Child Care & Early Education Profile: 31st Senate District
Senator Melinda Bush (D)

Child Care and Early Education Helps Children and Working Families in District 31

217,763  Total Population
12,850   Families with young children
17,940   Children Under 6
9,620    Preschool Age Children (3 to 5)
67%     Percent of children under 6 living in households where all parents in the household work

Child Care in District 31

**Formal child care options**
- 63  Child care centers with capacity to serve 5,302 children
- 220 Licensed child care homes that can serve as many as 2,307 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, 633 receive payments through the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program for the care of up to 1,899 children.

Child Care is Expensive for Many District 31 Families

Percent of income a typical family needs to spend for full-day center care for a preschooler: 13%

Median Family Income: $82,406

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Annual Cost of Full-Day Child Care</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant in Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant in Licensed Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschooler in Center</td>
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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 31: 2,239
Children with Child Care Assistance (est): 4,478
Children Under 6 Eligible for Child Care Assistance (est): 3,737

Total Payments in FY15: $17,767,983

**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 31: 580
Number of Preschool for All Sites: 6

**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: 149
Number of Head Start Sites: 2

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