



2013 Report on Child Care in Cook County

FY2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012)



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An Illinois Action for Children Research Report funded
in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services

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Introduction: Families and Child Care in Cook County

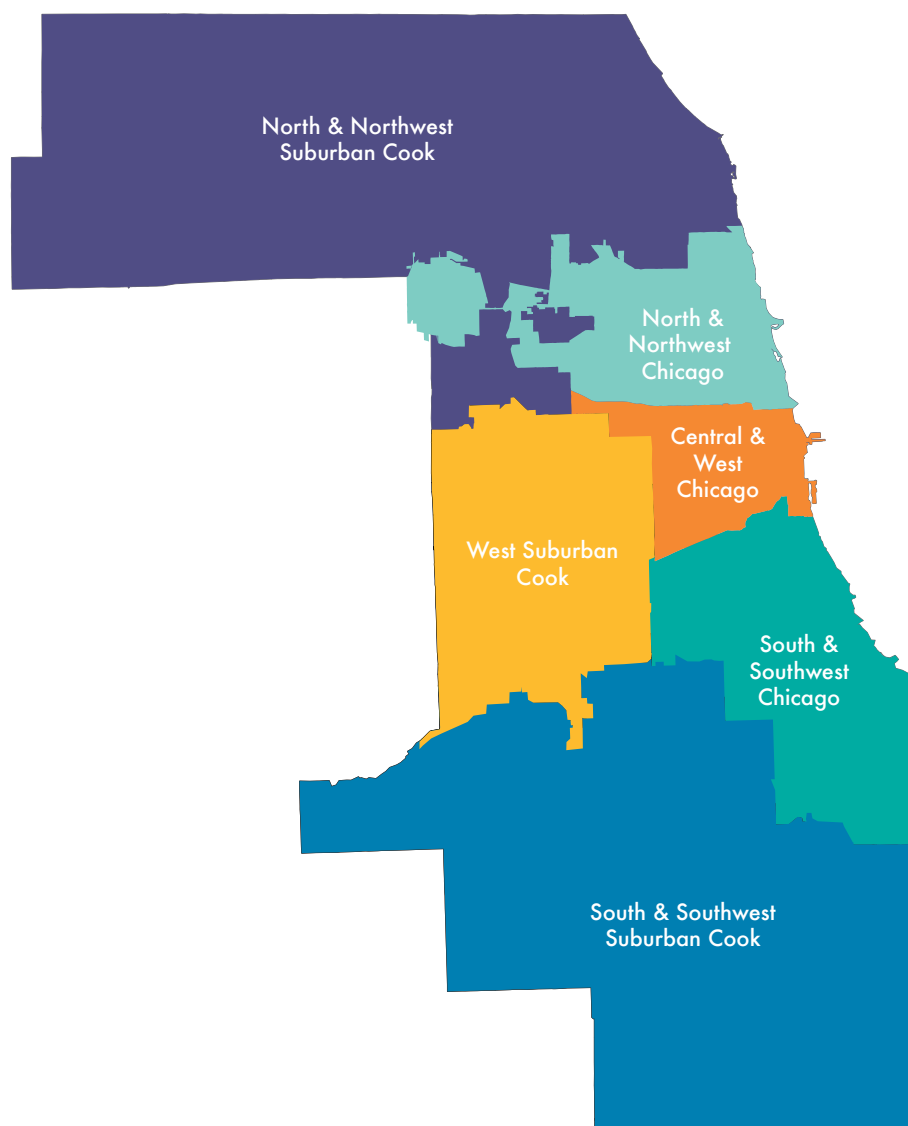
Approximately 900,000 children under the age of 13 live in Cook County. A large proportion, and perhaps a majority, of these children receive regular care from someone other than their parents or guardians: from a relative, a friend or neighbor, a family child care home, a child care center, or a park district or other after-school program.

This *2013 Report of Child Care in Cook County* examines the availability of child care to families in different parts of Cook County. We present the different settings in which child care takes place, the number of children that can be served in each type of care, and the fees that parents pay to different types of providers.

Examining Cook County Child Care by Region

Throughout this report we divide Cook County into six regions to show how geographic differences can affect parents' success in finding child care.

Appendix 1 provides more detailed definitions of these regions. Appendix 2 provides the sources of data cited in the report.



What Types of Child Care are Available?

A family's success in finding quality child care is based on many factors including the family's location, a child's age, the hours of care needed, the amount the family can afford to pay, a child's specific needs, and the parent's particular preferences. If we assume that families can access all types of child care, let us look at the available options.

First, many families only use parental care. Either one parent stays home to care for the children, or both parents stagger their schedules so one can care for the children while the other works, goes to school, or fulfills other responsibilities.

Parents who need or want to look beyond parental care may find home child care an appealing option. They may choose a caregiver who can provide care in the child's home, as a nanny does. They may also take their child to the home of someone they know well, such as a family member, close friend or neighbor, or someone they discovered through word-of-mouth or through a referral service.

Many home-based child care providers, especially those who provide care as an ongoing profession, choose to become licensed. This means the care provided in their homes is regulated by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as well as their local licensing agency, if one exists. Throughout this report, we refer to these caregivers as *licensed home providers*, and we refer to those without licenses as *family, friend, or neighbor care* (also known as *license-exempt home care*). Family, friend, and neighbor care can be in the provider's home or the child's and is limited to the care of three unrelated children.

Parents also have the option of taking their child to a child care center. While most of these facilities are licensed by DCFS, centers such as those based in schools or affiliated with religious groups are exempt from being licensed. Center care may include all-day or part-day child care programs, before- and after-school programs (including those provided by park districts and YMCAs), and full-day summer programs for school-age children. Many parents opt for center-based care when their children approach kindergarten age as a way of preparing them with a classroom experience.

Parents who may not need full-time child care but wish to prepare their 3- or 4-year-old child for kindergarten may consider a part-day or part-week preschool program. These programs include private, tuition-based programs as well as free public programs such as Head Start and Preschool for All. Data on public and private preschool programs are not included in this report.

How Do Families Find Child Care?

Families seek child care by asking relatives or friends for referrals, looking at notices and advertisements, and visiting child care centers in their communities. The State of Illinois offers a resource for families in the form of a referral service. Illinois Action for Children administers this service for families in Cook County through its Resource and Referral Program, maintaining a database of child care providers who register voluntarily to be referred to parents. Child care providers supply detailed information about their programs so that referral consultants can help parents find providers that match their needs and preferences. Referral consultants help educate parents on what constitutes quality child care so parents are better equipped to evaluate the programs they visit. Most of the data presented in this report comes from data collected for this service.



