



## MARCH

On March 13, 2020, a nationwide state of emergency was declared due to the COVID-19 virus.

- ▶ Stood up support for temporary child care sites for essential workforce.
- ▶ Covered cost of record checks for temporary child care sit staff.
- ▶ OCIO map of child care availability goes live.
- ▶ Unlimited absent day billing for CCA.
- ▶ QRS expirations were extended.

## JULY

- ▶ HF2198 Revised Infant/Toddler definition to improve rates paid for 2-year-old children.
- ▶ Removed 12-month time limit on CCA Plus and eligibility increased to 225% FPL.
- ▶ QRS expirations were extended until July 2021.

## APRIL

- ▶ Implemented
  - Monthly stipends
  - Essential Employee add-on stipend
  - Rejuvenation Grants
  - Waived family co-pays
  - Waived temporary lapse policy so families experiencing job loss didn't lose subsidy
  - Provided PPE and cleaning supplies
- ▶ QRS expirations were further extended.

## 2021 | January - December

### MARCH

- ▶ Governor Proclamation created a Child Care Task Force.
- ▶ Partnered with Iowa Workforce Development for Child Care Challenge Grant
  - 61 projects; 3,942 slots
- ▶ Increased monthly stipends.

### JULY

- ▶ CCA Provider Rate Increase to 2020 MRS.
- ▶ Implemented State-wide wages
- ▶ FFY 22-24 CCDF State Plan submitted.
- ▶ New Business Training and TA contract begins.

### SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Ended co-pay reimbursement.
- ▶ Ended Unlimited CCA Absent Day billing.

### NOVEMBER

- ▶ Increased absent day billing for CCA from 4 to 6.
- ▶ Governor's Child Care Task Force Report released.
- ▶ ECI partnered with DAS to issue an RFP for Early Childhood Financial Management Consultants.

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEPT

OCT

NOV

DEC

### FEBRUARY

- ▶ Iowa's child care public facing dashboard goes live.

### MAY

- ▶ Investing in Iowa's Child Care kicked off with Child Care Resource and Referral.

### AUGUST

- ▶ IICC1 through CCR&R awards posted 139 Round 1 awards for 1874 slots and supporting urgent regulatory needs for existing providers.
- ▶ Stipends to child care providers ended.

### OCTOBER

- ▶ Enacted a MOU between DHS and ECI to support subcontract with Opportunities Exchange for Shared Services project.

JAN

JANUARY

- ▶ Initiated Child Care Stabilization Grants.
- ▶ Round 2 of Child Care Challenge/ Investing in Iowa's Child Care awarded.
  - 107 projects and 5,062 slots
- ▶ Survey sent to all licensed child care centers regarding regulations per Task Force recommendation.
- ▶ IICC Round 2 through CCR&R Awards Posted: 140 projects
- ▶ Modified regulations to reduce burden for Child Development Home effective.
  - Number of children served (HF260 for unregulated numbers).
- ▶ Removed part time hour limit, which increases allowances for full time care.
- ▶ Increased number of infants served in a home with 2 providers (C2).
  - Modified inspection of private sewage disposal.
  - Modified permission requirements for field trips.

FEBRUARY

FEB

- ▶ Initiated Recruitment and Retention Bonus Program for child care providers.
- ▶ Shared Services Co-Design Team began.

MARCH

MAR

- ▶ ECI, in partnership with DAS, enacted an Agreement with Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. establishing financial management consultation statewide.

APRIL

APR

- ▶ Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K) roll out.
- ▶ Increased IQ4K bonus structure.

## AUGUST

- ▶ Office of Child Care Federal Monitoring Visit.
- ▶ Rules package submitted to implement regulatory changes in response to licensed center survey results
  - Modifies written policy requirements, ie. Transportation policy only if transporting, biting policy only when serving children under 3.
  - Increased allowable points to obtain Director or On-Site Supervisor requirements.
  - Reduces number of hours the director or supervisor must be on-site from 8 hours to 6 hours. Allows for person in charge to be determined.
  - Allows form in which a child care center may confirm with another child care center that FBI check was completed.
  - Modified health and safety trainings for those who don't serve children under 3 (abusive head trauma, SIDS, safe sleep).
  - Modifies radon inspections when mitigation system is in place.
- ▶ ECI issued RFP for Shared Services Alliance Hubs to Support Child Care Businesses/
- ▶ ECI subcontracted with Iowa State University to establish an operational data store to provide interoperability and automation phases to create efficiencies for child care businesses.

