEL engages families, organizations, the early childhood workforce, and healthcare providers dedicated to creating a collaborative community-wide system of support for every young child to succeed in school and life.



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