The Cost of Child Care

Each year, Illinois Action for Children's Resource and Referral Program asks providers to report the rates they charge parents. The tables below present the rates for both centers and licensed homes for the regions of Cook County based on the child's age. The final row of each table is the maximum weekly reimbursement rate the State will pay on behalf of families eligible to receive assistance via the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

Average Weekly Rates: Full-Time Child Care in a Center

	Infant (6 weeks to 14 months)	Toddler (15 to 23 months)	2-year-old	3- to 4- year-old	5-year-old to kindergarten	Before & After School	School Age, Summer
Cook County	\$244	\$230	\$201	\$179	\$173	\$125	\$154
N & NW Chicago	\$259	\$235	\$201	\$185	\$175	\$122	\$161
Central & West Chicago	\$254	\$243	\$204	\$178	\$175	\$112	\$136
S & SW Chicago	\$204	\$198	\$174	\$153	\$151	\$112	\$140
Chicago	\$228	\$217	\$187	\$167	\$162	\$114	\$143
N & NW Suburban Cook	\$298	\$278	\$248	\$225	\$217	\$147	\$195
West Suburban Cook	\$249	\$228	\$203	\$179	\$175	\$118	\$156
S & SW Suburban Cook	\$217	\$209	\$187	\$164	\$158	\$123	\$144
Suburban Cook	\$255	\$239	\$215	\$191	\$184	\$132	\$162
Maximum amount reimbursed by the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program for full-time care ¹	\$232.45		\$196.30	\$163.60		\$81.80 (under 5 hrs/day) \$163.60 (5+ hrs/day)	\$163.60

Average Weekly Rates: Full-Time Child Care in a Licensed Home

	Infant (6 weeks to 14 months)	Toddler (15 to 23 months)	2-year-old	3- to 4- year-old	5-year-old to kindergarten	Before & After School	School Age, Summer
Cook County	\$156	\$153	\$149	\$142	\$139	\$126	\$132
N & NW Chicago	\$172	\$169	\$165	\$158	\$154	\$145	\$149
Central & West Chicago	\$148	\$146	\$141	\$134	\$131	\$124	\$131
S & SW Chicago	\$148	\$145	\$141	\$134	\$132	\$123	\$127
Chicago	\$152	\$150	\$145	\$138	\$136	\$127	\$132
N & NW Suburban Cook	\$207	\$202	\$199	\$196	\$191	\$156	\$168
West Suburban Cook	\$162	\$157	\$153	\$147	\$145	\$125	\$135
S & SW Suburban Cook	\$150	\$147	\$142	\$135	\$132	\$118	\$124
Suburban Cook	\$164	\$160	\$156	\$150	\$146	\$125	\$133
Maximum amount reimbursed by the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program for full-time care ¹	\$152.70		\$147	\$137.75		\$68.88 (under 5 hrs/day) \$137.75 (5+ hrs/day)	\$137.75



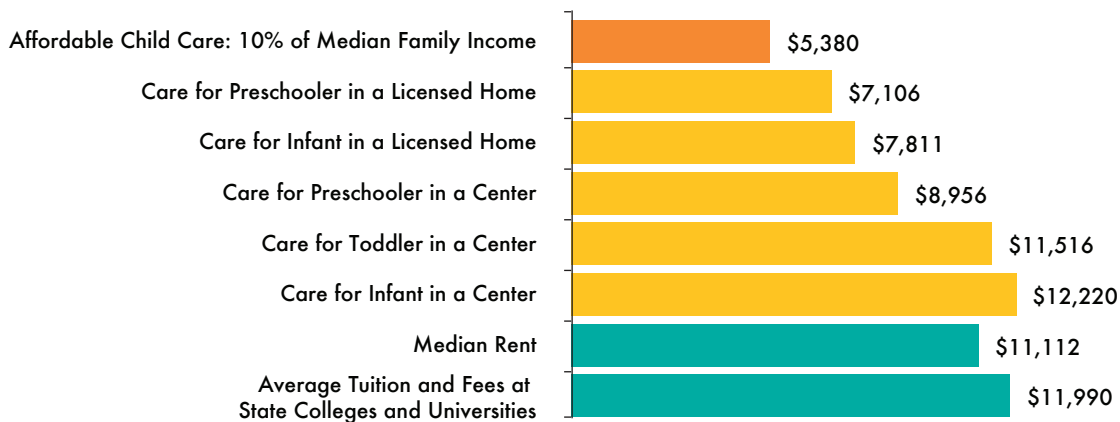
¹Rates in effect as of January 1, 2012.

For both center-based care and licensed home care, child care rates generally decrease as a child gets older. For centers, as children get older classrooms are allowed more children per teacher, enabling the center to provide care at lower costs.

There are also geographic differences in the cost of care. Following the patterns of supply and demand, care is least expensive in the most economically disadvantaged parts of the county (the South and Southwest regions of Chicago and Suburban Cook County and, for licensed home care, the Central & West region of Chicago), while care is most expensive in the relatively affluent regions in North and Northwest Chicago and Suburban Cook County.

The Cost of Child Care in Context

Enrolling an infant in a child care center can cost more than sending a young adult to college and more than what many families pay for rent.² Child care grows more affordable as a child gets older, but even the cost of full-day care for a 3- to 4-year-old exceeds ten percent of a typical Cook County family's income. Families with two children in care are doubly challenged.



In a national comparison of child care affordability, Illinois was ranked 8th among U.S. states for having the least affordable infant center care and ranked 13th for the least affordable center care for preschoolers.³



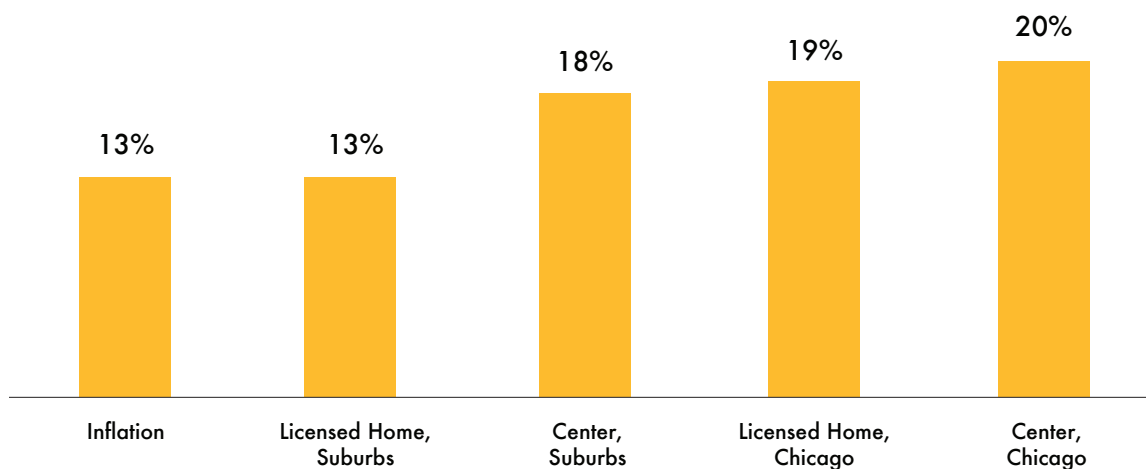
²Median family income and rent are from the 2011 American Community Survey; the average tuition and fees is from www.collegeillinois.com for the 2011-2012 school year.

