

# Parent Quote Archive

## Summer 2024 Survey

*We asked parents open-ended questions about what they liked about their communities, what improvements they would like to see in your communities, challenges they face in accessing medical care, changes they would like to see to make it easier to go where they need to go, safety concerns they have in their communities, and what community resources and activities they would like to see more of.*

*Below are some of the messages from Illinois parents from our fourth survey:*

(Please note: The following are responses of individual parents in our Illinois Parent Survey and do not necessarily represent the views of Illinois Action for Children or its Board.)

**Please share what challenges you faced in accessing medical care for yourself or your children.**

- “Hard to find a doctor for myself that's compatible.”
- “Transportation Issues.”
- “Not able to afford medical insurance for myself.”
- “Unavailable appointments. Hard to get an appointment.”
- “My wife and I have conflicting work schedules and pediatric.”
- “Transportation must be scheduled 3 days in advance of your appointment and that's not always possible.”
- “Find a place that accepts my insurance. Finding places that accepts new patients.”  
Specifically a therapist or eye doctor!”
- “The doctor stopped treatment for a long time.”
- “Accessing mental health services has been difficult.”

- “Local doctor's office, particularly the psychiatric unit, is always 5 months behind in.” appointments. So to fill my medication I have to see a medical doctor. If I want to talk to a psychiatrist I have to go elsewhere.”
- “Not being able to take time off work to go see a doctor when I need to because I can not afford to lose hours, and all the PTO is spent on my son's or parents need for my presence somewhere.”
- “Transportation.”
- “Medical care is hard to access for myself being that it's hard to afford it and I don't know any resources to help me pay for it.”
- “Unable to pay for medical care out of pocket and was denied Medicaid because IDHS lost my paperwork sent for redetermination. Children’s doctors are ALWAYS booked and appointments are MONTHS out. Doctors never seem to know what is wrong.”
- “No hay citas médicas, y cuando hay la atención es muy deficiente.”  
("There are no medical appointments, and when there are, the care is very poor.")

### What changes would you like to see in your community to make it easier to get where you need to go

- “Free pace bus service.”
- “Pedestrian crosswalks.”
- “Options and support for parents.”
- “For public transportation to open. There are no buses or trains near me.”
- “Wider roads.”
- “Less construction and street closures. Less people on the roads causing accidents. Cheaper gas.”
- “More routes, there’s often lots of traffic due to the main route always being so busy.”
- “Limit road construction to only night time or less busy hours.”
- “More pace buses with more routes.”
- “Everything is just spread out, so nothing can really be done.”
- “Community buses or better bus routes.”

- “Road expansion to help with traffic and difficulty getting to the other side of town.”
- “More bus routes.”
- “Maybe better bus routes especially for the DuPage county neighborhoods that aren’t urban. Maybe carpool services for the single parents who don’t have cars.”
- “Sidewalks. Where we live there aren’t any sidewalks so we have to take walks on the side of the street or travel for outdoor walking exercise.”
- “Better bus stops since I live by a forest preserve.”
- “Some roads need repairing.”
- “N/a! Everything is super close to my home.”
- “Make bike lanes.”
- “More. Transportation.”
- “More speed bumps and speeding cameras.”
- “Prices to go down maybe.”
- “Safer roads.”
- “Better resources, bus passes or uber vouchers.”
- “More buses!”
- “Better options.”
- “Adding gas station facilities.”
- “Public transportation food pantry day care close to home.”
- “N/A, I have a vehicle.”
- “Free child care.”
- “Things to be reasonably priced. Things are expensive and even if you can get to some where the amount of money you’re going to drop is like astronomical.”
- “Cheaper rent, childcare, free family activities because a lot of families can’t even afford it, cheaper, but healthier food and amenities, faster public transportation, more sidewalks, parks, walk trails, helping families with use car donations, decrease in utility bills, more bike lanes on roads and cheaper gas!”
- “Working from home.”
- “I enjoy living In Naperville very peaceful and nice community.”

