

Child Care Resource Service

Annual Report



Child Care Resource Service strives to support families, child care providers, students and communities in their



Commitment to provide high quality child care to all children and to make it accessible and affordable.



We offer assistance and education as we work to develop excellence as advocates and professionals for children.

Serving Champaign, Douglas, Iroquois, Macon, Piatt, and Vermilion Counties in east-central Illinois

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From the Director

Child Care Resource Service

Dear Colleagues and Friends of CCRS,

Quality child care matters! The profession of early care and education knows that as fact. Parents seek quality care for their children. Children thrive in quality child care environments. The State of Illinois is investing in quality child care. The word quality appears on nearly every initiative coming from the field and from the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development. Legislative officials, other elected administrators and businesses increasingly understand the benefits of quality child care within a community. Quality is a focus in the child care industry at the national level as well.

Child care providers receive high quality professional development and training stressing the best ways to work with children and families. Children are better prepared to enter school ready to learn. This is a quality initiative.

Parents are offered information on how to identify quality child care when receiving referrals from CCRS. This is quality assurance.

Child care providers who receive a Quality Counts Van visit are offered materials, theme kits, information about professional development opportunities and other resources. Visits are intended to enhance the quality of the child care offered.


All of these programs and more work in tandem to reach new and higher levels of excellence when serving young children:

Quality Counts Mini Grant Program
Childhood Mental Health Consultants
Child Care Nurse Consultants
Child Care Assistance Program
CCRS Lending Library
Quality Rating System

CCRS thanks you for years of dedication and caring about the children in Illinois. Join us as we move forward to improve the opportunities for children.

On another note, I wish to personally thank each of you for your support of, participation, investment and involvement in CCRS. It has been a distinct privilege to serve the children, families and communities of East Central Illinois through the child care resource and referral system. After nearly twelve years and to be nearer my own children – grown and grand – I end my work on the prairie. A new position awaits at the New York Child Care Coordinating Council. Thank you.

Sincere Regards,



Judy Hartley
Director

Child Care Assistance Program: CCAP

The State of Illinois helps income-eligible families pay for child care services needed to work or go to school, training, and other work-related activities.

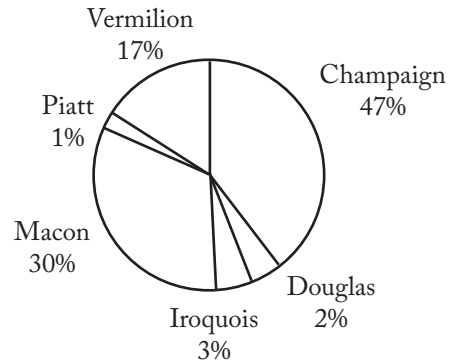
During Fiscal Year 2008, the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), paid a portion of the child care costs for an average 3,679 clients per month. CCAP answered 42,014 telephone calls and welcomed 2,118 clients, 2,028 providers, and 781 drop-off walk-ins for a total of 4,927 customers over the course of the year. An average of 36% of the child care assistance payments that we processed were to license-exempt programs, 64% were to licensed programs. This data indicates that there has been a significant increase in the use of licensed programs, especially centers.

Parents are assessed a co-payment amount when approved, which they pay to the child care provider. The state of Illinois picks up the rest of the child care cost within certain rates. A sample parent co-payment chart:

Types of Programs Paid

Centers	39%
Family Child Care Homes	34%
Relative Care	22%
Friend Care	5%

Child Care Assistance Paid Per County



Sample Parent Co-payment Amounts

Gross Monthly Income	Monthly Copayment
\$ 0 - 327	\$4.33
328 - 491	13.00
492 - 654	21.67
655 - 818	34.66
819 - 981	47.66
982 - 1,145	65.00
1,146 - 1,308	86.66
1,309 - 1,472	108.33
1,473 - 1,636	134.32
1,637 - 1,799	160.32
1,800 - 1,962	186.32
1,963 - 2,051	212.32
2,126 - 2,288	238.32
2,289 - 2,334	264.31

Data and Research

CCRS communicates to the public through our website, the media and other outreach efforts. A variety of our data is confidential and some requests for data, such as for direct mailing purposes, are not granted. In addition, our data is not available for commercial use or as a referral tool for use by another agency. However, agencies, schools, child care providers, college students, grant writers, and other nonprofit organizations frequently use information from our databases to enhance their publications or services. During Fiscal Year 2008, we handled 46 data requests. Some of the data is collected at a “point-in-time” and therefore is not a reflection of data throughout the Fiscal Year. In most cases, we have indicated when data is cumulative over the entire year. These data can be and have been used for research purposes.