³*Parents and the High Costs of Child Care*, Child Care Aware of America, 2012 report, retrieved February 2012 at http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2012/cost_report_2012_final_081012_0.pdf

Child Care Costs Rise as Incomes Decline

Child care costs continue to rise each year. In fact, prices for most types of child care in Cook County have risen faster than consumer price inflation.⁴

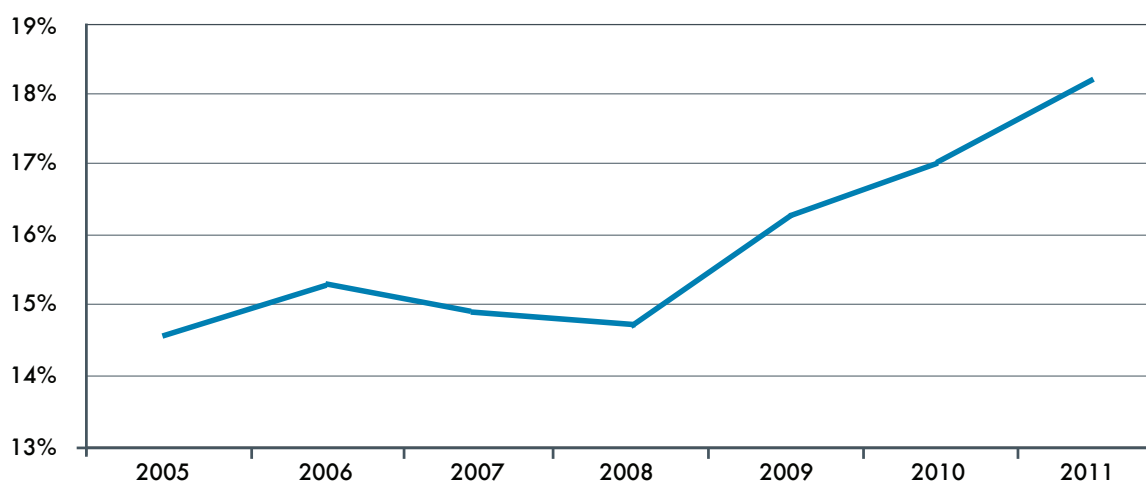
Percent Increase in the Cost of Preschool-Age Care Since 2006 Compared to Inflation



While child care prices have steadily increased, families' incomes have been declining.⁵ In 2011, the typical family earned less than it earned in 2005: \$53,797 and \$54,719 respectively.

The result is that families must pay a greater percentage of their income for child care than in previous years.

Cost of Center Care for a Two-Year-Old as a Percentage of the Cook County Median Family Income, Since 2005



⁴As measured by the CPI-U for June 2006 and June 2012 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; <http://www.bls.gov/data/home.htm>, accessed February, 2013.

⁵Median family income for a family with a child under 18; American Community Survey 1-year estimates, 2005 through 2011.

How Well Does Illinois Support Families' Access to Child Care?

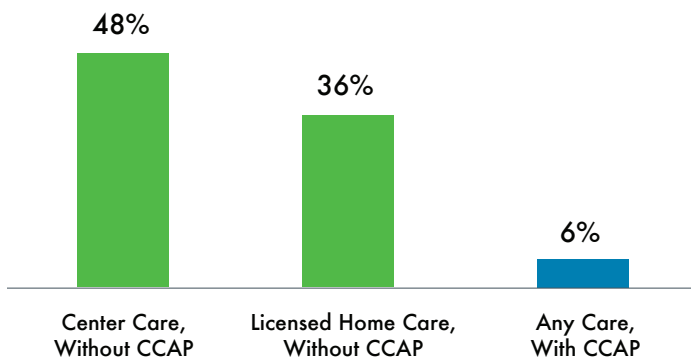
Without help, families working low-paying jobs do not earn enough income to pay for the very child care they need to work – particularly, high-quality child care. To broaden families' child care options, federal and state dollars support the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which helps families afford child care that would otherwise be too costly.

Only with CCAP is Child Care Affordable

Without CCAP, a parent earning \$10 per hour would find regulated child care options prohibitively expensive, costing 36 to 48 percent of the family income.

With CCAP, a family is responsible for paying a portion of the cost of care, a copayment, which is determined by the family's income and size. In this example, the copayment is 6 percent of the family income.⁶ The State reimburses the provider the remaining amount, up to a set daily rate.

Percentage of Income Needed for Child Care
Single parent with 2-year-old
Parent earning \$10 per hour

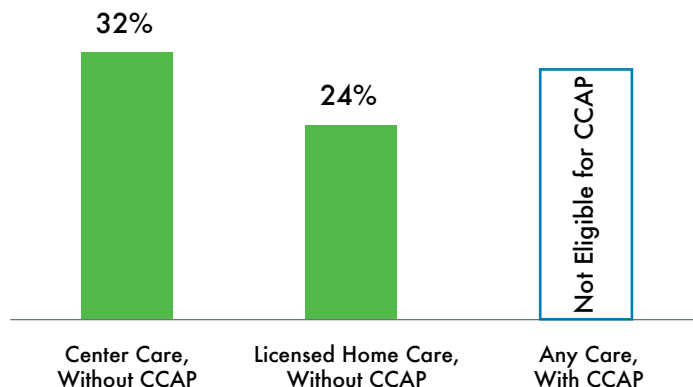


But as Incomes Improve, Families Lose

Should the same parent's wages rise to \$15 per hour, she will find herself ineligible for CCAP. Higher child care costs could negate much or even all of the income gains from her new salary.

As a result, as families' incomes rise, the CCAP income ceiling pressures parents to decline wage increases (if allowed) or switch to less expensive care arrangements of potentially lower quality. Changing care arrangements disrupts the children's important bonds with their caregivers.

