

Reauthorization Infographic

Talking Points Companion

Following provides additional information that you can share when speaking with a legislator, board member or community member about the information/data provided in the infographic.

Prior to November 2014, the Federal government last reauthorized the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Block Grant in 1996. The **changes represent a paradigm shift for child care in our state**. The new law centers around three main areas: the child, the family and child care providers. Iowa uses CCDF funds for the Child Care Assistance (CCA) Program, Child Care Resource & Referral contracts, Child Care Wraparound contracts, the Quality Rating System (QRS) and regulatory activities.

Let's take a closer look at the three areas:

Child Focused:

- The new law puts the health and safety of children in child care at the forefront by:
 - Requiring a pre-inspection visit before providing child care for child care providers completing the process to become a Child Development Home. [Currently, only child care centers must have a pre-inspection before providing child care.]
 - Requiring pre-service or orientation training for both regulated (child care centers and child development homes) and non-registered child care home providers, who receive funding under the CCA Program
 - Requiring both regulated (child care centers and child development homes) and non-registered child care home providers, who receive funding under the CCA Program, to complete additional health & safety trainings. There are 10 specific topic areas identified in the federal law (e.g., prevention of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), safe sleep practices, emergency preparedness & response planning, etc.)
 - Conducting an annual, unannounced monitoring visit to all child care providers receiving funding under the CCA Program, including non-registered providers
- The new law requires:
 - Implementation of 12-month CCA Program eligibility (eligibility is currently for 6 months)
 - Providing a program exit eligibility opportunity for families that are over the income eligibility limits when re-determining eligibility
 - Continuity of care so that children can remain in the same child care environment. Safe, stable and nurturing child care environments help young children develop trusting relationships. When a child is treated with care and respect from a consistent caregiver, the child forms a trusting relationship which fosters curiosity, courage, initiative, empathy, a sense of self, a feeling of belonging and independence in the child.
 - States to establish professional development and training requirements to improve the knowledge and skills of the child care workforce. One requirement in the law that Iowa already has in place is the "Iowa Early Learning Standards." The standards are a resource for child care providers, parents and others who care for or work with children to help support and enhance children's learning and

development.

http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/files/early_learning_standarda/IELS_2013.pdf

Family Friendly:

- The change from 6-month to 12-month eligibility before the family must have their program eligibility re-determined has a significantly positive impact for families. The family can remain eligible for the program during the 12-month period, regardless of changes in income (as long as the family's income is below 85% of the State Median Income (SMI)) or temporary changes in work, training or education status.
- For families that are over the CCA Program eligibility limit of 145% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) when completing the eligibility re-determination and below 85% of the SMI, the family can remain on the CCA Program for up to one year as part of a program "exit" eligibility option. The family/child must still meet all other CCA Program eligibility requirements (work, school, age of the child, etc.) to be eligible for the "exit" program (called CCA Plus).
- If a parent temporarily loses his/her job during the 12-month CCA Program eligibility period, the parent is allowed up to 3 months for job search activities to return to employment and the number of child care units the family is approved for remains the same as before the parent lost his/her job. [The current CCA Program allows the parent one month for job search activities.]
- To help parents with making child care decisions, the new law requires Iowa to make consumer education resources available electronically. This includes child care provider-specific information such as, the results of monitoring and inspections reports. Iowa must also provide information about the process for licensing and monitoring child care providers, the process for conducting criminal background checks and annual data for the number of deaths, serious injuries and instances of substantiated child abuse in child care settings.

