



State of Illinois  
Department of Human Services

# Illinois Child Care Report

## FY 2012





## Vision for Child Care and Early Education in Illinois

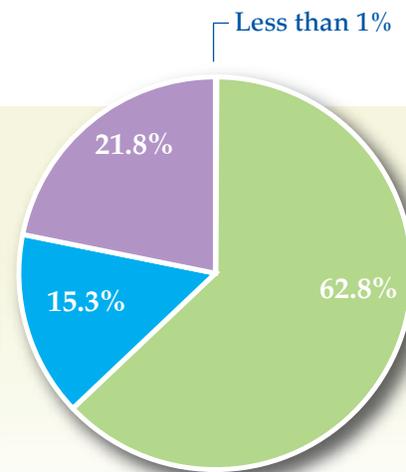
*Illinois families will have multiple options for affordable quality child care and early education. All children starting at birth will be offered opportunities to grow, learn and be cared for in safe, nurturing, culturally and developmentally appropriate settings.*

## INTRODUCTION

As required by State 20 ILCS 505/5.15, the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) submits an annual report to the Governor and Illinois General Assembly about the status of its child care programs. These programs are administered by the DHS Bureau of Child Care and Development and include the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and the Quality Improvement Programs. The 2012 Illinois Child Care Report includes information for the Fiscal Year 2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012). The data in this report are from: a) the DHS Child Care Tracking System database for the Child Care Assistance Program; b) 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; and, the new Gateways to Opportunity Registry. DHS thanks the thousands of center-based agency staff, family child care providers and CCR&R staff for their support in the care and education of Illinois children.

### *Fiscal Year 2012 Child Care Funding Sources*

Title XX	\$1,200,000	0.13%
State GRF	\$598,879,746	62.79%
TANF	\$145,454,258	15.25%
CCDF	\$208,210,718	21.83%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$953,744,722</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



## Federal Priorities

The DHS 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 with 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.

This report is designed to show how Illinois is addressing the federal theme of, “Pathways and Partnerships for Child Care Excellence,” which includes the following components.

- Pathways to Stronger Policies and Accountability with a child care subsidy system that:
  - supports child development
  - removes access barriers for families
  - improves processes with providers
- Pathways to Excellence for Child Care Programs by:
  - ensuring the health and safety of children in child care
  - building Quality Rating and Improvement Systems
- Pathways to Excellence for Child Care Professionals by:
  - building strong professional development and supportive workforce initiatives



*"Thanks to CCAP, my infant is able to attend day care with a three star QRS (Quality Rating System) home provider! It is a wonderful feeling to go to work and know that she is in good hands!"*

*- CCAP Parent, North Central Illinois*

## CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DHS works with local Illinois communities to provide low-income working 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 or further their education, thereby decreasing dependence on public assistance.
- 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 2012 CCAP Enrollment

CCAP served a total of 265,693 children from 152,690 families between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. The monthly average for FY 2012 was 171,000 children from 86,650 families.

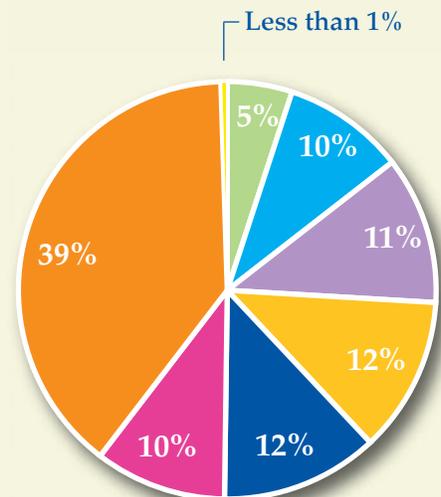
## The Illinois CCAP is CHILD-FOCUSED

### Profile of Children Participating in CCAP in March 2012\*

- 61.3% of children were served in licensed care
- 25.0% of children were cared for by relatives
- Children under 1 year of age were in child care an average of 147 hours per month
- School-age children (ages 6 and older) constitute 39.7% of all children served
- Black or African American children accounted for 52.9% of all children served.

