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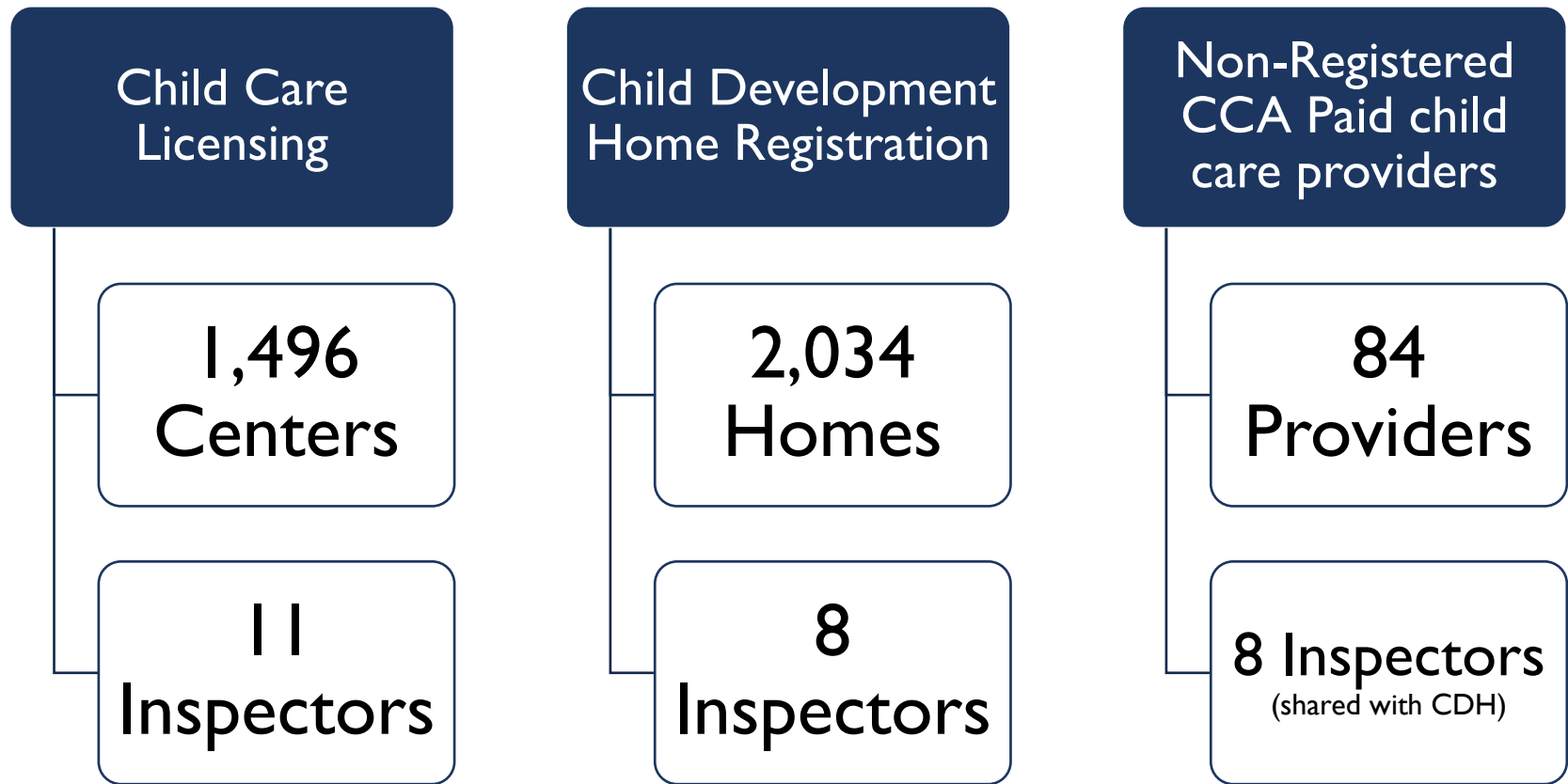
Health <sup>AND</sup> Human

SERVICES

# Child Care Update

January 11, 2023

# Areas of Oversight



# Current Child Care Climate

Quantity of registered child development homes is decreasing

- A decrease in family child care is a national trend

Licensed child care centers are making up for the deficit by utilizing supports such as:

- Child Care Challenge Grants/Investing in Iowa's Child Care collaboration with Iowa Workforce Development
- Recruitment and retention bonuses
- Increased allowable ratios

