

FY 2016 Illinois
CHILD CARE
Report





Vision for Child Care and Early Education in Illinois

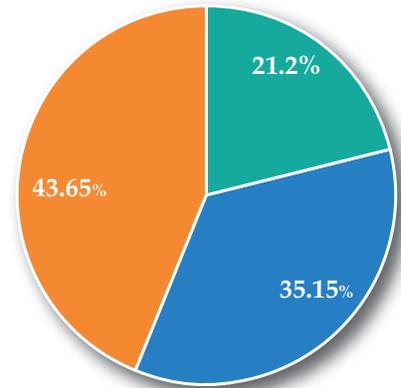
Illinois families will have multiple options for affordable quality child care and early education. All children starting at birth will be offered opportunities to grow, learn and be cared for in safe, nurturing, culturally and developmentally settings.

INTRODUCTION

As required by State Statute 20 ILCS 505/5.15, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) submits an annual report to the Governor and Illinois General Assembly about the status of its child care program. The program is administered by the IDHS Bureau of Child Care and Development, and this report includes information on the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) as well as the Quality Improvement Programs within CCAP. The 2016 Illinois Child Care Report includes information for the State Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). The data in this report are from: a) the Child Care Tracking System; b) the Child Care Management System (CCMS); c) the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies' aggregate database of the local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) parent customers, child care providers, and professional development activities; and d) the Gateways to Opportunity Registry. IDHS thanks the thousands of center-based staff, family child care providers, CCR&R staff, and parents for their support in the care and education of Illinois children.

Fiscal Year 2016 Child Care Expenditures

State GRF	\$328,140,123	35.15%
TANF	\$407,446,319	43.65%
CCDF	\$197,883,971	21.20%
Total	\$933,470,413	100.00%



Federal Priorities

The IDHS Bureau of Child Care and Development sets policy and develops programs consistent with the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Child Care's philosophy and the Bureau's Vision. ACF's overall goal is "healthy, happy and successful children." Its philosophy includes a focus on the continuum of high quality care for children from birth to age 13; and partnerships across child care, education, Head Start and health for a broader delivery system that expands family choices.

In November 2014, Congress reauthorized the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). This was a historic re-envisioning of child care. The four major topic areas of the new law are:

- Protect the health and safety of children in child care
- Help parents make informed consumer choices and access information to support child development
- Provide equal access to stable, high quality child care for low-income children
- Enhance the quality of child care and the early childhood workforce.

SFY2016 found the IDHS Child Care Program addressing the new provisions of the CCDBG Act of 2014, while administering the CCAP programs under the previous federal priorities. Therefore, this report is designed to show how Illinois addressed the previous federal theme of "Pathways and Partnerships for Child Care Excellence" in SFY2016. Information and data about the new initiatives as a result of the CCDBG Act will be in the SFY2017 Illinois Child Care Report.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The IDHS works with local Illinois communities to provide low-income families with access to affordable, quality child care. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) has two primary goals:

- To support qualifying low-income families by providing child care subsidies. This allows parents to maintain employment, thereby decreasing dependence on public assistance; and
- To allow families access to multiple options for affordable, quality child care, early education, and after school programs that offer children the opportunity to grow, learn and be cared for in safe, nurturing settings that are culturally and developmentally appropriate.

Fiscal Year 2016 CCAP Enrollment

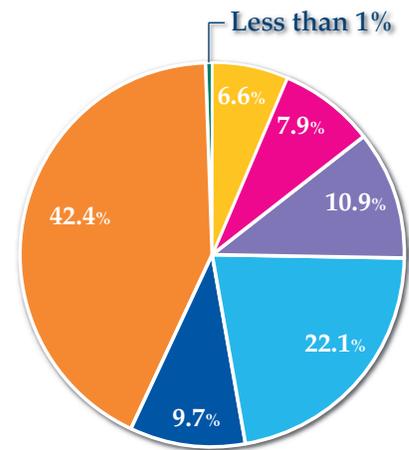
CCAP served a total of 225,500 children from 127,419 families between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The monthly average for FY2016 was 127,708 children from 73,755 families.