Percentage of Income Needed for Child Care
Single parent with 2-year-old
Parent earning \$15 per hour



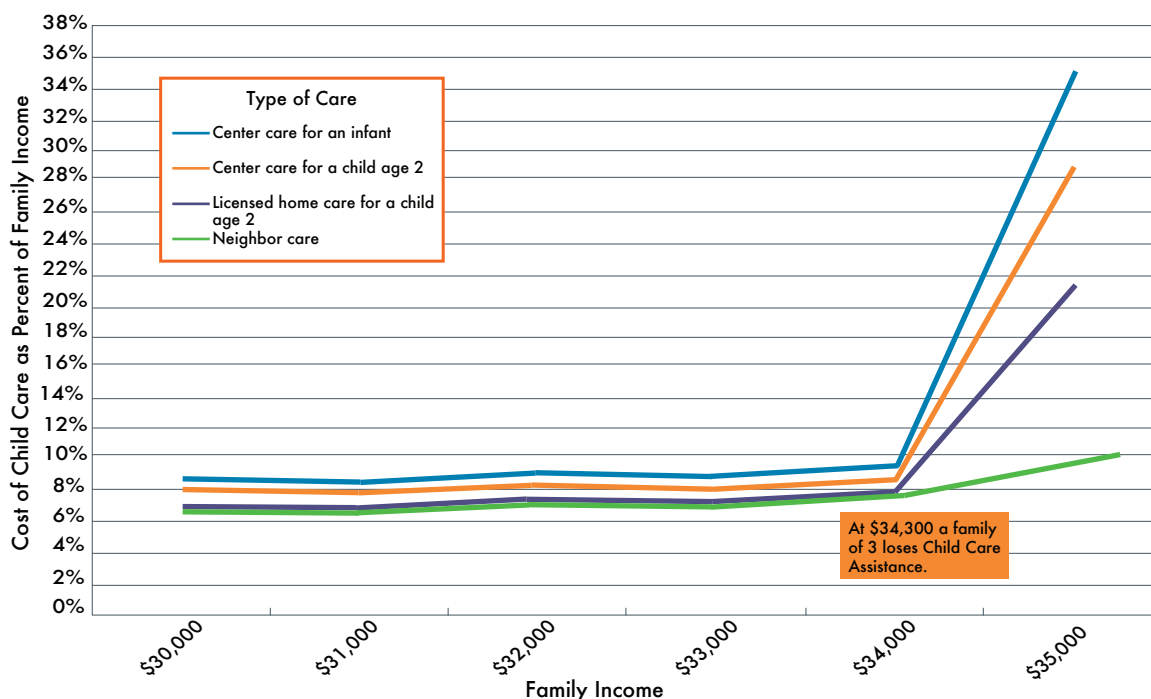
⁶Family copayments increased in July 2012. The family in this example would now pay 7 percent of its income on the copayment. As family income increases, the copayment makes up a greater percentage of family income, as much as 10 percent.



Below is another representation of the effect of losing CCAP for families who succeed in increasing their wages. For a family of three, once income reaches \$34,300 per year, the family no longer has the support of child care assistance and must pay the full price of care. The full price will vary based on the type of care and age of child, and on average range from 21 to 35 percent of the family income for formal care arrangements. Only FFN care will remain affordable. Therefore, parents ineligible for CCAP have incentive to select more affordable but unregulated care. The quality of this care necessarily becomes a secondary consideration.

The Child Care “Cliff”

Only with CCAP do lower-income families find regulated child care affordable (below 10% of a family’s income). Once families “income-out,” child care prices skyrocket, leaving families fewer child care options.



About the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program

Through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), CCAP provides low-income families with access to quality, affordable child care. Eligible parents must be working or in an approved school or training program and have incomes at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Parents may choose the provider that best fits the needs of their family. CCAP reimburses the provider at the established state rate, which varies by region, age of child, and type of provider. Historically, the reimbursement rate to providers in Cook County has been significantly below the federally-recommended levels, especially for infant care. Families are required to pay part of the cost of care through a sliding scale copayment that is based on family size and income.

CCAP is primarily a voucher system administered in Cook County by Illinois Action for Children. Some child care centers, however, have direct contracts with IDHS to serve families eligible for CCAP.



Types of Child Care Available in Cook County

More than 5,000 child care providers comprise the formal child care sector, which includes child care centers and licensed child care homes. In addition, tens of thousands of caregivers provide child care through informal arrangements.

Full-Day Center Care **1,180 centers**

Child care centers are typically full-day programs to serve working parents. Most are licensed through the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), though some connected to schools or religious institutions are exempt from licensing.

School-Age Care **202 known programs**

In addition to school-age care offered through child care centers, some schools, park districts, and programs like the Boys and Girls clubs offer before- and/or after-school care. Most programs are exempt from licensing, making it difficult to get a complete count.

Licensed Home Care **3,681 homes**

This is care offered in a person's home and regulated by DCFS. Licensed home providers may care for as many as eight children, plus an additional four school-age children during out-of-school time if an assistant is present. Providers with full-time adult assistants licensed as group homes can care for as many as 16 children.

Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care **Total number unknown** **More than 27,000 participated in the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program in FY12**

Informal care provided by friends, neighbors, and relatives either in the child's home or the caregiver's home. These providers are permitted to care for up to three unrelated children at a time without a license.



Child Care Capacity

The formal child care sector comprised of child care centers and licensed homes has the capacity to care for approximately 141,000 Cook County children. This capacity can serve 24 percent of the children who live in Cook County households with all parents working.⁷

	Formal Child Care Slots					Children Potentially in Need of Child Care ⁸		Total slots as a percent of children 0 to 12 with all parents working
	Child Care Centers	School Age Programs	Licensed Homes	Licensed Homes - additional school age slots	Total Slots	Total Children 0 to 12	Children 0 to 12 with all parents working	
Cook County	92,626	13,372	37,828	7,096	140,922	891,247	593,163	24%
N & NW Chicago	13,701	1,164	3,288	944	19,097	156,009	100,749	19%
Central & West Chicago	13,531	984	4,147	1,020	19,682	93,087	59,794	33%
S & SW Chicago	20,932	1,639	11,277	3,082	36,930	204,777	136,714	27%
Chicago Total	48,164	3,787	18,712	5,046	75,709	453,873	297,257	25%
N & NW Suburban Cook	19,049	6,383	1,736	328	27,496	203,638	135,386	20%
West Suburban Cook	8,406	1,006	2,545	599	12,556	95,477	63,000	20%
S & SW Suburban Cook	17,007	2,196	4,835	1,123	25,161	138,259	97,521	26%
Suburban Total	44,462	9,585	9,116	2,050	65,213	437,374	295,906	22%

Full-time Slots in Child Care Centers by Age of Child

While not all child care centers report their slots by age, the data below reflect the capacity of the 83 percent of centers that do. We do not report comparable data for licensed homes because home providers have more flexibility in the ages of children they can enroll, and the ages they serve change frequently. Note the low number of infant and toddler slots compared to slots for two through five-year-olds.