Staffing remains an issue, resulting in waiting lists for families

## Chapter 89, 2023 Iowa Acts

### Initial Eligibility for Child Care Assistance (CCA) Program

- Increased the “front door” from 145% to 160% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- For the average CCA family (1 parent & 2 children)
  - 145% FPL= \$36,047 per year or \$3,004 per month (approx. \$18.78/hr)
  - 160% FPL= \$39,776 per year or \$3,315 per month (approx. \$20.72/hr)

### Work Hour Requirement

- Increased minimum requirement from 28 to 32 hours per week
- If child has special needs the requirement remains at 28 hours per week

### CCA Provider Rates

- Solidified provider rates in code
- Increased rates from 50<sup>th</sup>-75<sup>th</sup> percentile to 65<sup>th</sup>-80<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2020 Market Rate Survey (MRS)
- Note: Federal regulations require this code to be updated once the 2023 MRS is completed.

# CCA Payment Table for Child Care Centers

Table 1 Half-Day Rate Ceilings For Licensed Center								
Age Group	No Quality Rating		Quality Rating 1 Or 2		Quality Rating 3 Or 4		Quality Rating 5	
	Basic	Special Needs	Basic	Special Needs	Basic	Special Needs	Basic	Special Needs
Infant And Toddler	\$23.21	\$51.94	\$23.21	\$51.94	\$23.21	\$51.94	\$24.05	\$51.94
Preschool	\$18.98	\$30.43	\$19.50	\$30.43	\$20.00	\$30.43	\$21.00	\$30.43
School Age	\$15.00	\$30.34	\$15.50	\$30.34	\$16.00	\$30.34	\$17.00	\$30.34

# Special Needs

- 441.170 defines “child with special needs” as a child with one or more of the following:
  - Diagnosed with developmental disability which substantially limits one or more major life activities, requires professional treatment, assistance with self care, or purchase of special adaptive equipment
  - Qualified intellectual disability impairing intellectual and social function
  - Diagnosed to have a behavioral or emotional disorder characterized as situationally inappropriate behavior which deviates from age appropriate behavior and interferes with intellectual, social, or personal adjustment
- 633 children are currently flagged as Special Needs
- 105 children get the higher payment rate
- Provider submits documentation that child meets definition to receive enhanced rate and a description of the needs including, but not limited to, adaptive equipment, reduced ratio, or special staff training

# Market Rate Survey/Narrow Cost Analysis

## Federal Requirements HHS must complete:

- Market Rate Survey (MRS)=survey of what providers charge families
- Narrow Cost Analysis (NCA)=analysis of what it costs providers to deliver child care services to families
- Note: emerging national data would suggest NCA numbers will be greater than MRS numbers.

## 2023 MRS/NCA

- Contract with ISU to collect and analyze the data and draft the report
- Will have a document with financials ready for 2024 legislative session
- Full report expected May 2024

# Child Care Assistance (CCA) Pilot

One year pilot allowing child care workforce to apply for CCA for their own children regardless of family income

- Over 1,400 children currently served

Must be in a direct care position at the child care program

Must meet all other CCA eligibility requirements





# CCA Pilot Survey Responses

92%

of respondents were already in the child care workforce when they applied for the CCA Pilot

- Of those, **88%** indicated that the Pilot encouraged their continued employment in child care
- **46%** previously applied for CCA but were denied for being over income

