Child Care Assistance Program: Participating Child Care Centers and Family Homes

According to the Illinois Child Care Report FY 2013, the state vision is that “families will have multiple options for affordable quality child care and early education. All children starting at birth will be offered opportunities to grow, learn and be cared for in safe, nurturing, culturally and developmentally appropriate settings.” [1]

According to IECAM, 91,613 children (age 5 years and under) were served by the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) during October 2012. More than 35,000 centers and homes (licensed and license-exempt) received CCAP payments for eligible children in their care. For a total number of children and families served for an entire year, please visit http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=70482.

The map below shows the distribution by county of all child care centers and homes that received CCAP funds for October 2012. The statewide total of providers paid is also shown.

For more information, visit our Risk Factor page at http://iecam.illinois.edu/riskdata/ece-services/index.html#ccap.

IECAM provides a comprehensive picture of early care and education services in Illinois by combining demographic data (population, language use, poverty level, risk factors) and early childhood program data (Preschool for All, Head Start, child care).

Spotlight on Stats is a periodic data resource that will highlight particular demographic data (e.g., languages, risk factors, population characteristics) on the state as a whole.

The Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development is responsible for administering and reporting on the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). CCDF is designed to provide low-income families access to affordable, quality child care. CCDF guidelines give state agencies flexibility in developing child care programs and policies that best fit the needs of families. However, states must promote parent choice, make child care consumer education available, and provide quality supports for the child care workforce.

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is available to all Illinois families that qualify. CCAP provides child care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years and for children with special needs who are 13–19 years old. Families must be income eligible and either employed or in approved education/training programs. Teen parents pursuing high school diplomas or equivalent can also receive assistance. [2]
