

# Investing in Iowa's Child Care System

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Director

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Care

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# Child Care Team

Division of Family  
Well-Being and  
Protection

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**Janee Harvey**  
Division Director



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**Child Care**  
Ryan Page



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**Centers**  
Todd Savage



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**Homes**  
Sheila Aunspach



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**Policy**  
Wendy Hoogeveen



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**Registration and  
Payments**  
Open

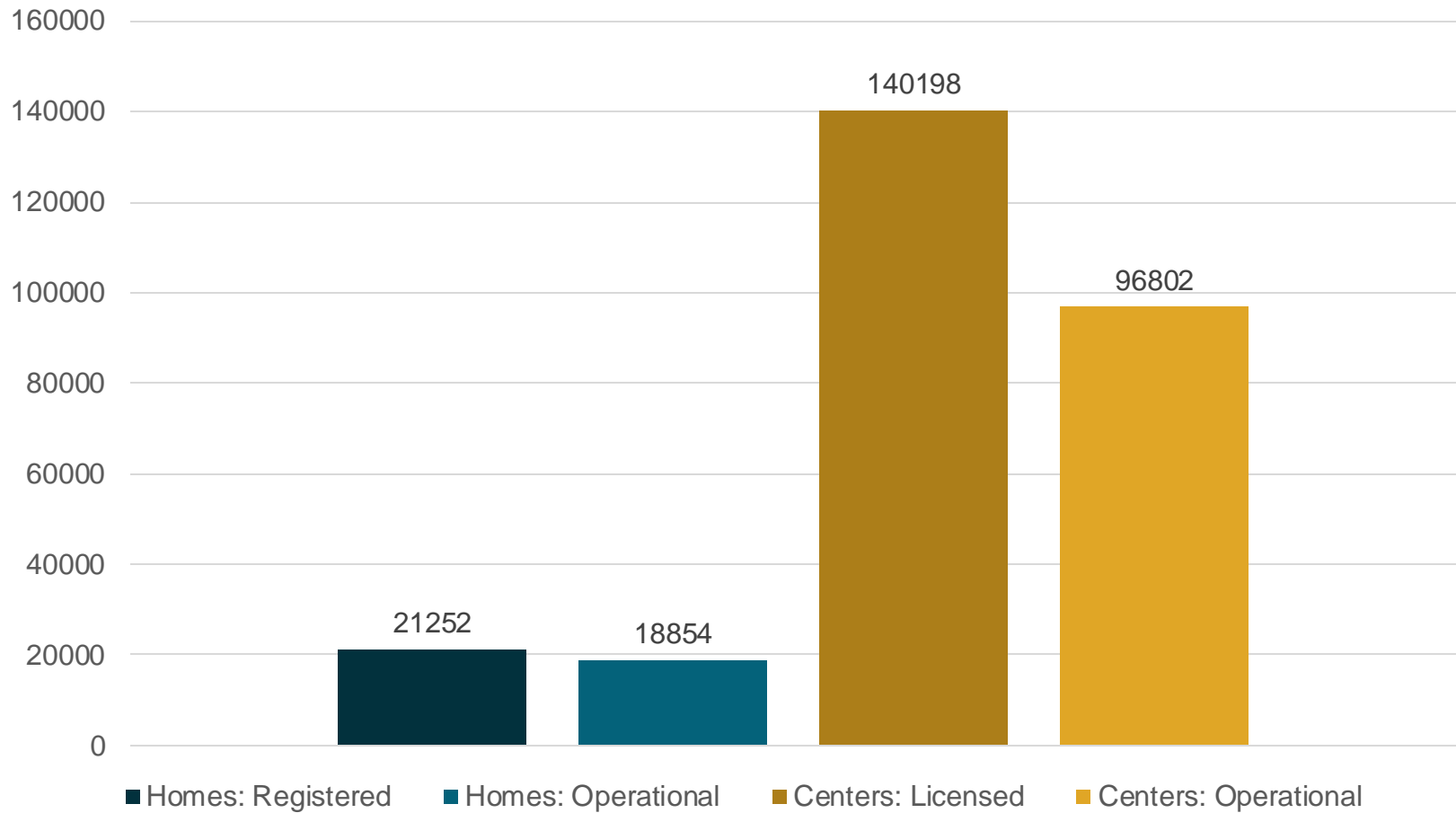
# Child Care Funding

# Funding Overview

- ▶ Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)
  - Block grant-style federal funding
  - 70% to direct services for eligible families and payments to providers
  - Remaining funds support infant/toddler, quality initiatives and administrative expenses
  - Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Appropriation: \$109,630,285
  