For example, statewide administrative data are used every two years for the *Market Rate Survey of Illinois Child Care*. These analyses, contracted by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), are currently being conducted. The Fiscal Year 2005 report is available now. Every other year we conduct, for IDHS, the *Illinois Salary and Staffing Survey of Licensed Child Care Facilities*. The survey was administered during spring and summer 2007. The final report is now available. We are currently building the capacity to link different data sources—market rates, provider data, child care assistance recipients, as well as census and other governmental data. In addition, we continue to collect primary data and to archive administrative data that will inform researchers, planners, and policy makers on the state of child care in Illinois. Data can be found on:

- urban and rural child care availability
- family income levels
- average rate and range of rates for child care services by type of care
- the availability of child care by type of care and by county
- the availability of state-funded financial assistance by age of child

Community Services

Outreach staff go into the community to ensure as many people as possible are aware of our services. Data and Research staff prepare the numbers so you know about child care supply and demand in east-central Illinois.

Outreach staff share information about our agency’s services at community fairs, employer benefit days, agency-sponsored events, carnivals, fiestas, conferences, school open houses, public booths, career days, and even in parades. They look for opportunities to offer information to those in our area who may be eligible or in need of services. In fiscal year 2008, outreach staff made 30 presentations to 5,455 participants. Over 19,326 materials were shared with our communities.

Parent Services

Parent Counselors help parents find child care and provide professional assistance in evaluating child care needs. Along with a list of child care options, Parent Services staff supply resource materials for selecting quality care.

Parent Counselors served 1,955 families: a total of 3,113 children. Ninety-four percent (94%) of parents who responded to a survey said they would use this service again or recommend it to a friend.

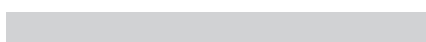







The majority of people requesting child care were looking for full-time week-day child care during typical business hours. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of requests were for infant child care, 28% of requests were for toddler-age child care, 24% of requests were for preschool-age care, and 21% of requests were for school-age child care.

Eighty-four percent (84%) of families who called for referrals made 60% and below the state median income. Six percent (6%) were teen parents.

Top 10 Reasons CCRS Clients . . .

Chose a child care program:	Had a problem finding a child care program:
1. Warm & caring environment	1. None
2. Location	2. No openings
3. Other	3. Schedule
4. Safe & clean environment	4. Cost
5. Experienced caregiver	5. Quality
6. Schedule	6. Location
7. Affordability	7. Type of care
8. Education & training	8. Did not take CCAP
9. Caregiver training	9. Curriculum
10. Small group size	10. Other

Calls Received From Clients Requesting Child Care: By County

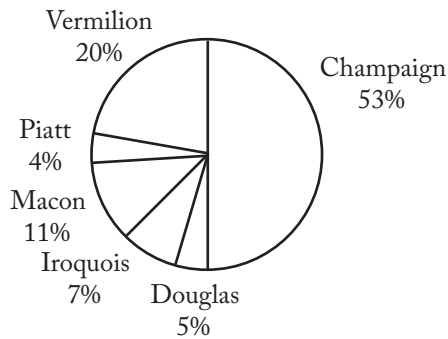
Champaign		1524
Douglas		106
Iroquois		73
Macon		321
Piatt		64
Vermilion		893
Other IL County		85
Out of State		47

Provider Services

Provider Services staff keep up-to-date information on child care providers in the area.

Parent Counselors maintain current, detailed information on approximately 900 licensed and licensed-exempt centers and family child care homes with 20,882 spaces for children in East Central Illinois.

Total Number of Child Care Programs



Type of Care

The following chart shows total child care facilities and capacities broken down by city, county and type of care: Family Child Care (FCC) Homes and Centers. Centers includes:

- Preschool programs
- School-Age programs
- Park/Recreation programs
- Head Start programs
- Preschool For All programs

	FCC		Center	
	Total	Capacity	Total	Capacity
Champaign County	377	3058	104	9037
Rural	133	1036	30	1912
C-U, Savoy	244	2022	74	7125
Douglas County	37	286	7	260
Iroquois County	49	394	13	472
Macon County	53	439	40	3570
Rural	6	22	10	698
Decatur	49	417	30	2872
Piatt County	36	294	7	317
Vermilion County	143	983	33	1892
Rural	88	607	15	431
Danville	55	376	18	1461

Average Rates

The average rates for our six-County region are broken down by county and type of care. Family Child Care homes (FCC) and Centers (all other types of care on our database) are listed as average full-time weekly rates:

	Infant		Preschool		School Age	
	FCC	Center	FCC	Center	FCC	Center
Champaign County	\$116	200	105	149	77	117
Douglas County	\$98	140	94	120	72	NA
Iroquois County	\$87	96	85	85	75	NA
Macon County	\$109	161	100	117	92	96
Piatt County	\$111	181	100	157	77	118
Vermilion County	\$92	136	83	105	66	87

Training Services

Training staff provide resources and information for child care providers about training, education, and technical assistance.

