

Our Team

Misty Edwards-Director

217-581-7261/mmedwards2@eiu.edu

**Melissa Coleman-Higher Education and Workforce
Development Navigator**

217-581-6991/mdcoleman@eiu.edu

**Shelli Blair-Training Coordinator/Provider Services/
Smart Start Grant Local Expert**

217-581-5790/srblair@eiu.edu

Lori Rothrock-Quality Specialist

217-581-7954/ljrothrock@eiu.edu

**Tatum Ervin-Data Specialist/CCAP Eligibility
Specialist**

217-581-1110/tmervin2@eiu.edu

Dani Prince-Referral Specialist

217-581-6698/dmprince@eiu.edu

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP):

Lindsay Howell-CCAP Coordinator

217-581-7083/ccap@eiu.edu

- Covers the counties of Clark, Coles (last name A-C), Cumberland, Edgar, Moultrie and Shelby

Michelle Justice-CCAP Eligibility Specialist

217-581-7082/ccap@eiu.edu

- Covers the county of Coles (last name D-Z)

Daphne Boley-Health & Safety Coach

217-581-7262/dboley@eiu.edu

Main CORE Line: 217-581-6698

Main CCAP Line: 217-581-7081

Fax Number: 217-581-7084

CCAP Email: ccap@eiu.edu

Mailing Address:

600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920

Physical Address:

2201 9th Street
Ninth St Hall/Room 3015
Charleston, IL 61920

OFFICE CLOSURES

September 7, 2026
November 26-27, 2026
December 24-31, 2026
January 1, 2027

Check out our
website for the latest
info, forms, and more!!



www.eiu.edu/ccrr



Follow us on Facebook to learn
about training and conference
opportunities, early childhood and
community events and more!

CCAP Policy Updates

- Personal Leave-**HOME** Providers may request personal leave up to **5 days** in a calendar year
 - Days cannot be carried over to the next calendar year
 - Must be submitted in writing using the Personal Leave Request (PLR) form-available on our website
 - Paid leave payment will be included on the next CCAP payment
- Income Guidelines have been updated (see below)
- Child Care Provider Rates have been updated (see below)

CCAP Reminders

- Do not forge the parent signature/complete paperwork on behalf of the parent
- Utilize the Comptroller website to inquire about payments before calling
- When sending documents, make sure all pages and supporting documents are included

Income Guidelines

Effective 07/01/26

Family Size 2	\$4,058
Family Size 3	\$5,123
Family Size 4	\$6,188
Family Size 5	\$7,253
Family Size 6	\$8,318
Family Size 7	\$9,383
Family Size 8	\$10,448
Family Size 9	\$11,768
Family Size 10	\$12,578

Child Care Provider Rates

Effective 07/01/26

	Under Age 2 Full Day/ Part Day	Age 2 Full Day/ Part Day	Age 3 Full Day/ Part Day
Licensed Center	\$57.00/ \$29.00	\$46.00/ \$23.00	\$40.00/ \$20.00
Licensed Exempt Center			\$33.00/ \$17.00
Licensed Home/ Group Home	\$48.53/ \$24.27	\$44.99/ \$22.50	\$41.21/ \$20.61
License-Exempt Home Relative and Non-Relative All Children Full Day/Part Day			\$26.79/ \$13.40

Why choose the **ONLINE APPLICATION** option?

- Families are able to contact their chosen child care provider via email or text
- You are able to respond to the family's request for care online in under 5 minutes
- Your response is then added to the family's CCAP application form and sent to eligibility specialists for processing

Want to give it a try? Have a family scan the QR Code on the back page to get started!

! ATTENTION HOME PROVIDERS !

Integrated Voice Response (IVR) Child Care Telephone Billing System Monitoring Reviews Coming Soon!

IDEC is requiring CCR&Rs to conduct quarterly reviews of IVR payments to ensure compliance with the terms outlined in the Telephone Billing Agreement.

Home Providers who use this system must:

- Retain attendance records and signin/ sign-out sheets for all children billed through the IVR System
Retain child care certificates signed by both the provider and the parent/caregiver for each payment entered through the IVR system
- Provide timely and complete responses to documentation requests associated with internal or external monitoring reviews and audits.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in progressive consequences for the provider, including suspension of access to the Child Care Telephone Billing System (IVR) for six (6) months for a first violation and permanent revocation of access for a second violation.

