

2000 Report on Illinois Child Care





George Ryan, Governor

Linda Renee' Baker, Secretary

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To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to present its *2000 Report on Illinois Child Care*. Accessible, affordable, quality child care is vital to the well-being of the working families of Illinois, and it is an essential support to the growing number of families moving from welfare to work. The department has prepared this multi-faceted report as a resource for everyone committed to the expansion of quality child care options for children in the communities of Illinois.

The *2000 Report on Illinois Child Care* documents changes from 1998, 1999, and in some instances, since 1992. It analyzes information on families who sought child care referrals from the state's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies, as well as information from other sources. Among the findings:

- C CCR&Rs provided child care consultation and referral to 46,786 families seeking care for 69,979 children.
- C The majority of parents continued to request full-time center or home care for their children, although requests for "non-traditional" schedules (24-hour, evening, overnight, and weekend care) all increased since FY 1999.
- C Requests for care related to more sporadic or uncertain employment opportunities (drop-in care, temporary/emergency care, and flexible hours) continued to decrease.
- C The vast majority of families (95.8 percent) continued to choose "near home" as the location of choice for child care.
- C The child care requests by age of children experienced few changes in FY 2000. Infants continued to be the largest age group for which care was requested, 23.6 percent of the total, but their increase of 1.5 percent was not the largest. Requests for school age care (20.3 percent) experienced the largest increase (2.1 percent).
- C The CCR&R database held information on 13,735 child care centers and homes with 362,266 spaces.

- C The percentage of providers indicating experience caring for children with special needs increased.

The Department of Human Services is continuing to move forward to address the pressing needs and issues raised in this report.

- C FY 2000 spending rose to \$574 million, providing child care to 189,000 children on an average monthly basis.
- C A program was again funded to provide child care to parents who are not receiving TANF and need additional child care to pursue education that will result in a better job.
- C A 10 percent rate increase was announced for centers that devote at least 25 percent of their spaces to children less than two and one half years of age, if half of those children are covered by the Child Care Program. This increased the infant toddler slots by 390 and permitted providers to improve the quality of care for infants already receiving service.
- C DHS invested \$10 million in collaborations between Head Start and child care programs, permitting more than 1,800 children from working families to participate in Head Start at one site all day instead of half days.
- C Illinois increased its investment in T.E.A.C.H. from \$1.4 million to \$2.4 million, enabling programs to improve the educational level of care givers, the consistency of care, and caregiver compensation.
- C A majority of sites received a Healthy Child Care Initiative grant to employ a nurse consultant to assist with health outreach, facilitate training for infant/toddler care givers, and establish consultative relationships with child care centers and homes.

In partnership with the General Assembly, DHS continues to work with communities to meet the needs of the state's children and families for accessible, affordable, quality child care.

Sincerely,

Linda Reneé Baker, Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

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Introduction

On July 1, 1997, Illinois implemented a new, income-based child care system for working families. The Child Care Program (CCP) combines state and federal funds, along with the parent co-payments, to serve all working families whose income is below 50 percent of the 1997 Illinois median income of \$21,819 for a family of three. The Bureau of Child Care and Development within the Department of Human Services (DHS) administers child care programs statewide with a goal of ensuring that high quality child care services are available, affordable, and meet standards appropriate for the healthy development of Illinois children.

The Child Care and Development Advisory Council, whose members serve by invitation of the Secretary of the Department of Human Services, advises the Secretary on issues related to child care: quality, system capacity, family outcomes, and program administration. The Department of Children and Family Services, (DCFS) Office of Licensing sets the safety standards and licenses the facilities that meet the standards. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) oversees early childhood education and care programs operated by public and nonprofit education facilities.

With the creation of the Child Care Program, Illinois is furthering an important state objective to ensure that parents have the supportive systems they may need to obtain and maintain productive employment. These services are crucial to low-income families, especially those who have made the transition from welfare to work. The Illinois experience of improving and expanding quality, affordable child care is a continuing effort on the part of many government officials and staff and many members of the child care community statewide – an effort begun over a decade ago and one that will continue into the future.

This report, required by 20ILCS 505/5.15, highlights activities of the Child Care Program during FY 2000. Much of the data in this report is from the Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&R) (Appendix A) database of child care providers and parents seeking child care referrals in the Service Delivery Area (SDA) (Appendix B). This report traces trends in family needs for child care and system capacity to respond through comparisons of FY 1998, FY 1999, and FY 2000 data from the Illinois CCR&Rs. When useful, FY 1992 data are included in the narrative for comparison. For the first time, this report relies on the increasing volume of DHS administrative data, particularly as it informs readers about patterns of child care usage between TANF and non-TANF participants. The report concludes with recommendations and strategies for enhancing the availability, quality, and affordability of child care services in Illinois for the future.

The department hopes this report captures the dedication of these many people to the ideal of affordable and high quality child care for all children. Further, the department hopes this report is useful to the Governor, members of the General Assembly, and the citizens of the state, as together all of the above aspire to provide the best for our citizens/children. DHS thanks the child care providers and their staff, as well as the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, for the care of Illinois' children.

Chapter I

The Illinois Child Care System and Program

A. Introduction

Child care services in Illinois are provided through a system of government agencies: nonprofit regional resource and referral agencies, community child care facilities, and organizations representing the interests of children, families and providers. These groups are involved in the delivery of services to children and their families, and they also influence the availability, quality, and affordability of services. Illinois takes full advantage of the federal Child Care and Development Fund in the operation of its Child Care Program (CCP), including the investment of more general revenue funds (GRF) than required by the federal government. Substantial funds also come from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant and from the Social Services Block Grant.

At the regional level, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies serve 17 Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) through 22 sites. The CCR&R system was established in 1990 and serves all 102 Illinois counties through a network of community-based agencies, funded in large part by DHS. The purpose of the CCR&R system is to help families locate appropriate child care, to help providers improve and expand their child care services, and to help communities create a child care delivery system that meets local needs. During the mid-1990's, CCR&Rs assumed the additional function of processing requests from families for child care subsidies and payments to providers.

In accord with a sweeping new statute on July 1, 1997, Illinois implemented a new income-based child care system for working families. The CCP combines state and federal funds, along with parent co-payments, to serve all working families whose income is below 50 percent of the 1997 Illinois median income, \$21,819 for a family of three.

With the creation of the CCP, Illinois is furthering an important state objective to ensure that parents have the supportive systems they may need to obtain and maintain productive employment. These services are crucial to low-income families, especially those who have made the transition from welfare to work.

This publication reports on the status of the CCP in Illinois during FY 2000. The state agency designated to coordinate child care services in Illinois during the period July 1999-June 2000, was DHS. The Bureau of Child Care and Development, within DHS, administers child care programs statewide with a goal of ensuring that high quality child care services are available, affordable, and meet standards appropriate for the healthy development of Illinois' children.

B. The Child Care System

The CCP is a comprehensive and innovative approach to the provision of child care services. It was enacted into law in 1997 and reflects a long planning process that included representatives from the child care community throughout the state.

Illinois' commitment to employment-related child care for FY 2000 was \$574.0 million. Of these funds, \$523.8 million went directly to child care subsidies, which supported a monthly average of 189,000 children in 95,000 families. The average annual cost per child to the state was \$2,800.

The CCP replaced a collection of programs aimed at providing child care subsidies to various subsets of working families. The CCP is designed to serve all working families whose income is below 50 percent of the 1997 state median income \$21,819 for a family of three (or up to 160 percent of the federal poverty level). The General Assembly appropriates program funds based on expected participation in the program and available revenues. Since its inception, there have been no waiting lists for program subsidies. The term "working family" includes teen parents in high school, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), parents in DHS-approved education/training, and non-TANF parents in education/training and working an average of 20 hours per week.

The CCP helps all working parents who qualify for a subsidy stay employed by providing access to child care which is affordable and of good quality. The CCP also:

- < supports families as long as they are income-eligible, eliminating time limits;
- < serves all income-eligible families, eliminating preferences for families who have received TANF cash grants; and
- < operates without a waiting list for subsidies, eliminating preferential treatment for families who sign up first.

Family Child Care Subsidy and Provider Payments Rates

Parents may secure a subsidy for child care costs by either obtaining vouchers (certificates) through the DHS-funded Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency serving their community or enrolling their children in programs holding contracts with DHS. Under the voucher system, the CCR&R agency determines family eligibility, and parents may use the voucher at the facility of their choice -- provided the facility meets all legal requirements. Through the site-administered contract system, families may apply for licensed care from a statewide network of more than 200 providers. The provider determines eligibility.

In FY 2000, monthly averages of 189,000 children (95,000 families) were served through the certificate and site administered contract system. The average monthly cost per child to the state was \$230; the average monthly cost per family to the state was \$461.

Family Child Care Subsidy

CCR&Rs determine eligibility and assess families' child care fees (co-pay) which are payable to their provider. The size of the subsidy paid to the provider depends on family income, family size, and the number of children in child care. To be eligible for a subsidy, family income must be less than 50 percent of the 1997 Illinois median income, (See Appendix C for income guidelines.). Gross earned income is reduced by 10 percent when determining eligibility and assessing fees. Co-payment levels or fees for a family of three range from 1.0 percent of family income to approximately 8.0 percent for the first/only child in care, and an additional 1.0 percent to 6.0 percent for the second child in care.

Provider Payment Rates

Reimbursement to providers is determined by established payment rates (Appendix D). Rates vary by region, type of care, licensed status of facility, and age of the child or children. New rates were effective January 1, 1999, the product of a market rate study as required by federal regulation.

Additional CCP Initiatives

In addition to expanding affordable child care to an increased number of low-income working families, Illinois is committed to promoting quality child care environments throughout the state. The Child Care Program increases the state's investment in initiatives to enhance quality through expanded collaborations and additional funding.

