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

12,880,580 Total Population

- 630,391 Families with young children
- 956,102 Children Under 6
- 493,424 Preschool Age Children (3 to 5)
- 66% Percent of children under 6 living in households where all parents in the household work

Child Care in District

Formal child care options

- 3610 Child care centers with capacity to serve 269,843 children
- 8727 Licensed child care homes that can serve as many as 83,327 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, 64,401 receive payments through the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program for the care of up to 193,203 children.

Child Care is Expensive for Many District Families

Percent of income a typical family needs to spend for full-day center care for a preschooler: 14%

Median Family Income: $67,463

Average Annual Cost of Full-Day Child Care

- Infant in Center: $12,465
- Infant in Licensed Home: $7,845
- Preschooler in Center: $9,159
- Preschooler in Licensed Home: $7,199

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