

WILL COUNTY

Total Population: 502,266

- Children under age 5: 42,028
- Children ages 5 to 9: 44,189
- Children ages 10 to 14: 41,355

Will County is the largest and most urban county in SDA V although it's economy continues to have a large agricultural component. Will County is the fastest growing county in Illinois with over 40% population growth rate and an even larger increase in housing growth. Recruitment efforts for providers from the Joliet and Bolingbrook areas willing to serve children between the ages of infants though five years old is being conducted. The goal is to serve 80 children through this effort.

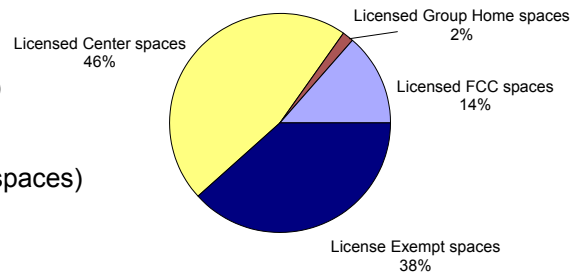
CCR&R has recently collaborated with Catholic Charities Head Start to recruit child care providers to participate in the Early Head Start Program. Working families who have children that qualified for the Head Start program, could have child care for their younger siblings. With the Early Head Start program, providers are required to attend 4 training sessions and commit to providing a specified number of spaces in their family child care home. To date, 20 providers have participated in the program; 6 have received their license through DCFS and have contracts with the Early Head Start program. (Capacity for 40 children.)

Child Care Capacity

There are a total of 520 child care facilities listed with the local CCR&R with a capacity to serve 14,976 children.

Of those facilities, there are a total of:

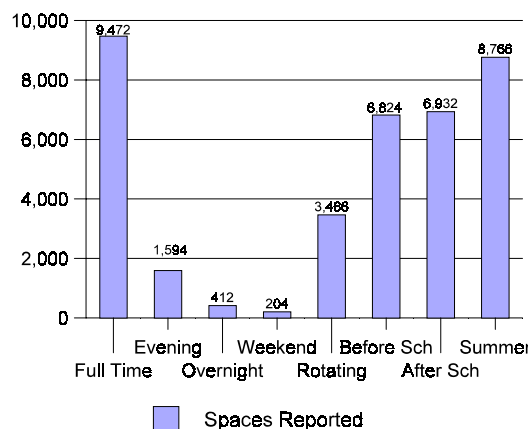
- 291 Licensed Family Child Care (2,070 spaces)
- 20 Licensed Group Homes (259 spaces)
- 102 Licensed Centers (6,934 spaces)
- 107 License Exempt Centers & Homes (5,713 spaces)



Child Care Capacity by Age Group and Schedule

Child care programs listed with the local CCR&R report the potential capacity by age group and schedule, as shown below. The actual enrollment or available spaces may vary.*

Age Group	Spaces Reported
Infants	484
Toddlers	677
2 Years	1,176
3 & 4 Years	5,134
5 & Ks	2,997
School-Age B/A School	1,835
School-Age Summer Care	2,601



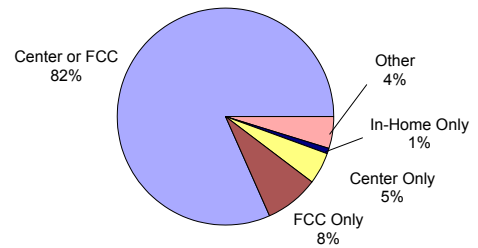
* For more information about these data, please refer to "Understanding The County Data Pages" at the beginning of this section.

Child Care Requests

In Will County, 1,712 families called the CCR&R to request care for 2,650 children.

Of those requests:

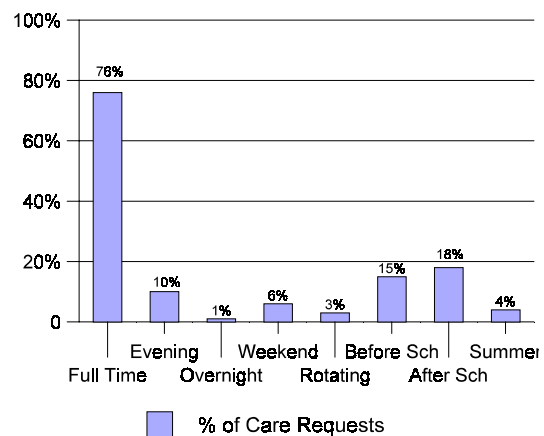
- 2,171 were for either Center or Family Child Care
- 208 were for Family Child Care Only
- 124 were for Center Only
- 28 were for In-Home Only
- 119 were for Other types of care



Requests by Age Group and Schedule

Individuals calling the local CCR&R requested the types of care by the ages and schedules shown below.

Age Group	% Requested
Infants	22%
Toddlers	14%
2 Years	14%
3 & 4 Years	21%
5 & Ks	9%
School-Age	20%

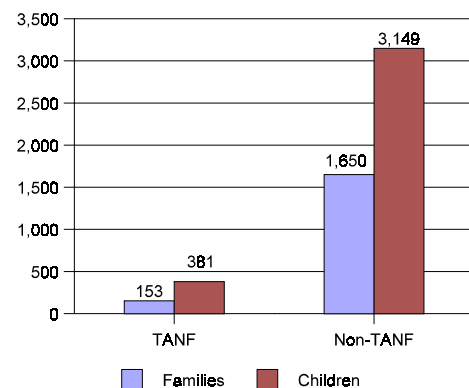


Assistance Paying for Care

The average provider rate for full-time care for an infant in Will County is \$131.29 per week, which is about 13% of the state median weekly family income of \$997.

Assistance in paying for child care is provided through subsidies by DHS. In June 2001, there were a total of 1,803 families receiving subsidies for 3,530 children in care. This figure includes both TANF and non-TANF recipients.

Out of the 520 child care facilities in Will County, 331 (64%) report that they accept DHS child care subsidies.



For more information about child care in Will County, contact the Child Care Resource & Referral office: 815-741-1163

Data is from Fiscal Year 2001 (July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001)