The Child Care Program periodically issues a Quality Enhancement Request for Proposal to the child care community. Grant funds allow grantee programs to provide education and training to child care staff and family caregivers, pursue accreditation, offer educational and involvement activities to parents and families, and facilitate community collaborations. In FY 2000, \$13.5 million was awarded to more than 330 grantees statewide to help improve the quality of child care for Illinois children and families.

The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood Program for child care providers aims to improve three factors associated with higher levels of quality in early childhood programs: the education level of caregivers, the consistency of care (reducing turnover), and caregiver compensation. T.E.A.C.H. provides both child care centers, and family home providers with partial funding for college scholarships, travel, and release time. In return, participating providers commit to remaining at their job for a year after receiving the scholarship, during which time they receive a raise or a bonus. Illinois' budgeted investment in T.E.A.C.H. was \$2.4 million in FY 2000.

The Illinois Healthy Child Care Illinois Initiative supports collaborations between Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies and county health departments. Funding provides for a public health nurse consultant to be placed at each CCR&R site and Cook County satellite office. Nurse consultants assist

with health outreach, facilitate training for child care providers and establish consultative relationships with child care centers and homes. The goal of the initiative is to connect public health and child care systems to support healthy child care environments and, ultimately, healthy outcomes for children in care. The Healthy Child Care Initiative is funded by a partnership of two DHS Bureaus, Child Care and Development and Maternal and Child Health. Nurse consultants were placed in a majority of the CCR&Rs in FY 2000. All sites will have a nurse consultant by FY 2001. Program funding is at \$1.6 million.

Increasing Affordability

The Child Care Program has made child care more affordable to a larger number of families by ensuring universal eligibility to all families with children under age 13 whose income is less than 50 percent of the 1997 state median income. Since the launching of the CCP in July 1997, the number of children receiving a subsidy has grown steadily. In June 1999, approximately 174,500 children were receiving a subsidy. At the end of the Child Care Program's third year in June 2000, approximately 195,600 children were receiving a subsidy. This represents a 12 percent increase.

Child Care Programs for Special Populations

The Bureau of Child Care and Development collaborates with other organizations and state agencies to promote quality child care for children. Illinois has committed \$10 million annually to Head Start collaborations with child care, expanding full-day, full-year programs to approximately 1,800 children. Head Start is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and designed to provide comprehensive child and family development to low income families. The program emphasizes the involvement of parents and provides social and health services, as well as education services. The Pre-Kindergarten Program is administered by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to provide early childhood education and care for three to five-year-old children who are at risk of academic failure. The program is administered by school districts, which submit proposals to ISBE and determine their own criteria for "at risk," as well as develop screening programs to identify children in need of services.

C. Programs Supporting the Child Care System

Child Care Resource and Referral System

DHS contracts with 17 Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies operating in 22 sites to perform the following services:

- ç Provide parents with consumer education and referrals to child care in their communities;
- ç Deliver training and assistance to providers in order to improve the quality of care offered;
- ç Help develop new child care resources in communities where they are needed;
- ç Assemble and maintain an accurate child care database to provide up-to-date information to parents;
and
- ç Record and analyze data on child care supply and demand to support community capacity building.

Additionally, these agencies administer the family voucher subsidy system and the provider payment system.

In FY 2000, CCR&Rs provided child care consultation and referral to a total of 46,786 families seeking care for 69,979 children (including families receiving enhanced services). This represents a 0.4 percent decrease in families and a 10.4 percent decrease in children from FY 1999.

The total CCR&R database held information on 13,735 child care centers and homes, with 362,266 spaces by the end of FY 2000. These figures represent a 2.6 percent decrease in programs and a 10.0 percent decrease in spaces since FY 1999.

Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) the group who compiles much of the data used in this report is refining the data base they are using in preparation for a new software program. They are removing duplicate providers, children and families in order to provide more accurate information. This cleaning up of their system could account for the decline in numbers.

The Illinois Child Care Resource and Referral System also engages in training and professional development activities. In FY 2000, 2,137 individual workshops were held statewide covering the eight content areas of the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. These areas include: 1) Safe and Healthy Environment, 2) Physical and Intellectual Development, 3) Social and Emotional Development, 4) Relationships with Families, 5) Effective Program Operation, 6) Commitment to Professionalism, 7) Recording Children's Behavior, and 8) Child Growth and Development. During FY 2000, 37,077 child care professionals attended 87,688 hours of training at these workshops.

FY 2000 Statewide CCR&R Training Activities

The individual agencies of the Illinois Child Care Resource and Referral System plan and deliver training in many forms to respond to the diverse training needs of the child care professionals in Illinois. Training workshops are the most common method of training delivery, followed closely by conferences. The use of self-study materials by child care providers has steadily increased since 1996, when the CCR&R

system developed its first member agencies. FY 1999 figures follow in parenthesis.

Workshops

- 2,137 (2,040) individual workshops were held covering the eight CDA content areas.
- 37,077 (37,878) child care providers attended 87,866 (100,497) hours of training.
- 9,139 (11,320) family child care workers attended 27,102 (31,253) hours of training.
- 2,648 (3,069) day care center directors attended 5,775 (7,376) hours of training.
- 15,263 (15,413) center staff attended 31,463 (39,994) hours of training.
- 10,027 (8,067) other child care professionals attended 23,347 (21,874) hours of training.

Conferences

- Ⓒ 61 (45) conferences were sponsored or co-sponsored with community organizations.
- Ⓒ 9,706 (7,663) child care professionals attended these conferences.
- Ⓒ 56,135 (44,756) hours of training were delivered through conferences.

Self-Study

- Ⓒ 395 (348) child care professionals used self study materials available at each CCR&R.
- Ⓒ 154 (180) family child care providers received credit for 308 (418) hours of study.
- Ⓒ 22 (13) day care center directors received credit for 68 (37) hours of study.
- Ⓒ 215 (120) day care center staff received credit for 409 (693) hours of study.

FY'00 Professional Development Funds

Professional development funds available through the individual CCR&R agencies allow child care providers the opportunity to attend professional development activities not sponsored by the local CCR&R. Providers may request funds for college tuition, registration for state conferences, or other community training.

College Scholarships

Funds awarded for scholarships for college/university courses totaled \$85,681 (\$82,740):

- Ⓒ 78 (98) family child care providers received 317 (365) hours of college funds.
- Ⓒ 47 (33) day care center directors received 154 (96) hours of college credit.
- Ⓒ 310 (404) day care center staff received 1,035 (1,232) hours of college credit.
- Ⓒ 233 (235) awards were given to child care professionals who work at centers or homes which have enrollments of 25 percent or more subsidized children.

Other Professional Development Activities

Funds awarded for other professional development activities totaled \$188,710 (\$157,758). A total of 4,868 (5,055) child care professionals pursued a variety of professional development activities.

- Ⓒ 858 (737) family child care providers used professional development funds.
- Ⓒ 1,068 (1,328) day care center directors used professional development funds.
- Ⓒ 2,942 (2,990) day care center staff requested and used professional development funds .
- Ⓒ 652 (923) awards were made to child care professionals who work at centers or homes which have enrollments of 25 percent or more subsidized children.

CHAPTER II

Child Care Needs of Families and Children

A. Introduction

This chapter examines the need for child care services by Illinois families and their children. Major FY 2000 information sources are administrative data from the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) on families using subsidized child care and records of the Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) on families seeking child care consultation and referral. DHS administrative data include information routinely collected by the agency. The CCR&R data is compiled by INCCRRA.

Obviously, these data do not include all families and children requiring child care services in Illinois. Most families do not receive a child care subsidy, and many families find child care services through friends, family, ads, and other informal means. DHS will supplement administrative and CCR&R data with additional information, as available, for a broader understanding of child care needs in Illinois.

There are two dimensions of “need” or “demand” for child care. The first dimension of need is the number of children needing child care, i.e., the number of child care spaces required to meet the need. The second dimension consists of all the unique requirements of families and children for child care. Factors influencing these requirements include age of a child, type of care arrangement desired, schedule of parent(s), desired location of a child care provider, special needs of child, and ability of parents to pay for child care.

B. The Demand for Child Care

Current Demand Reported by DHS and CCR&Rs

DHS Administrative Data. In the month of June 2000, 86,281 families used subsidized child care through the voucher system for 172,896 children. This represented a 12.6 percent increase in families and a 13.7 percent increase in children over June 1999, as illustrated in Tables 1(a) and 1(b) on the following page.

Table 1(a): Families Using Subsidized Vouchers: TANF and NON-TANF

FAMILIES	JUNE 1999	%	JUNE 2000	%	%
TANF	27,734	36.2%	21,931	25.4%	(-) 20.9%
NON-TANF	48,869	63.8%	64,350	74.6%	(+) 31.7%
TOTAL	76,603	100.0%	86,281	100%	(+) 12.6%

NOTE: Non-TANF includes families formerly on TANF, as well as those never on TANF. In addition to the families who used vouchers, 17,636 families used site administered child care in June 2000. It is unknown what percentage of families were TANF and Non-TANF.

Table 1(b): Children Using Subsidized Vouchers: TANF and NON-TANF

CHILDREN	JUNE 1999	%	JUNE 2000	%	%
TANF	64,997	42.7%	54,558	31.6%	(-) 16.1%
NON-TANF	87,114	57.3%	118,338	68.4%	(+) 35.8%
TOTAL	152,111	100.0%	172,896	100%	(+) 13.7%

NOTE: Non-TANF includes families formerly on TANF, as well as those never on TANF. In addition to the children who used vouchers 22,649 children used site administered child care in June 2000. It is unknown what percentage were TANF and NON-TANF.

