

2025 Early Childhood Legislation FAQ

Posted Responses 4/3/2025

*Questions are written as received.

Early Childhood Continuum of Care

I am the Director to a small preschool that offers only 2 half day sessions. We are unable to go full time because of many reasons. Is there a place or list to show other daycares or centers that are open to being partners?

The Child Care Connect (C3) provides a search option for child care programming across the state. <https://iachildcareconnect.org/>

The most recent ICAPP RFP required multi-county coordination to apply for the funds. While this was a huge change, it did allow for funds to be distributed equitably across regions based on the population of children in the region. Will the Continuum of Care RFP have any components that encourage regional collaboration to ensure that the funds are equitably distributed throughout the state in urban and rural areas?

Applicants will propose the service area in the State of Iowa and describe how the partnership will provide a full-day opportunity for eligible children and their families. Transportation to different locations is not required, but transportation is an eligible expense. Two partners may be in one physical location.

We are very interested in applying for the Early Childhood Continuum of Care grant to support the families in our communities. We unfortunately only have one smaller licensed child care facility in our community at this time. If there is someone in our community interested in becoming licensed, would they need to be fully licensed before applying? Also, we have discussed adding childcare to our school building before. I realize that the school itself would not be able to be both entities, but would it work to lease a space in our building for a private child care facility to partner with us? What would the deadline be to have that space up and running and the individual licensed? Are there any requirements in terms of the space being on the main level like in the IQPPS standards for preschool?

At the time of application child care licensure would need to be obtained. Yes, space could be leased for child care within a school building. A fire marshal inspection would determine the answer to the third question.

Shared Visions

Is there a timeline for the Shared Vision preschool grants to become available? For districts who have had Shared Vision programs in the past, the delay in process is greatly impacting our staffing projection for FY26.

Timelines for grants and program applications are dependent on various legislative processes. It is the intent of Iowa Department of Education to have all types of preschool programming operational for Fall 2025.

Our agency is currently a community-based provider that partners with our school district's approved local program and provides both SWVPP and Shared Visions services. Will we be eligible to submit an application for Shared Visions funding if we continue as a partner and NOT a community-based provider approved to directly participate in the preschool program?

Programs who provide SWVPP as a partner in a district partnership and those who provide SWVPP as community-based providers are both eligible to apply for Shared Visions funding.

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Districts

No questions relevant to this topic were received this week.

Early Childhood Iowa Discretionary Fund

Will FY'25 Carry Forward funds into FY'26 be "categorical" or will they be admin and general (flexible)? The reason is that my salary is funded out of QIP funds and will be spent in its entirety by June 30th. If carry-forward funding is not flexible, there will be no funds other than admin for my salary which will greatly diminish the number of service hours I can provide. I imagine many ECI Directors are similar.

The current School Ready funding formula includes Quality Improvement funds which have had an allowable use of coordination time. The current School Ready funding formula is approved by the ECI State Board. Carry-forward funds shall not exceed 20% of the grant amount received for the fiscal year, per Iowa Code 256I.9(e). Expanding the categorical use of carry-forward funds would need to be approved by the ECI State Board.

If this bill passes, how will preschool children continue to receive services such as the Preschool Fluoride Varnish program? Dental services are still an approved local service option that local ECI boards can fund with local discretionary dollars. Early Childhood Iowa discretionary funds are not the only funding stream available to support dental services. Aside from Medicaid and Hawki, what other funding streams support dental services for ages 0-5 to promote early detection and prevention of dental disease through evidence-based strategies i.e. fluoride varnish? I-Smile funds cannot be used for direct dental services.

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How will family support programs obtain funding for July 1, 2025 through Dec 31, 2025, when the new ECI region will not happen until Jan1, 2026. Current ECI boards are not releasing an RFP or RFR. This is creating great concern among home visitors and I worry we will have providers leave the field due to job insecurity that the state is creating with the lack of time line and answers. Home visiting programs as well as ECI area have invested dollars into the training of providers and I hate to see employees leave due to not knowing if there is funding.

The ECI State Board will meet on April 11, 2025. Meeting details are posted to the HHS website: [Early Childhood Iowa State Board | Health & Human Services](#)
The ECI State Board needs to approve a funding formula for distribution of projected FY26 funds to local ECI boards. There are plans to prioritize family support home visitation services.