- ▶ State General
  - Supports state match for federal grants
  - State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Appropriation: \$34,966,931

See Appendix A: Child Care Assistance Provider Rates Over Time

# Current Child Care Capacity



# CCA Eligibility and Family Requirements

## Examples

Examples are based on what parents would be paying when co-pay amount and providers charging the difference between their rate and the state rate. Assumed monthly cost of care is \$2,268, or the 90th percentile of licensed center care market rate.

## Example Family



Adult



Child



Infant

	CCA family at or below 100% FPL	CCA family at 160% FPL	CCA Plus family at 225% FPL	CCA Exit family at 250% FPL
HHS Pays	\$1,808	\$1,620	\$1,540	\$447
HHS Co-pay	No Co-pay	\$188	\$268	\$1,361
Provider Charge*	\$460	\$460	\$460	\$460
Total Family Cost	\$460	\$648	\$728	\$1,821

\*Provider charge for difference between HHS payment and private pay.

See Appendix B: Child Care Assistance Enrollment Data

# Child Care Assistance (CCA) Pilot

- ▶ 1-year pilot allowing child care workforce to apply for CCA for their own children with no family income limit
  - 1,614 families have been served by the CCA Pilot
  - Average 299% FPL
- ▶ Extended through SFY25
- ▶ Must be in a direct care position at the child care program
- ▶ Must meet all other CCA eligibility requirements
- ▶ 50% State funded

# CCA Pilot Survey Responses

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**88%**

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

87% indicated that the Pilot encouraged their continued employment in child care

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44% previously applied for CCA but were denied for being over income

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**49%**

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

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**12%**

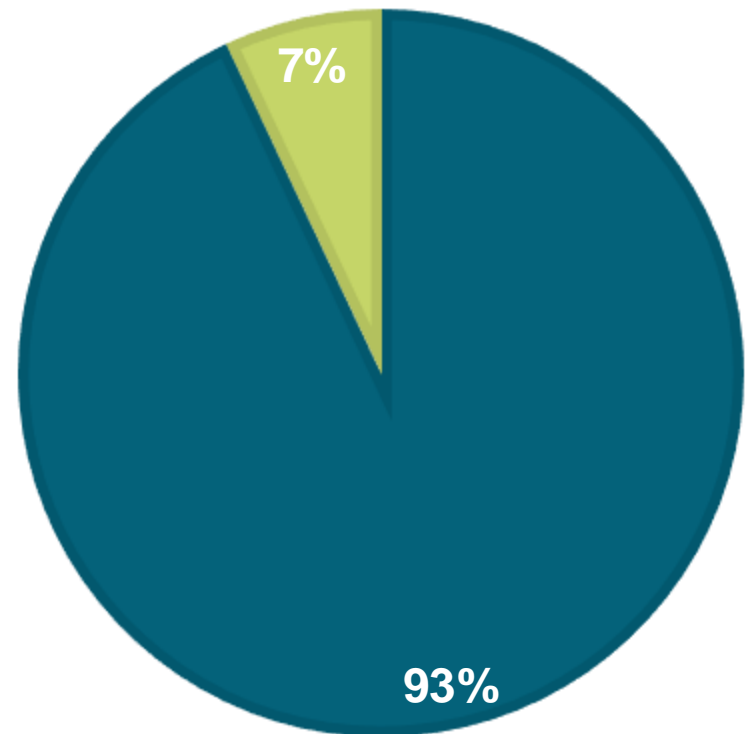
indicated they began working in child care as a result of the Pilot

