Child Care & Early Education Profile: 8th Representative District
Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D)

Child Care and Early Education Helps Children and Working Families in District 8

111,353 Total Population
6,441 Families with young children
10,158 Children Under 6
5,326 Preschool Age Children (3 to 5)
68% Percent of children under 6 living in households where all parents in the household work

Child Care in District 8

Formal child care options
48 Child care centers with capacity to serve 2,701 children
182 Licensed child care homes that can serve as many as 1,762 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, 2,298 receive payments through the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program for the care of up to 6,894 children.

Child Care is Expensive for Many District 8 Families

Percent of income a typical family needs to spend for full-day center care for a preschooler: 18%

Median Family Income: $48,649

Average Annual Cost of Full-Day Child Care

- Infant in Center: $12,593
- Infant in Licensed Home: $8,339
- Preschooler in Center: $8,992
- Preschooler in Licensed Home: $7,478

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 8: 3,512
Children with Child Care Assistance (est): 7,024
Children Under 6 Eligible for Child Care Assistance (est): 3,799
Total Payments in FY15: $25,052,947

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 8: 389
Number of Preschool for All Sites: 10

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: 706
Number of Head Start Sites: 12

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