

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

OVERVIEW

The subsidized child care program (known as CCAP) provides assistance for childcare for working families at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. The program will also ensure services to working families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), families receiving TANF who are participating in IDHS approved education/training activities, and teen parents in high school or GED programs.

WHO IS SERVED?

Population(s)/Age Group:

In addition to helping low-income, working families, the Child Care Assistance Program also serves:

- Families who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and participating in education & training in accordance with their responsibility and service plans (RSP);
- Teen parents seeking a high school degree or its equivalent; and/or
- Families not receiving TANF, who are pursuing additional education to improve their job opportunities.

Child care services are restricted to children under age 13 and to children under age 19 who are under court supervision or have physical or mental incapacities as documented by a statement from a local health provider or other health professional.

Eligibility Criteria and Screening Tools:

- Children ages 6 weeks to 13 years of age
- Children ages 13 to 20 who are under court supervision, or who are incapable of self-care due to physical or mental disabilities or delays, as documented by a statement from a local health provider or other health professional
- Teen parents up to age 20, to enable them to obtain a high school degree or its equivalent (income eligibility based on the income of the teen if he/she is a single parent)
- Families on TANF, if included in an approved Responsibility and Services Plan
- Working families with incomes at or below 185% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Generally, there is no minimum number of hours a parent must be working.
- Families not on TANF but enrolled in any of the following education or training programs:
 - Literacy, adult basic education, GED preparation, English as a Second Language (ESL) and vocational programs – parents can attend for up to 2 years with no work requirement; thereafter, there is a 20 hour per week work requirement.
 - Two-and-four-year college degree programs – Parents are expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 points. Parents can attend for up to 48 non-consecutive months with no work requirement; thereafter there is a 20 hour per week work requirement. Parents working 20 or more hours per week must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a scale of 4.0 points.

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HOW ARE SERVICES DELIVERED?

Local Service System:

There are 2 ways for families to apply for CCAP

- [Apply Online](#)
- [Apply Using a Paper Application](#)

Illinois has a statewide network of Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies that are contracted by IDHS as CCAP points of entry. Families should be referred to the CCR&R that serves the region in which they live for any questions about eligibility or for information about finding care for their children. Call 1-877-202-4453 (toll-free) or visit <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=60958>.

Illinois has a statewide network of Licensed Centers and Family Home networks that are contracted by IDHS to provide quality early childhood services in their communities and also serve as CCAP points of entry. Families enrolling their children with these providers may also apply for CCAP at the same time. The list of site-administered child care contractors can be found at <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=58455>.

Referrals into Program:

Encouraged, but not required except site-administered child care contractors, who must refer families to social service agencies as required or requested.

Data Systems Used:

Child Care Management System (CCMS) used to determine eligibility and store documents for the child care subsidy program.

HSCCMS is used to enter child care provider payments for the child care subsidy program.

NACCRRAware is the referral database which contains details of provider's programs so referrals can be made to the parents.

Data tracking program (DTP) tracks the participation of child care programs and their staff in CCR&R programs (like quality counts, mental health, trainings, QRIS, pdf funds).

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR CONTACT

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