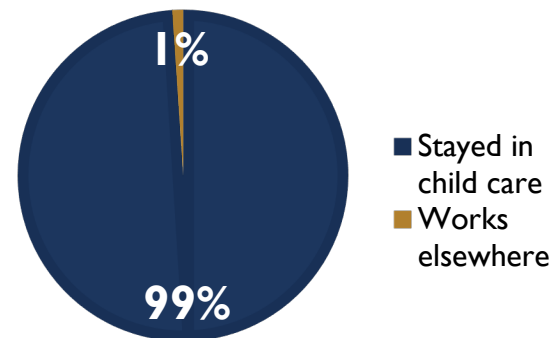
7%

Indicated they began working in child care as a result of the Pilot

37%

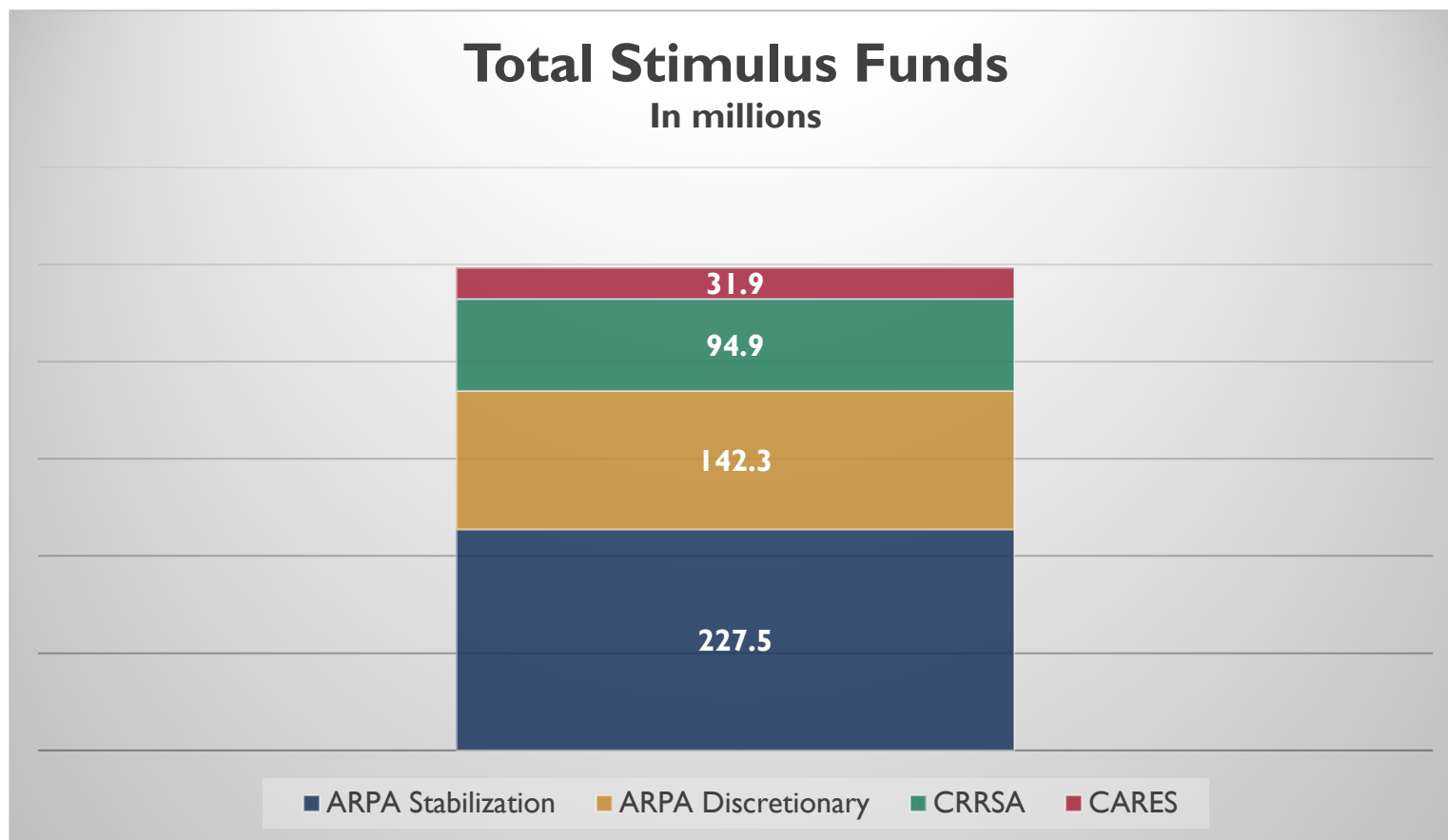
Indicated they were somewhat unlikely or very unlikely to remain in the child care workforce if the Pilot was not available

## RECEIVED CCA





# Stimulus Spending Update



# Governor Initiatives



## Shared Services Project



## Free CPR & First Aid

Available statewide for the child care workforce



## Repayment for IQ4K trainings

Programs reimbursed at \$20/hr for IQ4K mandated trainings their staff complete



## Support for Challenging Behavior

Training and coaching for child care staff to prevent, manage and recognize patterns in challenging behavior to put systems in place to support staff



## Refugee Child Care

Support refugees to open child development homes  
Increases availability of culturally appropriate child care and financial support for refugees



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## Shared Services

- Allows child care providers to access a statewide, web-based partnership platform for support on various business operations
- Allows providers to operate independently while benefiting from cost savings and resources offered through the partnership platforms
- Creates sustainable, operational efficiencies to offer high quality programming
- Collaboration with Opportunities Exchange

