



DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES
CITY OF CHICAGO

MEMORANDUM

TO: Head Start/Early Head Start
Executive Director/Program Director

FROM: Vanessa Rich 
Deputy Commissioner, Children Services Division

DATE: March 12, 2014

RE: Community Assessment Activities & Resources

DFSS has conducted several community assessment activities over the past few years, and we wanted to remind you of the resources available for you when you conduct your agency community assessment.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY TIMELINE

Summer 2011—Newly-elected Mayor Rahm Emanuel convened an Early Childhood Taskforce to make recommendations on how the City can best provide child care and early education opportunities to children and families across the city. The DFSS Commissioner sat on the Taskforce, along with other Chicago stakeholders. Four workgroups were created to make recommendations in four areas: Resource Allocation, Administration Alignment, Outreach/ Parent Education, and Outcomes/ Assessments. DFSS was well represented on each workgroup and played a vital role in shaping the form recommendations took, with the goal of ensuring that as many children and families as possible are able to access quality child care and education.

Summer 2012--As part of the Chicago Ready to Learn RFP process CPS and DFSS held three Bidders Conferences which reviewed the importance of the community assessment in completing the Ready to Learn RFP and included training in the community assessment and how to use three web-based community assessment resources: The Young Children in Chicago

website, The Early Childhood Care Programs Supply and Demand website, and especially created for the Ready to Learn Process, The Chicago Community Needs Summary Tool.

Summer 2013--Recruitment and Enrollment occurs based on the slot allocation guided by the Community Need and Language Index. The Index was created by Chapin Hall in response to recommendations made by the Mayors Early Learning Taskforce.

Spring 2014--Chapin Hall updates web-based data resources, including Young Children in Chicago, Early Childhood Supply and Demand, and Neighborhood Resources Directory and completed Chicago Neighborhood Profile Report. Narrative portion of the community assessment under construction for May 2014 release.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT WEB-BASED RESOURCES

Chicago Early Learning Portal

<http://chicagoearlylearning.org>

The Chicago Early Learning Portal allows users to find publically funded early learning programs throughout the city. The Portal provides a short description of the program which includes the program type, hours, and length, and its contact number.

Neighborhood Resource Directory

<http://neighborhood-resources.chapinhall.org/site.lasso>

The Neighborhood Resource Guide provides information on support services and other resources available for families in any of Chicago's 77 community areas. The Directory covers programs ranging from the areas of education to healthcare to employment.

Young Children in Chicago

<http://dfss-ycic.chapinhall.org/>

The Young Children in Chicago website provides users with demographic data about young children and their communities, sorted by Chicago's 77 community areas.

Early Childhood Care Programs Supply and Demand Website

http://dfss-ecsd.chapinhall.org/community_profiles.php

The Early Childhood Care Programs Supply and Demand website provides users with updates on current supply and demand of early publically-funded early childhood programs.

Chicago Community Needs Summary Tool

<http://chicagocnst.chapinhall.org/NeedsAssessment.php>

The Chicago Community Needs Summary Tool lets the user map demographic data in an up to 2 mile radius from any address in the city. The tool focuses on data related to young children,

including demographic information for children under age six, community-level risk factors, and family composition information.

Neighborhood Profiles Report

<http://tinyurl.com/k4xo3w9>

The Neighborhood Profiles Report provides demographic data about the well-being of each of Chicago's 77 community areas.

The above information will also be available at www.childserviceschicago.com.

Children in Chicago, 2013: A Community Assessment (*coming May 2014*)

The Community Assessment provides an analysis of the state of young children in Chicago based on recent data. It will be available for distribution May 2014.

If you have questions concerning the community assessment and related tools, please call Beth Stover @ 312.746.7298 or email her at elizabeth.stover@cityofchicago.org.