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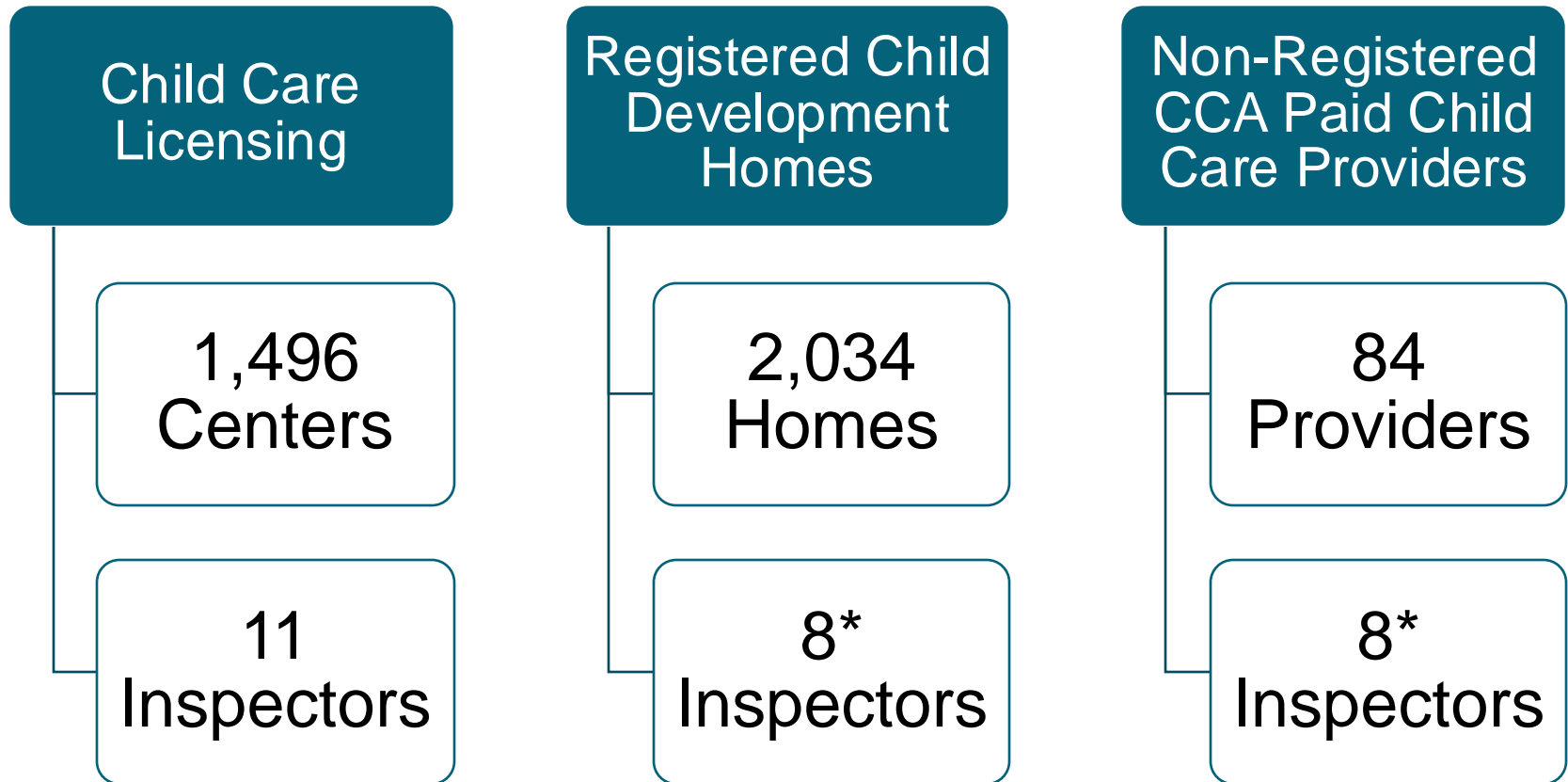
# Pilot Participant Retention