### Number of Children by Age Participating in CCAP in March 2012

Child's Age	Number Enrolled in CCAP	% of Total
0 - 11 Months	7,700	5%
12 - 23 months	14,494	10%
2 Years	17,565	11%
3 Years	18,493	12%
4 Years	18,715	12%
5 Years	15,633	10%
6 - 12 Years	59,934	39%
13 Years and Over	749	Less than 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,283</b>	<b>100%</b>



\*March data is used because March gives the most typical picture of the CCAP. It is the one month of the school year with no major holidays and 21-23 regular business days.



*"If it wasn't for the Child Care Assistance Program, I wouldn't be able to work!"*

*- CCAP Parent, Southwestern Illinois*

## The Illinois CCAP is FAMILY-FRIENDLY

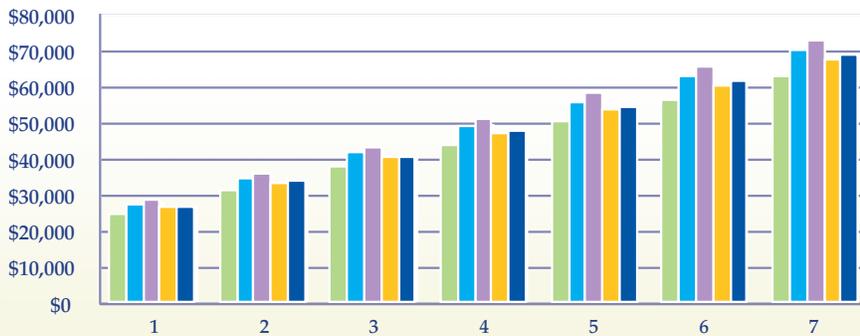
### Profile of families participating in the CCAP in March 2012

- 86.8% of families received subsidies because of employment
- 46.7% of families had monthly incomes ranging from \$1,490 to \$2,421
- 99.2% of families had co-payments, at an average of 5.2% of their family income
- 7.6% of families listed TANF as a source of income
- The average number of children served per family was 1.7
- 94.8% of families were headed by a single parent
- 67% of families are families of 3 or fewer

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

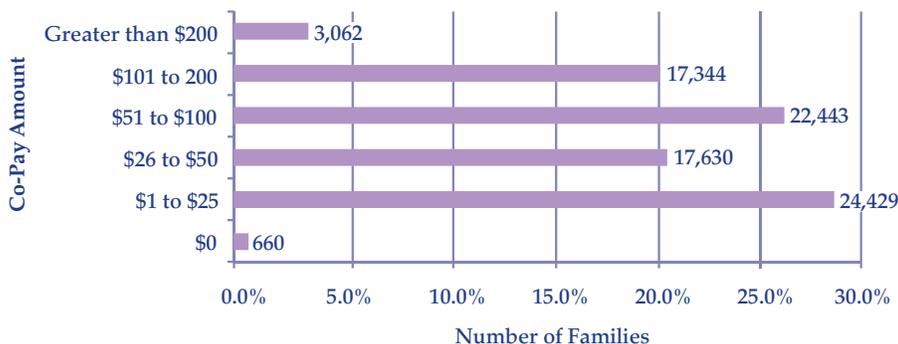
- Consumer education on legal and quality child care
- Referral to child care settings according to the family preferences
- Referral to CCAP, other DHS programs and community services
- Toll-free number, in English and Spanish, that connects parents and child care providers to local CCR&Rs

### Annual Income Guidelines by Family Size



FY08, Sept 1	\$25,332	\$31,776	\$38,208	\$44,652	\$51,084	\$57,528	\$63,960
FY08, Apr 1	\$28,008	\$35,208	\$42,408	\$49,608	\$56,808	\$64,008	\$71,208
FY10, Oct 1	\$29,148	\$36,624	\$44,150	\$51,588	\$59,064	\$66,540	\$74,028
FY11, Apr 1	\$26,964	\$33,876	\$40,850	\$47,712	\$54,636	\$61,560	\$68,472
FY12, Jul 1	\$27,216	\$34,284	\$41,352	\$48,420	\$55,488	\$62,556	\$69,624

### Number of CCAP Families by Monthly Co-Payment Amount





*"The Child Care Assistance Program helped me be able to go to school and work. I was able to go to school, spend time with my kids at night and work on the weekends. It was a great stepping stone to fulltime employment."*