Families and children using child care subsidies can be distinguished by their connection to TANF during FY 2000, TANF and Non-TANF, as shown in Tables 1(a) and 1(b). This latter group includes those who were , but in FY 2000, Non-TANF families and children showed an increase while TANF families and children showed a decrease. As of July 1999 the TANF program showed a 59 percent decline from 1994.

The number of children using a subsidy and **formerly** on TANF grew significantly between FY 1999 and FY 2000, while the number of children **currently** on TANF dropped. The number of children unrelated to TANF and using subsidized care is not available for FY 2000.

In addition to the families that used vouchers, 17,636 families used site-administered child care facilities in June 2000 to care for 22,649 children, compared to 15,902 families for 22,355 children in June of 1999.

CCR&R Data. During FY 2000, a total of 46,786 families contacted their local Child Care Resource & Referral agency for consultation and referrals to child care providers (including enhanced services). These families sought assistance for 69,979 children. The total number of families and children using CCR&R services in FY 2000 decreased slightly from families and

children in FY 1999. As stated previously, this decrease could be attributed to a more accurate data base.

The data reported in Table 2(a) and Table 2(b) are presented according to the income levels of the families requesting care. Families reporting incomes 50 percent and below the state median income are eligible for subsidy assistance. Families earning below 60 percent receive referral services at no charge. Families earning between 60 percent and 100 percent of the state median income are charged \$10.00 for a year of referral services; those between 100 percent and 125 percent are charged \$20.00, and those above 125 percent are charged \$30.00.

Table 2(a): Families Served by CCR&Rs - FY 1999 and FY 2000

FAMILIES BY INCOME LEVEL	FY 1999	%	FY 2000	%
Families 50% median income and under	27,793		28,688	
Families 50% - 60% median income	4,834		6,049	
Families 60% median income and	32,627	68.8%	34,737	78.0%
Families 60% - 85% median income	2,520		2,042	
Families 85% - 100% median income	1,404		1,071	
Families 100% - 125% median income	1,269		1,031	
Families above 125% median income	3,390		2,914	
Families above 60% median income	8,583	18.1%	7058	16.0%
Families receiving enhanced services	3,260		2,301	
Families no income data available	2,949		2,690	
Total Families no income data	6,209	13.1%	4,991	6.0%
TOTAL FAMILIES	47,419	100.0	46,786	100.0

Table 2(b): Children Served by CCR&Rs: FY 1999 and FY 2000

CHILDREN BY INCOME LEVEL	FY 1999	%	FY 2000	%
Children 50% median income and under	45,170		46,148	
Children 50% - 60% median income	6,882		8,624	
Children 60% median income and	52,052	73.3%	54,772	82.0%
Children 60% - 85% median income	3,398		2,737	
Children 85% - 100% median income	1,917		1,431	
Children 100% - 125% median income	1,670		1,328	
Children above 125% median income	4,132		3,572	
Children above 60% median income	11,117	15.7%	9,068	13.0%
Children receiving enhanced services	4,143		2,841	
Children no income data available	3,670		3,350	
Total Children no income data	7,813	11.0%	6,191	5.0%
TOTAL CHILDREN	70,982	100.0%	70,031	100.0

The tables also present state aggregate data on the number of families and children served by CCR&Rs within specific income groups during FY 2000. Among families, 28,688 (64 percent) were at or less than 50 percent of the 1997 median income level and 6,049 (14 percent) were between 50-60 percent of the 1997 median income. The number of families over 60 percent of the 1997 median income was 7,058 (16 percent). They are not income-eligible for a subsidy.

CCR&R records did not contain income data on 4,991(6.0 percent) families. Of those, 2,789 families received an enhanced service that does not require the keeping of income records since the service for the family is purchased largely through employer contracts with the CCR&Rs. Enhanced service refers to providing parents who work for the contracting employer with a customized list of potential caretakers who have openings that meet the needs of the families and are willing to have the parent contact them.

Of the total number of families served by CCR&Rs, 4,085 (6.0 percent) families were recipients of TANF. This is a 4.3 percent decrease in the number of families receiving TANF during FY 1999.

Future Demand for Child Care

A number of factors influence projected demand for child care services, including the number of women and children, the percentage of working mothers, and the percentage of families using market child care.

The number of Illinois children, ages 0-5, increased by 8.0 percent between 1990 and 1996, from 1.02 million children to 1.10 million children (Illinois Bureau of the Budget, 1997). Between 1996 and 2005, the trend is expected to reverse, and growth will decrease by 6.0 percent. Conversely, children between the ages of 6-12 are expected to increase by 2.0 percent, from 1,201,000 in 1996 to 1,230,800 in 2005. The group of women between the ages of 20 and 44 grew by 1.5 percent between 1990 and 1995. From 1995 to 2005, this group will increase by 2.0 percent and then accelerate by another 5.9 percent between 2005 and 2020.

Based on projected population growth of women and children, it appears that increased demand will be minimal until 2005. However, the proportion of women entering the work force will continue to increase, from 75 percent of women ages 25-54 in 1993 to 83 percent of women in 2005, according to Department of Labor Statistics. This will heighten demand. In 1995, 61 percent of Illinois children under age six and 49 percent of children age 6-12, lived with working parents.

Types of Care Requested

Theoretically, families have a number of child care arrangements from which to choose, as shown in Table 3. In reality, a variety of factors may limit the types of arrangements available to them, as discussed in subsequent sections. Table 3 indicates the type of child care arrangement requested based on the number of children for whom care was requested.

Table 3: Types of Care Requested (Number of Request)

FACILITIES	FY'98	%	FY'99	%	FY'00	%
Center (ONLY)	4,790	8.2%	5,751	8.6%	5,426	7.9%
Home (ONLY)	12,378	21.2%	12,688	19.0%	12,810	18.8%
In-Home (ONLY)	910	1.6%	840	1.3%	541	0.8%
Center or Home	38,540	66.1%	46,479	69.7%	48,462	71.3%
Center or In-Home	51	0.1%	63	0.1%	36	0.1%
Home or In-Home	594	1.0%	644	1.0%	317	0.5%
Center, Home, or In-Home	1,050	1.8%	215	0.3%	398	0.6%
TOTAL REQUESTS	58,313	100.0%	66,680	100.0%	67,990	100.0%

Notes: Home refers to care in the home of a child care provider. In-Home refers to care in a child's home. The data for FY'98 have been adjusted from what was reported in the FY'98 report to allow for comparison among all three years based on consistently defining "Total" as the total number of requests for type of care based on the number of children for whom care was requested, not including children in families receiving enhanced services.

According to CCR&R data, the number of requests for Center or Home care referrals (meaning families requesting referrals for center and home provider referrals for one child) increased by 4.3

percent, representing 71.3 percent of all requests. The number of In-Home Only requests decreased, and the number of Center or Home or In-Home (families requesting all three options for one child) requests increased in FY 2000. Requests for family child care Home Only referrals still represented the second most requested option in FY 2000.

C. Schedule Requested

Table 4 presents the schedule of times parents indicated they needed child care in FY 1992, FY 1998, FY 1999, and FY 2000. Data in the table show the number of requests for specific schedules. They do not reveal the total number of spaces actually needed, because parents could request more than one type of schedule for a child. A review of the data indicates that the percentage of requests for certain schedules changed from FY 1999 to FY 2000. For example, the number of requests for full-time schedules increased from 52,985 in FY 1999 to 55,199 in FY 2000, a 4.2 percent increase.

Table 4: Schedules Requested (Number of Children)

SCHEDULE	FY'92	%	FY'98	%	FY'99	%	FY'00	%
Full Time	24,443	70.3	49,274	76.7	52,985	79.3	55,199	82.0
Drop In	128	0.4	572	0.9	543	0.8	471	0.7
Temp/Emergency	739	2.1	946	1.5	752	1.1	700	1.1
Twenty-Four Hour	20	0.1	224	0.3	375	0.6	492	0.8
Evening	1,403	4.0	7,028	10.9	7,937	11.9	8,581	12.8
Overnight	387	1.1	1,175	1.8	1,381	2.1	1,638	2.5
Weekend	344	1.0	5,006	7.8	5,801	8.7	5,848	8.7
Before School	608	1.7	5,624	8.7	6,702	10.0	6,423	9.6
After School	913	2.6	8,191	12.7	9,594	14.4	9,382	14.0
Vacations/Holidays	344	1.0	5,009	7.8	1,813	2.7	1,419	2.2
Rotating	1,458	4.2	2,741	4.3	2,687	4.0	2,366	3.6

Note: Multiple schedules may be requested by a family for one child so numbers and percentages will not add to the total number of children and percentages will exceed 100 percent. The percentages for FY'00 are based on 67,190 children—total children reported in Table 2(b) minus children in families receiving enhanced services. Flexible schedule requests were removed from this table, as the data definition of collecting these data was not consistent over all fiscal years reported.

In addition, interesting patterns were revealed between FY 1999 and FY 2000 for particular categories of schedule requests. Requests for “non-traditional” schedules (24-hour care, evening care, overnight care, and weekend care) again all increased in FY 2000 over FY1999—from an 8.2

percent increase for evening care requests to a 31.2 percent increase for 24-hour care requests. These increases for non-traditional care may all relate to the increase in low-income families who contacted the CCR&Rs (Table 2a), as research indicates that low-income families tend to find employment in entry-level positions that often require non-traditional work schedules (General Accounting Office, 1997). In contrast, FY 2000 requests for care that relate to more sporadic or uncertain employment opportunities (drop-in care, temporary/emergency care, and flexible hours) all decreased. The increases are becoming smaller, which could indicate that the low-income families have been working enough to have regular work schedules.