## RECEIVED CCA



■ Stayed in child care ■ Works elsewhere

# Licensing and Regulation



\*8 inspectors are shared between Registered Child Development Homes and Non-Registered CCA Paid Child Care Providers

# Child Care Initiatives

# Child Care Wage Enhancement Project

Short-term funding opportunity to kick off community wage enhancements

10 local communities were contracted

Required matching funds from business partners in the local community up to \$2.00 for every \$1.00 pledged

\$2.99 million invested by HHS with the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds

# Shared Services

## Child Care Collaborative of Iowa

- Provides business coaching supports, professional development and tax support to child care facilities who are using a contracted Child Care Management System
- \$1.5 million annual cost

## Child Care Management Systems (CCMS)

- Iowa supports child care facilities' basic monthly subscriptions to Playground or Brightwheel
- \$1.35 million annual cost
- Subscription fees and some maintenance costs or enhancements. Paying through June 30, 2025, with optional contract renewals

## Opportunities Exchange

- Provides Iowa with technical assistance in shared services implementation and for business coaching
- \$150,000 annual cost

## Child Care Connect (C3)

- Contract with ISU for data integration from public and private systems and powers to online search tools. ISU subcontracted with Resultant for development of C3
- \$5.2 million to develop and \$500,000 annual cost

# Iowa Child Care Connect (C3)

- ▶ Developed in response to recommendations in Governor Reynolds' 2021 Child Care Task Force Report
- ▶ Integrates data from multiple sources in near real-time – data from child care providers, state agency systems, and supporting organizations (ex., CCR&R, etc.)
- ▶ Provides online visualization tools to support decision-making for families, child care businesses, and communities
  - Child Care Search
  - Child Care Data Dashboard

Visit the C3 website using the QR code or link below!

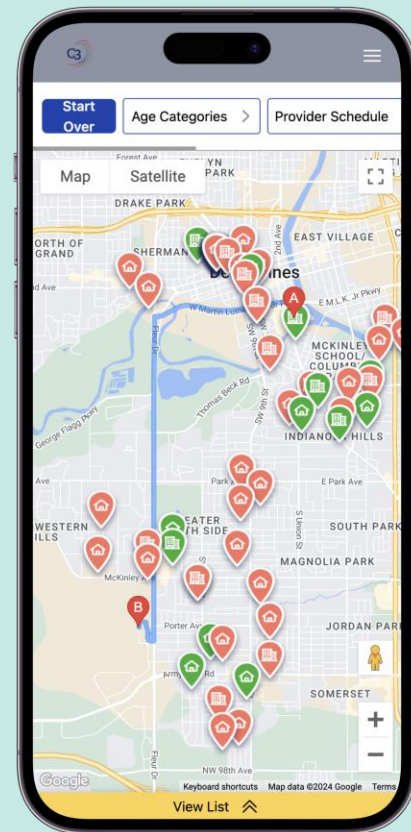


[iachildcareconnect.org](https://iachildcareconnect.org)

# Child Care Search Tool

Linking Families to Quality Care, One Connection at a Time

- ▶ Filter results to meet each family's needs
  - Ages of children needing child care
  - Days and hours needing child care
  - Providers accepting Child Care Assistance
  - Provider participation in Iowa's voluntary quality rating and improvement system (Iowa Quality for Kids or IQ4K)
  - Type of child care program (home-based or child care center)





# C3 Data Dashboards

## Current Vacancies

- ▶ Number of vacancies by age or program type
- ▶ Percentage of providers reporting timely vacancy data
- ▶ Trends in vacancies and reporting over time

## Supply and Demand

- ▶ Available child care supply relative to potential supply
- ▶ Gaps between child care supply and demand
- ▶ Demand level using different assumptions

