

Early Childhood Care and Education

Supply

As of December 2003, there were spaces for 16,674 children in Minneapolis in 509 licensed family child care homes and 172 child care centers, preschools/nursery schools, school age programs, and Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

City of Minneapolis Support

City dollars leveraged other funds and enhanced accessibility and quality of child care services in every Ward of the city. In 2002-2003, the City allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support child care in partnership with the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association (GMDCA). CDBG funds were used for: capital improvements for child care facilities; a sliding fee child care assistance program for low income working parents; and support for building quality through technical assistance, on site consultation, training and grants. In 2002-2003, 530 providers, 76 families, and 2,900 children were served with a combination of these services.

Finance

Affordability continued to be a barrier for families. An \$86 million dollar cut made was by the State to the Child Care Assistance program. Hennepin County's voluntary contribution of \$3.1 million dollars was cut by \$ 1.3 million. The waiting list for Child Care Assistance grew to a 20 to 24 month waiting period. Over 3,000 families who work or go to school were on the waiting list in Hennepin County and 1,400 of those families live in Minneapolis.

For families who did get assistance, average co-payments doubled and the eligibility level was dropped from about 290% of poverty to 175%. As of July 1, 2003, 122 Minneapolis families were cut from the program and many more families have lost eligibility since then. In 2002-2003, CDBG funds assisted 76 families and 190 children with child care costs on a short-term basis, filling part of the gap that a lack of State funds created. Minneapolis families waited three to six months less than other families for child care assistance thanks in part to the CDBG allocation. Minneapolis funds were also used to support an Emergency Fund which supported families by paying up to one month of their child care costs during a time of difficulty, such as homelessness or domestic abuse situations.

State cuts also hit Minneapolis providers very hard and many providers lost children whose families could no longer afford care. The City's CDBG allocation was cut by \$185,000 for 2004-05 which required reductions in the above services and added to the negative impacts of decisions made by the State legislature and County Board. Market rates for child care assistance reimbursements were frozen at 2002 levels, meaning that serving subsidized children caused providers to lose money. Two long time child care centers, American Indian OIC and Northstar Child Development closed their doors December 31, 2003

Infrastructure

Child care spaces are an essential element of quality and accessibility. The CDBG Renovation Loan Program funded 32 family child care homes and centers to upgrade or expand their child care facilities. Over \$323,000 was awarded in the form of partially forgivable loans – the money that is received as repayment will then used to fund future projects.

GMDCA also worked in partnership with the City to support Healthy Environments for Early Learning (HEEL) initiative, providing lead poisoning prevention, air quality assessment, and solutions for environmental health issues that were present in many licensed child care facilities. GMDCA provided county-wide onsite consultations for child care homes and centers, technical assistance,

and training for child care providers. In addition, enhanced consulting and training was provided for Minneapolis providers, including culturally specific services provided by Hmong and Latino Child Care Specialists. GMDCA subcontracted with community based agencies to address specific needs in the child care community. The Early Childhood Resource and Training Center (ECRTC) supported child care providers through Impact, a program designed to move entry level child care staff up to assistant teacher or teacher level qualifications, and Joyce Nursery School received a small grant to support bi-lingual programming. In 2002-2003, GMDCA helped launch the School Readiness initiative in partnership with the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) which provided early literacy training to more than 180 child care providers in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis Licensed Child Care Providers, December 2003

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care	509	5,682	\$154.63	\$147.70	\$137.78	\$125.51
Child Care Center	96	6,091	\$262.79	\$217.73	\$187.33	\$171.64
Preschool/Nursery School	23	1,048				
Before/After School Program	44	1,821				
Head Start/Early HS	9	2,032				
Total	681	16,674				

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care	15	172	\$177.50	\$170.00	\$162.50	n/a
Child Care Center	5	288	\$231.25	\$200.00	\$168.67	n/a
Preschool/Nursery School	3	203				
Before/After School Program	5	157				
Head Start/Early HS	0	—				
Total	28	820				

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care	77	831	\$147.38	\$140.93	\$130.79	\$121.09
Child Care Center	2	127	\$245.00	\$199.50	\$179.50	n/a
Preschool/Nursery School	1	24				
Before/After School Program	3	110				
Head Start/Early HS	0	—				
Total	83	1,092				

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School

						Age
Family Child Care	0	—	—	—	—	—
Child Care Center	12	937	\$269.50	\$226.50	\$193.78	\$200.00
Preschool/Nursery School	1	20				
Before/After School Program	3	80				
Head Start/Early HS	1	50				
Total	17	1,087				

Longfellow

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care	37	401	\$164.31	\$155.13	\$140.50	\$137.50
Child Care Center	5	338	\$321.25	\$231.75	\$185.35	\$145.42
Preschool/Nursery School	2	60				
Before/After School Program	7	330				
Head Start/Early HS	0	—				
Total	51	1,129				

Near North

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care	121	1,394	\$152.88	\$145.95	\$133.50	\$124.17
Child Care Center	13	1,097	\$222.60	\$186.17	\$168.50	\$177.60
Preschool/Nursery School	1	18				
Before/After School Program	0	—				
Head Start/Early HS	2	508				
Total	137	3,017				

Nokomis

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care	74	809	\$160.62	\$150.60	\$142.06	\$128.09
Child Care Center	4	220	\$256.00	\$219.00	\$173.50	\$188.50
Preschool/Nursery School	1	20				
Before/After School Program	7	315				
Head Start/Early HS	1	942				
Total	87	2,306				

Northeast

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School

						Age
Family Child Care	34	368	\$128.13	\$121.06	\$115.63	\$106.88
Child Care Center	3	186	n/a	\$241.40	\$210.83	\$163.30
Preschool/Nursery School	3	124				
Before/After School Program	5	209				
Head Start/Early HS	1	102				
Total	46	989				

Phillips

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care	21	260	\$153.75	\$143.10	\$133.00	\$124.00
Child Care Center	10	524	\$312.21	\$269.68	\$215.73	\$176.53
Preschool/Nursery School	3	78				
Before/After School Program	0	—				
Head Start/Early HS	3	248				
Total	37	1,110				

Powderhorn

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care	82	934	\$153.47	\$147.43	\$138.77	\$125.47
Child Care Center	16	751	\$275.68	\$223.87	\$201.32	\$175.30
Preschool/Nursery School	2	87				
Before/After School Program	4	260				
Head Start/Early HS	0	—				
Total	104	2,032				

Southwest

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age
Family Child Care	40	417	\$180.00	\$173.75	\$169.29	\$165.00
Child Care Center	16	878	\$233.86	\$199.42	\$176.36	\$146.40
Preschool/Nursery School	4	340				
Before/After School Program	8	277				
Head Start/Early HS	0	—				
Total	68	1,912				

University

Type of Care	Number	Capacity	Average Weekly Child Care Rates by Age*			
			Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School

						Age
Family Child Care	8	96	\$160.00	\$154.50	\$146.67	\$122.50
Child Care Center	10	745	\$263.52	\$213.69	\$191.39	\$169.20
Preschool/Nursery School	2	74				
Before/After School Program	2	83				
Head Start/Early HS	1	182				
Total	23	1,180				

* child care rate data was collected October to December, 2002

For more information, contact the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association at (612) 341-1177.