

What is Choose Safe Places Illinois?

Choose Safe Places (CSP) Illinois is a pilot program operated by the Illinois Department of Public Health as part of the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) *Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education* initiative. The goal of the program is to increase the awareness of environmental hazards among early care and education providers and to identify and address the hazards that may exist on a proposed property of a new day care or early education center.

Why the program is needed

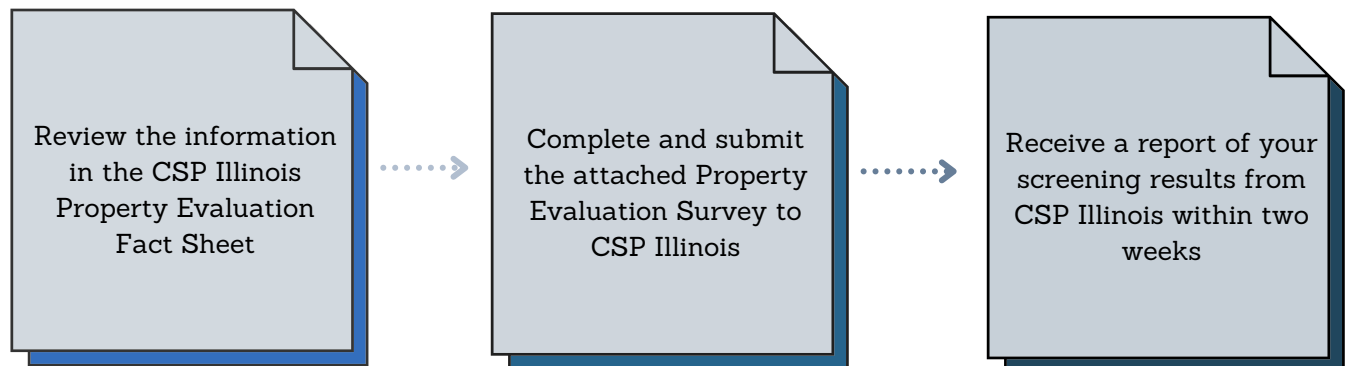
Screening for environmental hazards is not required by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to meet their fire and health safety rules. However, there are environmental hazards that could be present on or near a property that can easily go unnoticed. Exposure to such hazards could affect the health of children and staff. Taking the extra step of environmental screening adds a layer of assurance that your facility is a healthy environment.

Key factors evaluated by the program

The program focuses on the following factors that could contribute to potential environmental hazards for a prospective day care or early education center:

- Past uses of the property that may have left behind harmful chemicals.
- Nearby activities that may have caused contamination that could move to and affect the property.

How the program works





Choose Safe Places Illinois

Property Evaluation Fact Sheet *Property Information*

Past Activities at the Property

Providers should consider what activities have been conducted on their proposed property when siting a new day care or early education center. Considering the zoning requirements for a day care center are the same as commercial properties, a wide variety of businesses or operations could have used the property and left behind chemicals that remain in the environment for many years.

Activities which could have left contamination behind include:

- Dry cleaners
- Nail or hair salons
- Gas stations
- Automotive repair shops
- Funeral homes
- Firefighter training
- Manufacturing
- Industrial processes

When researching the history of the property, a provider should search for information related to any past manufacturing use; or storage, mishandling, or disposal of hazardous substances at the property. Learning what the property was used for in the past is useful in determining what kind of contamination could have been left behind.

Property History Resources

- Property owner
- Local health department
- Town planner or zoning manager
- Town building department

Nearby Sources of Contamination

Dry cleaners and nail salons are common examples of commercial businesses that are adjacent to early care facilities, particularly in strip malls. The chemicals used by these businesses could affect the indoor air quality of adjoining spaces, especially if they use a shared HVAC system.

There may also be places where contamination of groundwater and soil has occurred. Chemicals that evaporate can create chemical vapors underground. These vapors can move and come in contact with buildings and contaminate indoor air. This process – when pollution moves from air spaces in soil to indoor air – is called vapor intrusion. Nearby current and former property uses, and nearby known contaminated sites can provide clues about the potential for vapor intrusion to affect a location. In many cases, the same resources used to research a prospective site's history can also be used to research nearby properties.

••••• Have Questions or Want More Information? •••••

Contact CSP Illinois
Phone: 217-785-2045
Email: DPH.Tox@illinois.gov



Choose Safe Places (CSP) Illinois Property Evaluation Survey: A Note of Explanation

The following survey collects information about the current and former uses of your proposed property and the properties nearby. This information will help the Illinois Department of Public Health assess risks posed by environmental hazards at your property and provide guidance on actions to take if a hazard(s) is identified. Recommendations made by IDPH's CSP Illinois program are based on publicly-available data and information at the time of the screen. For this reason, IDPH cannot guarantee all possible environmental hazards will be identified. If remediation, follow-up testing, or other work is conducted as a result of IDPH recommendations, IDPH is not responsible for costs associated with those activities. Note that data submitted by the participant or produced by IDPH during the site screening process is considered public information. Thus, if requested, IDPH cannot withhold the information from any party. Submittal of this survey constitutes a voluntary enrollment in the CSP Illinois program and an understanding of these program limitations and responsibilities.

Complete the survey to the best of your ability. Additional resources for evaluating your property can be found in the CSP Illinois Property Evaluation Fact Sheet.

Mail completed form to:
Illinois Department of Public Health
Attn: CSP Illinois
525 W. Jefferson St., 3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

or

Save the completed form on your computer and email it to DPH.Tox@illinois.gov. Include your name and "CSP Survey" in the subject line.



CSP Illinois Property Evaluation Survey

Applicant Contact Information

Applicant Name	Email Address
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Applicant Address (street, city, state, zip)

Property Information

Address of the Proposed Property (street, city, state)

Name of Current Business (if applicable)	Years of Operation (approximate) to
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Name of Current Property Owner

When was the building constructed?

1979 or before 1980-1986 1987-present I do not know

Was the property ever used for the following activities? (Check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaner | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair or nail salon | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto repair shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter training | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial processes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas station | <input type="checkbox"/> Art studio | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral home | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting range | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfill | I do not know |

Comments:

Do you see any of these options on or next to the property? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaner | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling facility | <input type="checkbox"/> Drum barrels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair or nail salon | <input type="checkbox"/> Old cars or tires | <input type="checkbox"/> Sand mining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas station | <input type="checkbox"/> Metals, such as old machinery or pipes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

What is the property's source of drinking water?

Municipal water system Private well I do not know