Fair to Providers:

- The change from 6-month to 12-month eligibility before the family must have their eligibility re-determined has a significantly positive impact for child care providers. Since the family remains eligible for the program during the 12-month period, regardless of changes in income (as long as the family's income is below 85% of SMI) or temporary changes in work, training or education status, the provider has consistent income to support the provider's child care business. Also, by allowing the parent up to three months for job search activities and keeping the approved child care units the same, this also helps the provider's child care business.
- The extension of CCA Program benefits (called CCA Plus) for one year when the family's income is over the CCA Program eligibility limit for 145% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) when completing the eligibility re-determination and below 85% of the SMI, also helps the child care provider's business.
- In response to the new federal requirements for a tiered reimbursement option, DHS is changing administrative rules to pay child care providers that are a QRS (Quality Rating System) Level 5 at the 75th percentile (not percentage) of the 2014 Market Rate Survey (MRS).
 - For Child Care Centers and Child Development Homes, the current rates paid for CCA is based on the 75th percentile of the 2004 market Rate Survey (MRS) plus 2%, plus 2%, plus 4%. For Non-Registered Child Care Homes, the rates paid have remained unchanged for many years.

For each individual child care provider, DHS compares the provider's 'private pay rates' against the 'maximum reimbursement rates' and pays the lesser of the two rates to the provider.

Following are the maximum reimbursement rates per unit. (A unit is up to 5 hours, so a full day of child care would be two units.)

Current Payment Rate per Unit for Basic Care (see above for year & increases)				
Age Group	Child Care Center	Child Development Home A or B	Child Development Home C	Non-Registered Child Care Home
Infant and Toddler	\$16.78	\$12.98	\$12.44	\$8.19
Preschool	\$13.53	\$12.18	\$12.18	\$7.19
School Aged	\$12.18	\$10.82	\$10.82	\$7.36

- Payment rates based on the 75th percentile of the 2014 Market Rate Survey (MRS)

2014 MRS Payment Rate per Unit for Basic Care				
Age Group	Child Care Center	Child Development Home A or B	Child Development Home C	Non-Registered Child Care Home
Infant and Toddler	\$20.50	\$13.75	\$15.00	\$8.19
Preschool	\$17.50	\$13.50	\$13.75	\$7.19
School Aged	\$14.75	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$7.36

State and Federal Investments: The state and federal funding for the Child Care Appropriation in Iowa:

- Supports low income families with working parents, parents gaining work skills or parents going to school
- Supports the regulation of child care providers
- Supports quality improvement activities for child care providers



\$36.3 million



\$83.1 million

Total Funding: \$119.4 million

Local Data

_____ # of children under age 6 in your county(ies)

_____ # of children under age 6 in your county(ies) at or below the poverty level

_____ # of children in your county(ies) on the CCA Program

_____ # of families in your county(ies) that receive assistance from the CCA Program

_____ % of households in your county(ies) with all parents in the household in the labor force

_____ Unemployment rate in your county(ies) [State Unemployment Rate for the same period of time was 5.4%]

_____ # of families in your county(ies) at 140-145% of FPL [approaching the “child care cliff” for eligibility in the CCA Program] (NOTE: If this data is available, we will post it on the ECI website.)

_____ # of child care providers in your county(ies) [Child Development Homes and Child Care Centers and non-registered child care home that care for children that participate in the CCA program] [You can download a list of child care providers in your area that accept CCA using the following link:

<http://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/ClientPortal/ProviderSearch.aspx>]

_____ Data related to the average number of hours children are in child care in your county(ies) [CCR&R may have some of this data or contact child care facilities in your area to get this information.]

_____ Child care providers at a QRS Level 5 _____ Child Care Centers _____ Child Development Homes

_____ Child care providers participating in quality initiatives in your county(ies) [i.e., Child Development Homes and Child Care Centers]

_____ QRS Levels 1-2

_____ QRS Levels 3-5

_____ NAEYC

_____ NAFCC

- Data/information related to known serious injuries or deaths in child care settings in your county(ies).
- What quality improvement supports are being provided to child care providers in your county(ies)?
- What strategies are being used in your county(ies) to encourage child care providers to participate in QRS/increase in quality?
- What are some gaps in services & supports to child care providers in your county(ies)?

Refer to the Child Care Needs in Iowa, Child Care Assistance and Child Care Cliff Effect infographics for information you can share related to the CCA Program and child care in Iowa.