- “More public transportation routes and times.”
- “Everything is fine I guess.”
- “More diverse programs.”
- “More affordable parking or free parking.”
- “Safety.”
- “Better roads. Accurate transportation times.”
- “More trash cans.”
- “More viable Communities store’ they often tear the streets up and take 6 months to ever pave them. My car’s tires are being abused because of how the don’t care about the inner city. Everyone wants to be voted in but does nothing.”
- “More free bus pass.”
- “More grocery stores more doctors offices more playgrounds more police protecting the area.”
- “Nothing.”
- “Keeping Intoxicated people or drug addicts off the buses or bus stops to make the community better and safer for our children.”
- “No changes.”
- “We need a community that needs to be more safer, more polices.”
- “Help with traffic.”
- “Some changes I would like to see is just safer areas, potholes being fixed, streets become clean, and more patrol.”
- “More stores/shopping/restaurants in the neighborhood.”
- “Safer community.”
- “Construction on the roads seems to take ages to finalize. Less bus roads and bike lanes, they cause too much traffic.”
- “Easier access to the trains and buses.”
- “More frequent and regular bus service - separate protected bike lanes (not just paint). Less traffic.”
- “Public transportation is good.”

- “City streets could be better. I am not a big fan of the city of Chicago, and I wish I could move!”
- “Change the pace hours.”
- “Transporte comunitario.”  
("Community transportation.")
- “Más y mejores rutas de transporte publico.”  
("More and better public transportation routes.")
- “Más rutas de transporte público para las personas que no cuentan con un carro personal.”  
("More public transportation routes for people who don't have a personal car.")

### Please tell us more about some of your concerns with safety in your community

- “The world is changing very rapidly.”
- “Gun violence mostly and not enough street lights.”
- “People speeding on the street.”
- “Speed limit! Signs that children are around & to slow down.”
- “It’s very dark so we need street lights. Also the speeding cars through the neighborhood.”
- “Add more streets lights.”
- “Shooting everyday.”
- “Cars do not respect speed limit on small side streets where children could be at play. Too many houses/cars broken into.”

### What community resources and activities would you like to see more of in your area

- “More free events, yoga, Zumba. More events for kids especially at our library.”
- “Lake Zurich has plenty.”
- “For parents.”
- “More playgrounds and neighborhood events.”

- “More toddler based classes in the afternoon.”
- “We have plenty going on for the children, just wish it was more affordable. Wish the parks would stay cleaner and be less crowded with people over the age of being at a child park (like teenagers up to no good hanging out on the kids playground).”
- “Activities that involve smaller kids.”
- “Art and craft studios.”
- “More banks and libraries.”
- “There is a good variety here in the summer months.”
- “More kids programs for free.”
- “Community gardens and local fitness studios geared towards parents.”
- “FREE activities for children in nearby park districts so families can actually participate get their children out of the house.”
- “We are unincorporated so we don't have access to any of these. We do use neighboring towns so we can bounce from one to another depending on what we're looking for.”
- “More Multi-cultural events!”
- “Workshops on various parenting topics, such as child development, positive discipline, and managing work-life balance.”
- “More kids activities during the summer.”
- “More parks.”
- “Actually more for children’s including food.”
- “Children activities.”
- “More activities for the kids.”
- “I want to see more free resources or activities due to higher taxes.”
- “Music festivals , farmers market, anything for kids, etc.”
- “More parks.”
- “Activities that provide enrichment and supervision for school-age children.”
- “Sports for children.”
- “Daycare after school care.”

- “LIBRARY.”
- “We enjoy the free meals they have here every once in a while. The presence of quality food pantries matter. There are food pantries around but most give spoiled food. Whereas Marie Wilkinson have never given us bad food. But that is only one of the only decent pantries around.”
- “Free swim lessons.”
- “Fun down town Westmont activities!”
- “More toddler/inclusiveness.”
- “More exercising park, free yoga, free movie night, free meditation event, free exercise classes, free gardening areas and more free events.”
- “More water parks.”
- “More child and parent activities that does not cost money or costs little money. More free indoor play areas because all the indoor ones have expensive cover charges.”
- “Everything is fine for me now I guess.”
- “Festivals.”
- “More park district preschool and camp spots.”
- “Resources for children.”
- “Block parties. Holiday celebrations.”
- “Block parties.”
- “More libraries (nearly).”
- “Block parties, in this block.”
- “I would definitely like to see more gyms in my area, bigger ones that are well kept, more playgrounds near me, and more community centers.”
- “Arts events.”
- “Dog park, farmer's markets.”
- “Bigger parks and maybe a pool.”
- “Mental health services.”
- “Better play areas for children.”
- “Salud y bien estar.”