# Iowa's Shared Services Project

- Child Care Management System (CCMS)
  - Playground
  - Brightwheel
- Financial Management Consulting/Coaching
  - Child Care Collaborative of Iowa
- Technology Grants for child care providers
- IT enhancements
  - Direct Data Bridge Connection to KinderTrack (KT)
  - Data Bridges Through an Operational Data Store (ODS)

[OppEx\\_2023\\_Issue+Brief\\_Iowa\\_ModernTech.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#)

[Using Modern Technology and Coaching to Improve Child Care Business Operations \(youtube.com\)](#)

# Iowa Quality For Kids (IQ4K) Updates

IT system developed to support IQ4K

- All forms and resources are online
- Programs apply online and submit applications electronically

Focus on supporting continuous quality improvement across all categories of programming

Specialized tracks efficiencies (NAEYC Accreditation, Head Start Performance Standards, IQPPS, etc.)

Two dedicated IQ4K Specialists in each of the five Child Care Resource & Referral regions to support programs through the application process

Increased achievement bonuses awarded to programs upon achievement of an IQ4K rating

# Iowa Quality For Kids (IQ4K) Cont

- Participation is voluntary
- IQ4K eligible facilities include:
  - Licensed child care centers
  - Preschools
  - Programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or non-public school
  - Registered Child Development Homes
- Programs can achieve up to five levels of quality
- Child Care Resource & Referral provides consultation and targeted technical assistance free of charge to eligible programs
- IQ4K applications are submitted to HHS through the program's regional Child Care Resource & Referral office

