

Best Cities in Illinois for Young Families

by [MIKE ANDERSON](#) on JUNE 10, 2013



All throughout the Land of Lincoln, you can find small-town charm and inviting, happening downtown areas — Midwestern manners are no myth. But are the economy and schools just as welcoming? NerdWallet sought out the best cities for young families in the state, and we asked the following questions as we ran through the list:

- Does the town have good public schools?
- Can you afford to live there?
- Is the town growing and prospering?

Rank	City	Nearest big city	GreatSchools rating	Median home value	Monthly owner costs	Median household income	Overall score for young families
1	Edwardsville	St. Louis, MO	9	\$197,500	\$1,631	\$74,012	74.35
2	O'Fallon	St. Louis, MO	8	\$198,200	\$1,845	\$77,348	67.70
3	Charleston	n/a	8	\$97,000	\$1,026	\$28,960	63.78
4	Grayslake	Chicago	8	\$250,900	\$2,232	\$95,067	63.69
5	New Lenox	Chicago	8	\$295,700	\$2,261	\$90,414	63.62
6	Geneva	Chicago	9	\$330,700	\$2,329	\$95,467	63.56
7	Huntley	Chicago	9	\$249,700	\$2,035	\$71,340	62.75
8	Downers Grove	Chicago	9	\$348,900	\$2,147	\$80,314	62.68
9	Elmhurst	Chicago	9	\$383,000	\$2,443	\$87,935	62.41
10	Orland Park	Chicago	9	\$306,100	\$2,130	\$80,328	62.30

Methodology

The overall score for each city was derived from the following measures:

- [GreatSchools](#) city rating. GreatSchools city ratings are calculated by averaging the weighted overall rating for each school in the city (weighted by the number of students enrolled at the school)
- Median home value from the U.S. Census (2011 ACS, data set DP04, half-weighted)
- Monthly homeowner costs from the U.S. Census (2011 ACS, data set DP04, half-weighted)
- Median household income from the U.S. Census (2011 ACS, data set DP03, half-weighted)
- Income change between 1999 and 2011 from the U.S. Census (data sets P053 and DP03, half-weighted)

124 Illinois cities, towns and villages designated as places by the U.S. Census were included in this analysis. Only places with a population greater than 20,000 were considered.

<http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/2013/cities-illinois-young-families/>