D. Location Requested

The vast majority of families continued to choose Near Home as one of a number of possible location preferences, more than 95.8 percent in FY 2000 (Table 5). Near Work represented requests for 24 percent of the children. The number of Near School requests decreased in FY 2000 by 18.4 percent, while the number of Other location requests decreased by 0.2 percent. Other may include the desire to be near a relative, friend, or bus stop.

Table 5: Location Requested (Number of Children)

LOCATION	FY'98	%	FY'99	%	FY'00	%
Near Home	58,941	91.7	61,915	92.3	64,347	95.8
Near Work	16,023	24.9	17,760	26.6	15,973	23.8
Near School	6,129	9.5	5,913	8.7	4,826	7.2
Other	4,540	7.1	5,782	8.7	5,773	8.6

Note: A family may request multiple locations for one child, so numbers do not add to total and the percentages exceed 100 percent. The percentages for FY'00 are based on 67,190 children (total children reported in Table 2b, minus children in families receiving enhanced services).

Parents may make multiple location requests for a child; 1.4 location requests per child were expressed. This reflects that some families must depend on more than one child care arrangement for a child, a reality that is documented by research and anecdotal stories.

E. Age of Children

The child care requests by age of children experienced few changes in FY 2000. Infants continue to be the largest age group, 23.6 percent of the total, but their increase of 1.5 percent was not the largest. Requests for school age care (20.3 percent) experienced the largest increase (2.1 percent).

Table 6: Child Care Requests by Age of Children

REQUESTS BY AGE	FY'98	%	FY'99	%	FY'00	%
Infants	19,299	30.0%	15,651	23.4%	15,872	23.6%
Toddlers	5,502	8.6%	9,712	14.5%	9,862	14.4%
Two year Olds	8,675	13.5%	8,977	13.4%	8,876	10.2%
Three to Four year Olds	13,834	21.5%	14,046	21.0%	13,918	20.7%
Five year Olds / Kindergartners	4,753	7.4%	5,081	7.6%	4,994	7.4%
School-age	12,212	19.0%	13,372	20.0%	13,653	20.3%
TOTAL CHILDREN	64,275	100%	66,839	100.0%	67,175	100%

Note: The number of children by age and the percentages for FY 2000 do not include children in families receiving enhanced services.

F. Children with Special Needs

Prior to the implementation of the Child Care Program in July 1997, DHS prioritized children with special needs for a subsidy. DHS continues to recognize the need of these children for child care, but because all eligible applicants now receive subsidies without waiting lists, prioritizing special groups is no longer necessary.

A special need refers to problems of an emotional, behavioral, or physical nature. Children with developmental disabilities are included. This priority is supported by the 1992 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires that providers of child care accept children with disabilities unless acceptance would be an undue burden on the provider or would require a fundamental alteration in the program. In FY 2000, parents requested care for 2,510 children with a special need. Families of children with special needs represented approximately 8.0 percent of all children seeking CCR&R assistance in FY 2000. These percentages decreased slightly from FY 1999.

G. Type of Subsidy Requested

In FY 2000, care was requested for 46,148 children whose parents who were potentially eligible for a subsidy. In addition, parents requested information about an DHS subsidy, either through a voucher or an DHS contracted child care facility, for 54,772 children. This represents 95.8 percent of children who were potentially eligible for an DHS subsidy.

Parents may also indicate an interest in Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten programs. While not strictly child care programs, they do fulfill some subsidized child care needs in that they offer free educational services for pre-school age children. Head Start is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is designed to provide child development and educational services to children in families with low incomes regardless of the employment status of the family. Health, social, and educational services are provided through local delegate agencies. ISBE oversees the Pre-K program, which offers education and care for three to five-year-old children who are at risk of academic failure. It is administered by school districts. Of the total number of children served by CCR&Rs, families requested Head Start subsidies for 214 children and Pre-K information for 185 children.

Additionally, some child care facilities offer scholarships, sliding scale rates, and fee reductions to families with more than one child in the facility. Of the total number of children served by CCR&Rs, 26,493 requests for subsidy information were made to CCR&Rs. A family may request information on a number of subsidies, so the number of requests does not match the total number of children for whom care was requested.

CHAPTER III

Child Care Services in Illinois

A. Introduction

Information about child care services and caregiver characteristics is presented in this chapter. As in previous chapters, the focus is on the status of services in FY 2000 as well as the extent of change over the past three fiscal years.

Section B provides information on the number (supply) of child care facilities and spaces for children in facilities from two sources the DCFS Office of Licensing and the Illinois CCR&R system database. The remainder of Section B uses data from CCR&R agencies to describe characteristics of their child care providers: types of arrangements available, schedules of providers, acceptance of children with special needs, and acceptance of subsidies.

B. Capacity of Illinois Child Care Services

Supply Licensed by DCFS

One method of assessing supply is to consider the number of spaces (capacity) licensed by DCFS compared to the number of children who may require full-day child care. Table 7(a) shows the number of children, ages 0-5 based on 1990 Census, compared to the licensed supply of child care and the percentage of change between FY 1999 and FY 2000. Center capacity is the number of spaces in centers for children through 13 years of age; home capacity is the number of spaces in homes for children through 11 years of age. Facilities and spaces are each calculated per 1,000 children ages 0-5.

As of June 2000, 3,014 licensed centers were providing 185,924 spaces, a 3.8 percent decrease in centers and a 0.5 percent decrease in spaces (Table 7a). The number of licensed child care homes was 9,956 and the number of spaces was 76,263 as of June 2000. This represents a 1.2 percent decrease in homes and an .8 percent decrease in spaces over the previous year. This change may reflect an improvement in the maintenance of the database and the faster removal of providers no longer providing licensed care.

Table 7(a): Number of Facilities/Number of Spaces per 1,000 Children 0-5 Years Old

	0-5 Child Population*	Total Centers	Centers Capacity	Total Homes	Homes Capacity	Total Licensed	Total Capacity	Facilities Per 1000	Slots Per 1000
STATE									
June '98	1,018,444	3,501	204,931	11,143	82,257	14,644	287,188	14	282
June '99	1,018,444	3,133	186,865	10,068	75,714	13,201	262,579	13	258
June '00	1,018,444	3,014	185,924	9,956	76,263	12,970	262,187	13	257
%		-3.8%	-5%	-1.2%	+8%	-1.8%	-.2%	0%	-.4%

* SOURCE: 1990 Census.

The number of licensed facilities (centers and homes) and spaces in June 1998, June 1999, and June 2000 are listed for each Service Delivery Area (SDA) in Table 7(b) on the two following pages. This represents both licensed facilities and spaces over the one-year period between FY 1999 and FY 2000 for almost all SDAs.

Table 7(b): Number of Facilities/Number of Spaces per 1,000 Children 0-5 Years Old

SDA	0-5 Child* Population	Total Centers	Centers Capacity	Total Homes	Homes Capacity	Total Licensed	Total Capacity	Facilities Per 1,000	Slots per 1,000
SDA I									
Jun-98	31,764	104	5,583	744	5,697	848	11,280	27	355
Jun-99	31,764	91	5,104	704	5,442	795	10,546	25	332
Jun-00	31,764	85	5,274	699	5,685	784	10,959	25	345
% Change		-6.6	3.4	0.8	4.5	-1.4	4.0	0.0	4.0
SDA II									
Jun-98	19,198	98	3,903	345	2,533	443	6,436	23	335
Jun-99	19,198	86	3,481	293	2,211	379	5,692	20	296
Jun-00	19,198	86	3,543	280	2,214	366	5,757	19	300
% Change		0.0	1.8	-4.5	0.2	-3.5	1.2	-0.5	1.4
SDA III									
Jun-98	71,550	291	17,647	590	4,076	881	21,723	12	304
Jun-99	71,550	238	14,981	545	3,851	793	18,832	11	263
	71,550	232	14,815	501	3,616	733	18,431	10	258
% Change		-2.6	-1.2	-8.1	-6.1	-7.6	-2.2	-9.1	-1.9
SDA IV									
Jun-98	109,518	344	22,518	971	6,858	1,315	29,376	12	268
Jun-99	109,518	296	20,54	777	5,609	1,073	29,156	10	239
Jun-00	109,518	291	21,172	674	4,963	965	26,135	9	239
% Change		-1.7	3.1	-13.3	-11.6	-10.1	-10.4	-10.0	0.0
SDA V									
Jun-98	50,850	160	8,351	598	4,327	758	12,678	15	249
Jun-99	50,850	142	7,784	588	4,283	730	12,067	14	237
Jun-00	50,850	142	8,067	586	4,358	728	12,425	14	244
% Change		0.0	3.7	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	3.0	0.0	3.0
SDA VI									
Jun-98	454,654	1,386	88,450	2,727	19,210	4,113	107,660	9	237
Jun-99	454,654	1,233	79,197	2,537	18,402	3,770	97,599	8	215
Jun-00	454,654	1,178	76,904	2,747	20,324	3,925	97,228	9	214
% Change		-4.5	-2.9	8.0	10.5	4.2	-0.4	12.5	-0.5
SDA VII									
Jun-98	26,255	94	4,643	444	3,385	538	8,028	20	306
Jun-99	26,255	89	4,399	409	3,178	498	7,577	19	289
Jun-00	26,255	87	4,392	417	3,223	504	7,615	19	290
% Change		-2.3	-0.2	2.0	1.5	1.2	0.5	0.0	0.4
SDA VIII									
Jun-98	44,994	185	9,036	416	3,204	601	12,240	13	272
Jun-99	44,994	174	8,760	383	3,018	557	11,778	12	262
Jun-00	44,994	166	8,869	369	2,951	535	11,820	12	263
% Change		-4.6	1.3	-3.7	-2.3	-4.0	0.4	0.0	0.4

* SOURCE: 1990 Census.