Profile of Children Participating in CCAP in March 2016

- 68.1% in licensed care, compared to 61.3% in FY12
- School-age children (ages 6 and older) constituted 42.9% of all children served

Number of Children by Age Participating in CCAP March 2016

Child's Age	Number Enrolled in CCAP	% of Total
0 - 14 Months	9,453	6.6%
15 - 23 Months	11,172	7.9%
2 Years	15,436	10.9%
3 - 4 Years	31,369	22.1%
5 Years	13,780	9.7%
6 - 12 Years	60,238	42.4%
13 Years and over	729	<1%
Total	142,177	100.0%



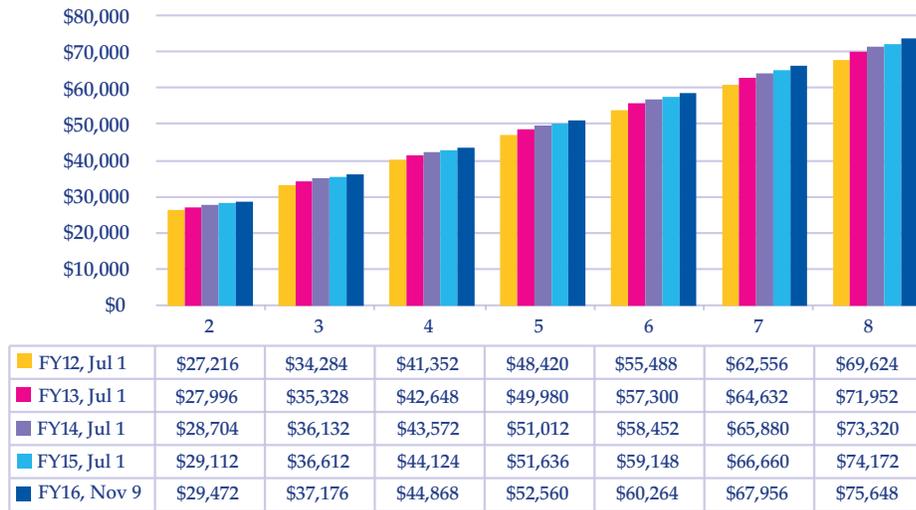
Profile of families participating in the CCAP in March 2016

- 92.8% of families received subsidies because of employment
- 5.5% of families listed TANF as a source of income

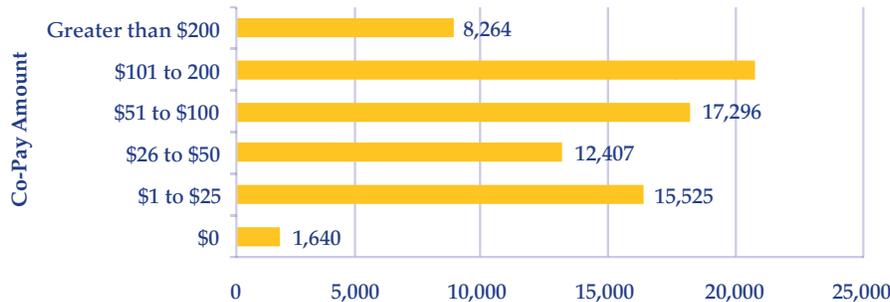
CCR&R Services to All Illinois Families, not just those participating in CCAP

- Consumer education on legal and quality child care
- Referral to child care settings according to the family's preferences
- Referral to CCAP, other IDHS programs, and community services
- Toll-free number, in English and Spanish, that connects parents and child care providers to local CCR&Rs

Annual Income Guidelines by Family Size



Number of CCAP families by Monthly Co-Payment Amount





Profile of Child Care Providers Participating in CCAP in Fiscal Year 2016

- 71% of the license-exempt family child care providers cared for relatives

CCR&R Services for Child Care Providers Participating in CCAP

- Administration of parent applications
- Processing Monthly Child Care Certificates
- Technical assistance to parents and providers regarding CCAP

Number of Providers Receiving CCAP Payments in FY2016

Licensed Providers

Child Care Centers	2,690
Family Child Care Homes	5,520
Group Child Care Homes	453
Total	8,663

License-Exempt Providers

Child Care Centers	672
Family Child Care Homes:	
Non-relative in provider's home	5,700
Relative in provider's home	14,573
Non-relative in child's home	4,094
Relative in child's home	9,575
Total	34,614

Child Care Supply

The CCR&Rs support child care providers by referring families to their child care programs. The referral services are available free of charge to licensed centers, family child care homes and group child care homes listed in the provider database. License-exempt centers and homes may choose to be included on the provider database. The Fiscal Year 2016 provider database information is shown in the table below.

