

# Restoring Access to Child Care Assistance Program: Education and Training

HB3213 (Wallace) – SB1705 (Hutchinson)

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**HB3213/SB1705 would restore access to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) for families enrolled full-time in non-TANF education and training programs by adding them to the program's priority populations.** Those qualifying under this category would include:

- Families with all parents pursuing some level of education full-time
- Families with one parent working and the other enrolled in non-TANF education or training activity (and income-eligible)

**Under normal eligibility guidelines, these families are eligible for CCAP services.** However, since July 2015, Illinois has been operating under an intake freeze, limiting eligibility to the four priority populations specified by rule. Including families participating in education and training programs in CCAP's priority populations would ensure that if the Administration enacts similar restrictions in the future, these families will continue to receive CCAP services.

Prioritizing student parents is beneficial for both the families and the state:

- Prevents disruptions in parents' education
- Allows parents to be full-time students and complete their education quicker, meaning they need CCAP for shorter amount of time
- Encouraging parents to continue their education provides better economic security for their families and a more educated workforce for the state

Additionally, many employers require completion of a training program prior to employment. Providing CCAP to families throughout the duration of the training activities helps employers attract dedicated workers and allows parents to secure stable employment.

Illinois Action for Children estimates that adding these families to the priority populations would **restore CCAP services to between 4,000 – 5,000 children** eligible under normal guidelines.

**For more information, please contact:**

Samir Tanna, Illinois Action for Children (773.564.8851)

Martin Torres, Latino Policy Forum (630.709.3434)

Ireta Gasner, Ounce of Prevention Fund (312.453.1924)

Sean Noble, ReadyNation Illinois (312.502.5566)



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