Table 7(b): Number of Facilities/Number of Spaces per 1,000 Children 0-5 Years Old – (CONTINUED)

SDA	0-5 Child* Population	Total Centers	Centers Capacity	Total Homes	Homes Capacity	Total Licensed	Total Capacity	Facilities per 1,000	Slots per 1,000
SDA IX									
Jun-98	16,067	98	4,665	357	2,611	455	7,276	28	453
Jun-99	16,067	92	4,196	313	2,345	405	6,541	25	407
Jun-00	16,067	86	4,238	300	2,249	386	6,487	24	404
% Change		-6.6	1.1	-4.2	-4.1	-4.7	-0.9	-0.4	-0.8
SDA X									
Jun-98	36,465	145	8,026	917	6,748	1,062	14,774	29	405
Jun-99	36,465	133	7,567	810	5,998	943	3,565	26	372
Jun-00	36,465	129	7,619	828	6,240	957	13,859	26	380
% Change		-0.3	0.7	2.3	4.1	1.5	2.2	0.0	2.2
SDA XI									
Jun-98	10,238	40	1,349	306	2,279	346	3,628	34	354
Jun-99	10,238	43	1,474	233	1,767	276	3,241	27	317
Jun-00	10,238	43	1,623	225	1,755	268	3,378	26	330
% Change		0.0	10.1	-0.9	-0.7	-2.9	4.3	-3.7	4.1
SDA XII									
Jun-98	14,126	41	1,749	461	3,635	502	5,984	36	381
Jun-99	14,126	38	1,866	428	3,434	466	5,300	33	375
Jun-00	14,126	35	1,868	411	3,308	446	5,176	32	366
% Change		-7.9	0.1	0.4	-3.7	-4.3	-2.4	-3.1	-2.4
SDA XIII									
Jun-98	32,423	170	9,225	800	6,404	970	15,529	30	479
Jun-99	32,423	140	7,730	716	5,718	856	13,448	26	415
Jun-00	32,423	130	7,630	617	4,998	747	12,628	23	389
% Change		-7.2	-1.3	-13.9	-12.6	-12.8	-6.1	-11.6	-6.3
SDA XIV									
Jun-98	56,589	180	10,943	772	5,657	952	16,600	17	293
Jun-99	56,589	181	11,239	712	5,254	893	16,493	16	291
Jun-00	56,589	175	11,352	731	5,468	906	16,820	16	297
% Change		-3.4	1.0	2.3	4.1	1.5	2.0	0.0	2.1
SDA XV									
Jun-98	20,931	68	3,270	439	3,760	507	7,030	24	336
Jun-99	20,931	75	3,589	395	3,387	470	6,976	22	333
Jun-00	20,931	71	3,617	350	3,083	421	6,700	20	320
% Change		-5.4	0.8	-11.4	-9.0	-10.5	-4.0	-9.1	-3.9
SDA XVI									
Jun-98	22,822	97	5,573	256	1,973	356	7,546	15	331
Jun-99	22,822	82	4,951	225	1,817	307	6,768	13	297
Jun-00	22,822	78	4,941	221	1,828	299	6,769	13	297
% Change		-4.9	-0.2	-1.8	0.6	-2.6	0.1	0.0	

*SOURCE: 1990 Census.

A number of factors should be kept in mind when interpreting these data. First, while the use of children ages 0-5 is convenient for comparison purposes, some of these spaces are actually filled by school age children, thereby reducing the number of spaces available to children under six. Also, while the entire population of children under age six is used for estimating purposes, it is recognized that not every child will need paid care because a parent or other unpaid person will care for them.

C. Supply Registered with the CCR&Rs.

The Child Care Resource & Referral provider database contains 13,735 center and home facilities with spaces for 362,266 children as of June 2000. These figures include both licensed and license-exempt facilities. Table 8 shows that between June 1999 and June 2000 the total number of facilities listed with the CCR&Rs decreased 2.6 percent, while the total number of spaces decreased 10.1 percent.

Table 8: Child Care Facilities Listed with CCR&Rs

	FY 1999				FY 2000			
	Facilities	%	Spaces	%	Facilities	%	Spaces	%
LICENSED								
Homes	7,729	69.0%	59,296	22.1%	7,975	71.5%	61,985	24.5%
Group Homes	257	2.3%	3,323	1.2%	274	2.5%	3,575	1.4%
Centers	3,219	28.7%	205,125	76.6%	2,906	26.1%	187,087	74.1%
Total Licensed	11,205	100%	267,744	100%	11,155	100%	252,647	100%
LICENSE-EXEMPT								
Homes	774	26.7%	2,181	1.6%	707	27.4%	2,317	2.1%
Centers	2,120	73.3%	132,702	98.4%	1,873	72.6%	107,302	97.9%
Total License Exempt	2,894	100%	134,883	100%	2,580	100%	109,619	100%
TOTAL BOTH	14,099		402,627		13,735		362,266	

A comparison of Table 7(a) with Table 8 reveals that virtually all licensed centers are registered with their local Child Care Resource and Referral agency. The fact that the CCR&R listings appear slightly higher for centers may be a reflection of listing programs more than once in the CCR&R databases for centers that operate more than one type of program, even though they are licensed as one facility. For example, a center that operates both a full-time child care program and a part-time preschool program may only have one license and, therefore, be listed in the

DCFS database only once. However, the center may be listed twice in the CCR&R database in order to expedite the parent referral process and better match the parent's needs.

It is also noteworthy that only three-quarters of the family child care homes that have been licensed by DCFS choose to register with their local CCR&R. Family child care homes that do not register with their local CCR&R are not available for parent referrals, nor do they receive information about training and other forms of technical assistance available from the CCR&R system.

D. Types of Available Arrangements

Licensed facilities listed with CCR&Rs decreased 4.0 percent overall, largely due to a 9.7 percent decrease in licensed centers (Table 8). Licensed spaces overall decreased by 5.6 percent. Licensed homes represent 71.5 percent of licensed type of child care arrangement listed with the CCR&Rs, as represented in Figure 2. The largest proportion of licensed child care spaces (74.1 percent) were found in child care centers, as represented in Table 8.

License-exempt facilities listed with the CCR&Rs decreased by 10.9 percent, and spaces by 18.8 percent, in FY 2000. Despite this reduction, growth in license-exempt facilities and spaces remain a relatively small portion of the market supply listed with the CCR&Rs, approximately 20.5 percent of facilities and 33.5 percent of spaces.

E. Provider's Schedules

Providers' schedules will be examined using three sets of criteria: full-day child care for families who work the traditional 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. work day; part-day care or nursery school care; and care during non-standard hours, such as evenings and weekends.

Full-Day, Standard Schedules

The data in Table 9 represent all registered facilities which offered full-day child care, excluding nursery school only, before/after school care only, and summer camp only. This information reveals the system's capacity to provide care for children under 6 years of age whose parents are employed full time.

Table 9: Full-Time Facilities Listed with CCR&Rs

	FY 1998		FY 1999		FY 2000	
	Facilities	Spaces	Facilities	Spaces	Facilities	Spaces
HOMES						
Licensed	7,739	58,726	7,703	59,085	7,954	61,820
License-Exempt	754	1,941	773	2,179	704	2,312
Licensed Group	231	2,933	249	3,240	266	3,503
SUBTOTAL HOMES	8,724	63,600	8,725	64,504	8,924	67,635
CENTERS						
Licensed	1,734	122,991	2,223	152,806	2,107	151,828
License-Exempt	514	27,809	1,358	94,960	1,181	77,126
SUBTOTAL CENTERS	2,248	150,800	3581	247,766	3,288	228,954
TOTAL BOTH	10,972	301,600	12,306	312,270	12,212	296,589

As the data indicate, 12,212 facilities had full-time space capacity for 296,589 children. Although the CCR&R records list 296,589 full-time spaces, fewer spaces are actually available because some of these spaces were filled by children in part-day child care in these full-time facilities. These figures represent a 0.8 percent decrease in facilities over the past year, and a 5.0 percent decrease in capacity. Increased license-exempt centers accounted for the majority of the increase in total spaces. This increase is likely attributable to the inclusion of some programs (such as full-day, summer camp programs) in the CCR&R database, that had not been included in past years.

An additional 681 facilities (not included in the table) offered before/after school child care, thus expanding the potential for full-day child care to 34,556 school-age children.

Nursery School Care

In addition to full-time spaces, 1,523 facilities were open for care part of the day, with spaces for 65,677 children. Some facilities provide both full-time and part-time care and may be counted twice.

Non-Standard Schedules

Parents' schedules increasingly require care for their children outside of the traditional 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. week-day hours. Table 10 lists schedule arrangements, full-time and non-standard, offered by care givers listed with the CCR&R system and changes since FY 1998. The number of facilities offering full-time schedules is listed for comparative purposes.

Table 10: Number of Facilities Offering Full-Time and Nonstandard Hours

SCHEDULE	FY'98	%	FY'99	%	FY'00	%
Full Time	10,424	77.8%	11,448	81.2%	10,977	78.7%
Drop In	3,671	27.4%	3,840	27.2%	3,830	27.7%
Temp/Emergency	4,396	32.8%	4,658	33.0%	4,580	32.9%
Twenty-Four Hour	416	3.1%	477	3.4%	498	3.6%
Evening	1,315	9.8%	1,497	10.6%	1,603	11.5%
Overnight	839	6.3%	971	6.9%	1,053	7.6%
Weekend	650	4.8%	757	5.4%	844	6.1%
Before School	7,943	59.3%	8,352	59.2%	8,457	60.6%
After School	8,281	61.8%	8,725	61.9%	8,841	63.4%
Vacations/Holidays	4,979	37.1%	5,011	35.5%	4,869	34.9%
Rotating	3,723	27.8%	3,928	27.9%	4,013	28.8%
Total Facilities	13,403	100%	14,099	100%	13,954	100%

Note: A facility may offer more than one type of schedule so numbers do not add up to total facilities, and percentages exceed 100 percent. Facilities offering full-time schedules are reported in the first row for comparative purposes. Total Facilities refers to the total number of facilities registered with the CCR&Rs. Because of a change in data definition over the fiscal years reported, flexible schedules were removed from this table.