Fiscal Year 2016 Statewide Child Care Database

Type of Care	Number of Providers	Child Capacity
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	8,302	79,803
License-Exempt Family Child Care Homes	394	1,135
Total	8,696	80,938
Type of Care	Number of Providers	Child Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers	3,219	251,761
License-Exempt Child Care Centers	2,419	166,876
Total	5,638	418,637

Child Care Demand

There are two dimensions of the “demand” for child care in any community.

1. The number of children needing child care compared to the child care capacity available to meet the needs, and
2. The unique requirements of families for their specific child care needs, such as the child’s age, type of care desired, parent’s work/school schedule, location, special needs of the child and cost.

Snapshot of Families Receiving Child Care Referrals in FY2016

- 20,908 families received child care referrals by phone or online
- 92% of families required care due to employment
- 8,126 families used the online referral system

Schedules Requested for Children and Offered by Providers

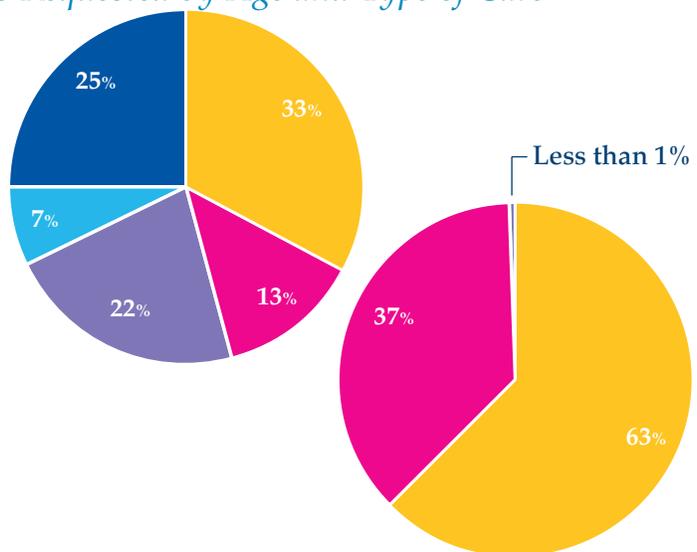
Schedule	Requested for Children	Offered by Family Child Care Homes	Offered by Child Care Centers	Offered by Providers Total
Standard Hours*	16,196	7,631	2,971	10,602
Evening	2,369	4,047	170	4,217
Weekend	2,227	1,329	56	1,385
Overnight	918	2,891	57	2,948
Rotating	1,041	3,264	894	4,158
Temp/Emergency	282	3,927	883	4,810
Drop In	287	3,695	922	4,617

*A standard schedule is full-time care offered during traditional day time work hours.

Number of Children for Whom Child Care was Requested by Age and Type of Care

Requests by Age of Child	Number of Requests	
■ Birth to 2 years	6,305	33%
■ 2 Year Old Children	2,494	13%
■ 3-4 Year Old Children	4,159	22%
■ 5 Year Olds/Kindergarteners	1,232	7%
■ School Age Children	4,655	25%
Total	18,845	100%

Requests by Type of Care	Number of Requests	
■ Child Care Center	23,930	63%
■ Family Child Care Home	13,847	37%
■ In-Home Care	65	<1%
Total	37,842	100%



DATA CONTEXT FOR PAGES 5 and 6

Much of the data contained on pages 5 and 6 are from the parent, customer and child care databases compiled by the local CCR&Rs. Therefore, the data presented does not include all families and children requiring child care services in Illinois. Most families do not receive child care assistance and many families find child care services through friends, families, advertisements and other means. Additionally, many license-exempt child care programs are not listed on the provider database. Because of these factors, it is important to note that this report is only one means of examining the larger child care supply and demand picture in Illinois.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

For Fiscal Year 2016, the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) requires at least four percent of federal funds be allocated for the improvement of child care quality. These funds are used to support the IDHS Bureau of Child Care and Development's CCAP Quality Improvement Program, the overall goal of which is to increase the quality of child care available to all Illinois families. In all child care settings this goal is addressed with a multi-faceted, systematic approach that works to meet the individual needs of children, families, child care providers and communities. In Fiscal Year 2016, IDHS contracted with 16 local CCR&R agencies, the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) and four quality discretionary grantees to implement the quality services described on the following pages.

Pathways to Excellence for Child Care Programs

Building Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

One of the significant ways states can assist child care providers with quality improvement is to develop a Quality Rating and Improvement System. IDHS has administered the Quality Counts Quality Rating System (QC-QRS) since 2007 in order to assist Illinois child care programs in providing quality care for children and their families. During FY 16, Illinois was continuing the process of transitioning from QC-QRS to the ExceleRate Illinois™ (ExceleRate) quality rating and improvement system.

