

# Need help paying for child care?

## Child Care Assistance Program

The State of Illinois provides low-income families financial assistance for child care services to work, attend school, or training. The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) operates this program; however, CCCC Child Care Assistance Program is responsible for the administration of the program.

### You can get help paying for child care if...

- You have a child (or children) under the age of 13, and
- You (and your spouse) are working, and
- Your family income is at or below 50 percent of the State Median Income. (For child care eligibility income levels by family size, contact CCCC or visit our website: [www.CCCCConnect.org](http://www.CCCCConnect.org))

#### ***For more information contact:***

Community Child Care  
Connection, Inc.  
1-800-676-2805

or

Illinois Department of  
Human Services  
1-800-843-6154

### Child care arrangements for which IDHS will help pay...

To help ensure the well-being and safety of your child, Illinois law defines the following as legal care arrangements:

- Licensed Child Care Center
- License-exempt Child Care Center
- Licensed Family Child Care Home
- License-exempt Family Child Care Home (*No more than three unrelated children may be cared for, including the provider's own children, unless all children are from the same household*)
- Licensed Group Family Child Care Home
- Child Care by Non-relatives in the child's home
- Child Care by Relatives in the relative's or child's home

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## More Financial Assistance Resources Available

While there are many options for financial assistance, each has its own individual qualifications including but not limited to employment status and income guidelines. Please be sure to check these requirements closely. Here are just a few alternatives to paying for full-time childcare:

### **Tax Credits:**

Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Federal Child Tax Credit (CTC), Federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and State Earned Income and Dependent Care Tax Credit are all options available to either offset the amount owed on your annual taxes or even get up to several thousand dollars back on taxes previously paid throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or [www.revenue.state.il.us](http://www.revenue.state.il.us).

### **Child Care Provider Assistance:**

Be sure to ask if your child care provider offers multiple child discounts, scholarships, or payment on a sliding fee scale.

### **Employee/College Assistance:**

Many employers are aware of the ever rising cost of child care. There are many employers that have begun to offer scholarships, discounts to other programs, Dependent Care Assistance Programs, or on site childcare at reduced prices. There are also colleges that provide similar programs. Check with the Human Resource department to ask about these options.

### **Pre Kindergarten Programs:**

In many of the communities in the areas we serve, there are PreK or Preschool for All programs established to make sure that children are prepared for kindergarten. These programs are often offered in the public school setting, but occasionally are offered in partnership with child care programs in your community. These programs primarily target children ages 3-4 years old and have eligibility requirements. For a list of these programs in your area call one of our Parent Counselors at: 1-800-676-2805.

**Head Start and Early Head Start:**

Head Start programs are full or part day programs to help meet the needs of eligible families. Similar to the Pre Kindergarten Programs, these programs have eligibility requirements. Each family must have income that meets federal poverty guidelines. To find the most up to date poverty guidelines, visit the United States Department of Health and Human Services website at <http://aspe.hhs.gov>. For a list of these programs in your area call one of our Parent Counselors at: 1-800-676-2805.

**Other Options:**

After assessing your family's budget and capacity to pay childcare, you might look for other ways to cut back on the cost of child care. For instance, it might be possible to work fewer hours or share some hours of child care if you are in a two parent household and working different shifts. You may ask yourself: Is there another family that might be seeking care during the same hours that would split the cost with you?

Is there a trustworthy family member or friend (also referred to as a License Exempt Family Child Care Provider) that might be willing to cover a portion of the time you are at work or attending school?

For more information about the above financial assistance options, or for any additional help you might need in your child care search, please feel free to contact the office directly at: 1-800-676-2805.

