

November 26, 2024

## **FY24 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. If the request is submitted beyond the 30 days, an explanatory letter, signed by the caseworker and supervisor, must be attached to the application.
- 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.

Foster Care	Protective/Open Intact Family Services
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	2,585
24 THRU 35 MONTHS	1,656
36 THRU 71 MONTHS	3,321
72+ MONTHS	2,465
<b>TOTAL CHILDREN</b>	<b>10,027</b>

## CHILDREN COUNT WITH AT LEAST 1 MONTH IN DAYCARE

<i>Region</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Statewide Total</i>
1A	1,322	
1B	1,294	
2A	1,375	
3A	1,037	
3B	1,245	
4A	1,001	
5A	719	
6F	2,034	
		<b>10,027</b>

## DURATION OF SERVICES

<i>Months In Daycare</i>	<i>Number of Children</i>
1	1,163
2	1,290
3	938
4	826
5	809
6	700
7	498
8	473
9	473
10	565
11	738
12	1,554
<b>Total Child Count</b>	<b>10,027</b>

## TYPE OF CHILDCARE RECEIVED

<b>Count of Children for Childcare Received</b>	<b>Type of Childcare Received</b>	<b>Description</b>
6,304	01	Licensed day care center
957	02	Exempt day care center
1,307	03	Licensed day care home - 12 or less unrelated children under 12
245	04	Licensed group home - 16 or less unrelated children under 12
563	05	Home exempt from licensure - 3 or less unrelated children under 12
395	06	Relative - relative's - care provided in home of relative
503	07	Relative - child's - care provided in the home of the child
460	08	Non-relative - child's - care provided in the home of child
<b>Statewide Count of Childcare Types Providing Service*</b>		<b>10,734</b>
<b>Statewide Total Count of Children</b>		<b>10,027</b>

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

**Pregnant and Parenting Teen Families** – None of the reported below were receiving or utilizing DCFS subsidized childcare during FY24.

<b>Total number of youth served who were identified as pregnant and parenting during FY23</b>	<b>482</b>
<b>Number of pregnant &amp; parenting youth enrolled in the Teen Pregnant &amp; Parenting Network</b>	482
<b>Number of Youth in care who are parents</b>	337
<b>Number of Teen Parents' children</b>	332 <i>(of this number an additional 50 children were in the care of the Department)</i>
<b>Number of Pregnant Youth in Care</b>	145

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