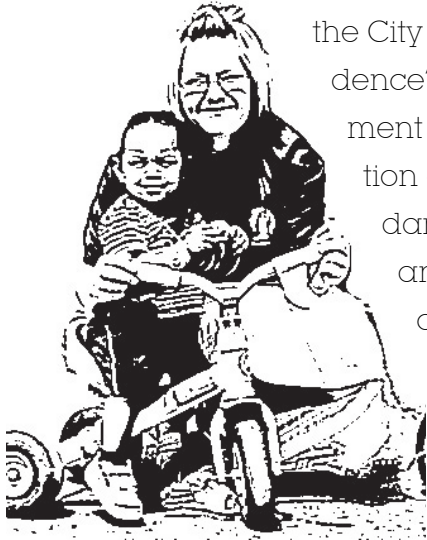


All potential and existing day care operators must consult with and obtain necessary approval from

the City of Providence's Department of Inspection and Standards ("DIS") and the State of Rhode Island's Department of Children, Youth



and Families ("DCYF") before allowing children to be cared for in a facility. The DIS is responsible for issuing required building permits and certificates of occupancy to day care centers in Providence, and DCYF is the agency that grants all day care center licenses in Rhode Island.

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Available Funding for Home Day Care Compliance

Day care operators may be eligible for loans from the Providence Economic Development Partnership, Inc. ("PEDP")¹ and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation ("RIEDC").

Providence Economic Development Partnership, Inc.
400 Westminster Street, 6th Floor
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: (401) 351-4300 Fax: (401) 351-9533
www.providenceri.biz

Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation
315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101
Providence, RI 02908
Tel: (401) 278-9100 Fax: (401) 273-8270
www.riedc.com/r/index.html

Additional Information

City of Providence Department of Inspections and Standards
190 Dyer Street
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: (401) 421-7740 Fax: (401) 455-8826
http://www.providenceri.com/sb/inspection_and_standards.php

City of Providence Fire Department
Providence Public Safety Complex
325 Washington Street
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: (401) 243-6050 Fax: (401) 243-6486
www.providenceri.com/sb/fire_prevention.php

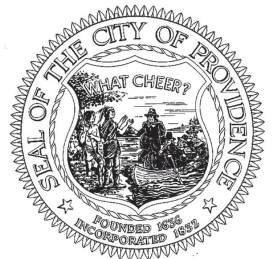
Rhode Island Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
Tel: (401) 222-2231 Fax: (401) 222-6548
<http://www.health.state.ri.us/>

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families
101 Friendship Street
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: (401) 528-3502 Fax: (401) 528-3545
<http://www.dcyf.state.ri.us/>

¹ Since PEDP is federally funded, all construction work financed by PEDP loans must be completed at the local prevailing wage.

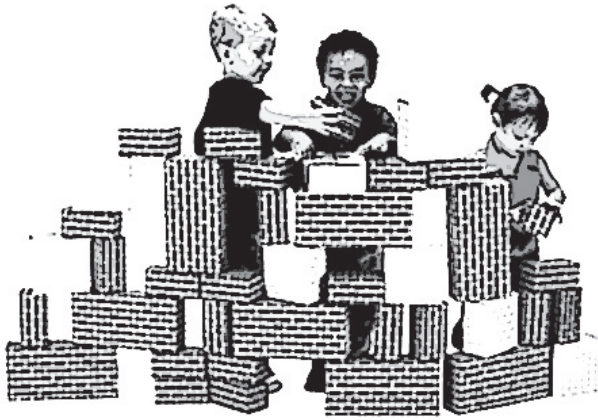
A Guide for Day Care Centers

Seeking to Comply with City and State Building Regulations



City of Providence
David N. Cicilline
Mayor

A Guide for Day Care Centers Seeking to Comply with City and State Building Regulations



City of Providence Department of Inspection & Standards

1) Determining the Legal Use of the Property

The first step in operating a legal day care facility, whether existing or new, is to consult with DIS to determine whether the use of the facility is residential, commercial or mixed. This determination is critical because each legal use has distinct building code requirements that must be met.

2) Zoning and Building Code Requirements

After determining the use of the proposed day care site, a DIS staff member will also assess whether the site of the proposed facility complies with requirements set forth in the City of Providence's Zoning Ordinance. This determination is also critical, as day care facilities may only be established in certain zones in Providence.

If the proposed site is located in a zone in which day care facilities are permitted, a DIS staff member will determine which building code requirements must be met under the International Building Code, which has been adopted by the State of Rhode Island. The International Building Code is divided into two (2) separate documents:

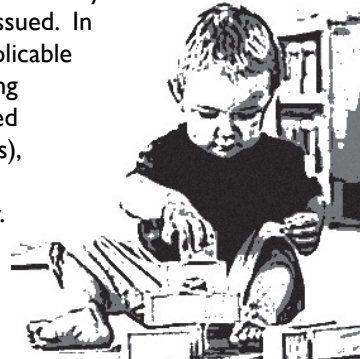
- 1) The 2006 International Building Code with Rhode Island amendments ("IBC")
- 2) The 2006 International Residential Code with Rhode Island amendments ("IRC")

These codes are effective from 2007 – July 2010.

The IRC regulates one (1) and two (2) family dwellings and related accessory structures in which eight (8) or fewer individuals are cared for on less than a twenty-four (24) hour basis. If a center cares for eight (8) or more children, the IBC applies regardless of the type of dwelling or structure. All construction on residential day care centers must be performed by the owner if the dwelling is occupied by said owner or by a Rhode Island registered contractor. All tradework (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) must be performed by Rhode Island licensed contractors.

The IBC regulates three (3) or more family dwellings and all commercial, industrial, mixed use and other miscellaneous structures in which more than eight (8) children are cared for on less than a twenty-four (24) hour basis. Individuals who seek to establish a commercial day care facility should procure the services of a design professional (architect, engineer or code consultant) to plan the project and determine code compliance. All construction or trade work performed on a day care must be completed by Rhode Island registered or licensed contractors.

The IRC and IBC are compilations of minimum standards developed to regulate and maintain safety in buildings. DCYF also maintains a set of regulations that must be met before a day care license will be issued. In the event that an applicable section of the Building Code is also regulated by DCYF (e.g., egress), the more restrictive regulation shall apply. In no case shall anything less than the minimum standards set forth in the IRC and the IBC be accepted by DIS.



DCYF Regulations

As stated above, DCYF issues all day care licenses in Rhode Island and maintains a set of regulations for licensure. All potential day care operators should consult DCYF, as the agency maintains different licensure regulations depending on the type of facility (family child care home or group family child care home).

With regard to **basement** day care facilities in particular, DCYF requires that the following specific provisions be met as of October 1, 2007. These provisions are three (3) of many that apply to day care homes and are listed here for informational purposes only. Please consult with DCYF to review all pertinent regulations.

E. Use of Basements/Cellars for Child Care

1. Children shall not be cared for in the cellar or basement area of a home unless there are two (2) exits from the area, one of which shall be a door leading directly to the outside. Bulkheads and overhead garage doors are not acceptable exits.

2. Basements shall not be used for sleeping unless the boiler/furnace room is constructed to provide a one hour fire rating. This would include fire-rated sheet rock on the walls and ceiling and a fire rated door. Enclosures shall be provided with an air vent to the outside sufficient for proper combustion and exhaust.

3. The term basement includes all areas that are more than 50% below ground level.

Fire Code Regulations

In addition to complying with DIS and DCYF requirements, all day care centers must also abide by the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code and Life Safety Code. Please contact the City of Providence's Fire Department for assistance in this area.