

September 29, 2025

## **FY25 CHILD CARE REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

This report is being submitted by the Department of Children and Family Services (the Department) under the guidelines of HB4242, Public Act 102-0926 which requires the Department to submit a report to the General Assembly beginning October 1, 2023 and every October 1st thereafter on the number of children who received childcare via vouchers paid for by the Department during the preceding fiscal year. The Department shall specify by rule the conditions of eligibility, the application process and the types, amounts and duration of services. The report shall include the ages of children who received childcare, the type of childcare they received and the number of months they received childcare.

### **CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY**

The Department shall provide childcare services to families meeting the following daycare service eligibility criteria:

- Intact families with an open case and whose child/children are 0-3 years of age, a protective need has been assessed, and that daycare has been/will be identified in the service plan as a needed resource for safety reasons.
- Intact families with an open case and whose child/children are four (4) years of age and older and whose parents are working outside the home or who are participating in employment training or educational programs outside the home that are approved by the Department and any other means of day care services/pre-school are not available or appropriate (a list of other services attempted should be attached as documentation).
- Foster parents or relative care providers who are working outside the home.
- Foster parents or relative care providers who are participating in employment training or educational programs outside the home that are approved by the Department.
- Reunified families whose children were formerly youth in care.

- Adoptive or guardianship parents who are working outside the home.
- Teen youth-in-care parents to enable them to obtain or reengage in a high school degree or its equivalent. As of May 2022, teen parents apply directly to DHS' Child Care Assistance Program for all daycare service needs.

## **APPLYING FOR DCFS SUBSIDIZED CHILDCARE**

- Open Child Welfare service cases are eligible for Department-funded day care services. Requires an open case in CYCIS and placement information (if applicable) must be updated to the current applicant before a Day Care Service Eligibility Application (CFS 2000) can be processed.
- Per policy, all daycare service requests must be submitted to your regional daycare service eligibility team prior to daycare services beginning. Due to child welfare circumstances, completed and signed Day Care Service Eligibility Applications should be submitted within 30 days of the start date.
- Daycare is approved for at least 6 months at a time (unless a shorter or longer time frame is requested on the application or determined otherwise).
- Daycare services eligibility *Re-determination* (Re-D) paperwork for foster/adoptive daycare is mailed directly to the foster/adoptive parent, with a copy of the notification going to the current caseworker.

## **CATEGORY TYPE**

As of November 2022, Extended Family Support Program (EFSP)-involved families can now seek State of Illinois-subsidized childcare through DHS' Child Care Assistance Program.

<b>Foster Care</b>	<b>Protective/Open Intact Family Services</b>
Employment related	Client Service Plan related (protective, safety risk factors)
Training related	Family Reunification
Disability/Special needs	
Family Maintenance	

## AGES OF THE CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED CHILDCARE

<i>Age of Child</i>	<i>Child Count</i>
0 THRU < 24 MONTHS	2,555
24 THRU 35 MONTHS	1,510
36 THRU 71 MONTHS	3,293
72+ MONTHS	2,533
<b>TOTAL CHILDREN</b>	<b>9,891</b>

## CHILDREN COUNT WITH AT LEAST 1 MONTH IN DAYCARE

<i>Region</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Statewide Total</i>
1A	1,289	
1B	1,357	
2A	1,345	
3A	1,005	
3B	1,250	
4A	944	
5A	679	
6F	2,022	
		<b>9,891</b>

## DURATION OF SERVICES

<i>Months In Daycare</i>	<i>Number of Children</i>
1	1,247
2	1,322
3	928
4	851
5	716
6	724
7	541
8	426
9	441
10	528
11	729
12	1,438
<b>Total Child Count</b>	<b>9,891</b>

## TYPE OF CHILDCARE RECEIVED

<i>Count of Children for Childcare Received</i>	<i>Type of Childcare Received</i>	<i>Description</i>
6,360	01	Licensed day care center
917	02	Exempt day care center
1,215	03	Licensed day care home - 12 or less unrelated children under 12
218	04	Licensed group home - 16 or less unrelated children under 12
558	05	Home exempt from licensure - 3 or less unrelated children under 12
373	06	Relative - relative's - care provided in home of relative
462	07	Relative - child's - care provided in the home of the child
434	08	Non-relative - child's - care provided in the home of child
<b>Statewide Count of Childcare Types Providing Service*</b>		<b>10,537</b>
<b>Statewide Total Count of Children</b>		<b>9,891</b>

*\*Statewide count of childcare types reflects a child may experience different types of childcare during the fiscal year.*

**Pregnant and Parenting Teen Families** – IDHS is now providing services to this population of youth.

**Extended Family Support Program** – Families participating in this program are referred to IDHS for services when childcare is needed.