Our training department collaborates with child care associations in our six counties to meet the training needs of child care providers. In fiscal year 2008, they offered a total of 288 professional development opportunities; including, workshops, conferences, and series sessions. These events generated 541 training hours for 2,920 child care providers for a total of 7,066 participant hours.

	Trainings Completed	Hours Completed	Participants
Workshops	136	297	2,493
Self Studies	92	184	92
Series Sessions	16	115	1,686
Total	244	596	4,271

Nurse Consultants collaborate with Healthy Child Care America, health care professionals, child care providers and families in a partnership to improve the health and well-being of children in child care settings. The primary purpose of the Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) program is to build strong connections between child health experts and child care providers to support healthy child care environments and ultimately healthy outcomes for children in care. In fiscal year 2008, our CCNCs provided the following services:

Outreach Activities	18
Technical Assistance	728
Educational Sessions	52
Consultations	426
Materials Distributed	9,176
Training Hours Offered	42
Training Participants	582
Networking Activities	118

Grants and Funds

Quality Counts is a community education program for parents and child care providers focusing on the issues of quality child care. In order to help child care providers enhance the literacy aspects of their programs, a key indicator of quality child care, CCRS regularly visits providers and offers literacy materials. In fiscal year 2008, we brought the Quality Counts van to over 89 programs every six weeks, and to 106 license-exempt child care providers throughout our six counties.

The Quality Counts Mini Grants funded \$293,653 to local child care providers who applied. \$117,235 were targeted for programs that serve infants and toddlers. CCRS received 122 requests and was able to fund 91 programs. The number of grants funded depended on the number of proposals received and the amount awarded to each. The awards were distributed equally proportionate across our six counties. Sixty (60) family child care providers and 31 centers were approved for funding.

Professional Development Funds (PDF) and Accreditation Grants are designed to support individual pursuit of professional development in early care and education. Providers participating in educational events that meet grant guidelines can be reimbursed for their expenditures. Center program directors, center staff, family child care owners and staff, and child care associations are able to access these funds.

In fiscal year 2008, CCRS distributed \$17,993 in 239 grants to individual providers and programs for workshops, tuition and on-site professional development opportunities.

CCRS also administers a grant to enable providers to pursue program accreditation and various early childhood credentials. In fiscal year 2008, 13 grants were awarded for pursuit of credentialing and 16 grants were awarded for program accreditation.

Quality Rating System

The Quality Counts: Quality Rating System (QRS) assists Illinois child care programs in providing quality care for children and their families. This is a voluntary program available to license-exempt family child care providers, licensed family/group home child care providers, and licensed centers. Providers must serve children participating in the IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Technical assistance, training, and supports are offered to all types of providers. The system offers progressive levels which providers can achieve depending on the type of care they provide. Specific quality criteria must be met to achieve a specific level. Once a child care provider has met the required criteria for that level, they will be recognized for their achievement and will receive a quality add-on rate to the CCAP standard daily rate. In Fiscal year 2008, 120 providers took advantage of these training programs.

2000 U.S. Census Bureau Data

	Total Population	Children 0-5	Children 6-9	Median Household Income
Champaign County	179,669	10,417	10,567	\$37,780
Rural	71,280	5,082	5,429	-
Champaign, Urbana, Savoy (average)	108,389	5,335	5,138	\$36,371
Douglas County	19,922	1,379	1,384	\$39,439
Iroquois County	31,334	1,923	2,130	\$38,071
Macon County	114,706	7,301	7,941	\$37,859
Rural	32,846	1,822	2,341	-
Decatur	81,860	5,479	5,600	\$33,111
Piatt County	16,365	1,009	1,139	\$45,752
Vermilion County	83,919	5,577	5,921	\$34,071
Rural	50,015	3,174	3,517	-
Danville	33,904	2,403	2,404	\$30,431

Data run on the following "Quickfacts" Census Bureau database:
U.S. Census Bureau; "State and County QuickFacts: 2000;" <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17000.html>>

Community Advisory Boards

Champaign and Douglas Counties

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Krista Borberly, Cunningham Childrens Home
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William Curry, Metcad
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Marilee Wright, Mental Health Center of Champaign County
Charmaine Young, Friend of Children

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Linda Wolfe, Noah's Ark Christian Day Care

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Shirley Krall, Iroquois County Early Intervention
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Cindy Montgomery, Your Family Resource Connection Early Learning Center
Joan Mosher, Hoopeston Head Start
Vicky Oliver, Center for Children Services
Diane Rew, Danville District 118 Pre-K Program
Melissa Rome, Vermilion County Health Department

University of Illinois Departmental Advisory Board

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Ann Reisner, Associate Professor
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CCRS is a program of the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Department of Human and Community Development at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Illinois Extension.

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