QRS Training Tiers for License-Exempt Family Care Homes in FY2016

	License-exempt Family Child Care Homes	Number of CCAP Children Enrolled by Training Tier Level
Training Tier 1	321	596
Training Tier 2	129	261
Training Tier 3	239	527
Total	689	1,384
Additional (non-CCAP) children cared for by these providers		540
Total number of children cared for by QRS certified license exempt family child care homes		1924

Illinois is one of only a handful of states that has implemented a quality improvement program for License-Exempt Family Child Care providers (LEFCC). LEFCC providers have the opportunity to participate by completing Training Tiers consisting of 16 – 3 hour modules. The Training Tiers are described below:

- Training Tier 1 modules are: Overview of Child Development; Health Issues for Group Care; Nutrition Issues for Group Care; and Safety Issues for Group Care.
- Training Tier 2 modules are: Observation and Guidance; Learning Happens in Relationships; Family & Community Relationships; and Personal & Professional Development.
- Training Tier 3 modules are: Child Growth and Development for Birth to 8 Months; Child Growth and Development for 8 - 18 Months; Child Growth and Development for 18 - 36 Months; Preschool Child - Social/Emotional Development; Preschool Child - Physical Development; Preschool Child – Language Development; Preschool Child - Cognitive Development; and School Age Development.
- The ECE Credential Level 1 is achieved upon completion of all three tiers.

ExceleRate Illinois™ Circles of Quality for Licensed Care Centers in FY2016

Illinois has implemented a more comprehensive, cross-sector quality rating and improvement system, ExceleRate Illinois™, which is designed to make continuous quality improvement an everyday priority among early learning providers, including licensed child care centers and licensed family child care homes; Head Start and state Preschool for All (PFA) programs. The system establishes standards to help infants, toddlers and preschool age children intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. It recognizes early learning providers for their ongoing efforts to improve the quality of their care by awarding Circle of Quality designations:



- Licensed Circle of Quality: a program meets state licensing standards, the foundation for quality; this includes 2,260 child care centers
- Bronze Circle of Quality: a program’s teachers and administrators have completed ExceleRate trainings, and have met staff qualifications
- Silver Circle of Quality: a program meets, or goes beyond, quality standards in three areas: learning environment and teaching quality; administrative standards; and training and education
- Gold Circle of Quality: a program meets, or goes beyond, the highest quality standards in the three areas listed for the Silver Circle

The following table shows FY2016 data for licensed centers and the Circles of Quality.

	Licensed Centers	Number of CCAP Children Enrolled
Bronze Circle of Quality	90	3,104
Silver Circle of Quality	329	14,117
Gold Circle of Quality	432	19,639
Total	851	36,860*
Additional (non-CCAP) children cared for by these providers		39,678
Total number of children cared for by ExceleRate certified licensed child care centers		76,538

* Enrollment at time of application

Circles of Quality for Licensed Family Child Care Homes in FY2016

In FY 2016, licensed family child care homes (FCCH) continued to transition to the ExceleRate Illinois™ (ExceleRate) quality rating and improvement system. As for licensed child care centers, ExceleRate establishes standards to help children from birth to Kindergarten develop intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. It provides a framework for FCCH providers to identify opportunities for improvement, increase their skills and take steps to make positive changes. Ongoing efforts to improve the quality of their care are by awarding Circle of Quality designations:

- Licensed Circle of Quality: a program meets state licensing standards, the foundation for quality; this includes 7,900 family child care homes
- Bronze Circle of Quality: a licensed family child care provider and any assistant caregivers have completed ExceleRate trainings, and have met staff qualifications
- Silver Circle of Quality: a licensed family child care provider meets, or goes beyond, quality standards in three areas: learning environment and teaching quality; administrative standards; and training and education
- Gold Circle of Quality: a licensed family child care provider meets, or goes beyond, the highest quality standards in the three areas listed for the Silver Circle

	Licensed Family Child Care Homes	Number of CCAP Children Enrolled
Bronze Circle of Quality	91	484
Silver Circle of Quality	263	1,962
Gold Circle of Quality	20	91
Total	374	2,537*
Additional (non-CCAP) children cared for by these providers		1,573
Total number of children cared for by ExceleRate certified licensed child care centers		4,146

* Enrollment at time of application

Pathways to Excellence for Child Care Providers

Building Strong Professional Development and Supportive Workforce Initiatives

Responsive, well-qualified practitioners are one of the most important factors in child care settings. Children of working parents spend many hours each day with their child care provider. IDHS provides professional development opportunities to child care providers. These services are available to child care providers listed on the statewide database, including licensed and license-exempt practitioners. The following pages give some data on these programs for FY2016.

