

STEPHENSON COUNTY

Total Population: 48,979

- Children under age 5: 2,974
- Children ages 5 to 9: 3,455
- Children ages 10 to 14: 3,693

Stephenson County is a rural county that experienced a small 2% growth in the past decade. Freeport is the largest city and county seat. Farming and manufacturing are the major industries. Several national insurance companies also have processing centers in Freeport. Two national manufacturers have either closed or sold their local plants recently resulting in the loss of many local jobs.

The Freeport School District, the United Way, the Freeport Early Childhood Consortium, Highland Community College and local social service agencies have worked together to initiate many community-wide programs to serve families – an on-line referral service to all appropriate agencies available at local agencies and a collaboration to provide a variety of early childhood services under one roof.

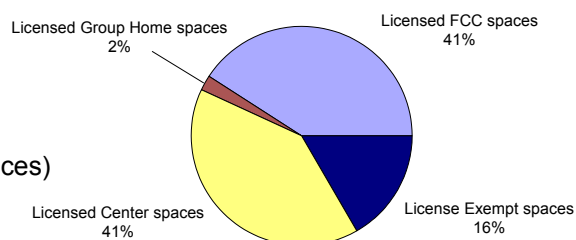
Several large industries have spearheaded efforts to expand the supply of school age care, particularly summer care and to improve the quality of family child care. Efforts to recruit new family childcare providers have focused on non-traditional hours of care as well as infant and toddler care.

Child Care Capacity

There are a total of 139 child care facilities listed with the local CCR&R with a capacity to serve 2,303 children.

Of those facilities, there are a total of:

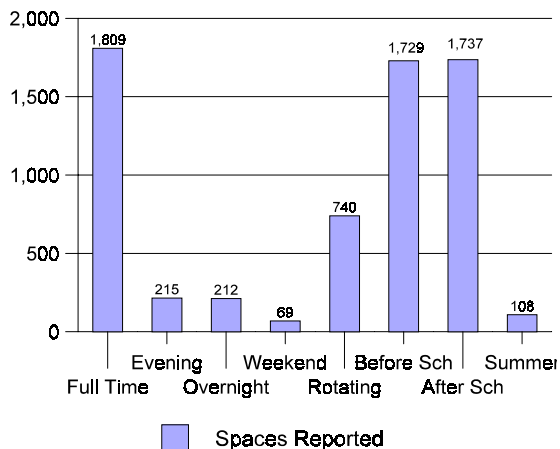
- 109 Licensed Family Child Care (943 spaces)
- 4 Licensed Group Homes (49 spaces)
- 14 Licensed Centers (933 spaces)
- 12 License Exempt Centers & Homes (378 spaces)



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	151
Toddlers	169
2 Years	259
3 & 4 Years	687
5 & Ks	550
School-Age B/A School	351
School-Age Summer Care	43



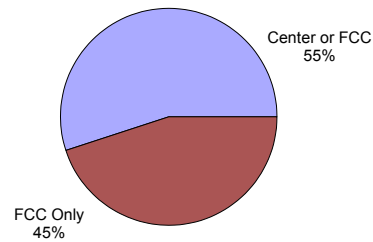
* For more information about these data, please refer to "Understanding The County Data Pages" at the beginning of this section.

Child Care Requests

In Stephenson County, 99 families called the CCR&R to request care for 135 children.

Of those requests:

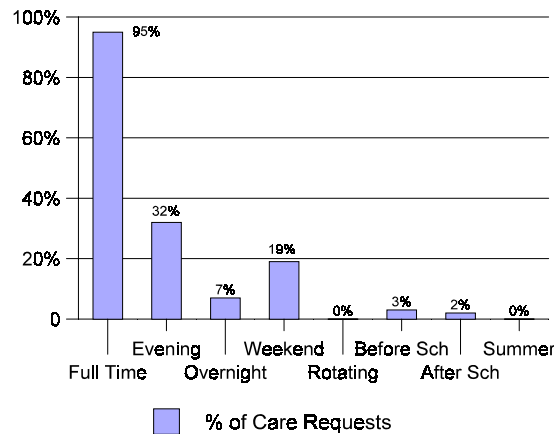
- 74 were for either Center or Family Child Care
- 61 were for Family Child Care Only
- 0 were for Center Only
- 0 were for In-Home Only
- 0 were for Other types of care



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	25%
Toddlers	17%
2 Years	14%
3 & 4 Years	13%
5 & Ks	9%
School-Age	22%

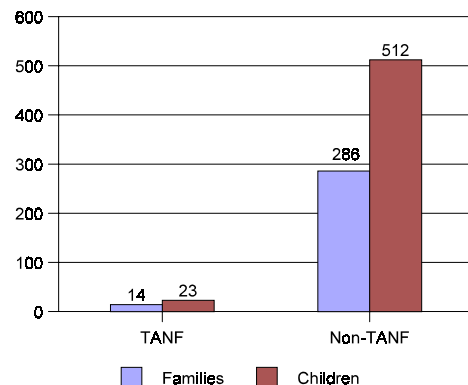


Assistance Paying for Care

The average provider rate for full-time care for an infant in Stephenson County is \$85.64 per week, which is about 9% 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 300 families receiving subsidies for 535 children in care. This figure includes both TANF and non-TANF recipients.

Out of the 139 child care facilities in Stephenson County, 118 (85%) report that they accept DHS child care subsidies.



For more information about child care in Stephenson County, contact the YWCA Child Care Solutions office: 888-225-7072

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