## MAY

## MAY

- ▶ ECI, in partnership with OCIO, issued an RFP for Child Care Management Systems (CCMS).

## JUN

## JUNE

- ▶ HF2198 modified ratios for 2 and 3-year-old children, effective upon signature.

## JUL

## JULY

- ▶ HF2252 effective. Allows CCA for families with a permanently disabled parent.
- ▶ Began CCA Exit program (state funded) to allow eligibility from 225% FPL up to 250% (Basic) and 275% (Special needs).
- ▶ HF2198 allowance for 16 and 17-year-old staff persons effective.
- ▶ HF2589 effective. Allows chiropractors to complete staff physicals and well-child checks.
- ▶ CCNC Program is a requirement in the FFY23 Child and Adolescent Health (CAH) RFP. Prior RFP years it was an "optional" activity.

## AUG

SEP

SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Business Incentive Grants awarded
  - \$600K to “slots” projects
- ▶ New Business Incentive Slots Grant opportunity opened with modified parameters.
- ▶ All Stabilization funds are spent
  - Total Amount Awarded: \$218,929,611
  - CDH: 1,296 programs with an average amount of \$27,904.50
  - Center: 859 programs with an average amount of \$211,709.97
- ▶ Intent to Award for to CCMS vendors was issued and contracts were enacted with Playground and brightwheel. Vendors debuted in Iowa at the IowaAEYC Fall Institute.
- ▶ HHS staff participated in IAEYC fall conference with over 600 participants and did break out sessions on regulations, CCA billing, i-PoWeR (professional development registry), and the Shared Services project.
- ▶ Added foster care-child care to Kinder Track for payment processing.

OCTOBER

- ▶ All ratio modifications effective in Iowa Administrative Rules.
- ▶ Administrative rules in chapter 170 now effective to allow CCA for families with a permanently disabled parent.
- ▶ Two contracts awarded for implementing Shared Services Alliance Hubs.

OCT

NOVEMBER

- ▶ FieldPrint Livescan fingerprint option for child care employees anticipated live date.

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

## APRIL

- ▶ Focus groups were held throughout the state in Spring of 2023 to hear feedback on CCR&R services to inform the upcoming CCR&R RFP.

## JUNE

- ▶ Contract with Pyramid Model Consortium to provide supports to programs working on implementation of Early Childhood-Positive Interventions and Supports (EC-PBIS) for IQ4K.
  - Supports include but are not limited to: free online self-paced training; consultation on EC-PBIS data tools, data platform and use of data to make informed decisions; and training for program leadership on implementation of EC-PBIS systems to support staff working with the children.
- ▶ Regional contracts were implemented to provide CPR and First Aid at no cost throughout the State to those in the child care workforce.

## MARCH

- ▶ Implemented
  - Increase family eligibility limit from 145% FPL to 155% (ETP).
  - Increase provider reimbursement rate ceilings based upon 2020 MRS. Base moved from 50th percentile to 65th percentile (75th percentile for infant/toddlers). QRS 5 max moved to 80th percentile (ETP).
- ▶ Creation of dedicated Child Care Team blending policy and practice, to include fully dedicated CDH inspectors

## MAY

On May 11, 2023, the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration ended.



## JULY

- ▶ Implemented HF707
  - Increase family eligibility limit from 155% FPL to 160% (now in IA Code).
  - Income limits updated to be consistent with the federal poverty guidelines (Manual only).
  - Fee chart updated to be consistent with the new income guidelines (Manual only).
  - Increase minimum participation hours from 28 to 32 for all families except families with SN children (will remain at 28 hours).
- ▶ Implemented Child Care Assistance Pilot program
  - Parents employed full time in a child care facility are eligible for CCA regardless of income.
  - Still must pay appropriate co-pay.
  - Applications will be taken July 5, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – approve for 12-month cert periods.

## AUGUST

- ▶ Procedural development of a multi-disciplinary team for centers that go on provisional license.

## AUG

## SEPTEMBER

- ▶ The rest of ARPA CCDF Supplemental Discretionary Funds were obligated.

## SEP

## OCTOBER

- ▶ 50/50 Business Incentive Grant RFP released. Applications due 11/3.
- ▶ First “Business Round Table” on child care facilitated by HHS and IEDA.
- ▶ Gap Funding support developed for Foster Care child care services.
- ▶ Applications released for Child Care Solutions Funds to support wage enhancements.
- ▶ Released free 1st Aid and CPR training for child care providers.

## OCT