



## Child Care & Early Education Profile: 26th Representative District Representative Christian L. Mitchell (D)

### Child Care and Early Education Helps Children and Working Families in District 26

- 109,156** Total Population
- 5,385** Families with young children
- 7,554** Children Under 6
- 3,723** Preschool Age Children (3 to 5)
- 70%** Percent of children under 6 living in households where all parents in the household work

### Child Care in District 26

#### Formal child care options

- 42 Child care centers with capacity to serve 2,718 children
- 87 Licensed child care homes that can serve as many as 826 children

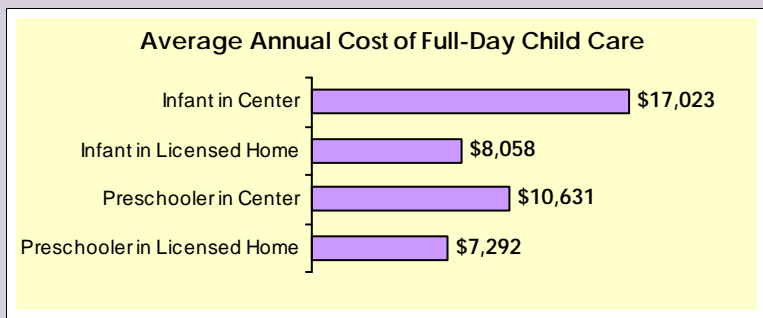
#### Informal care

In response to families' irregular work schedules, the majority of children in the district are cared for in legally license-exempt settings by family members, friends and neighbors. While the total number of informal caregivers is unknown, 1,422 receive payments through the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program for the care of up to 4,266 children.

### Child Care is Expensive for Many District 26 Families

Percent of income a typical family needs to spend for full-day center care for a preschooler: **26%**

Median Family Income: **\$41,219**



### A System of Early Care and Education in Illinois that Works for Working Families

**The Illinois Child Care Assistance Program**, funded through IDHS, helps working families pay for child care. Families are eligible if they earn below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, or \$44,124 for a family of four in 2015.

*Families with Child Care Assistance in FY15 in District 26:* **2,728**

*Children with Child Care Assistance (est):* **5,456**

*Children Under 6 Eligible for Child Care Assistance (est):* **2,895**

*Total Payments in FY15:* **\$18,984,112**

**Preschool for All**, funded by ISBE's Early Childhood Block Grant, offers part-day early education to 3 and 4-year-olds. All children are eligible, but programs that primarily serve at-risk children get first priority in funding. Currently 11% of funding is reserved for programs serving at-risk infants and toddlers.

*Children served in District 26:* **668**

*Number of Preschool for All Sites:* **16**

**Head Start** is a federal early education program for preschool age children living below the poverty level. Most programs are part-day, but a growing number are full-day. Early Head Start provides services to children under age 3.

*Head Start Funded Enrollment:* **466**

*Number of Head Start Sites:* **12**