	Infant	Toddler	2-year-old	3- to 4-year-old	5-year-old & kindergarten	Before & After School (full & part time)	School Age, Summer
Cook County	4,984	6,334	11,633	22,952	15,338	13,353	20,494
N & NW Chicago	413	588	1,590	3,533	2,364	1,840	3,558
Central & West Chicago	642	788	1,549	2,759	1,943	1,526	4,242
S & SW Chicago	832	1,145	2,881	5,102	3,512	2,462	6,846
Chicago Total	1,887	2,521	6,020	11,394	7,819	5,828	14,646
N & NW Suburban Cook	1,375	1,699	2,555	4,707	3,407	3,715	3,342
West Suburban Cook	505	621	1,009	2,531	1,635	1,193	553
S & SW Suburban Cook	1,217	1,493	2,049	4,320	2,477	2,617	1,953
Suburban Total	3,097	3,813	5,613	11,558	7,519	7,525	5,848



⁷Slots shown represent daytime capacity. Licensed homes have the capacity to serve an additional 16,607 children during evening hours (assuming providers offer this care) while child care centers can provide an additional 2,815 evening slots.

⁸From the 2011 American Community Survey, five-year estimates.

Infant Care is Scarce

Child care centers find it costly to provide infant care because of the high caregiver-to-child ratio needed for infant care (licensing standards require 1 caregiver for every 4 infants).⁹ Family child care homes, too, are limited by licensing standards restricting care for no more than three children under age two at one time without an assistant. Therefore, it can be hard for parents to find formal care arrangements for their infants.

Best and Worst Regions for Finding Infant Care¹⁰

The table below presents the number of infants per center slot and per home provider within each region. The higher the numbers, the more infants there are compared to slots, meaning parents will have a harder time finding infant care.

	Infants per Center Slot	Infants per Licensed Home Provider
N & NW Chicago	37	38
Central & West Chicago	14	17
S & SW Chicago	18	10
N & NW Suburban Cook	11	67
West Suburban Cook	13	20
S & SW Suburban Cook	8	15

Best: The South and Southwest suburbs have the most abundant supply of infant care. Here there is a relatively low number of infants per infant center slot and per licensed home provider.

Worst: Infant care is scarcest in the North and Northwest Chicago region, with twice as many infants per center slot than any other region and a high number of infants per licensed home.

While the North and Northwest Suburban region has a good supply of infant center care, for a family priced out of this type of care there are few licensed home options in the region.

On the other hand, families in South and Southwest Chicago have the best supply of licensed home care, but those looking for center care may face some challenges.

⁹Organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Public Health Association recommend one caregiver for every three infants. Many child care center staff agree, but centers struggle to meet the salary costs of infant care even at current ratios.

¹⁰This is meant to be a rough estimate of the supply of and demand for infant care. Not all home providers are willing to care for infants, particularly newborns, and not all parents of infants need child care or desire formal care arrangements for their infants. Number of infants is from the 2010 Census.

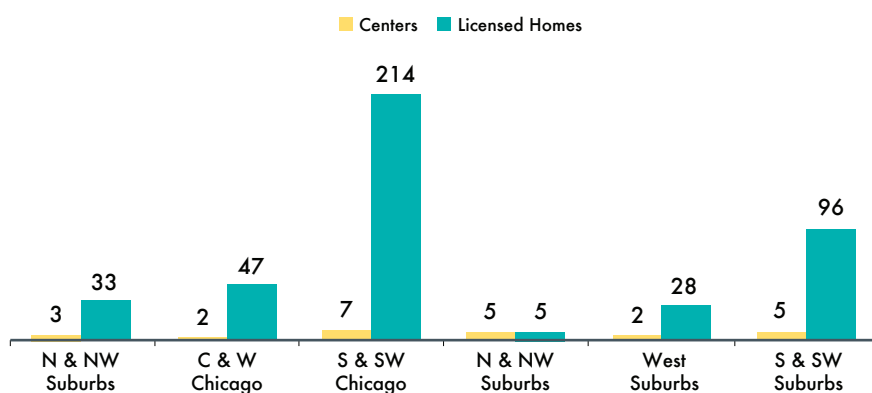


Care During Non-Traditional Work Hours

Most child care programs are available only during the daytime on weekdays, but half of part-time employees and one-third of full-time employees work non-traditional schedules that include at least some evening, night, or weekend hours.¹¹ Many also work schedules that vary, sometimes with little notice. Yet relatively few programs accommodate parents' needs for evening child care, overnight care, weekend care, or care on a variable schedule.

As shown in the following figures, licensed homes are generally more flexible than centers in offering care during non-traditional hours. Programs that offer this flexibility are most heavily concentrated in the South and Southwest regions of Chicago and suburban Cook County.

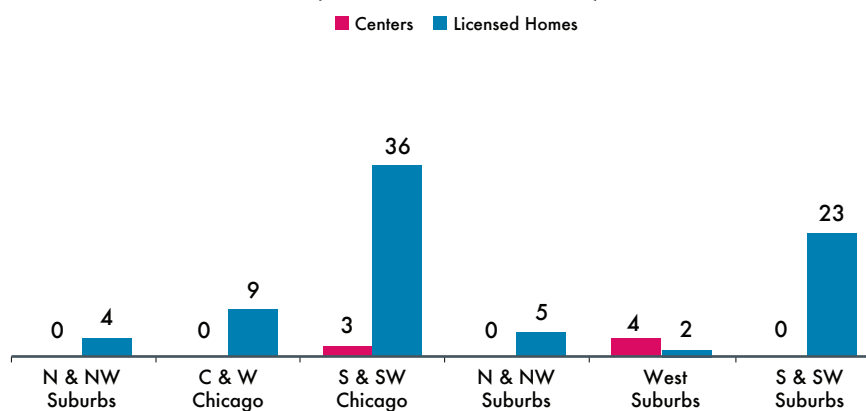
Programs With Weekend Care, by Region



In Cook County as a whole, just 2 percent of centers and 16 percent of licensed homes offer weekend care.

Even fewer programs offer overnight care.