F. Care for Children with Special Needs

The number of facilities indicating experience caring for children with special needs has decreased this past year. During FY 1999, 14,375 facilities stated they had experience with special needs children, while only 13,954 facilities stated they had experience during FY 2000, an overall decrease of 2.9 percent. The only category of special needs to have an increase in facilities was developmental disabilities, which increased from 5,227 in FY 1999 to 5,242 in FY 2000, which was an increase of 0.3 percent.

G. Acceptance of Children with Subsidies

Table 11: Providers Willing to Accept Subsidy Children

	FY 1998	FY1999	FY2000
Number of Providers	13,403	14,099	13,735
Number of Providers Willing to Accept Subsidy Children	8,042	11,397	8,991
% of Providers Willing to Accept Subsidy Children	60%	81%	68%

Child care providers listed with CCR&Rs were asked about their willingness to accept DHS child care subsidies. We have included FY 1998, 1999 and 2000 for a more accurate comparison of providers willing to accept subsidy families. The high number of providers reported in FY 1999 is thought to be a result of both duplicate providers listings in the child care database and an overwhelming response to the rate increase that was implemented by DHS that year. The database for 2000 has been purged of duplications and out of date information and represents an increase over FY1998. This is a more realistic comparison.

CHAPTER IV

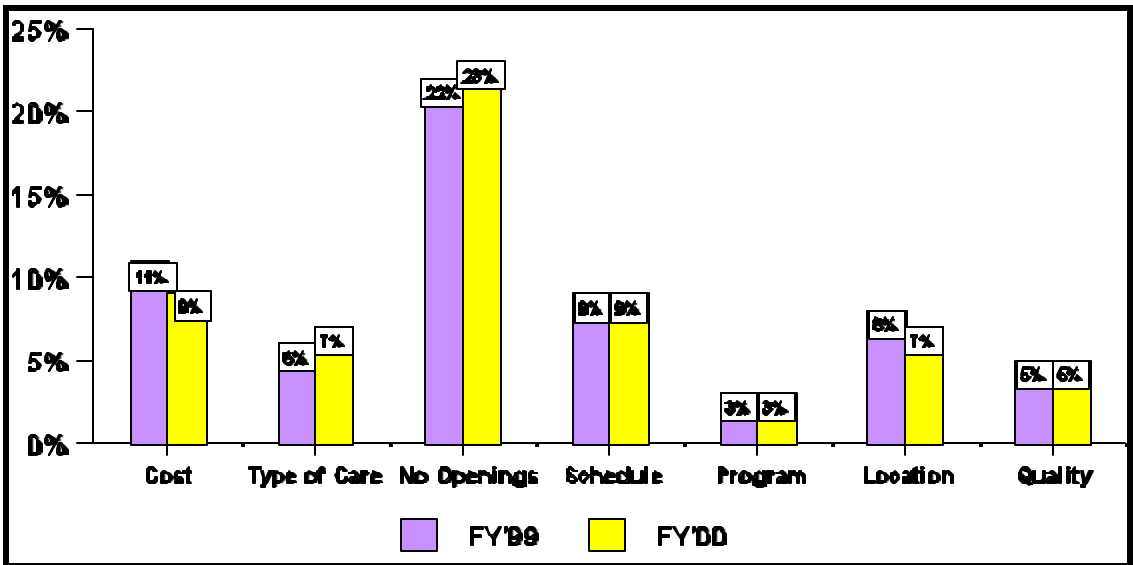
The Relationship Between Resources and Needs

A. Introduction

The Child Care Program (CCP) and its quality, capacity, and affordability initiatives outlined in Chapter I have one primary objective—to improve the relationship between child care resources and families’ child care needs. Successful attainment of this objective took on increased importance with the TANF program, work in exchange for a benefits mandate initiated in July 1997. This chapter examines the extent to which the resources of the Illinois child care system match the needs of children and families for child care services.

One method of evaluating the match between resources and needs is to examine data from CCR&R follow-up interviews conducted with 20 percent of the families four to six weeks after their initial contact with the CCR&R. During FY 2000, the staff conducted follow-up surveys (via mail and/or phone) with the families of 16,169 children. Families that received enhanced services were not included in the interviews. Figure 1 represents a comparison between the problems reported by families in the follow-up interviews in finding child care between FY 1999 and FY 2000.

Figure 1 - PROBLEMS FINDING CARE: FY 1999 - FY 2000



According to Figure 1, of those families who report a problem finding child care, the most mentioned problem is no openings. However, these data should be interpreted with caution, as families using CCR&Rs in their child care searches are not necessarily representative of the

population of families who seek child care services. Some families contact CCR&Rs because of difficulties finding child care. Nevertheless, since CCR&Rs facilitate the search process, families may ultimately have better outcomes in their search, and it is outcomes that the evaluation measures.

B. Availability

This section examines two components of child care availability: first, the relationship between child care spaces and need; next, the fit between characteristics of child care facilities and those required by families and children. It is generally understood that even if available spaces matched the number of children needing care, the schedules, locations, and types of care would not necessarily fit the specific needs of children and their families. For example, if the data indicate that more evening slots are available than families requesting evening care, it does not guarantee that all families seeking evening care will have a space. All of the evening spaces may be in the northern part of Illinois, and all families seeking evening care may be in the southern part of Illinois. Or, all of the evening spaces may be for preschool-aged children and all of the families seeking evening care may have infants.

C. Spaces and Families' Needs

Estimating the numerical match between available spaces and children who need care is a crude calculation at best. As pointed out earlier, one problem in estimating capacity is that informal child care arrangements are not listed with CCR&Rs or licensed by the DCFS Office of Licensing. Estimating demand also has limitations. For example, some children who are included in estimates of need will never require market care because family or friends care for them. Also, only small portions of families needing care contact CCR&Rs, although each year the number of families contacting a CCR&R increases. Therefore, a 'match' is defined as the extent to which the percentage increase in supply and demand kept pace with each other between FY 1998, FY 1999, and FY 2000. Data comes from the DCFS Office of Licensing and CCR&R agencies.

The DCFS Office of Licensing records show that spaces in licensed child care facilities decreased by 0.2 percent from 262,579 in FY 1999 to 262,187 in FY 2000. As discussed earlier, this change may reflect better maintenance of the database and the removal of providers who were no longer providing care rather than an actual decrease in the supply of licensed care. The number of licensed spaces listed with the CCR&Rs decreased by 5.7 percent from 267,744 in FY 1999 to 252,647 in FY 2000.

When considering the number of facilities and spaces per 1,000 children ages 0-5 years licensed by the Office of Licensing using the 1990 Census population information, it would appear that there is a slight decline in the number of facilities and spaces. The last three years show no change in facilities per 1,000 from FY 1999 to FY 2000, while there was a drop in slots per 1,000 from 258 to 257, which is a decrease of 0.4 percent. These estimates suggest that Illinois child care capacity in spaces or slots may be falling behind a growing population of 0-5-year-old

children.

D. Facility Characteristics and Family Needs

Types of Arrangements

A majority of families who contacted a CCR&R during FY 2000 continued to be willing to use either a child care center or a child care home provider, 71.3 percent up from 69.7 percent in FY 1999, a year earlier (Table 3).

CCR&R data indicate families' decreasing requests to have Home-Only child care. Analysis of DHS administrative data by Piecyk, Collins, and Kreader (May, 1999) at the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) may help in understanding this finding. The NCCP data shows that the fastest growing type of care requested by TANF recipients between January 1997 and January 1999 was in the home of a child care provider, growing at a rate of 56 percent. This potential discrepancy may be explained by the impact of the child care subsidies on child care choice, making a broader range of options available to TANF recipients. That is, prior to the implementation of this subsidy system, low-income families may have been more likely to consider just Home Only child care options because of affordability, as centers tend to be more expensive. Now, having a subsidy voucher, they may consider both home and center options.

Licensed and license-exempt centers listed with CCR&Rs decreased in number of facilities and number of slots between FY 1999 and FY 2000 (Table 8). While the number of licensed homes increased in number of facilities, the number of licensed-exempt homes decreased in number of facilities. Both showed an increase in number of spaces over the previous year. Licensed homes increased facilities by 246 (3.2 percent) and spaces by 2,689 (4.6 percent). License-exempt homes had a decrease in the number of facilities by 67 (8.7 percent), but an increase in space of 136 (6.3 percent). Overall, there was a decrease of 364 (2.6 percent) in facilities and a decrease of 40,361 (10.1 percent) in spaces.

Schedules of Providers and Families

Families' child care scheduling needs can be compared to providers' schedules only in the most general terms. First, families and providers utilizing CCR&Rs represent only a small portion of families and providers involved in child care. With respect to providers' schedules, while the schedules are known, of providers listed with CCR&Rs, the number of spaces associated with them are not. For example, a provider may indicate she/he offers full-day care, but it is not known if all the spaces are reserved for full-day care or if only a portion is reserved.

CCR&R data in Table 4 points towards a continued increase in families that indicate a need for child care during non-standard hours, such as evening and before and after school care. As reported in Table 10, the percentage of providers offering non-standard schedules has also increased. This may be a reflection of increased efforts by the DHS to encourage providers to

offer evening and weekend care.

Requests for child care also suggest relatively stable work schedules. Requests for hours that reflect a more erratic work schedule decreased, such as drop-in, temporary/emergency, and flexible. On the other hand, the number of providers offering erratic schedules increased.

