Child Care & Early Education Profile: 57th Representative District
Representative Elaine Nekritz (D)

Child Care and Early Education Helps Children and Working Families in District 57

108,358 Total Population
6,165 Families with young children
8,565 Children Under 6
4,431 Preschool Age Children (3 to 5)
63% Percent of children under 6 living in households where all parents in the household work

Child Care in District 57

Formal child care options
26 Child care centers with capacity to serve 2,909 children
19 Licensed child care homes that can serve as many as 175 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, 60 receive payments through the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program for the care of up to 180 children.

Child Care is Expensive for Many District 57 Families

Percent of income a typical family needs to spend for full-day center care for a preschooler: 17%

Median Family Income: $73,052

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 57: 688
Children with Child Care Assistance (est): 1,376
Children Under 6 Eligible for Child Care Assistance (est): 2,046
Total Payments in FY15: $4,984,802

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 57: 200
Number of Preschool for All Sites: 4

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: 136
Number of Head Start Sites: 1

For source information on the data cited in this profile, please go to www.actforchildren.org/profiles.