License-Exempt Health & Safety Training Reminders

To receive CCAP payments you **MUST** complete the **REQUIRED** trainings:

In the **FIRST 90 DAYS** of becoming a CCAP provider:

- Become a Gateways Registry Member - registry.ilgateways.com
- Complete Mandated Reporter Training - mandatedreporter.dcf.illinois.gov
- Complete Pediatric CPR & First Aid Trainings - eiu.edu/ccrr/training
- Complete Child Development, Health, and Safety Basics Training OR
- Complete ECE Level 1 training-Tier 1 (Mod. 1, 2a, 2b, 2c) - courses.inccrra.org

For more information, please visit our website at www.eiu.edu/ccrr or
contact **Daphne** at 217-581-7262

Interested in going to college and earning a credential or degree in Early Childhood?



Many supports are available and
our Higher Education and Workforce
Development Navigator
can help you access them!

Contact Melissa at 217-581-6991 or
mdcoleman@eiu.edu

Funds are Available!

CPR & First Aid Funds

---100% reimbursement



Individual Professional Development Funds

---80% reimbursement of expenses
associated with eligible professional
development training and credentials

Applications and information are
available on our website

There is a critical shortage of Family Child Care Providers
in our communities and we need your help to spread the word!

If you know someone who would love to make a career out of caring for children,
they can contact **Shelli** at 217-581-5790 or slblair@eiu.edu to find out how to get started!

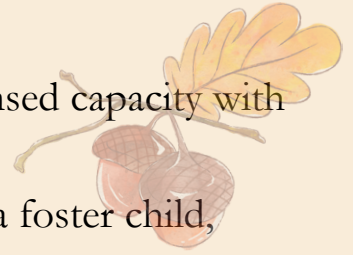


GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

SMART START GRANTS

Available to programs who enrolled 15% or more of the programs licensed capacity with children in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

--If you receive child care payments from DCFS for caring for a foster child, they will be included in the 15% CCAP enrollment requirement.



Fiscal Year 2027 July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Application Round	Application Period	Documentation Deadline/ Funding Request	Funding Released:	Funding Use Period:	Quarterly Reporting Deadline:
Round 1	April 1, 2026 – April 30, 2026	May 14, 2026	Two Payments June 2026 & July 2026	July 2026 – September 2026	October 31, 2026
Round 2	July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026 NO NEW APPLICATIONS/RENEWALS ONLY	August 14, 2026	September 2026	October 2026 – December 2026	January 31, 2027
Round 3	October 1, 2026 – October 30, 2026	November 13, 2026	December 2026	January 2027 – March 2027	April 30, 2027
Round 4	January 4, 2027 – January 29, 2027	February 12, 2027	March 2027	April 2027 – June 2027	July 31, 2027



You can find more information at www.ilgateways.com/smart-start or if you have questions or need help completing the application you may contact **Shelli** at **217-581-5790**.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

More information coming this Fall!

The Quality Improvement (QI) Funds have been developed to assist and support child care programs that are choosing to achieve a Circle of Quality above the Licensing level.

Quality Improvement Funds assist child care programs with:

- Achieving a Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle of Quality
- Achieving National Accreditation
- Advancing to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle of Quality
- Maintaining a Silver or Gold Circle of Quality



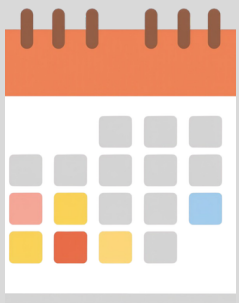
INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Illinois supports the continuing professional development of child care providers by offering funds to assist an individual in pursuit of training in early childhood and school-age child care.

Funds can be requested for:

- Individual registration fees associated with conferences/workshops
- Fees associated with webinars/online trainings that is Illinois Gateways to Opportunity Registry approved
- Travel/Transportation and Lodging costs
- Costs associated with the following credentials: Child Development Associate (CDA), Certified Child Care Professional (CCP)

APPLICATIONS FOR THESE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!



