

Child Care Assistance (CCA)

Iowa’s Child Care Assistance Program is primarily funded by the Child Care and Development Fund, which is considered a block grant. Given that Iowa does not have a waiting list, it currently operates as an entitlement program. However, Iowa Code 237A.13 does have priority groups for eligibility in the event of a waitlist.

Child Care Assistance (CCA) Initial Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria as defined in Iowa Code 237A.13 states that families must meet the following:

Income

Families may only make up to 160% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for basic care

OR

200% FPL for a child with special needs

Child Age

Up to 13 years of age

OR

Up to 19 years of age for a child with special needs

Residence

Must be residents of Iowa

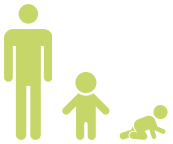
Need for Service

- Employment – must be employed at least 32 hours per week on average (28 hours per week if the family has a special needs child)
- Education/training - must be enrolled full-time (facility determines whether full-time or not)
- Job search – no more than 3 months
- Protective/foster
- PROMISE JOBS

Citizenship

Must be citizens or qualified aliens

Example Family



Our example family is a family of three, one parent and two children ages 1 and 4. The examples show the change in payment based on the family’s income.

	Family Income	Cost of Care (Center-based)	HHS Payment	Co-pay	Additional Provider Payment*
Example 1 100% FPL	\$2,152	\$2,268	\$1,808	\$0	\$460
Example 2 160% FPL	\$3,443	\$2,268	\$1,620	\$188	\$460

*In addition to copayment, this is the amount left for the family to cover if the program charges the difference between the CCA amount and their program rate.

If our example family (family of three, one parent and two children ages 1 and 4) comes to HHS with an initial application and is at 161% FPL with monthly income of \$3,465, they will be ineligible for CCA.

HHS payment: \$0

Total family cost: \$2,268

Child Care Assistance (CCA) Plus Eligibility Criteria

CCA Plus is an ongoing eligibility program only for families over 160% FPL or 200% FPL **at annual review**. Eligibility criteria as defined in Iowa Code 237A.13 states that families must meet the following:

Income

Families make over 160% FPL for basic care
OR
 over 200% FPL for a child with special needs
Not to exceed 225% FPL

Child Age

Up to 13 years of age
OR
 Up to 19 years of age for a child with special needs

Residence

Must be residents of Iowa

Need for Service

- Employment – must be employed at least 32 hours per week on average (28 hours per week if the family has a special needs child)
- Education/training - must be enrolled full-time (facility determines whether full-time or not)
- Job search – no more than 3 months
- Protective/foster
- PROMISE JOBS

Citizenship

Must be citizens or qualified aliens

Example Family



Our example family is a family of three, one parent and two children ages 1 and 4. The examples show the change in payment based on the family's income.

	Family Income	Cost of Care (Center-based)	HHS Payment	Co-pay	Additional Provider Payment*
Example 3 225% FPL	\$4,842	\$2,268	\$1,540	\$268	\$460

*In addition to copayment, this is the amount left for the family to cover if the program charges the difference between the CCA amount and their program rate.

Child Care Assistance (CCA) Exit Eligibility Criteria

CCA Plus is an ongoing eligibility program only for families over 225% FPL at annual review. This co-pay structure is over the federal requirement of 7% of the family income which requires this to be a state-funded program (SFY25 budget \$410,702). Eligibility criteria as defined in Iowa Code 237A.13 states that families must meet the following:

Income

Families make between 225%-250% FPL for basic care

OR

up to 275% FPL for a child with special needs

Child Age

Up to 13 years of age

OR

Up to 19 years of age for a child with special needs

Residence

Must be residents of Iowa

Need for Service

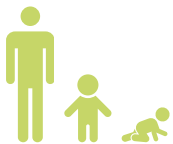
- Employment – must be employed at least 32 hours per week on average (28 hours per week if the family has a special needs child)
- Education/training - must be enrolled full-time (facility determines whether full-time or not)
- Job search – no more than 3 months
- Protective/foster
- PROMISE JOBS

Citizenship

Must be citizens or qualified aliens

Co-pay Structure	Family Income	225-235% FPL (225-245%)	235-245% FPL (245-265%)	245-250% FPL (265-275%)
Parenteses indicate special needs rates.	Co-pay	33%	45%	60%

Example Family



Our example family is a family of three, one parent and two children ages 1 and 4. The examples show the change in payment based on the family's income.