# C3 Access Data

## Child Care Search Tool

- Guided Search: 7,504
- Route Search: 6,859

## Data Dashboard Totals

- Vacancy Dashboard: 1,700
- Supply & Demand Dashboard: 1,989

Data reflects 8/22/24-12/31/24

# Child Care Accomplishments

Governor's  
Child Care  
Task Force  
Initiatives

Tracking  
successes  
and  
initiatives  
since March  
2020

Cross-  
Agency  
Collaboration

Reference *Child Care Timeline* handout for additional accomplishments

# Iowa Leads the Nation

- ▶ National presentations
  - 2024 National Shared Services Technical Conference (pre-conference, plenary, and two sessions)
  - Opportunities Exchange webinar featuring Iowa's work (December 5th)
- ▶ Technology/education publications
  - GovTech – “Can Real-Time State Data Ease Parents’ Child Care Woes?” Nikki Davidson, 9/23/24
  - Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP) Newsletter – “Iowa introduces Child Care Connect” October 2024
  - EdSurge – What If Finding Child Care Online Were as Easy as Making a Dinner Reservation? | EdSurge News November 2024
  - Digital Service Network, Beeck Center, Georgetown University – Spotlight article, anticipated release date early 2025



Pictured: Senator Charles Grassley and Iowa HHS Child Care Director, Ryan Page, at the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance's hearing on child care on July 9, 2024.

# Focusing on the Future

## 2024 CCDF Final Rule

- Paying programs prospectively
- Paying programs based on enrollment
- Grants/Contracts

## Completion of Administrative Rules Red Tape Reviews

- Licensed Child Care Center Regulatory Review and updates (7/1/25)
- Child Care Home Regulatory Review

## Change Planning and Implementation

- Iowa received a State Plan approval letter with areas of non-compliance in four areas. Appendix with implementation plans submitted 1/8/25.
- Iowa's transitional waiver for 4 of the new requirements was approved. Required to become compliant by 8/1/26.



# Questions

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Health and  
Human Services

# Appendix A: Child Care Assistance Provider Rates Over Time

# Child Care Assistance Provider Rates Over Time

## Centers

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool	School Age
<b>7/2016</b>	\$16.78	\$13.53	\$12.18
<b>7/2019</b>	\$17.00	\$14.75	\$12.18
<b>7/2021</b>	\$19.30	\$17.00	\$13.50
<b>7/2023</b>	\$23.21	\$18.98	\$15.00
<b>7/2024</b>	\$25.66	\$19.50	\$16.50

## Child Development Homes

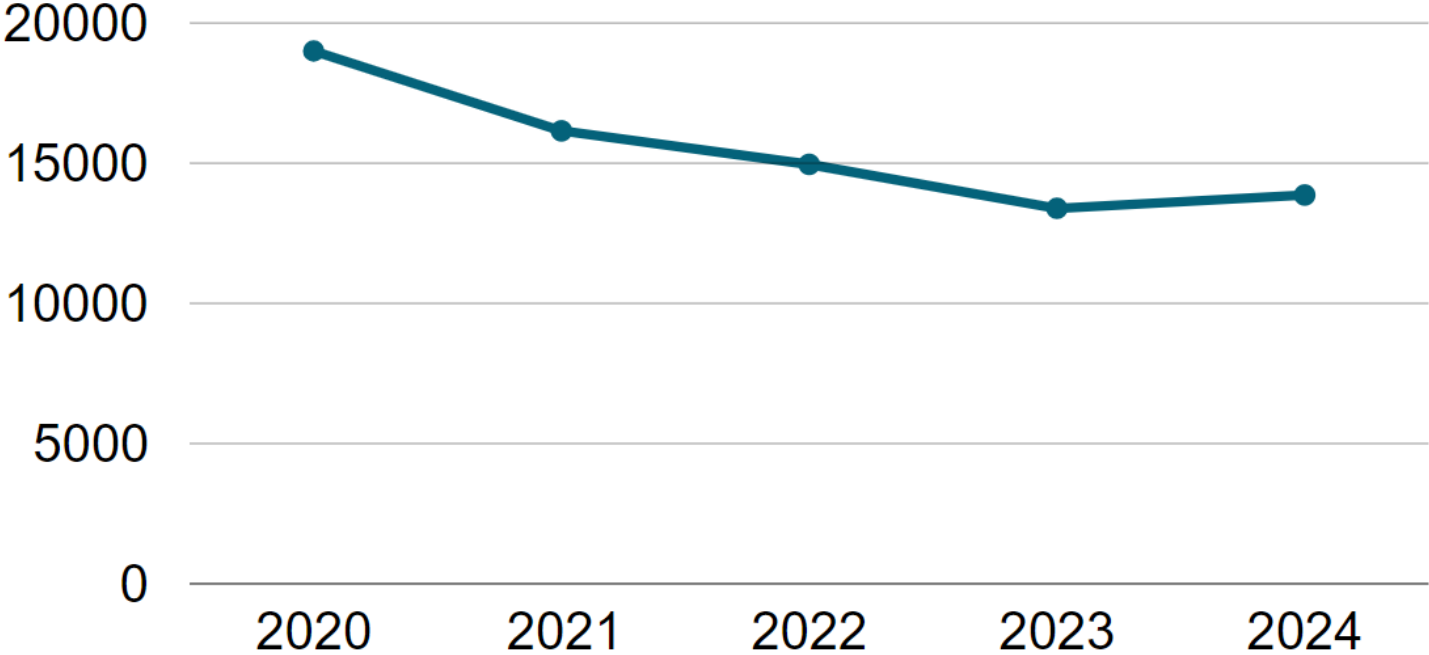
	Infant/Toddler	Preschool	School Age
<b>7/2016</b>	\$12.98	\$12.18	\$10.82
<b>7/2019</b>	\$12.98	\$12.50	\$10.82
<b>7/2021</b>	\$12.98	\$12.50	\$10.82
<b>7/2023</b>	\$14.00	\$12.75	\$11.25
<b>7/2024</b>	\$16.63	\$15.00	\$15.00