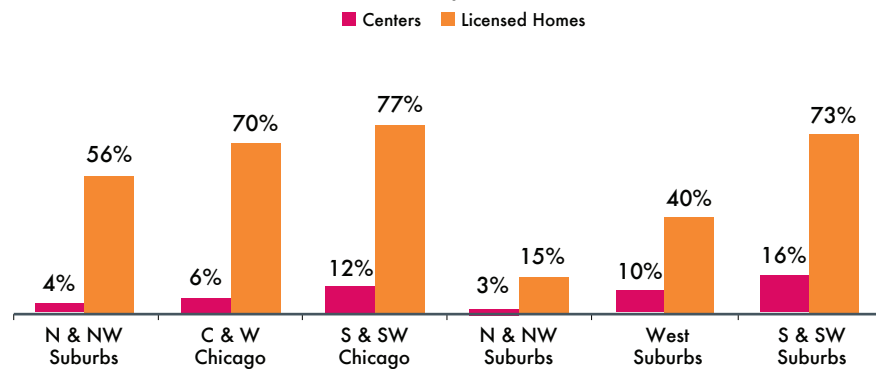
**Programs With Overnight Care, by Region
(between 2 am and 5 am)**



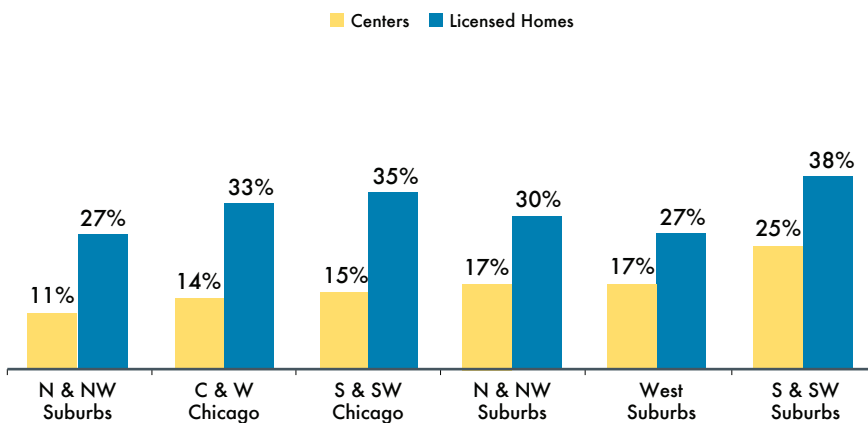
¹¹For more information see *Working Later in Illinois: Work Schedules, Incomes and Parents' Access to Child Care*, Illinois Action for Children, 2006.

A large number of home providers are licensed to care for children during evening hours. However, further study needs to be done on how many home providers *actually offer care* during evening hours.

Programs With Evening Hours, by Region
(between 7 pm and 2 am)



Programs Allowing Variable Hours, by Region



Programs allowing variable hours are important for parents with changing work schedules.

The majority of programs do not offer care for changing schedules. Only about one-third of licensed homes and 16 percent of centers say they accommodate variable schedules. In fact, many programs require parents to pay by the week regardless of whether or not their child attends. This policy provides programs financial stability but can cause hardship for parents.

Since non-traditional work schedules often go hand-in-hand with low-income jobs, most families seeking child care during non-traditional hours are challenged with affordability issues as well. It is not surprising, then, that many parents turn to relatives, friends, and neighbors to care for their children. These providers offer a more flexible and affordable child care alternative.



Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

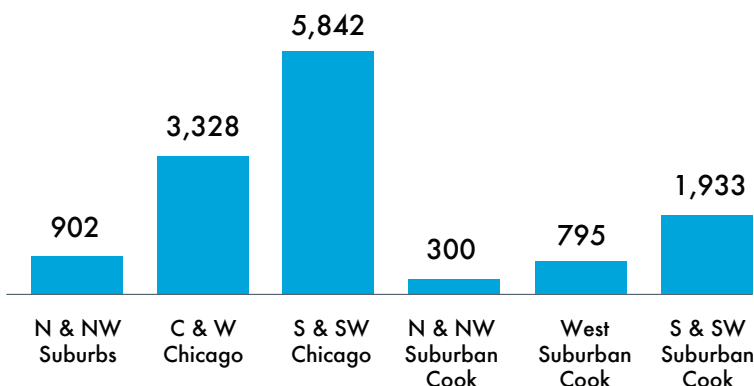
Family, friend and neighbor (FFN) child care refers to relatives, friends or neighbors who provide care in their own home or in the child's home legally but without a child care license. (They are also referred to as license-exempt providers.) Parents using FFN care often have a personal relationship with their provider, and many choose FFN care so their children are with someone they know and trust and may even love. Families and FFN providers often share a common culture and language as well.

Parents also use FFN care for economic reasons. FFN care is more affordable than center or licensed home care, and many FFN providers are more flexible about if and when child care payments are made. FFN providers are more likely to offer care in the evenings, overnight and on the weekends when other care is less available and can be more flexible with parents who receive their work schedules on short notice.¹²

FFN Care in the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program

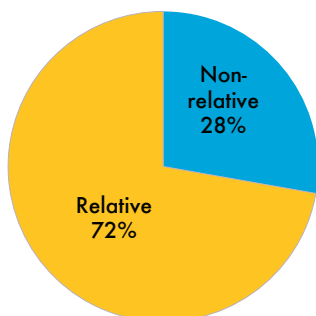
No data exist on the total number of FFN providers in Cook County or the total number of children in FFN care. However, we do know of the 13,000 providers who are paid by CCAP in a given month.

CCAP Family, Friend and Neighbor Providers

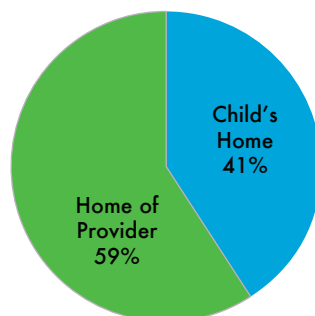


Within CCAP, about three quarters of FFN providers are related to the children in their care. It is more common for care to take place in the provider's home, but many caregivers provide care in the child's home.