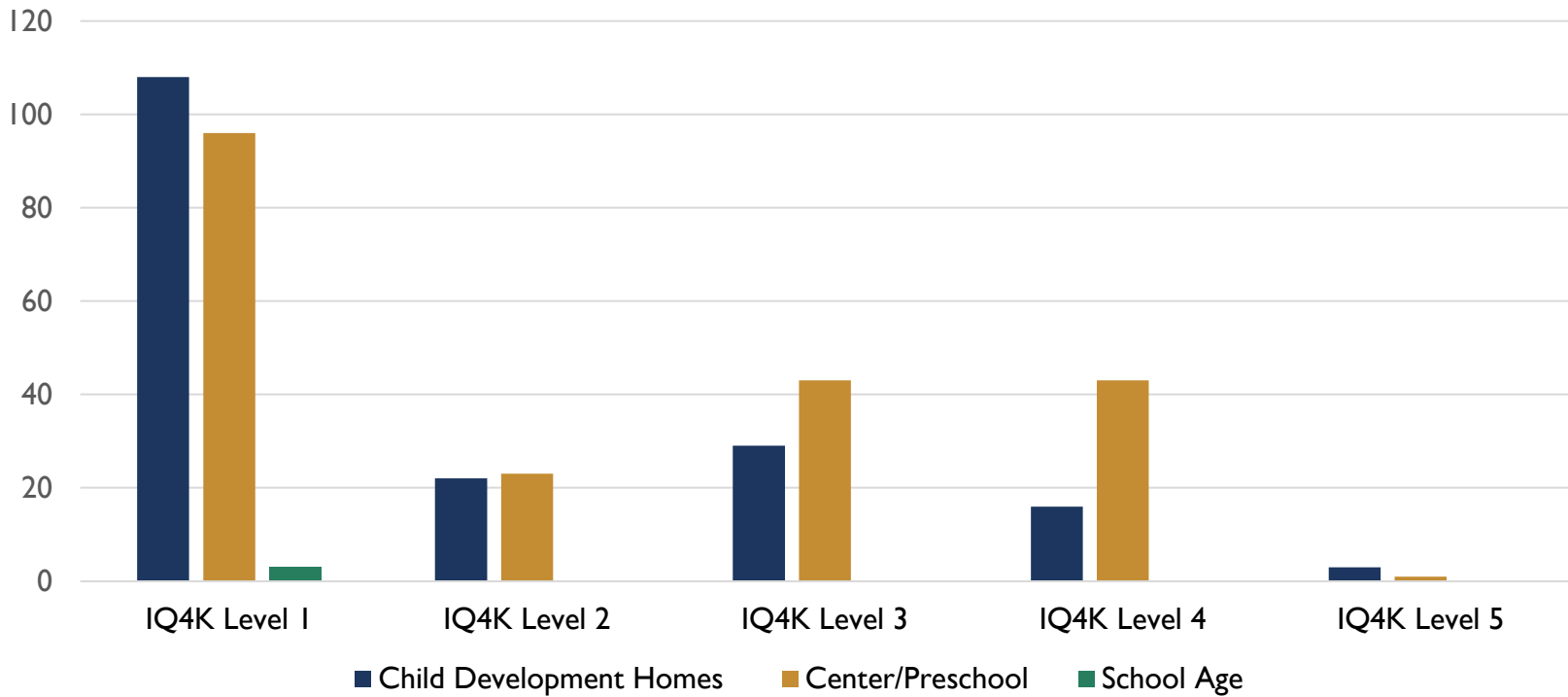
# IQ4K Categories

Nutrition and Physical Activity	Food Safety Training, Nutrition and Physical Activity Self Assessments and Action Plans, CACFP participation, Nutrition training
Professional Development	Professional Development Plans, IQ4K identified trainings, additional training hours
Family and Community Partnerships	Orientation with families, family partnership/engagement activities, family conferences, culturally sensitive practices
Environment	Enhanced policies, interaction self assessments, program assessments, ERS training and tools, CCNC tool, diverse environments
Leadership and Administration	Training, education, years of experience for program administrator, evaluations for staff
Teaching Staff/Provider Qualifications	Training, education, years of experience for teaching staff/provider
Teaching and Learning	Enhanced policies, curriculum, screening tools, assessments, using and sharing community resources, inclusive practices



