

Changes for Child Care in Iowa

Reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Grant

Focus Areas



1

Child Focused

- **Ensuring the Health and Safety of Children**
 - ✓ Pre-inspection visit of child care providers completing the registration process
 - ✓ Additional health & safety trainings required for child care providers
 - ✓ Annual unannounced monitoring visits
- **Keeping Children in Stable Child Care Environments**
- **Improving School Readiness**



2

Family Friendly

- **Increasing Eligibility for Child Care Assistance to 12 Months**
- **Providing "Exit" Eligibility in the Child Care Assistance Program When the Family's Income Exceeds the Program Limit**
- **Allowing a 3-Month Job Search Option for Families Currently Approved for Child Care Assistance**
- **Making Consumer Education Resources Available to Help Parents with Child Care Decisions**



3

Fair to Providers

- **Allowing Families to Remain Eligible for Child Care Assistance When There is a Temporary Change in Work/Education During the 12-Month Certification Period**
- **Continuing Family Eligibility for Child Care Assistance for at Least One Year After the Family's Income Exceeds the Program Limit**
- **Creating a Tiered Reimbursement Payment System Based on Child Care Program Quality**



Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful



10-Topic Health & Safety Training Course

- Prevention and control of infectious disease
- Prevention of SIDS and use of safe sleeping practices
- Administration of medication
- Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions
- Building and physical premises safety
- Prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma
- Emergency preparedness and response planning
- Handling and storage of hazardous materials
- Precautions in transporting children
- Working with children and families of diverse backgrounds and those that are homeless

Consumer Education & Resources

DHS must provide consumer-friendly information electronically that is easily accessible, such as, on a website. Following is information that must be available:

- Provider-specific monitoring and inspection reports
- The process for registering or licensing and monitoring child care providers
- The process for conducting criminal background checks, and offenses that prevent individuals from being child care providers
- Research and best practices in the area of child development
- Data on the number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse that occur in child care settings each year



Caring & Safe

ENVIRONMENTS



Emergency Preparedness Plan & Professional Development

- Child Care Centers, Child Development Homes and Non-Registered Child Care Homes with a Child Care Provider Agreement must have a comprehensive emergency preparedness & response plan
- DHS will encourage the use of the career pathways and teaching competencies developed by Early Childhood Iowa



Pre-Inspections & Monitoring Visits

- Child care providers applying for registration as a Child Development Home or licensure as a Child Care Center must complete a pre-inspection visit
- Child Care Centers, Child Development Homes and Non-Registered Child Care Homes with a Child Care Provider Agreement will have annual, unannounced monitoring visits