Location

As shown in Table 5, the percentage of families wanting care for their children in particular locations changed very little over the year. Near Home continued to be the most popular choice for 95.8 percent of families, which may be supported by the increase in families' requests for child care home providers, the type of care most easily found near one's home. While the number remains small, there was sizable growth in the number of families indicating Other, referring to care near a relative or friend, near a bus stop, and so forth.

Age of Children

Many factors influence the supply and demand relationship with respect to age of children, particularly the type of care preferences of families. Research indicates that families of younger children tend to prefer care in home settings (care by a friend or relative or family child care home provider), while families of older children tend to prefer center-based settings (Hayes, Palmer & Zaslow, 1990). At the same time, some families believe their children can care for themselves by a certain age. As a result, it is often necessary to consider age in relation to other factors, such as type of care.

Child care requests by age of child changed little from FY 1999 to FY 2000, with two exceptions: requests for infant care increased from 15,651 in FY 1999 to 15,872 in FY 2000, a 1.5 percent increase. The decline in requests the previous year was likely related to the parental preference of home settings, particularly relatives or friends, for young children. Because low-income families can use home settings with their child care subsidies, they may be choosing in-home providers for their infants rather than contacting the CCR&Rs for a family child care or center setting. This interpretation appears supported by the NCCP study revealing that two-thirds of TANF recipients use relative/in-home care. Unfortunately, their data do not indicate the age breakdown on the children in these care settings. If the decline in requests for infant care continues, further research will have to be completed.

In addition to the increase in requests for infant care, requests for toddler care also grew from 9,712 in FY 1999 to 9,862 in FY 2000 a 1.6 percent increase. This finding may indicate additional support for the parental preference to use more formal child care arrangements for older children. Parents of toddlers and preschoolers report that they want structured settings,

which provide social and educational enrichment that may not be found in smaller home settings (Hayes et al., 1990).

Finally, requests for school-age children rose 2.1 percent, from 13,372 in FY 1999 to 15,805 in FY 2000. During the same period, the number of facilities offering before and after school care schedules increased by more than 220 facilities (Table 10).

Children with Special Needs

The number of care requests for children with special needs increased, although the number of providers able to care for them decreased. In FY 1999, families made requests for 2,029 children with special needs; in FY 2000, the number of children for whom care was requested rose to 2,510. Special needs children were approximately 4.0 percent of all children for whom care was requested.

E. Affordability

For working families whose income is less than 50 percent of the 1997 Illinois median income, the CCP offers a substantial subsidy at the time when families need it, because there are no quotas or waiting lists for a subsidy. Child care has become more affordable to families who are very poor, regardless of their employment status.

More families requested information about a child care subsidy in FY 2000 than in FY 1999. In FY 2000, families of 54,772 children requested subsidy information through the CCR&Rs when seeking child care, representing a 93.5 percent increase.

While at the same time, the number of providers accepting subsidized children decreased 17.3 percent from 11,397 in FY 1999 to 9,430 in FY 2000.

F. Conclusion

The data presented in this report offer an incomplete but very encouraging picture of the efforts of the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies to promote accessible and affordable quality child care in Illinois. In this endeavor many agencies, associations, policymakers, and parents join them.

More children of low-income families are receiving a subsidy than ever before, and DHS will continue expanding subsidies to working families. Mindful of families' needs for child care that meets age, schedule, location, and special needs requirements, DHS will continue to encourage child care services that meet the changing and unique needs of families. Finally, through its initiatives and collaborations, DHS will continue to promote improved quality that develops the fullest potential of children.

CHAPTER V

The FY 2001 Child Care Agenda

A. Introduction

The Child Care Program has grown tremendously since it was redesigned and implemented on July 1, 1997. Illinois is serving more children than ever before. FY1999 spending rose to \$448 million, providing child care to 154,000 children on an average monthly basis. FY 2000 spending rose to \$574 million to serve a monthly average of 189,000 children. In the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2001, child care spending increases to \$655.7 million to serve 212,000 children on an average monthly basis. This is a 14 percent increase over FY 2000 spending .

The Department of Human Services continually reviews program performance, makes adjustments, and develops new initiatives to address the needs of low-income parents. Based on FY 2000 experience, the following strategies will be implemented for FY 2001 to increase the number of children receiving subsidies and to expand the supply and enhance the quality of child care services.

B. Improving Access / Expanding Supply

Expanding Eligibility and Affordability

In FY 2001, the department will continue to set aside \$7.5 million to provide child care to parents who are not receiving TANF and need additional child care to pursue education that will result in a better job. In FY 2000, the eligible education and training component was expanded to allow more families into the program. Families participating in below-post-secondary education or non-degree occupational/vocational training programs are eligible for child care for two years without a work requirement. After two years, participants are required to work 20 hours per week. Participants enrolled in two and four year degree programs must work a minimum of 10 hours per week.

Extending Non-Standard Hours

In FY 2000, \$1 million was allocated to eight pilot programs across the state in order to expand service hours in child care centers, to accommodate parents who work the non-traditional work schedules such as second, third, or swing shifts which could include weekends. The pilot program has continued into FY 2001 and will be evaluated at the end of this fiscal year.

Increasing Infant/Toddler Spaces

In order to increase the number of child care spaces available to low income families with infants and toddlers, DHS is continuing its Infant and Toddler Incentive Program. This program will pay up to a 10 percent add-on to center only programs (homes or group homes are not included in this program) that serve a high number of DHS children that are two years old or younger. Children whose care is paid by an agency other than DHS are not eligible for this program. Based on the number of children five years old and younger served through the center, 25 percent of the children must be 30 months or younger, and 50 percent of these children must be DHS subsidized, for a center to qualify. The rate charged DHS (plus 10 percent) cannot exceed the rate paid by the general public for children age two and younger. At the end of FY 2000, an additional 390 slots had been added.

Supporting Collaborations

DHS continued to invest \$10 million in collaboration between Head Start and child care programs, serving more than 1,800 children from working families. This program, called "Partners in Care and Education," blends federal and state policies to enable collaborations to run smoothly and children to be served at on-site all-day programs where they receive comprehensive Head Start services. Three policy changes have helped stabilize the Partners program: annual redetermination of eligibility, 90 day job-loss grace period, and indefinite eligibility for families whose participation is part of their Responsibility and Service Plan (RASP). The Governor's budget for 2001 contains \$10 million for Head Start collaboration with child care. At least another 100 children will be added to the program. After the department has a chance to evaluate the effects of the policy changes, consideration will be given to expanding the collaboration to more partners.

Enhancing Quality

For FY 2001, DHS will invest \$26 million in quality initiatives, reflecting its commitment to enhance quality in all legal child care settings, both licensed and license-exempt. The following new initiatives will be implemented in FY 2001 to enhance and expand upon existing services to improve quality.

Professional Development, Compensation and Retention

The department is implementing the Great START (Strategy to Attract and Retain Teachers) Program, which focuses on improving children's developmental and educational outcomes by encouraging increased professional preparation and retention of child caregivers. Great START provides a wage supplement program for child care providers working in DCFS licensed centers and homes who have attained education above minimum licensing standards. Providers will be

able to apply for semi-annual payments in accord with a wage supplement scale. Wage

supplement amounts will increase for higher levels of educational attainment. This initiative compliments the T.E.A.C.H. Program and will be funded at \$3 million for FY 2001.

Inclusive Child Care

Two statewide initiatives to support the inclusion of children with special needs / disabilities in child care settings will be implemented.

The first, Special Care Outreach, will support a cadre of trainers able to provide eight-hour training seminars to child caregivers on the topic of inclusive child care. The training increases child care providers' knowledge and level of comfort, so they are willing and able to extend their traditional roles to care for children with disabilities.

The second initiative is the expansion of a pilot project which provided an "add on" amount to the standard subsidized daily rate for children eligible for child care assistance who also had a disability. In FY 2001, subsidy eligible children who have a demonstrated disability and attend a DHS site-administered contract program will be able to apply for a 20 percent special need add-on rate. The additional funds will be used by the child's care provider for supportive services such as purchasing adaptive equipment and securing specialized training for the child's caregiver.

Outreach

Quality Counts is a public educational and technical assistance campaign that seeks to educate parents, child care providers, communities and employers on the importance of quality child care. This multi-faceted program includes the following three initiatives:

- The CCR&R system will conduct a statewide consumer education campaign using brochures, posters, TV, radio public service announcements and a toll free phone line.
- Outreach with Quality Counts vans – a collaborative initiative with First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan's Future For Kid's Program -- will result in the provision of a Quality Counts van to each of the 18 statewide CCR&R agencies. Vans will be equipped with consumer education and literacy materials, child care related information, health and safety supplies and lending library items. CCR&R staff will conduct on-site visits to child care centers and homes offering one-on-one assistance to directly impact the quality of care children are receiving. Vans will also be used at community events.
- Community forums will be held in eight targeted communities throughout the state to assist the participants in forwarding child care initiatives. Community groups will be supplied with a comprehensive set of newly developed child care manuals specific to Illinois and connected with resource agencies in their area.