# Appendix B: Child Care Assistance Enrollment Data

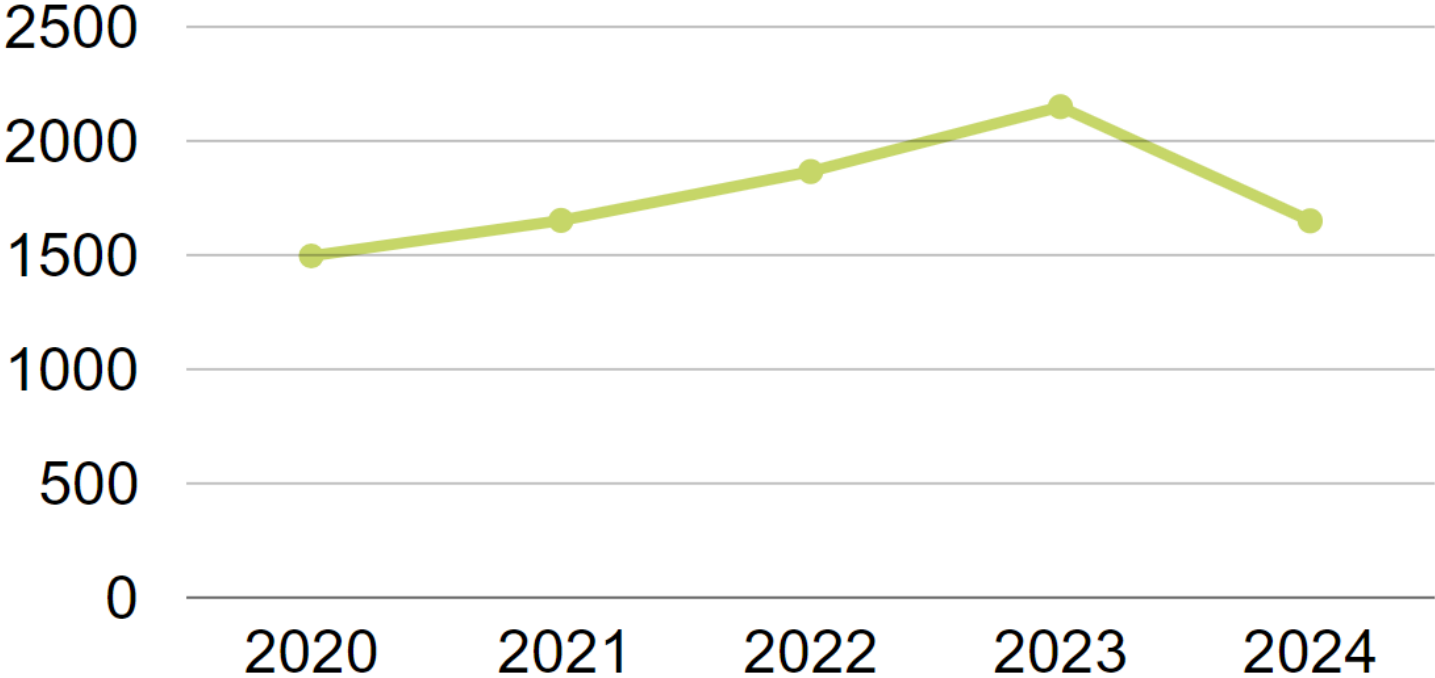
Data reflects the number of children enrolled in CCA programs over time