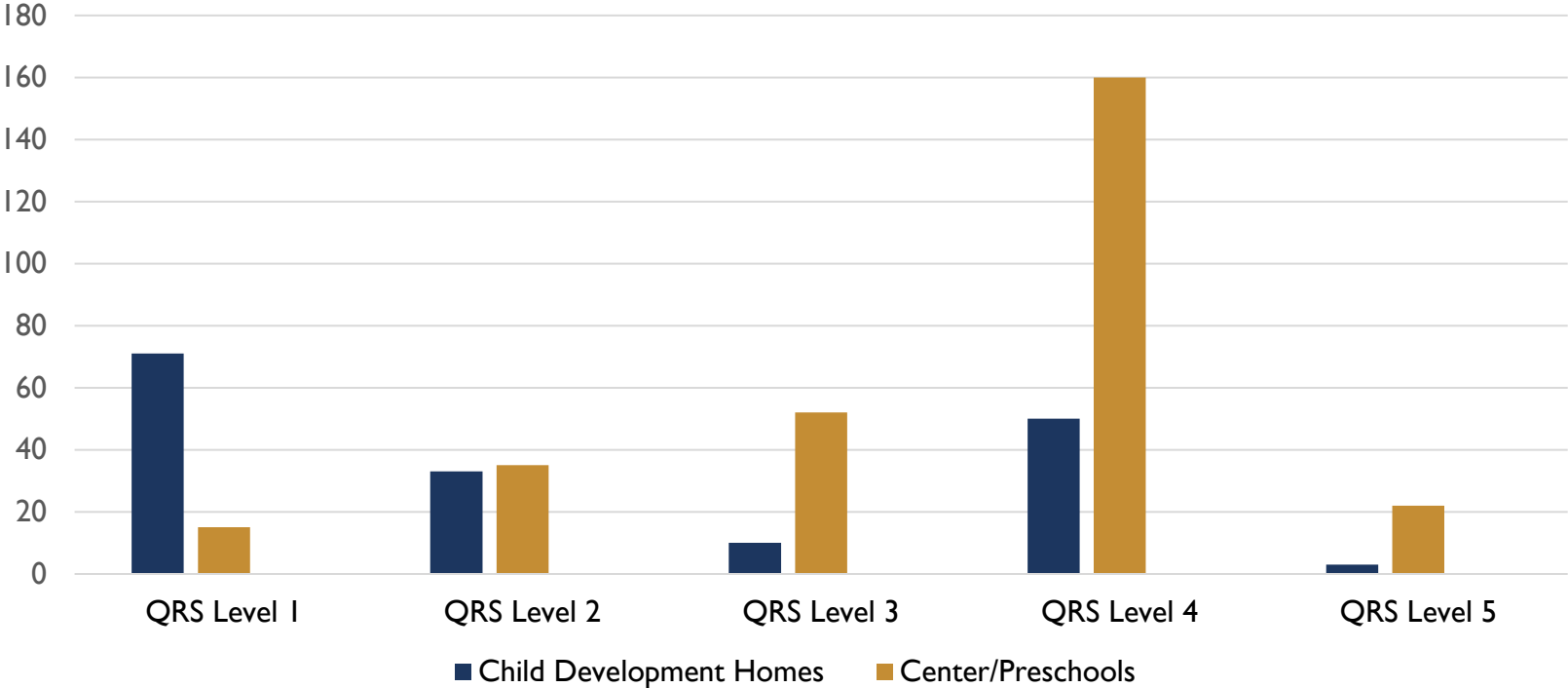
# IQ4K Rated Programs by Level

IQ4K Rated Programs  
As of 12/15/23

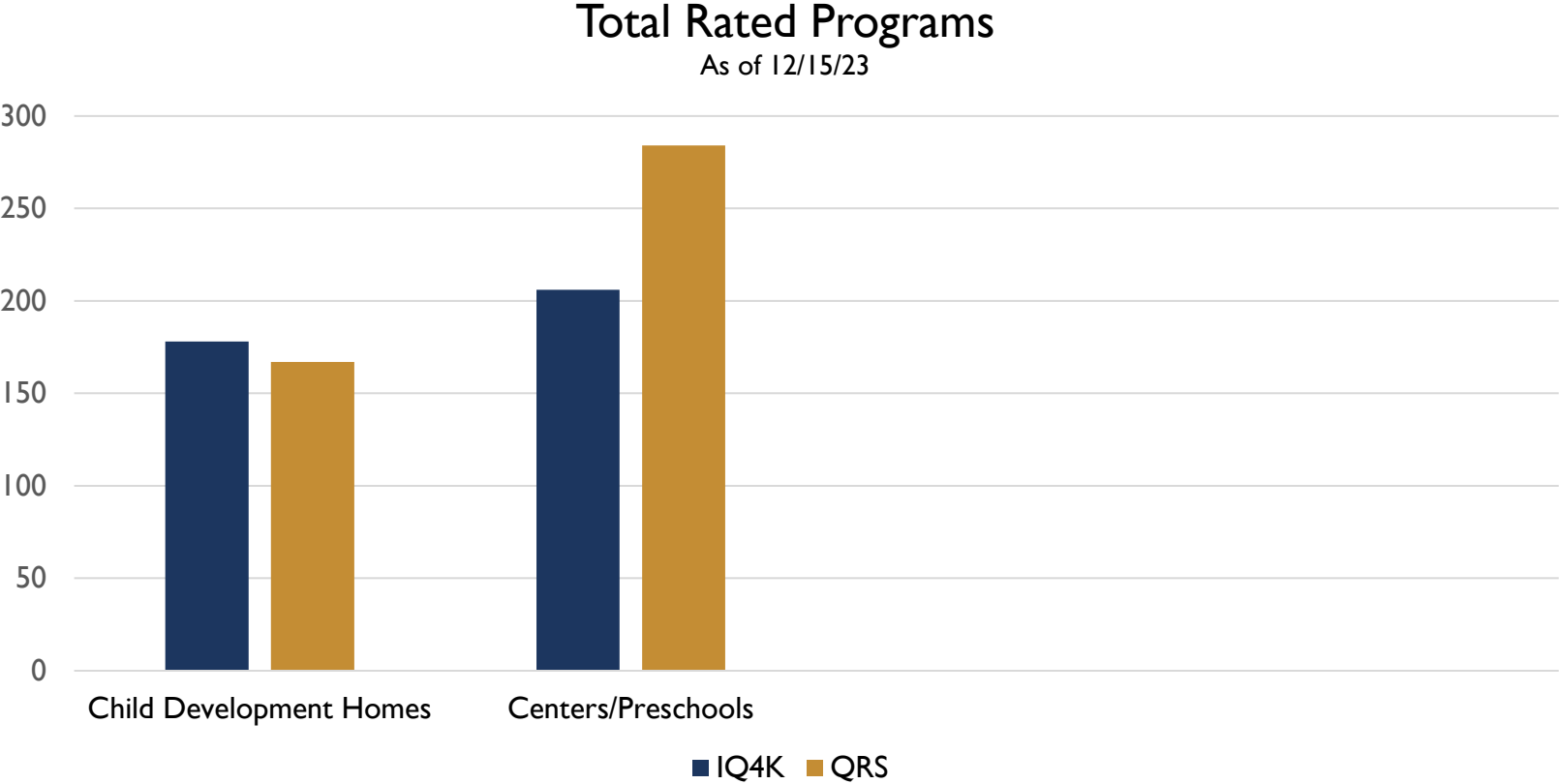


# QRS Rated Programs by Level

QRS Rated Programs  
As of 12/15/23



# IQ4K and QRS Rated Programs



Questions  
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