

Continuum of Care Grant Applicant's Conference Questions and Answers

IowaGrants

5/21/25

Funding

The funding source for the Continuum of Care Grant is federal Child Care and Development Fund dollars (Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) ALN # 93.575). This is from the discretionary portion of the Child Care and Development Fund with Agency authorization for use of funds. \$5 million has been reserved for this grant.

No funding is being used from Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), Shared Visions, or Head Start.

Funding Opportunity Details

Please review [IowaGrants](#) descriptions and attachments, which include the RFP, guidance, draft contracts and scoring tools, as well as website links to aid you.

- RFP is listed under this identifier: FWBPECI2601
- Full title: 611475 - FY26 RFPFWBPECI26010 for Iowa Early Childhood Continuum of Care

A SAM.gov UEI is required to receive federal funding

Grant funds will be available for the 2025-26 school year.

- Up to \$300,000, not to exceed \$100,000 per year for the 3-year term.
- Payments will be made on a reimbursement approach with grantees submitting invoices within the IowaGrants.gov system.

What can funding be used for?

Eligible fund uses are:

- staffing needs to meet ratios to provide full day service in the licensed child care center
- transportation services to assist in transporting children between the SWVPP partner and licensed child care center

Who is an eligible child care provider?

Any currently licensed child care center as defined under [237A.1](#)

The center must be participating in T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE\$.

Who is an eligible preschool provider?

Any districts, or their community partners, who provide Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs (SWVPP) as defined in [256C](#).

Are Registered Child Development Homes an eligible child care provider partner?

This grant opportunity is only open to licensed child care centers.

We are familiar with several successful licensed child care center and SWVPP partnerships and hope to build on the success of these models.

How do I become a SWVPP as a licensed child care center?

Licensed child care centers must work with their local school district to become a SWVPP partner. If the local school district allows it, the licensed child care center would be defined as a “SWVPP community partner program” and would then be eligible to serve either as the SWVPP OR the licensed child care center in this grant opportunity.

What do you mean by a partnership with two entities?

One SWVPP provider and one licensed child care center.

Please see the attached infographic for examples.

Are new partnerships eligible for this grant?

OR

Are existing partnerships eligible for this grant?

Yes. New and/or existing partnerships are eligible for this grant opportunity.

What is an example of a partnership that is not allowed?

One entity cannot partner with itself.

If a SWVPP is also the licensed child care center, they are ineligible for this grant on their own but could partner with another SWVPP or licensed child care center.

Can a licensed child care center partner with more than one SWVPP?

OR

Can a SWVPP partner with more than one licensed child care center?

Yes, an entity may submit up to three partnership applications. Each partnership requires a separate application.

Extra points are available if a full day model is in place from August 2025 - July 2026. Grant funds are not available until Aug 30, 2025. Are expenses incurred by the grantee prior to that date eligible for reimbursement?

To be eligible for the five extra points, the applicant must provide verification that they have offered programming from August 2025-July 2026. Grant funding can be utilized from the date of the executed contract through the expiration date of the contract.

Expenses incurred outside of the executed contract dates will not be eligible for reimbursement.

How can we find licensed child care center partner entities?

Please see [Iowa Child Care Connect](#) for potential child care partners.

How can we find SWVPP partner entities?

Please see the Department of Education's [SWVPP website](#) for the most current list of approved providers.

How will funding be distributed to the partners?

The partnership will determine which entity is the fiscal agent. The fiscal agent is responsible for distributing funds based on the partnership agreement.

Will licensed child care center staff need a 4-year or teaching degree?

There is no degree requirement for staff who provide the child care portion of the day.

What are eligible wage expenses?

Grant funding could be utilized for staffing needs at a licensed child care center to provide a full day of service for children enrolled in SWVPP.

If an SWVPP provides all day preschool can they partner with a licensed child care center to provide before and after care are we eligible for this grant?

Yes.

Are Head Start programs eligible for this grant?

A Head Start program may be an eligible partner if they are either a licensed child care center or a SWVPP community partner provider.

Can a Head Start licensed teacher for 4-year-old classroom apply for SWVPP?

Please reach out to your local school district to investigate how to become a SWVPP community partner provider.

3 and 4 yr olds are transported together in one vehicle. Will we have to account for the cost of the 3 yr olds separately with a different funding stream?

Transportation can include multiple ages; however these grant funds are limited to supporting 4-year-olds. Other funds will be needed to cover costs incurred for 3-year-olds.

Does the minimum 10 hr/wk SWVPP also apply during holiday breaks and summer?

This grant opportunity does not specify requirements during holiday breaks and summer.

Is the licensed child care center allowed to charge fees for child care?

Yes. Fees may be charged for child care services.

Can funding cover administrative costs?

Yes. Funding can be used for administrative costs up to 5% of the direct costs in the proposed budget.

Can funding be used to purchase materials?

No. Funding cannot be used for materials.

Can multiple ages be served in the same room?

The licensed child care center is not required to dedicate separate space to only 4-year-olds, but the grant funding can only be used to support the staffing or transportation needs for the 4-year-olds being served.

Does this grant cover 3-year-old Special Education students attending a 4 year old SWVPP class?

No. Other funds will be needed to cover costs incurred for three-year-olds. Older or younger students may participate in a SWVPP classroom; however this grant would not cover costs for their participation.

How many hours is a full day of care?

10 hours per day is considered a full day of care for this grant.

How does this support families who need assistance with childcare expenses?

Families that may need financial support for the child care portion of the full-day are encouraged to apply for [Child Care Assistance](#).

Are private or parochial SWVPPs eligible to apply?

Yes. Existing partnerships between a SWVPP and a licensed child care center are eligible.

Do we need to have IQ4K rating?

An IQ4K rating is not required for the licensed child care center.

Can you partner across district lines?

Yes.

Does this cover the wage of a bus or van driver, if they are not teaching staff?

Transportation wages are an eligible expense.

Is the grant funding intended to cover the academic year, or a full calendar year?

This grant is to provide funding for a full day of care during the school year.

We want to expand our before and after school program to cover childcare one full day a week as our SWVPP students only attend 4 full days per week. These are independent programs within our school district. Are we eligible to apply for the grant with these two programs?

This is an eligible partnership if they are independent programs that will be offering full-day service.

Can the director of the child care center also be the supervisor of the SWVPP supervisor?

Who supervises the programs is not part of the eligibility criteria, however two separate entities are required to apply for the grant.

Can a private or parochial SWVPP apply as a partner with a licensed child care center?

Yes. Private and/or parochial schools who partner with local school districts providing SWVPP are defined as a "SWVPP community partner program" and eligible to serve as the SWVPP provider in this grant opportunity.

Would the partnership just have to offer wrap around care, even if they have no preschool students attending?

The partnership requires children being served in SWVPP to also be served for child care. Funding is not provided to hold open slots.