Monthly Training Calendar is available on our website!

www.eiu.edu/ccrr



Provider Updates Coming October 1st!

Please be on the lookout for these update requests in your inboxes!

If you prefer to conduct your update over the phone, please call Tatum or Shelli at 217-581-6698.

Please remember, these updates must be completed to receive funds.

Teacher Qualification Resource



Do you have staff working on their **Child Development Associate (CDA)** or the **Certified Childcare Professional (CCP)** to become teacher qualified?



EIU CCR&R can help!

Contact Melissa, Higher Education and Workforce Development Navigator at mdcoleman@eiu.edu for more information or to get started!

Special note from Vicky Foster...

"I have enjoyed working and getting to know so many providers and hope that I will see you out and about in the community!
If you need anything, Lori will be available to help."
Sincerely, Vicky Foster

QRIS: Quality Recognition and Improvement System ExceleRate Illinois

ExceleRate Illinois gives early care and education programs a process for pursuing quality efforts that will help them learn more, do better, and improve developmental skills of the children they impact. It provides standards, guidelines, resources and supports to help early childhood professionals make sensible changes that lead to better quality outcomes. It provides a framework for continuous quality improvement in programs and recognizes a programs quality achievements. ExceleRate Illinois includes four circles of quality: Licensed, Bronze, Silver and Gold.

To find out more about the **ExceleRate Illinois program** and the **Circles of Quality**, or to schedule a visit please contact

Lori Rothrock, Quality Specialist
ljrothrock@eiu.edu or 217-581-7954

You can also visit the website to learn more:
exceleerateillinoisproviders.com



ExceleRate IL **Bronze/Silver/Gold** Programs

Licensed Centers

Cornerstone Christian Academy-Silver Circle of Quality
Little Leaders Childcare Lab-Silver Circle of Quality
The Learning Zone-Silver Circle of Quality
The Little School House-Bronze Circle of Quality

Family Child Care Providers

Pamela Jones from Gays, IL-Bronze Circle of Quality
Sally Risley from Sullivan, IL-Bronze Circle of Quality

To view the rating for more local programs
such as **Preschool For All** and **Head Start**
visit *www.illinoiscaresforkids.org*



We appreciate all of the hard work the Early Childhood Professionals do to provide quality care to the children and families they serve!

Important Update from IDEC

Effective July 1, 2026, the Illinois Department of Early Childhood officially became the lead agency for Child Care Licensing, Head Start State Collaboration Office Grant, Home Visiting, Early Intervention, the Child Care Assistance Program, Early Childhood Block Grant, and a range of other early childhood support to families, providers and educators. The new structure is designed to support families, streamline services, and ensure a more coordinated approach to early childhood and learning across Illinois.

Search these Illinois websites for more information!



EIU Child Care Resource & Referral - eiu.edu/ccrr

Learn about the Child Care Assistance Program, quality child care, licensing and training information, training and professional development, quality initiatives as well as services provided by our Infant Toddler Child Care Specialist, Quality Specialist, and our Higher Education/Workforce Development Navigator



Online CCAP Application - getchildcareil.org

Families may apply on any smartphone, tablet or computer; Available in Spanish & English; Takes 20 minutes or less to complete; Accessible, uses plain language, simple to navigate; Easy to upload supporting documents



Illinois Department of Early Childhood - oecd.illinois.gov

Find provider resources and tools, supports for families, racial/equity efforts and resources, early learning council committees, Governor's newsletter and briefings, workforce and professional development support and other information from the Department of Early Childhood



DCFS Sunshine Website - sunshine.dcfs.illinois.gov

Review information on licensing standards, investigation actions, the background check portal, becoming licensed, licensed provider lookup, early childhood education, ExceleRate, Gateways, Director Portal and more



Illinois Cares For Kids - illinoiscaresforkids.org

Find child care programs, family resources to help with financial assistance, food, and good health, as well as information on child development and the emotional well being of children



Our Mission

The mission of Eastern Illinois University Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is to assist families in accessing affordable, quality child care, as well as, promoting and supporting child care providers' professional development to enhance quality child care in our community.

Serving the counties of Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby

Eastern Illinois University Child Care Resource and Referral
is funded by the Illinois Department of Early Childhood.