*- CCAP Parent, Central Illinois*

## The Illinois CCAP is FAIR TO PROVIDERS

### Profile of Child Care Providers Participating in CCAP in March 2012

- 66.2% of families selected licensed providers
- 51.8% of providers located in Cook County
- 69.7% of license-exempt home providers were related to the children in care
- 14.0% of care provided in the child's home (in-home care)
- 70% of providers on the Illinois CCR&R provider database that will accept CCAP children

### CCR&R Services for Child Care Providers Participating in CCAP

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

### Number of Providers Receiving CCAP Payments in FY2012

Licensed Providers		License-Exempt Providers	
Centers	2,668	Centers	735
Family Child Care Homes	7,296	Family Child Care Homes:	
Group Child Care Homes	463	Non-relative in provider's home	10,602
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,427</b>	Relative in provider's home	23,042
		Non-relative in child's home	7,470
		Relative in child's home	14,074
		<b>Total</b>	<b>55,923</b>

## 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 on the provider database. License-exempt centers and homes may choose to be included on the provider database. Every provider has the option to decline referral services. The Fiscal Year 2012 provider database information is shown in the table below:

### Fiscal Year 2012 Statewide Child Care Database

Type of Care	Number of Providers	Number of Spaces
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	9,857	90,690
License-Exempt Family Child Care Homes	591	1,710
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,448</b>	<b>92,400</b>
Type of Care	Number of Providers	Number of Spaces
Licensed Child Care Centers	3,189	238,935
License-Exempt Child Care Centers	2,425	162,154
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,614</b>	<b>401,089</b>



*“By using the child care program, the parent was able to find quality care that she could afford and feel comfortable leaving her child.”*

*- CCR&R Referral Staff, Southern Illinois*

## Child Care Demand

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

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

### Snapshot of Parents Receiving Child Care Referrals in FY2012

- 19,397 families received child care referrals
- 84% of families required child care due to employment
- 800 families of children with special needs requested referrals
- 10,268, or 30% of the total, requests were made for non-standard schedules\*

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

### Schedules Requested for Children and Offered by Providers

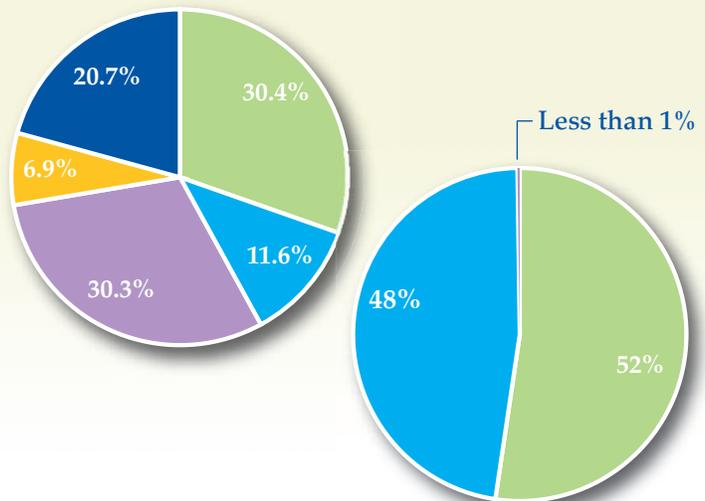
Schedule	Requested for Children	Offered by Family Child Care Homes	Offered by Child Care Centers	Offered by Providers Total
Standard Hours*	23,590	9,340	2,924	12,264
Evening	4,569	4,444	132	4,576
Weekend	2,828	1,443	53	1,496
Overnight	1,197	3,205	52	3,257
Rotating	1,157	4,077	859	4,936
Temp/Emergency	274	4,990	844	5,834
Drop In	243	4,671	902	5,573

\*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	
Infants & Toddlers	8,636	30.39%
Two Year Old Children	3,307	11.64%
Three-Four Year Old Children	8,611	30.30%
Five Year Olds/Kindergarteners	1,970	6.93%
School Age Children	5,893	20.74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,417</b>	<b>100%</b>

Requests by Type of Care	Number of Requests	
Child Care Center	32,744	52.35%
Family Child Care Home	29,673	47.44%
In-Home Care	137	0.22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,554</b>	<b>100%</b>



#### DATA CONTEXT FOR PAGES 9 and 11

Much of the data contained on pages 9 and 11 are from parent, customer and child care provider databases compiled by the local CCR&Rs. Therefore, data presented does not include all families and children requiring child care service in Illinois. Most families do not receive child care assistance and many families find child care services through friends, family, 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.



