Child Care and Early Education Helps Children and Working Families in District 34

108,851 Total Population
4,683 Families with young children
7,051 Children Under 6
3,858 Preschool Age Children (3 to 5)
73% Percent of children under 6 living in households where all parents in the household work

1,488 children 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, 1,344 receive payments through the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program for the care of up to 4,032 children.

Child Care and Early Education Profile: 34th Representative District
Representative Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D)

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 34: 2,624
Children with Child Care Assistance (est): 5,248
Children Under 6 Eligible for Child Care Assistance (est): 2,372
Total Payments in FY15: $20,077,000

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 34: 825
Number of Preschool for All Sites: 19

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: 377
Number of Head Start Sites: 15