

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Child Care Application

All families deserve access to child care that meets their needs. Illinois' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps families pay for quality child care.

1 What does CCAP provide?

- Helps you pay for child care by paying a portion of your cost direct to the provider.
- Ensures that your provider is qualified to participate in CCAP.

2 How do I qualify for CCAP? *You must meet four criteria:*

1. Live in Illinois.
2. Be the parent or guardian of children younger than 13, or younger than 19 with documented special needs (IEP, IFSP).
3. Be involved in at least one of the following:
 - Working or going to school (including GED, certificate, community college, or your first bachelor's degree)
 - Looking for work or enrolling in school
 - Experiencing homelessness
 - Transitioning from DCFS Intact Family Services
4. Meet income requirements. You can go to www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=118832 to check if your family income qualifies.

3 What would I be responsible for?

- You will need to find your own child care provider, and submit an application form for them if they are new to CCAP. Your local Child Care Resource & Referral agency (CCR&R) can help you identify quality providers.
- You will need to pay a monthly copayment to the provider, which is based on your family income and size as determined by IDHS.
- Child care providers may charge other fees that you will be responsible for (e.g., registration, field trip, difference between their rate and what CCAP covers, late fees).

4 How do I apply?

- Please fill in the attached application form and submit it to a Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency or Site Administered Provider. To find your local CCR&R, please visit: www.inccrra.org/about/sdasearch or call 1-877-202-4453 (toll-free).
- Additional documentation is required with your application. See section 12 of the application form for details.
- It could take up to 45 calendar days to process your application. You'll be contacted if more information is needed.
- If approved, you and your provider will receive a letter in the mail confirming your copay amount and how many days you are eligible for child care assistance.

The Child Care Assistance Program is an essential service to support Illinois families and providers of quality child care.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency (CCR&R), call 1-877-202-4453 (toll-free), or email DHS.CCAP.POLICY@Illinois.gov.

Additional information can be found on the DHS Division of Early Childhood CCAP Web Site at www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30355.