*About QRS: "... you look at things in a deeper way and discover areas for improvement. It also helps staff feel more professional and that what they are doing matters."*

*- Child Care Center Director, Central Illinois*

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

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 DHS Bureau of Child Care and Development's Quality Improvement Programs, the overall goal of which is to increase the quality of child care available to all Illinois families. This goal is addressed with a multi-faceted approach that works to meet the individual needs of children, families, child care providers and communities. In Fiscal Year 2012, DHS contracted with 16 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*

The Illinois Quality Counts Rating System (QRS) assists Illinois child care programs in providing quality care for children and their families. The Quality Counts QRS sets standards which providers can achieve depending on the type of care they provide. QRS certification recognizes a provider for meeting specific indicators of quality, such as learning environment, program administration, staff qualifications and training. This voluntary system is available to license-exempt family child care providers, licensed family child care homes, and licensed child care centers.

#### *Training Tier Levels for License-Exempt Family Child Care Homes in FY 2012*

	License-exempt Family Child Care Homes	Number of CCAP Children Enrolled by Training Tier Level
Training Tier 1	221	419
Training Tier 2	101	195
Training Tier 3	138	298
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>912</b>
Number of non-CCAP Children cared for by these providers		381
Total number of children cared for by QRS certified license-exempt family child care homes		<b>1,293</b>

#### *Star Levels for Licensed Providers in FY 2012*

	Licensed Centers	Number of CCAP Children Enrolled in Licensed Centers by Star Level	Licensed Family Child Care Homes	Number of Children Enrolled in Licensed Family Child Care Homes by Star Level
Star Level 1	43	1,869	26	210
Star Level 2	212	10,266	24	134
Star Level 3	246	13,210	199	1,385
Star Level 4	6	386	4	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>25,731</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>1,750</b>
Number of non-CCAP Children cared for by QRS certified Child Care Centers		22,405	Number of non-CCAP Children cared for by QRS certified licensed Family Child Care Homes	
Total number of children cared for by QRS certified licensed Child Care Centers		<b>48,136</b>	Total number of children cared for by QRS certified licensed Family Child Care Homes	
			<b>2,709</b>	



*"The Quality Counts Grant helps us every year to provide high quality child care, become successful professionals, and most importantly, provide a safe and stimulating environment."*

*- Family Child Care Provider, Chicago Suburbs*

## Quality Counts Child Care Grant Program

The Quality Counts Child Care (QCCC) Grant program is designed to support child care center and family child care home providers in the improvement of quality care for infants, toddlers, pre-school and school age children. Originally intended to support program improvements, the program now also assists providers in achieving and maintaining of Illinois Quality Counts QRS certification (see page 13). The program is available to any child care provider on an Illinois CCR&R provider database. Grant funds can be used for materials, equipment, minor facility improvements and on-site training and consultation.

Fiscal Year 2012 was the second year the QCCC Grant program offered two options to child care providers:

- **Training Option:** Provides training on program quality improvements in a cohort model, including guidance using a program assessment tool. Using assessment results, grant funding can be requested to purchase items needed.
- **Competitive Option:** Licensed providers can apply for funds through a competitive grant process. The applicant must show documentation that a program improvement assessment tool or accreditation process has been completed and used to inform the grant application.

### *FY 2012 QCCC Grant Uses*

Grant funds were used for the following program components:

	Competitive Option		Training Option	
	# Awarded	Funding	# Awarded	Funding
Professional Resources	72	\$78,709	18	\$10,519
Program Improvement	36	\$70,912	N/A	N/A
Facility Improvement	161	\$532,285	37	\$17,694
Learning Environment	506	\$1,713,104	334	\$491,183
Parent Resources	12	\$6,539	1	\$327
Staff Training	14	\$22,149	N/A	N/A

### *FY 2012 QCCC Grant Reasons*

Providers indicated the following as reasons for requesting grant funds.