# Child Care Assistance (CCA)



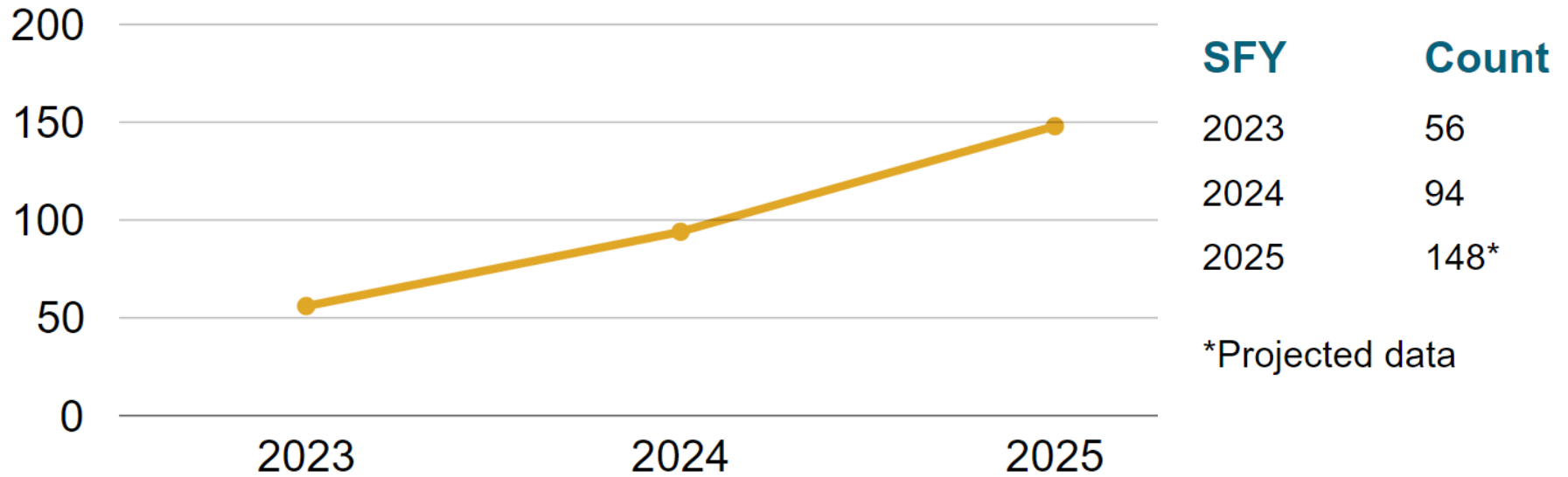
SFY	Count
2020	19,003
2021	16,155
2022	14,960
2023	13,388
2024	13,866

# Child Care Assistance (CCA) Plus



SFY	Count
2020	1,496
2021	1,652
2022	1,866
2023	2,150
2024	1,650

## Child Care Assistance (CCA) Exit (Child care cliff protection)



### Co-pay Structure

Parentheses indicate special needs rates.

Family Income	225-235% FPL (225-245%)	235-245% FPL (245-265%)	245-250% FPL (265-275%)
Co-pay	33%	45%	60%