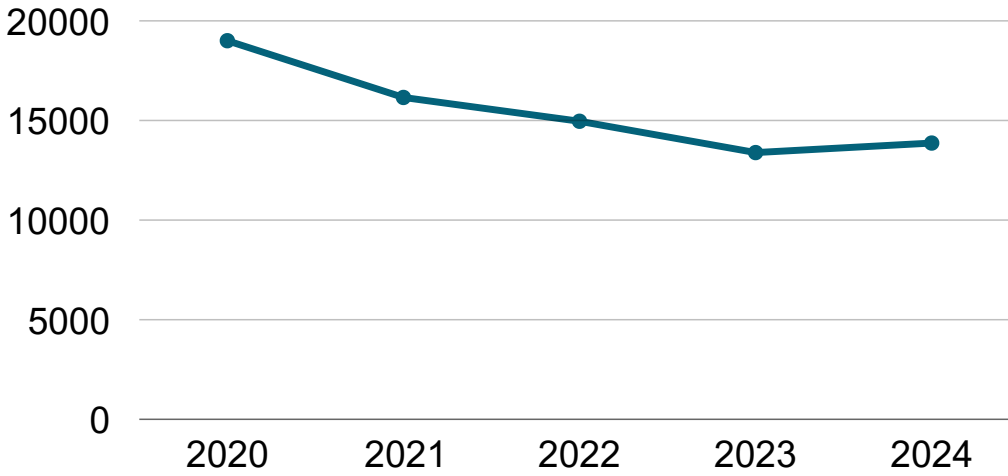
	Family Income	Cost of Care (Center-based)	HHS Payment	Co-pay	Additional Provider Payment*
Example 4 250% FPL	\$5,380	\$2,268	\$447	\$1,361	\$460

*In addition to copayment, this is the amount left for the family to cover if the program charges the difference between the CCA amount and their program rate.

Children Served

The graphs below indicate the monthly averages for children served per program. Time is measured by state fiscal year.

Child Care Assistance (CCA)



SFY

Count

2020

19,003

2021

16,155

2022

14,960

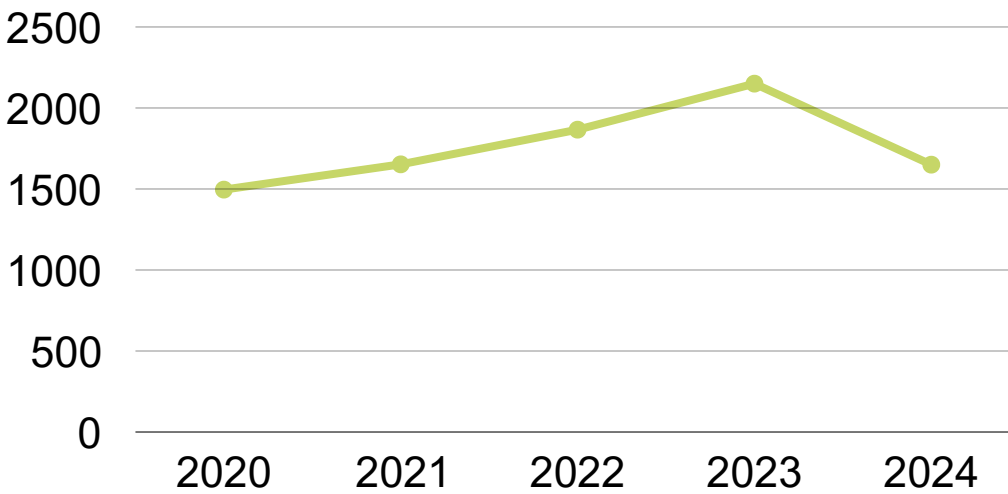
2023

13,388

2024

13,866

Child Care Assistance (CCA) Plus



SFY

Count

2020

1,496

2021

1,652

2022

1,866

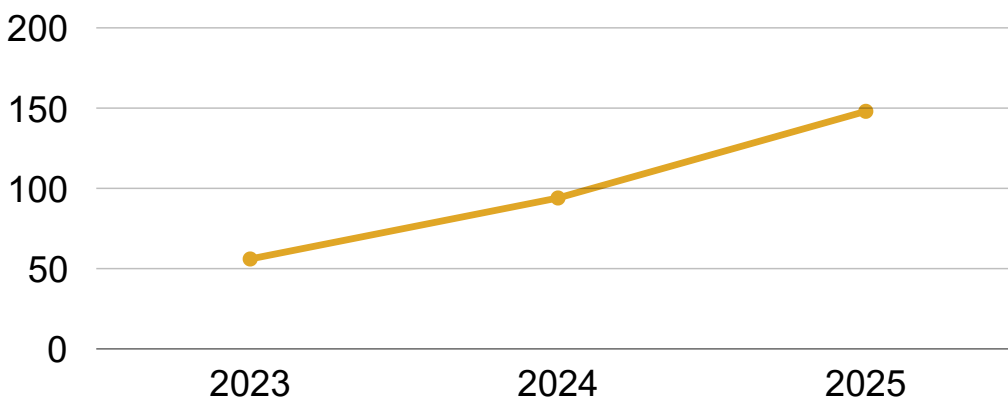
2023

2,150

2024

1,650

Child Care Assistance (CCA) Exit



SFY

Count

2023

56

2024

94

2025

148*

*Projected data