	# Awarded
Maintain IDCFS Licensing Standards	312
Achieve a national accreditation	83
Maintain a national accreditation	131
Achieve a Quality Counts QRS Certification Level	205
Maintain a Quality Counts QRS Certification Level	202
Advance to the next Quality Counts Certification Level	159



*"I am amazed with the trainings that the CCR&R has offered. I come away with new ideas that spark an excitement to implement them right away in my classroom."*

*- Child Care Center Staff, Northwestern Illinois*

## 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. DHS provides a wide variety of professional development opportunities to child care providers. These services are available to child care providers listed on the statewide database, including both licensed and license-exempt providers. The following pages give some data on these programs.

### *Illinois Trainers Network*

The Illinois Trainers Network (ITN) provides training to individual child care providers on topics such as inclusion, developmentally appropriate curriculum and program assessment. ITN trainers, in turn, coordinate with the CCR&Rs to deliver standardized curriculum training to child care practitioners statewide.

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Number of ITN Curricula offered in FY	18	14	12
Total # of times ITN curricula were offered	422	413	398
Total # of training sessions held*	842	997	1,282
Number of Participants	11,996	14,185	18,278
Number of training hours achieved	49,283	51,179	69,068

\* Some of the ITN curricula are multi-session trainings

### *CCR&R Offered Training*

In addition to the standardized ITN curricula, CCR&Rs offer training to child care practitioners based on a variety of topics and in a variety of methods, including stand-alone workshops, workshop series, self-study materials, and webinars. Frequently requested topics include guidance and discipline, child development, creative activities, health and safety, and nutrition.

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Number of training sessions held	2,721	2,429	2,489
Number of training participants	40,366	42,584	43,738
Number of training hours achieved	101,554	103,539	111,111



*“Receiving my ECE Level 1 Credential means that I take my job seriously. It also shows parents that I am always learning new things to educate myself on new ways to teach and care for their children.”*

*- Provider, North Central Illinois*

## 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 programs; Professional Development Advisors; and, the Gateways to Opportunity Registry. These programs support increased professional development and consistency of care, which can improve the quality of services for children and families.

### *Gateways to Opportunity Credentials*

The Gateways Credentials validate an individual's educational attainment and professional experience. The first Illinois Director Credentials were awarded in Fiscal Year 2000; since then, Gateways Credentials have been developed and awarded on a continuous basis. The School Age/Youth Development Level 1 Credential was first awarded in Fiscal Year 2011.

Credential	First Awarded in	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	Total Awarded
ECE Credential – Level 1	FY 2006	162	338	446	1,435
ECE Credential – Levels 2-5	FY 2008	25	71	132	314
Infant Toddler Credential	FY 2009	21	51	83	214
Illinois Director Credential	FY 2000	44	67	88	533
SAYD Credential Level 1	FY 2011	N/A	30	0*	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>252</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>2,526</b>

\*The curriculum for the SAYD Credential Level 1 was revised and a Train the Trainer session was held during FY 2012.

### *Gateways to Opportunity Scholarship Program*

The Gateways Scholarship Program (CCDF-fund) is available to individuals employed by licensed child care centers and family child care homes. FY 2012 data also includes scholarships funded by the DHS/ARRA grant. The scholarships enable practitioners to earn degrees, certificates or credentials in early care and education and school-age child care.

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Family Child Care Providers	216	217	214
Child Care Center Staff	491	556	652
Credits Taken	7,459	5,714	6,567
Degrees Completed	30	39	47

### *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 IDCFS Licensing and recipients must remain employed by the same program. Drop in FY12 participant numbers was due to funding reduction. Great START has a waiting list.

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
New Recipients	965	875	0
Renewing Recipients	3,940	4,224	3,954
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,905</b>	<b>5,099</b>	<b>3,954</b>

### *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 working 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. During Fiscal Year 2012, the Registry membership increased by 7,887, bringing the total membership on June 30, 2012 to 17,900 members.

## DHS Thanks

*Local Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies for quotations used throughout the report.*

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

**[www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us)**

**[www.inccrra.org](http://www.inccrra.org)**

**[www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com)**

The publication is created to comply with State Statute 20 ILCS 505/5.15.

