
STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF

Health ^{AND} Human

SERVICES

Children at Home

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IOWA FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK & CHILDREN AT HOME



Presented in collaboration with EveryStep

Iowa Family Support Network



Program Description:

- **Iowa Family Support Network** (formerly known as Early ACCESS Iowa)
 - Provides a coordinated intake and referral system.
 - Assist families, child healthcare providers, and other professionals with:
 - Information and support
 - Linkages to resources for young children ages zero to five.

Iowa Family Support Network

- Serves as a central and single point of contact and directory
- Statewide resource and referral by:
 - Website
 - Toll-free telephone line
 - Fax
 - Email

Iowa Family Support Network

- **Assist families and providers to connect with:**
 - Family Support Services
 - Group Based Services
 - IDEA Part C Early Intervention
known as Early ACCESS
 - Children at Home
 - Early Hearing and Detection
Intervention (EHDI)

Goals of Project



- Additional point of access into programs
- Provide a comprehensive system of resources and referral services across the state of Iowa
- Make access to services easier for families
- Help families navigate early intervention and family support services
- Help service providers identify community resources and programs
- Distribute IFSN materials



Early Access and EHDI Referrals

- YTD Stats for #s served in FY23
 - Early Access/Early Childhood Direct Contact = 967
 - EHDI Referrals = 27
 - Family Support Services=39
 - Community Resources= 472
 - Information Only=700



IFSN Survey Results

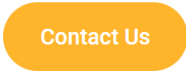
□ Family:

- “All employees I have met so far are really great and are very knowledgeable”

□ Provider:

- “This agency has streamlined how we refer our children so they get the services they need in a timely manner, Excellent!”





Connecting Iowa's Families and Children to Care and Support Services

Iowa Family Support Network (IFSN) is a statewide system that provides information and resources to expecting families or families with young children and professionals that serve them. You will find information that includes; family support services; group-based parent education programs; and prenatal services. Additional information on early intervention for infants and toddlers in Iowa is available.

Are you looking for more information on other services, child development, or related events in Iowa? Browse the website and statewide resource directory or contact us. Specialists are available by [email](#) or phone Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1-888-IAKIDS1 (1-888-425-4371). Let us connect you to what you need.



www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org

CHILDREN AT HOME

A program of the Iowa Family Support Network


[Request Services](#)




Children at Home

The Children at Home program is designed to assist you and your family in securing the services and supports that you identify as necessary in helping your child remain at home. An underlying principle of the Children at Home program is that you and your family retain control of decisions which affect your child and family. Financial assistance is intended to enable you to obtain those services and supports which are not met by other programs.



What is Children at Home 

Eligibility 

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Purpose of Children at Home

- Enables a family member of an individual with a disability to:
 - ▣ identify the services and support needed to enable the individual to reside with the individual's family,
 - ▣ function more independently, and
 - ▣ increase the individual's integration into the community.



Background of Children at Home

- Iowa Department of Health and Human oversees the Iowa Family Support Network.
- The **Children at Home Program** is integrated into this existing coordinated intake and referral system.



Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Program History

- Previously the Children at Home Program had been operating in 23 counties in Iowa.
 - *Blackhawk, Boone, Cass, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clinton, Crawford, Dubuque, Floyd, Grundy, Harrison, Jackson, Johnston, Keokuk, Mahaska, Mills, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Story, Wapello, Washington, Woodbury.*
- There were 8 contractors that each served 1-4 counties.
 - *Operation and delivery of the program varied among contractors.*
- In 2016, the program was rolled out to all 99 Iowa counties within the first year under EveryStep
 - *Focus on bringing continuity to program*

Eligibility for Children at Home

- The family resides in the state of Iowa.
- The family includes an individual with a disability under 22 years of age.
- The family expresses an intent for the family member who is an individual with a disability to remain living in the family's home.
- The family's taxable net income is less than \$60,000 in the most recently completed tax year.



The application has 4 parts



1. **Family demographics** (child name, family info, address, etc.)
2. **Income info** (additional documentation to be submitted to verify)
3. **Certification of Disability Info** (if child is on Waiver or SSI additional info is not needed, if not on Waiver or SSI then a professional needs to sign off to certify disability)
4. **Application for funds** (the item/service the family is requesting, details on payment, justification of how expense ties to disability and assists in the ability for child to remain in the home and provider sign off)

Focus of Funding



- The intent of the project is to direct funds towards services and supports for a child **as it relates to their disability.**
- These services and supports should enable the child to remain living in the family home.
- As EveryStep staff review applications, they are tasked with ensuring the request for the item/service is related to the child's disability.
- EveryStep Staff will be looking for the connection of the request to the child's disability and how it assists in the ability of the child to remain living in the family home.

