

Child Care & Early Education Profile: 7th Senate District Senator Heather A. Steans (D)

Child Care and Early Education Helps Children and Working Families in District 7

- 212,331 Total Population
- 10,289 Families with young children
- 14,976 Children Under 6
- 6,627 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 7

Formal child care options

- 70 Child care centers with capacity to serve 4,204 children
- 62 Licensed child care homes that can serve as many as 584 children

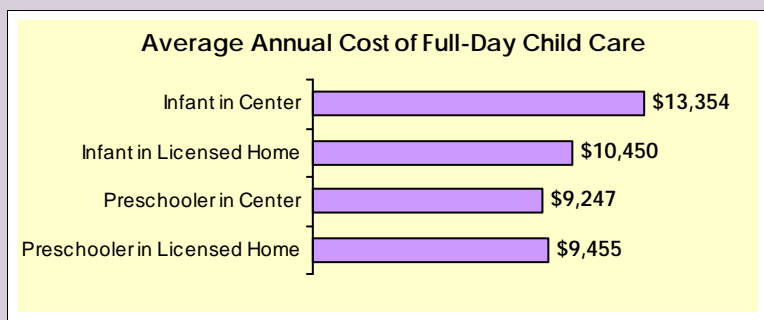
Informal care

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, 519 receive payments through the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program for the care of up to 1,557 children.

Child Care is Expensive for Many District 7 Families

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

Median Family Income: \$54,689



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 7: **2,078**

Children with Child Care Assistance (est): **4,156**

Children Under 6 Eligible for Child Care Assistance (est): **3,549**

Total Payments in FY15: **\$14,498,594**

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 7: **1,628**

Number of Preschool for All Sites: **24**

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: **1,135**

Number of Head Start Sites: **19**