

# “Why are Child Care Changes Important...” Flyer

## 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.**

**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 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**

### **Changing from 6-month to 12-month eligibility:**

- 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.
- If a parent loses his/her job during the 12-month Child Care Assistance (CCA) Program eligibility period, the parent is allowed up to 3 months for job search activities 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.]

### **Allowing for a program “exit” eligibility (CCA Plus):**

- 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).

### **Increasing the knowledge and skills of the child care workforce:**

- 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 states to establish professional development and training requirements for child care providers. 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](http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/files/early_learning_standarda/IELS_2013.pdf)

#### Local Data

- \_\_\_\_\_ # 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> ]
- 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 Child Care Assistance, Child Care Cliff Effect and Reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Grant infographics for information you can share related to the CCA Program and changes for child care as a result of the new federal law.