



## CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP) COVER SHEET

We know how important it is for all families to have access to child care that meets their needs. The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has a Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to help families pay for quality child care.

### 1) What does the Child Care Assistance Program provide?

1. Pays child care providers a portion of the cost of care for eligible families.
2. Ensures that your provider is qualified to participate in CCAP.

### 2) How do I qualify for this program?

1. Live in Illinois.
2. Be the parent or guardian of children younger than 13, or younger than 19 with documented special needs.
2. Be involved in at least one of the following qualifying events:
  - Working or going to school (up to one bachelor's degree)
  - Looking for work or enrolling in school
  - Experiencing homelessness
  - Transitioning from DCFS intake family services
  - Participation with DCFS Youth in Care or Extended Family Service programs
4. Live in a household where family income is less than 225% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

### 3) What would I be responsible for?

1. You will need to find your own child care provider and submit a provider application form for them if they are new to CCAP as well.
2. You will need to pay a monthly copayment to the provider, which is based on your family income and size as determined by IDHS.
3. Child care providers may charge other fees that you will be responsible for (e.g., registration, field trip, difference between their rate and what CCAP covers, late fees).

### 4) How do I apply?

- Please complete a CCAP Application and submit it to a Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency or Site Administered Provider. To find your local CCR&R, please visit: <https://www.inccrra.org/about/sdasearch> or call 1-877-202-4453 (toll-free). Additional documentation is required with your application. See section 12 of the application form for details.
- It could take up to 45 calendar days to process your application. You'll be contacted if more information is needed from you or your provider during this process.
- If you are eligible, you and your provider will receive a letter in the mail confirming how many days you are eligible for child care assistance and your copay amount.

The Child Care Assistance Program is an essential service to support Illinois families and providers of quality child care. Find out more and get a CCAP application at [IllinoisCaresforKids.org](http://IllinoisCaresforKids.org).

If you have any questions, please contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency (CCR&R), call 1-877-202-4453 (toll-free), or email [DHS.CCAP.POLICY@Illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.CCAP.POLICY@Illinois.gov). Additional information can be found on the DHS CCAP Web Site at <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30355>. You can also go to <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=118832> to check if your family income qualifies.