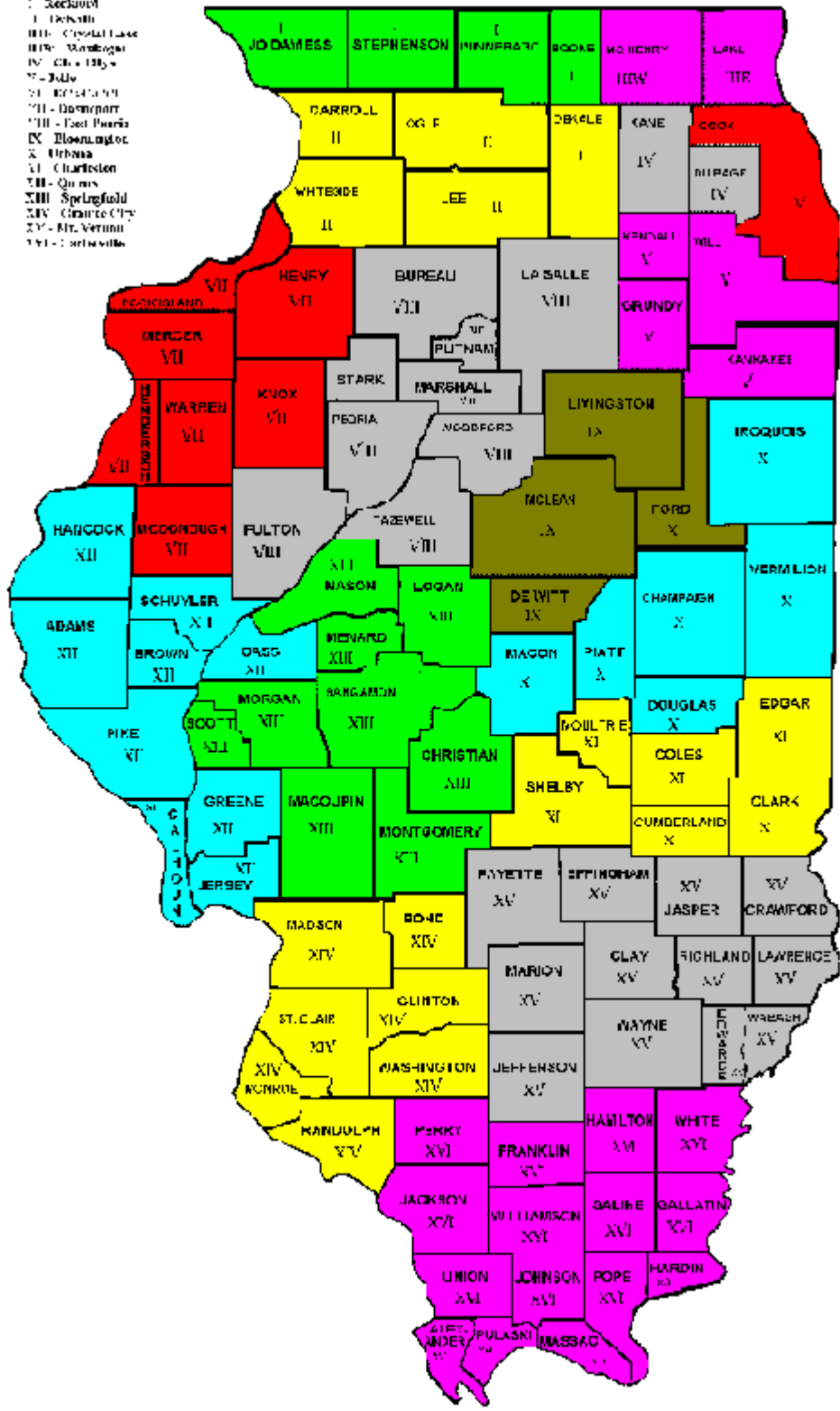
Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA's)

Included in FY 2001 budget, is a 2.5 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for providers. The COLA will become effective on July 1, 2000, which is the start of FY 2001.

APPENDICES

ILLINOIS CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES				
SDA #	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	COUNTIES SERVED
1	YWCA Child Care Solutions	4990 E. State Street Rockford, IL 61108	888/225-7072 815/484-9442	Boone, JoDaviess, Stephenson, Winnebago
2	Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C)	155 North Third, Suite 300 DeKalb, IL 60115	800/848-8727	Carroll, DeKalb, Lee, Ogle, Whiteside
3E	YWCA of Lake County Child Care Resource & Referral	2133 Belvidere Road Waukegan, IL 60085	800/244-5376 847/662-4247	Lake
3W	YMCA of McHenry County	PO Box 1139 Crystal Lake, IL 60039	815/459-4459 847/516-0037	McHenry
4	YWCA Child Care Resource & Referral	739 Roosevelt Road Building 8, Suite 210 Glen Ellyn, IL 60137	630/790-8137	DuPage, Kane
5	Child Care Resource & Referral	2317 W. Jefferson, Suite 201 Joliet, IL 60435	800/552-5526	Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall, Will
6	Cook County Child Care Resource & Referral <i>A cooperative venture of the Day Care Action Council and Child Care Initiatives of Hull House Association</i>	Day Care Action Council 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60640	773/769-8000	Cook
		Child Care Initiatives of Hull House 1880 West Fullerton Building A, 2 nd Floor Chicago, IL 60614	773/769-8000	
7	Community Child Care Resource & Referral Center	2804 Eastern Avenue Davenport, IA 52803	800/369-3778 319/324-1302	Henderson, Henry, Knox, McDonough, Mercer, Rock Island, Warren
8	Child Care Connection	One College Drive East Peoria, IL 61635	800/421-4371 309/679-0400	Bureau, Fulton, LaSalle, Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, Woodford
9	Child Care Resource & Referral Network	207 W. Jefferson, Suite 301 Bloomington, IL 61701	800/437-8256 309/828-1892	DeWitt, Ford, Livingston, McLean
10	Child Care Resource Service	166 Bevier Hall 905 S. Goodwin Avenue Urbana, IL 61801	800/325-5516 217/333-3252	Champaign, Douglas, Iroquois, Macon, Piatt, Vermilion
11	Child Care Resource & Referral	Eastern Illinois University Klehm Hall, Room 107 600 Lincoln Avenue Charleston, IL 61920	800/545-7439 217/581-6698	Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Edgar, Moultie, Shelby
12	West Central Child Care Connection	WCU Building, Room 610 510 Maine Quincy, IL 62301	800/782-7318 217/222-2550	Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Pike, Schuyler
13	Community Child Care Connection	1004 N. Milton Avenue Springfield, IL 62702	800/676-2805 217/525-2805	Christian, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon, Scott
14	CHASI - Child Care Resource & Referral Service	2133 Johnson Road, Suite 101 Granite City, IL 62040	800/467-9200	Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington
15	Project CHILD: Child Care Resource & Referral	1100 B South 42 nd PO Box 827 Mt. Vernon, IL 62864	800/362-7257	Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Richland, Wabash, Wayne
16	Child Care Resource & Referral	John A. Logan College 700 Logan College Road Carterville, IL 62918	800/232-0908	Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, White, Williamson

- I - Decatur
- II - DeKalb
- III - Crystal Lake
- IV - Washington
- V - Champaign
- VI - Joliet
- VII - Rock Island
- VIII - Danvers
- IX - East Peoria
- X - Bloomington
- XI - Urbana
- XII - Charleston
- XIII - Quincy
- XIV - Springfield
- XV - Granite City
- XVI - Mt. Vernon
- XVII - Carlinville



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
INCOME GUIDELINES
FOR
SUBSIDIZED DAY CARE
(Through FY 1999)**

[Includes 10 percent deduction from gross wages and salary from employer]

FAMILY SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	MAXIMUM GROSS ANNUAL INCOME
2	\$1,472	\$17,663
3	\$1,818	\$21,819
4	\$2,165	\$25,975
5	\$2,857	\$30,131
6	\$2,511	\$34,288
7	\$2,922	\$35,067
8	\$2,987	\$35,846
9	\$3,052	\$36,625
Each Additional Family Member	+ \$65	+ \$780

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Child Care Payment Rates

Effective January 1, 1999

The rates listed below are the maximum rates that the Department will pay per day.

cFor care provided less than 5 hours per day, use the part-day or school age-day rate.

cFor care provided from 5 through 12 hours per day, use the full-day rate.

cFor care provided more than 12 hours, but less than 17 hours in a day, use the full-day rate for the first 12 hours and the part-day rate for the remainder.

cFor care provided from 17 through 24 hours in a day, use the full-day rate for the first 12 hours, and the full-day rate for the remainder.

	GROUP 1A COUNTIES				
	Cook Kendall		DuPage Lake		Kane McHenry
	Full-Day	Under 2 ½ Part-Day	Full-Day	2 ½ and Older Part Day	School Age-Day
Licensed and License-Exempt Day Care Center 760, 761	\$32.95	\$16.48	\$23.75	\$11.88	\$11.88
Licensed Day Care Home or Licensed Group Day Care Home 762, 763	\$21.00	\$10.50	\$20.00	\$10.00	N/A

	GROUP 1B COUNTIES					
	Boone McLean Sangamon		Champaign Monroe St. Clair Winnebago	DeKalb Ogle Tazewell	Kankakee Peoria Whiteside Woodford	Madison Rock Island Will
	Full-Day	Under 2 ½ Part-Day	Full-Day	2 ½ and Older Part Day	School Age-Day	
Licensed and License-Exempt Day Care Center 760, 761	\$32.95	\$16.48	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$11.56	
Licensed Day Care Home or Licensed Group Day Care Home 762, 763	\$18.67	\$ 9.34	\$16.00	\$ 8.00	N/A	

	GROUP II COUNTIES				
	All other counties not listed above				
	Full-Day	Under 2 ½ Part-Day	Full-Day	2 ½ and Older Part Day	School Age-Day
Licensed and License-Exempt Day Care Center 760, 761	\$23.77	\$11.89	\$17.25	\$ 8.63	\$10.48
Licensed Day Care Home or Licensed Group Day Care Home 762, 763	\$16.19	\$ 8.10	\$13.50	\$ 6.75	N/A

	ALL COUNTIES	
	Full-Day	All Children Part-Day
License Exempt Day Care Home, Non-Relative in Child's Home or Relative 764, 765, 766, 767	\$9.25	\$4.63

You cannot charge a parent receiving subsidized child care a higher rate than you charge your private paying clients.

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