Relationship Between Child and Provider



Where Care Takes Place



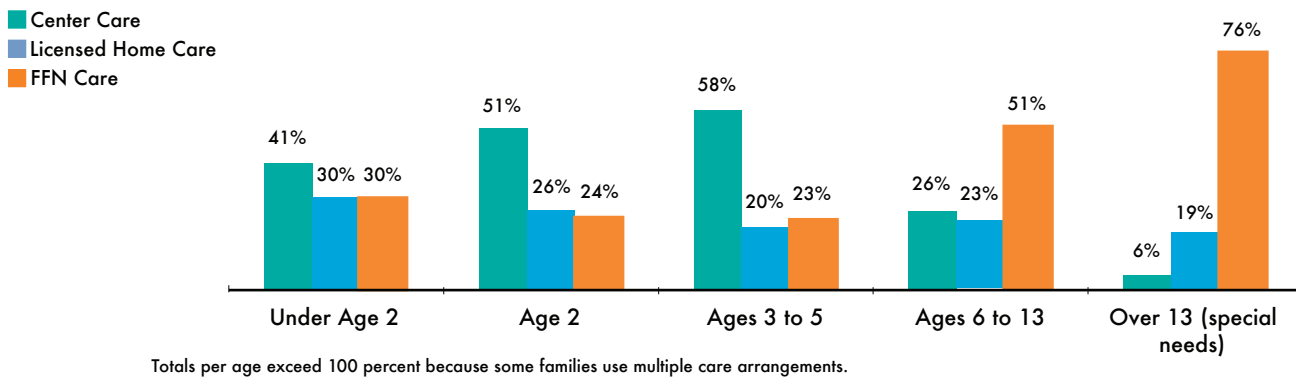
¹²For a more complete discussion of FFN care, particularly as it relates to non-traditional work hours, see *Choices in the Real World: The use of family, friend and neighbor child care by single Chicago mothers working nontraditional schedules*, Illinois Action for Children, 2013.



Use of FFN Care by CCAP Families

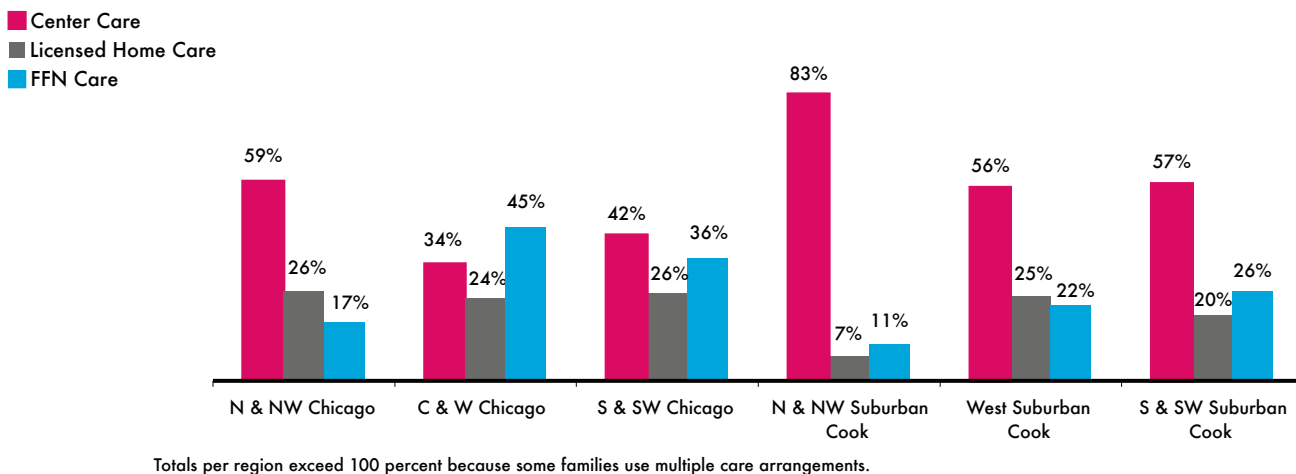
Among families using CCAP, FFN care is most commonly used for school age children. For children under age 5, FFN care is somewhat more likely to be used for infants and toddlers than for preschool-age children.

Use of FFN Care by CCAP Families Compared to Other Types of Care, by Child Age



FFN care is most prevalent in the poorer regions of Cook County: the South and Southwest regions of both Chicago and suburban Cook County. FFN care is least common among families living in the North and Northwest regions of both Chicago and suburban Cook County where families with CCAP use more center care.

Use of FFN Care by CCAP Families Compared to Other Types of Care, by Region



Children in Poverty in Cook County and Use of Child Care Assistance

Twenty-three percent of the 900,000 children of Cook County live in poverty, and 43 percent are in families earning less than 185 percent of the poverty level, meaning they are income-eligible for CCAP. Estimating CCAP eligibility using families' income *and* employment status, we determine that as many as 70,000 children under age six and 113,000 school age children may be eligible for but not using CCAP. Only 29 percent of children eligible for CCAP are using it.

There are many possible reasons why families do not use this public support. Parents in two-parent families may stagger their work schedules and not need child care, parents may already have free or affordable child care, families may lack awareness of CCAP, they or their provider may find the paperwork requirements burdensome, undocumented families might distrust government programs, parents may work for cash and have difficulty documenting their income, and parents may face language or cultural barriers.

Children Ages 0 to 5

	Number of Children	Percent in Poverty	Percent Below 185% of Poverty (income eligible for CCAP)	Children with CCAP (June 2012)	Eligible for but not participating in CCAP (estimate)
Cook County	415,438	23%	43%	44,080	69,874
N & NW Chicago	81,190	20%	38%	5,560	13,606
Central & West Chicago	45,959	39%	62%	7,240	10,382
S & SW Chicago	91,718	36%	59%	16,158	18,724
Chicago	218,867	31%	52%	28,958	42,712
N & NW Suburban Cook	94,137	11%	26%	3,056	11,965
West Suburban Cook	43,471	17%	40%	3,908	6,816
S & SW Suburban Cook	58,963	22%	42%	8,158	8,381
Suburban Cook	196,571	15%	34%	15,122	27,163

Children Ages 6 to 12

	Number of Children	Percent in Poverty	Percent Below 185% of Poverty (income eligible for CCAP)	Children with CCAP (June 2012)	Eligible for but not participating in CCAP (estimate)
Cook County	475,809	24%	44%	31,932	113,408
N & NW Chicago	74,819	23%	45%	3,145	19,683
Central & West Chicago	47,128	43%	69%	6,032	15,725
S & SW Chicago	113,059	36%	60%	12,614	34,037
Chicago	35,006	33%	57%	21,791	69,445
N & NW Suburban Cook	109,501	10%	25%	1,604	17,752
West Suburban Cook	52,006	16%	37%	2,297	10,886
S & SW Suburban Cook	79,296	20%	37%	6,240	15,325
Suburban Cook	240,803	15%	32%	10,141	43,963



Conclusion

Finding the right child care is one of the most important decisions that a parent faces, and with more options, the likelihood is greater that parents will succeed in finding the provider best suited for their child. However, parents' choices are limited by costs, schedules, and availability - this is especially true for low-income parents.