("Health and well-being.")

- “Más eventos para niños en los parques.”  
("More events for children in the parks.")
- “Más inclusión y adaptabilidad de la comunidad migrante en actividades vecinales que contemple el aprendizaje de las normas y el buen desarrollo comunitario.”  
("More inclusion and adaptability of the migrant community in neighborhood activities that include learning the rules and fostering good community development.")
- “Actividades para niños pequeños.”  
("Activities for young children.")

### What are some things that you like about the community you live in’

- “Culturally diverse, close to park and school.”
- “Quiet, clean, safe.”
- “Love my community.”
- “Quiet.”
- “Friendly neighbors.”
- “Neighborhood is nice and quiet.”
- “There are plenty of this to do for the children.”
- “Small and quiet.”
- “Neighbors.”
- “Somewhat quiet.”
- “It’s safe with a Target across the street which makes last minute pick up orders easy and convenient with kids.”
- “We know trust and rely on each other.”
- “The diversity.”
- “Alot of activities.”
- “Lots of police in Glendale heights so that’s good.”
- “It’s quiet and a dead end street.”

- “It is very quiet, calm, and there’s big backyards and greenery (I live by a Forest Preserve).”
- “Neighbors are easy to get along with.”
- “Super friendly! Safe and quiet.”
- “Its peaceful and quiet.”
- “It’s Quite.”
- “That everyone is nice.”
- “They have a lot of events for children like at the library or the pool.”
- “Is ok but is more dangerous.”
- “Having stores close by and being close to work.”
- “School are great when it comes to education.”
- “Nice people. Quiet most of the time.”
- “Peacefull and friendly neighbors.”
- “Quiet, clean, & safe.”
- “Park and it’s safe.”
- “Regular community activities.”
- “Daycare and after school programs.”
- “QUIET.”
- “Resources that are available for me and my son.”
- “It’s quiet.”
- “Lots of kids for my daughter to play with. Safe enough they can play together without needing close adult supervision.”
- “Parks, pools, library, friends and family.”
- “How close everything is to my home.”
- “Quiet kids can play in peace and comfortable so many different things to do and options.”
- “The rent where we live is cheap.”
- “It’s mostly clean, I feel somewhat safe, multicultural neighborhoods, peaceful, great schools and mostly friendly faces.”

- “School district and neighbors.”
- “Neighborhood is like a village. They care for one another.”
- “Clean quiet community.”
- “The homes look nice.”
- “People around here are good to me I really appreciate that a lot.”
- “Nothing.”
- “Multiple parks and park district activities for young children.”
- “Thankful for a place to stay.”
- “Everything is close by, always something interesting happening.”
- “Gas station nearby. Quiet.”
- “Everyone knows everyone.”
- “It’s quite.”
- “How every one don’t mind helping each other.”
- “Parks.”
- “Is a peaceful neighborhood, and very familiar.”
- “Safe in general.”
- “It’s calm.”
- “Some things I like is that it is ab inclusive community for Latinos, and there are many resources to support us.”
- “The proximity to the lake. There is one great coffee shop. There is a green line station close and an Aldi I can walk to, and a few great neighbors.”
- “Friendly neighbors, everyone knows each other.”
- “People who have been disproportionately affected by gentrification and who have been displaced within their own communities are kind and respectful toward me even though I am from outside the community. I like being near the park and having multiple playgrounds and schools nearby.”
- “Transportation is very accessible, a supermarket is close by.”
- “La gente es muy amables.”  
("The people are very friendly.")