The Illinois Trainers Network (ITN) provides training to individual trainers and facilitators on topics such as the ECE Credential Level 1, developmentally appropriate practice, Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC), etc. Child care providers can access these trainings through their local CCR&Rs.

Training Activity

ExceleRate Illinois™ Training for FY2016

	FY2016
Number of Approved topics offered	17
Total # of times Approved topics were offered	532
Total # of training session held*	628
Number of participants	9,811
Number of training hours achieved	37,532

**Some of the ExceleRate Illinois-approved topics are multi-session trainings*

Illinois Trainers Network (ITN) Training for FY2016

	FY2016
Number of ITN curricula offered in FY	4
Total # of times ITN curricula were offered	501
Total # of training sessions held*	563
Number of participants	6,245
Number of training hours achieved	21,221

**Some of the ITN Curricula are multi-session trainings*

CCR&R Offered Training for FY2016

	FY2016
Number of training sessions held	1,253
Number of training participants	18,504
Number of training hours achieved	49,099

Online Training for FY2016

	FY2016
Number of online training topics offered	47
Number of online training participants	77,228
Number of online training hours achieved	164,526

Gateways to Opportunity Professional Development System

The Gateways to Opportunity Professional Development System provides supports for professionals working with children, youth and families. These supports include Credentials; the Gateways Scholarship Program; the Great START Wage Supplement program; Professional Development Advisors; and the Gateways to Opportunity Registry.

Great START (Strategy to Attract and Retain Teachers)

Great START is a wage supplement program available to the lowest wage earners employed by licensed child care centers and family child care homes; it recognizes those who have achieved an educational level higher than is required by DCFS Licensing Standards and recipients must remain employed by the same program. Participants renew their eligibility every six months.

	FY2014*	FY2015	FY2016
New Recipients	725	551	677
Renewing Recipients	3,054	3,181	2,932
Total	3,779	3,732	3,609

**Data reported in the FY2014 Illinois Child Care Reports were in error. The corrected data are presented in this report.*

Gateways to Opportunity Scholarship Program

The Gateways Scholarship Program (CCDF-funded) is available to individuals employed by licensed child care centers and family child care homes. The scholarships enable practitioners to earn degrees, certificates or credentials in early care and education and school age child care.

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
Family Child Care Practitioners	165	148	118
Child Care Center Staff	675	722	575
Credits Taken	6,894	7,226	5,926
Degrees Completed	36	25	27



Gateways to Opportunity Registry

The Gateways to Opportunity Registry is a resource and a tool to drive the quality and accountability of the professional development available to early learning, school-age and youth practitioners. Anyone who works with or on behalf of children, youth and families in Illinois can become a member of the Gateways Registry. The Gateways Registry is administered by INCCRRA. As of June 30, 2016, the active Registry membership was 64,220. The size of the Registry membership is facilitated by two factors: (1) DCFS Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers, Family Day Care Homes, and Group Day Care Homes require all personnel who work with children to be Registry members; and (2) Registry membership is required of those practitioners working for child care programs seeking Bronze, Silver, or Gold Circles of Quality in ExceleRate.

Type of Program & Position (Where Registry Members are Working)

Based on valid employment data for 64,220 current active Registry members:

- 5% work in Indirect Service, such as child care resource and referral, higher education, etc.
- 95% work in Direct Services
 - 78% work in Licensed Child Care Centers
 - 19% work in Family/Group Child Care Homes
 - 3% work in License-exempt child care settings

Gateways to Opportunity Credentials

The Gateways Credentials validate an individual's educational attainment and professional experience. The credentials are recognized by the State of Illinois in the DCFS Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers and the IDHS Great START program. ExceleRate Illinois™ (ExceleRate) has credential requirements for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Circles of Quality. A variety of credentials are available for practitioners who work with, or on behalf of, children, youth and families.

The first Illinois Director Credentials (IDC) were awarded in FY2000. Since then, additional Gateways Credentials have been developed and are awarded on a continual basis. The IDC is appropriate for directors and program coordinators of early childhood and school-age child care settings. It is awarded at three (3) levels: Associate, Bachelor, and Graduate. The credential has requirements in: General Education; Education specific to Early Childhood Education/Child Development; Education specific to Management and Administration; Work Experience and Professional Contributions to the field.