Each individual child care program has characteristics that parents may find attractive--perhaps an especially warm and experienced caregiver, a well-developed curriculum, a caregiver with experience with a particular disability, or a vibrant, visually appealing facility. Ideally, a family's child care decision would be based on the program's quality and its ability to meet the child's individual needs.

Unfortunately, limiting factors play a role in the decision-making process, particularly for middle- and low-income families. Most significantly, the high cost of care in centers or licensed home programs can prohibit families from using these types of care. While CCAP helps some families access these services, not all families who need assistance qualify for it, and sometimes even with assistance, these child care settings can still be too costly.

Many families are also limited by the number of child care openings in their community - we find this particularly true for parents seeking infant care. Other families find that it is not just about finding openings, but finding them at the right times. A growing number of families work outside the traditional Monday through Friday daytime schedule, yet most center and licensed home settings do not offer care in the evenings, overnight, or on weekends.

While many types of child care exist, the reality is that many families do not have options. We hope this report will provide insight into the realities faced by working families and the types of support that these families and their child care providers need.

Further, we hope it will guide advocates and policy makers as they work to improve the accessibility of quality child care for all families in Cook County and the State of Illinois.



Appendix 1: The Six Cook County Regions

This Report divides Cook County into six geographic regions: three in Chicago based on the 77 Chicago Community Areas, and three in suburban Cook County based on the suburban municipalities.

When presenting census data for Chicago and Cook County in this report, we built our aggregate units from data for the individual Chicago Community Areas and municipalities. Our aggregate data, therefore, may deviate somewhat from aggregate data provided by the U.S. Census.

North and Northwest Suburban Cook	West Suburban Cook	Chicago Heights Chicago Ridge Country Club Hills Crestwood Dixmoor Dolton East Hazel Crest Evergreen Park Flossmoor Ford Heights Glenwood Harvey Hazel Crest Hickory Hills Hometown Homewood Lansing Lemont Lynwood Markham Matteson Merrionette Park Midlothian Oak Forest Oak Lawn Olympia Fields Orland Hills Orland Park Palos Heights Palos Hills Palos Park Park Forest Phoenix Posen Richton Park Riverdale Robbins Sauk Village South Chicago Heights South Holland Steger Thornton Tinley Park Worth	North and Northwest Chicago	South and Southwest Chicago
Arlington Heights Barrington Bartlett Des Plaines East Dundee Elgin Elk Grove Village Elmwood Park Evanston Franklin Park Glencoe Glenview Golf Hanover Park Harwood Heights Hoffman Estates Inverness Kenilworth Lincolnwood Morton Grove Mount Prospect Niles Norridge Northbrook Northfield Northlake Palatine Park Ridge Prospect Heights River Grove Rolling Meadows Rosemont Schaumburg Schiller Park Skokie South Barrington Streamwood Wheeling Wilmette Winnetka	Bedford Park Bellwood Berkeley Berwyn Bridgeview Broadview Brookfield Burr Ridge Cicero Countryside Forest Park Forest View Hillside Hodgkins Indian Head Park Justice La Grange La Grange Park Lyons Maywood McCook Melrose Park North Riverside Oak Park River Forest Riverside Stickney Stone Park Summit Westchester Western Springs Willow Springs		Albany Park Avondale Belmont Cragin Dunning Edgewater Edison Park Forest Glen Hermosa Irving Park Jefferson Park Lake View Lincoln Park Lincoln Square Logan Square Montclare North Center North Park Norwood Park O'Hare Portage Park Rogers Park Uptown West Ridge	Archer Heights Armour Square Ashburn Auburn Gresham Avalon Park Beverly Bridgeport Brighton Park Burnside Calumet Heights Chatham Chicago Lawn Clearing Douglas East Side Englewood Fuller Park Gage Park Garfield Ridge Grand Boulevard Greater Grand Crossing Hegewisch Hyde Park Kenwood McKinley Park Morgan Park Mount Greenwood New City Oakland Pullman Riverdale Roseland South Chicago South Deering South Shore Washington Heights Washington Park West Elsdon West Englewood West Lawn West Pullman Woodlawn
	South and Southwest Suburban Cook		Central and West Chicago	
	Alsip Blue Island Burbank Burnham Calumet City Calumet Park		Austin East Garfield Park Humboldt Park Loop Lower West Side Near North Side Near South Side Near West Side North Lawndale South Lawndale West Garfield Park West Town	

Appendix 2: Sources for Data on Child Care Providers in Cook County

Information on Cook County child care providers in this report comes from three different sources:

1. The Illinois Action for Children Resource and Referral Program
2. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
3. The Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The Illinois Action for Children Resource and Referral program is part of a statewide network of Resource and Referral agencies funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Illinois Action for Children invites child care providers to list their programs on our database and to provide detailed information about their programs such as the rates they charge parents, the number of children they serve per age group, languages spoken, training and education they have received, and other characteristics that help referral staff match parents with providers.

Illinois Action for Children supplements its database with licensing data from DCFS. In this way, we maintain the most comprehensive listing of child care providers in Cook County, though we do not fully capture child care that is legally exempt from licensing or the otherwise illegal care.

The third source of child care data used in this report is CCAP, which provides the best count of known license-exempt child care programs in Cook County.

Child Care Providers in Cook County in 2012: Who is Included

Type of Program	Description
Child Care Centers	Any child care center operating for the full year or the school year and offering some or all full-time care for children under age 5. The center might provide school-age care as well. This category does not include private preschool programs or public preschools such as Head Start-only or Preschool for All-only programs. Park and recreation programs are included if their care is full-time and for the full year or school year. Data are from June 2012.
School-Age Programs	Any center that provides full-year or school-year care for children ages 5-and-over only. Includes before and after school programs and part-day programs for children in kindergarten. Programs may be center-based, school-based or at a park or recreation program. Data are from June 2012.
Summer Only Programs	Any center that provides care only during the summer months. Only centers providing full-time care are included. Ninety-four (94) percent of these summer-only programs are park and recreation programs. Data are from June 2012.
Licensed Homes	Any family child care home that is licensed by DCFS as of June 2012.
FFN Care (License-Exempt Homes)	License-exempt home providers participating in CCAP in June 2012. The number of participating home providers varies from month to month just as the number of participating families varies. These data do not capture the large number of unknown family, friend, or neighbor caregivers throughout Cook County.

For information on early education slots in Cook County (Head Start and Preschool for All) and on child care and early education slots in regions outside of Cook County, visit the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) website at iecam.crc.illinois.edu.