Available Funding

- Goal is to approve a minimum of \$700 per eligible child within the Fiscal Year (July 1st through June 30th)
- Funds are not guaranteed and are monitored monthly
- Requests for large amounts are presented to program manager/director for approval
- Families may apply every Fiscal Year with a new application.



Funding of the item or service

- CaH is a payer of last resort (work together with other programs, such as waiver, to both cover a portion of item/service)
- Items and services must occur and be purchased within the current Fiscal Year.
- Three options for payment:
 - CaH may purchase the item online and have it directly shipped to the family.
 - Family may purchase the item and we may reimburse them.
 - CaH may pay the agency directly



Allowable Funding Request Categories

Equipment

- Adaptive
- Therapeutic
- Functional
- Technology



Therapy/Inclusion Activities

- Water Therapy
- Equine Therapy
- Music Therapy
- OT/PT/Speech Therapy
- Camps
- Classes

Allowable Funding Request Categories (cont.)

Parent/Caregiver Education

- Conference attendance
- Caregiver classes



Personal Care and Nutrition

- Milk/Vitamin supplements
- High protein supplements
- Diapers (over age 5)

Allowable Funding Request Categories (cont)

Respite/Adaptive Childcare

- Respite care
- Adaptive childcare (over the age of 12)



Transportation/Travel

- Hotel
- Mileage reimbursement
- Travel Stipend- air fare, car rental, meals for out of state travel



Allowable Funding Request Categories (cont)

Safety

- Fence
- Door alarms
- Locks
- Rider safe harness
- Service Dog

Vehicle/Home modification

- Wheelchair lift
- Ramp
- Accessible



Categories that will **NOT** be considered for funding

- ❑ Basic child items (non-adaptive) clothes, shoes, school supplies, food, toys.
- ❑ Basic living expenses (rent, water, utilities, heat/LP, etc.)
- ❑ Childcare for a child age **12 or younger** unless there are extenuating circumstances specifically pertaining to a child's disability that is above and beyond everyday child care costs.



Categories that will **NOT** be considered for funding (cont.)

- ❑ Adoption fees or guardianship costs
- ❑ Costs incurred from illegal activities such as court costs and fines.
- ❑ Firearms/weapons, of any kind
- ❑ Insurance deductibles and co-pays for services, deductibles and copays may be considered for equipment
- ❑ Phone, Phone minutes
- ❑ Purchase of or repair of vehicles
(Modification/adaptation of vehicles *is* an allowable request)

Iowa Family Support Network & Children at Home

While Children at Home funds can not be directed to basic living and child expenses, as a part of the Iowa Family Support Network's broader function, they will be able to help direct families to a wide range of resources to assist with basic living and child expenses.

Children & Families Served

- YTD Stats for #s served in FY23
 - Number of Children Served = 498
 - Number of Families Served = 409



Children at Home Survey Results

“I just want to share my gratitude for your program. Providing a child, with a disability, everything they need in order to have the best quality of life can be financially straining and many needs are often not met. Organizations like yours allow parents to fill those voids that otherwise would not be met, and it has brought me so much happiness to see my son being able to better cope with his emotions as a result of the therapeutic items that you so generously provided for him. Thank you again for making such a difference in our lives.” (Linn County)

Survey Results Continued

“Children at Home employees made the process very simple and stress free and also made sure we had all the correct paperwork turned in. The funds provided us with peace of mind that our son was safe and could not elope from our backyard. We are very grateful for programs like Children at Home to help our family.”
(Hardin County)

“The Children at Home program helped our son immensely! His equipment has been vital to increasing independence as well as helping him with PT/OT at home. Thank you Children at Home!!”
(Black Hawk County)

Contact Information



□ 1-888-IAKIDS1 (425-4371)

□ **Email Address**

□ iafamilysupportnetwork@everystep.org

□ **Website Address**

□ iafamilysupportnetwork.org



Questions...

- What are your questions for us?



Contact Information



To schedule presentations or other outreach events:

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515-558-6232

**Hannah Rivas, MCH Outreach & Family Support Services
Director**

EveryStep