The Gateways ECE Credential is appropriate for professionals working in early childhood settings. It is awarded at six (6) levels ranging from Level 1 (an entry level credential earned by completing a 48 clock-hour training covering many topics related to leading programs for this age group (birth to 8 years of age), including but not limited to human development) to Level 6, which is the Graduate Level Credential. ECE Credential Levels 2-6 have requirements in General Education, Early Childhood Education, Work/Practicum Experience and Professional Contributions for the field.

The Gateways Infant Toddler Credential (ITC) is a specialization for the ECE Credential and is appropriate for professionals working with children younger than three years. It is awarded at five levels from Level 2 (12 ECE credits and 3 Infant Toddler credits) to Level 6 (Graduate Degree). Levels 2-6 have requirements in General Education, Early Childhood Education specific to Infants/Toddlers, Work/Practicum Experience specific to Infants/Toddlers, and Professional Contributions specific to Infants/Toddlers.

The Gateways School-Age/Youth Development (SAYD) Credential Level 1 (implemented in FY 2015) is an entry level 48 clock-hour training covering many topics related to leading programs for this age group (8 – 18 years of age), including but not limited to human development; health and safety; program development; community relations; communication with parents, etc. SAYD Credential Levels 2-5 (implemented in FY 2016) have requirements in General Education, Early Childhood Education, Work/Practicum Experience and Professional Contributions for the field.

The Gateways Family Child Care Credential (FCC) is for professionals working as a family child care provider with children ages birth through 12 years. It is awarded at four levels from Level 2 (6 credits in ECE/SA plus 3 credits in FCC) to Level 5 (Baccalaureate Degree). Levels 2-5 have requirements in General Education, Early Childhood Education (ECE), Family Child Care (FCC), Work/Practicum Experience and Professional Contribution specific to ECE and FCC. This credential was new in FY 2016.

The Gateways Family Specialist Credential (FSC) is for direct service professionals who in relationship with families using a strengths-based model to promote optimal child care family outcomes. It is awarded at four levels from Level 2 (6 credits in FSC content) to Level 5 (Baccalaureate Degree). Levels 2-5 have requirements in General Education, Education specific to Family Specialists, Work/Practicum Experience and Professional Contribution specific to FSC. This credential was new in FY 2016.

The Gateways Technical Assistance Credential (TA) is designed for professionals working a variety of roles that relate to relationship-based professional development, such as technical assistance providers, coaches, mentors, and professional development advisors. It is awarded at three (3) levels: Associate, Bachelor, and Graduate. The credential has requirements in: General Education; Education specific to Early Childhood/School-Age (EC/SA) and EC/SA coaching, mentoring or technical assistance; and Work Experience specific to Early Childhood/School-Age (EC/SA) and EC/SA coaching, mentoring or technical assistance; and Professional Contributions to the field. This credential was new in FY 2016.

Credential	First Awarded in	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	Total Awarded*
ECE Credential - Level 1	FY2006	1,155	1,773	2,720	7,467
ECE Credential - Levels 2-6	FY2008	518	3,238	3,279	7,458
Infant Toddler Credential	FY2009	345	1,218	1,254	3,129
Illinois Director Credential	FY2000	126	495	582	1,774
SAYD Credential - Level 1	FY2011	115	50	60	270
School-Age Credential - Levels 2-6 (Pilot)	FY2016			78	90
Youth Development Credential (Pilot)	FY2016			37	49
Family Child Care Credential (Pilot)	FY2016			113	120
Family Specialist Credential (Pilot)	FY2016			107	126
Technical Assistance Credential (Pilot)				12	12
Total		2,259**	6,774**	8,242	20,495

*Includes credentials awarded prior to FY2014.

**Increase in credential attainment in FY2014 and FY2015 can be attributed to the availability of Race to the Top/Early Learning Challenge funds and credential requirements in ExceleRate.

During Fiscal Year 2016, the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet was established to ensure that all children and youth in Illinois are healthy, safe, well-educated and self-sufficient by age 25. One of the projects is the Early Childhood Workforce project designed to promote and support a strong pipeline and alignment of career pathways for a diverse, well-qualified early childhood care and education workforce.

For more detailed information about any of the programs contained in this report, visit:

www.dhs.state.il.us

www.ilgateways.com

www.excelerateillinois.com

www.inccrra.org

This publication is created to comply with State Statute 21 ILCS 505/5.15.