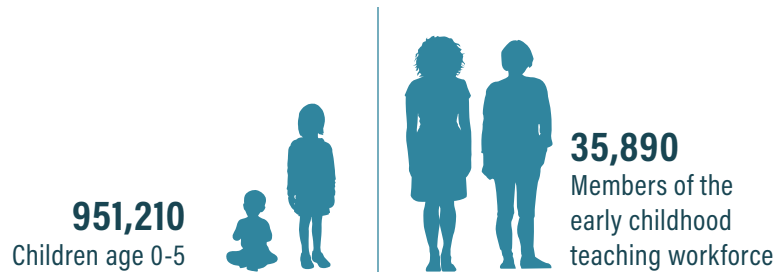




Early Childhood Workforce Index 2016 ILLINOIS



IN ILLINOIS, there are 951,210 children age birth through five years; 66 percent of these children live in households where all available parents are currently working, and 24 percent of all Illinois children are part of low-income families. It is widely agreed that the current early care and education system across states is woefully underfunded. The [cost of services](#) is out of reach for many working families, including those who earn middle-class wages. At the same time, large swaths of early childhood teachers — even those with college degrees — earn unlivable wages.

More than 35,890 members of the early childhood teaching workforce provide services to children in Illinois.

Occupation	Percentile	Median wage
Surgeon	99th	≥ \$90
Kindergarten teacher	52nd	\$23.42
Preschool teacher	16th	\$13.79
Child care worker	4th	\$10.50

Selected Occupations Ranked by Earnings

- In 2015, the median wage for child care workers was \$10.50, **a 1% increase since 2010.**
- For preschool teachers, the median wage was \$13.79, **with no change since 2010.**

Use of Public Income Supports (EITC, Medicaid, Food Stamps, TANF)

- Child care worker families' participation in one or more public income support programs: **46%**
- Cost of child care worker families' participation in public income support programs: **\$71.4 million**



Early Childhood Workforce Policies

Qualifications	BA for all pre-K teachers?	Yes
	At least CDA or vocational training for licensed providers?	Yes
QRIS and work environment	Paid time in professional development?	No
	Paid planning and/or preparation time?	No
	Salary schedule/benefits?	No
	Same for home providers?	No
Compensation strategies	Salary parity for pre-K teachers?	No
	Wage supplement?	Yes
Financial resources	State reported extra CCDBG spending?	No
	State applied for federal grant?	Yes
	Ratio of pre-K to K-12 spending over 50%?	No
Workforce data	Formal data collection mechanism?	Yes
	Includes compensation?	Yes
	Reports data publicly?	Yes
	Comprehensive?	Yes

Family & Income Support Policies

Income supports and child care assistance	Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit?	Yes
	Higher than federal minimum wage, indexed for inflation?	No
	Child care assistance income eligibility set at 85% of state median income or above?	No
	Refundable child care tax credit?	No
Supports for health and well-being	Paid sick days law?	No
	Paid family leave law?	No
	Expanded Medicaid eligibility?	Yes

The *Early Childhood Workforce Index* provides a composite appraisal of the early childhood workforce in each state focused on: Earnings and Economic Security; Early Childhood Workforce Policies; and Family and Income Support Policies. The full [2016 Index](#) includes a discussion and rationale for each category and spotlights successful and promising practices in selected states. To see how Illinois compares to other states, visit our [interactive state-by-state database](#). For an overview of data sources for the indicators listed above, see our [guide to indicators](#).

