



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROGRAMS IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

The bottom-line benefits of family-friendly programs in the workplace will be the discussion topic at a breakfast forum Tuesday, October 2, featuring Chicago area business executives with firsthand experience.

“Business leaders will have an opportunity to hear directly from their peers and ask questions about how to successfully implement a variety of programs, including offering on-site childcare centers for employees and collaboration with other businesses,” said Adele Simmons, Vice Chair and Senior Executive of Chicago Metropolis 2020.

“Finding ways to retain skilled employees is a major concern of businesses throughout the nation, and family-friendly programs can keep workers on the job and help the businesses become more competitive,” said Jerry Roper, President and CEO of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

The breakfast meeting will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Chicago Club, 81 E. Van Buren, Chicago. It is open to all area business leaders, but reservations are required. Phone 312-332-8184 for reservations.

Sponsors of the breakfast include Chicago Metropolis 2020, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and The Northern Trust Company.

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Chicago Metropolis 2020, a business-based catalyst working to improve the region, recently published a handbook, *Childcare Solutions for Your Employees*, explaining a wide range of “best practices” that some area employers use to help working parents care for their children.

William Setterstrom, Senior Vice President at The Northern Trust Company, will open the meeting and highlight the bank’s on-site childcare facility, which was started 10 years ago.

A panel of business executives from both small and large employers will explain their experiences with childcare programs. The panel will include Cheryl Buehner-Croll, Vice President and Director of Human Resources at Uptown National Bank of Chicago; Kathy Schaeffer, president of a 9-person public relations firm offering an array of family-friendly benefits to its employees; Jim Sipes, Project Manager of a new child care center at Abbott Laboratories in Abbott Park; and Bob Sobiech, Director of Human Relations, Midwest Cluster, at Deloitte & Touche, which provides emergency backup childcare to its employees.

A second panel, including senior advisors from the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Mayor of Chicago, will discuss public sector efforts to help working families and tax credits available to businesses that create on-site childcare centers.

The handbook, *Childcare Solutions for Your Employees*, can be accessed on-line at <http://www.chicagometropolis2020.org>.

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