

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

Systems Development Initiative

Overview

Local Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies are hubs for diverse and otherwise uncoordinated child care activities in each regional community of Illinois. Child Care Resource and Referral agencies are permanent, local, adaptable structures through which public and private groups can work together to enhance the accessibility, improve the quality, and increase the availability of affordable child care.

The local 16 Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies provide the following services for children and families, early care and education and school age care providers (including family child care and center-based programs) and communities:

For parents/guardians and families:

- Assemble and maintain an accurate early care and education and school age care program database to provide up-to-date information to parents;
- Provide consumer education and referrals to early care and education and school age care programs in their communities;
- Offer information and provide eligibility determination and provider reimbursement for the Child Care Assistance Program. Eligible families include working families of low income or who are participating in approved education or training.

For early care and education and school age care program:

- Provide referrals to parents /guardians/families seeking child care
- Provide and coordinate ongoing technical assistance, training, consultation and resources, including grant funds, to improve the quality of care and assistance programs in attainment of an ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality

Consultant Team

Each Child Care Resource & Referral Agency has a local consultant team. The consultant team offers child care providers free services to improve the quality of care and to assistance programs to attain an ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality. To find your local consultant team, first find your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency <<http://www.ilqualitycounts.com/component/sdasearch/>>.

The consultant team may consist of:

- Quality Specialist
- Infant Toddler Child Care Specialist
- Mental Health Consultant
- Child Care Nurse Consultant

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Consultant Team (continued)

For communities and for the State:

- Record and analyze data on early care and education and school age care supply and demand to support community capacity building;
- Provide technical assistance, coordinate and encourage the development of new and the retention of existing early care and education and school age care resources in communities where they are needed;
- Establishes relationships/collaborates with local groups interested in early care and education and school age care services

Community Partnership Structure

- Local CCR&R agencies partner with numerous organizations including the Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children and local affiliates, Head Start, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, IDHS Family and Community Resource Centers, Child and Family Connections, local health departments, local community collaborations, hospitals and others to deliver quality services to children and families.
- 16 contracted agencies statewide, with community partner sites in Cook County

Contact Information

Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA)
(309) 829-5327

Program Website:

<http://www.ilqualitycounts.com/component/sdasearch/?Itemid=142>