- “No mucho tráfico, calles amplias y no hay plaga de ratas como en otros vecindarios.”  
("Not much traffic, wide streets, and there are no rat infestations like in other neighborhoods.")
- “Crimemo.”  
("Crime.")
- “Las actividades culturales y recreativas en los niños.”  
("Cultural and recreational activities for children.")
- “La tranquilidad del sector.”  
("The tranquility of the area.")

### What do you wish was different about your community'

- “More police presence and less homeless.”
- “More activities.”
- “Nosey neighbors to find some business.”
- “Not enough neighborhood events and nice playgrounds.”
- “More speed limit signs. Too many cars race down the streets.”
- “Less population. Less crime. More affordable, less expensive.”
- “More local places so I wouldn’t have to travel to other towns.”
- “Have more kids in the neighborhood.”
- “A traffic light coming out of our neighborhood while turning onto a busy street- very dangerous! Also not many kids in the neighborhood play outside that I know of.”
- “Nothing.”
- “I wish people cared more about their children’s education and I wish that our community didn’t experience gun violence, so I could feel more comfortable walking outside with my family.”
- “The parking on the street. if i have a visitor they aren’t allowed to park overnight on the street because they don’t have a city of Glendale heights sticker i think that is so not helpful. it seems as though the city just cares about money.”

- “That our township offered more events/activities for families since we don’t have a park district.”
- “I wish that it was more diverse (more Hispanics) and that there were more businesses in Town including restaurants.”
- “Add more places for children to play.”
- “Nothing!”
- “Updated playgrounds.”
- “Nothing.”
- “Add more parks.”
- “Is different.”
- “More traffic safety.”
- “Not sure.”
- “Upkeep.”
- “Help people that are living in the streets. Maybe involve them in something useful.”
- “More things to do for the kids.”
- “Closer park.”
- “Strengthen the management of public resources, such as air and water.”
- “Community.”
- “COMMUNITY POOL.”
- “More street lights.”
- “Rent could be less expensive.”
- “The amount of houses going for sale and the sketchy people that are moving in.”
- “Cheaper homes, food, gas, free activities , and more sidewalks.”
- “A little more blacks we need.”
- “The people upstairs would move.”
- “It had more people walking on the street. For the past 20 years, it has only been myself (recently myself and my son since he is now almost 4 years old), and 4 other people that ever walk or jog in our subdivision. We all know each other by face and body frame because we are the only ones that ever go out for walks.”

- “I can’t think of anything right now for real everything is fine.”
- “Everything.”
- “None.”
- “More police.”
- “More clean and safe.”
- “Street lights, Mail delivery, Violence, Fencing.”
- “That the community was cared about.”
- “Less crimes.”
- “Nothing.”
- “Nothing at all. I like it just like that.”
- “Summer camps for local kids first vs all other areas.”
- “To get to know more.”
- “I wish it was more inclusive outside Latino representation. I also wish it was safer.
- “Better neighbor communication. More arts and cultural events and block parties with the news spread well. I wish the drug and gun violence could end, and people would throw their trash in a can instead of the street.”
- “Less crime.”
- “Less expensive. The community is great but the cost of living has skyrocketed. I would love for my toddler to attend a school in this neighborhood, but I don't know if I can afford it in a few years.”
- “Turn the national guard building into public housing instead of a military recruitment operation. Use taxpayer money to fund mental health services and fix the potholes and restore old buildings to use for the community instead of subsidizing huge unnecessary stadiums. Instead of contributing millions of dollars from our taxes to funding the illegal military occupation in Palestine. More community gardens.”
- “Less traffic/ construction.”
- “More police surveillance around the area.”
- “La seguridad.”  
("Security.")

- “Más seguridad.”  
("More security.")
- “Más actividades recreativas y culturales para niños al aire libre, como teatro, danza, talleres al aire libre.”  
("More recreational and cultural activities for children outdoors, such as theater, dance, outdoor workshops.")
- “Que tuvieran parques infantiles cerca.”  
("For there to be playgrounds nearby.")