

## For example . . .

**Annielle** lives with her mother and has a three year-old son. She works 18 hours a week on the nightshift at a local grocery store making minimum wage and earning \$604 a month. She has decided to enter a certificate program in accounting at a nearby community college. The state will pay for her son to go to a child care center while Annielle is in school and will pay her mother to watch him at night while Annielle works. Annielle's monthly co-payment will be \$21.67 for her son's child care. The Monetary Award Program (MAP) will help her pay for two classes she takes each week.

**Isabel and Quan** have two children, ages one and five. Isabel attends an Illinois state university and is working towards her bachelor's degree in information technology. Quan earns \$22,750 a year. They qualify for child care assistance during times when neither is available to care for the children. They make a monthly co-payment of \$73.66 for part-time child care.

**Sarah**, age 20, is a single mother with two children under age two. She receives \$650 a month in child support and is working toward her GED at a local community college. The state pays for her children to attend a day care center while she is in school. Her monthly co-payment is \$30.33.

## You can also get help paying for child care if:

- 1.** You are working and your income is below the level in the table inside this brochure; OR
- 2.** You receive welfare benefits and are in an education, training or other work activity approved by your caseworker; OR
- 3.** You are a teen parent (under age 20) in high school or an alternative high school or GED program.

**Call toll free 877-20-CHILD (877-202-4453) for information. In Cook County, additional resources are available from Action for Children (312-823-1100).**

## Need help paying for college?

**The Monetary Award Program (MAP) can help, whether you go to school full-time, half-time, or one or two classes at a time.** MAP is available to all undergraduate students in Illinois who meet financial need and general eligibility criteria. MAP grants don't need to be repaid and can be used to pay tuition and fees at most Illinois educational institutions. MAP is also available for working students enrolled in as few as three credit hours per semester.

For more information on MAP, including a list of approved colleges and universities, visit [www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com) or call the Illinois Student Assistance Commission at 800-899-ISAC. Make sure to apply for financial aid early in the calendar year to receive all the aid you are eligible for.

Women Employed's mission is to improve women's economic status and remove barriers to economic equity. We promote fair workplace practices, increase access to training and education, and provide women with innovative tools and information to move into careers paying family-supporting wages.

[www.womenemployed.org](http://www.womenemployed.org)



# Get help paying for child care while you're in school or training



# Need help paying for child care while you go to school or to a job training program?

You may qualify for an Illinois state program that helps low-income parents in school pay for child care.

Low-income parents are eligible to receive child care assistance to attend any of the following educational or training activities\*:

■ **Literacy, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language (ESL), and GED preparation classes.**

Parents can receive child care assistance for up to two years with no work requirement. After two years, there is a 20 hours-per-week work requirement.

■ **Vocational training programs.** Parents can receive child care assistance for up to two years with no work requirement. After two years, there is a 20 hours-per-week work requirement.

■ **Two- and four-year college degree programs.** Parents can receive child care assistance for up to four years with no work requirement. After four years, there is a 20 hours-per-week work requirement.

\*TANF parents, teen parents, and other working parents: please refer to the back panel.

Your family's income must be less than the amount listed in the table below for your family size. You can also find an eligibility calculator at the Illinois Department of Human Services website, <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/applications/ChildCare/EligCalc/eligcalc.asp>

Family Size	Monthly Income* (as of July 1, 2008)
2	\$2,334
3	\$2,934
4	\$3,534
5	\$4,134
6	\$4,734
7	\$5,334
8	\$5,934

\*Monthly income guidelines are recalculated annually effective July 1 of each year.

## How does it work?

■ Parents choose who will watch their child (licensed home, child care center, relative, friend, or neighbor).

■ Each family must make a co-payment based on family income, family size and the number of children in child care. The state reimburses the provider according to a rate schedule.

■ There is no minimum number of school hours that parents must attend.

■ Your child care assistance covers class hours, research, study time (one hour per course credit), laboratory, library and transportation time, as well as any time you work or are in an unpaid educationally required work activity such as student teaching or an internship.

■ The program provides child care assistance for children under age 13 and special needs children under age 19.

## To participate in the child care program:

1. If you don't have a child care provider, contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency (CCR&R) or call toll-free 877-20-CHILD (877-202-4453) to be connected with the local agency in your area. Ask to speak with a parent counselor who can help you decide what type of care is best for you and your child and give you a list of child care providers.

2. Once you have a child care provider, complete an application. To get an application, contact your local CCR&R by calling toll-free 877-20-CHILD (877-202-4453). Applications are also available on-line. An English language version is available at: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/onenetlibrary/27897/documents/Forms/IL444-3455.pdf>. A Spanish version is available at: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/onenetlibrary/27897/documents/Forms/IL444-3455S.pdf>. Your local child care center may also have applications.

3. Provide proof that you are or will be enrolled in an education or training program.

4. Provide proof of your family's total income.

Child care assistance is administered through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).

## Need help paying for college?

Turn to the back of this brochure for more information.