

## Who can get help?

You may get help from the CCA program if you have a child who needs care who is:

- Under the age of 13.
- Under the age of 19, if the child has special needs.
- Age 13 up to age 16 if there are special family circumstances that put the safety and well being of the child at risk if left home alone. (The parent or guardian must apply for an exception to policy.)
- A U.S. citizen or legal qualified alien.
- Lives in Iowa.

The caretaker must have a need for childcare services such as:

- Employed 28 or more hours per week.
- Participate in academic or vocational training full time.
- FIP recipient participating in PROMISE JOBS activities.
- Medical absence or incapacity.
- Seeking employment.
- Protective child care.

## What must my childcare provider do?

Your provider must be approved by DHS to receive payment from the CCA program. Ask your DHS child care assistant worker for help choosing a provider. If your provider is not DHS approved, DHS will provide you with the necessary form to take to your childcare provider.

## How to apply?

You can fill out the form on line, print out an application form and mail it in, or get an application form from any DHS office.

A printable version of the CCA paper application is available at:

[http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Child\\_Care/CCAssistance/CCAforConsumers.html](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Child_Care/CCAssistance/CCAforConsumers.html)

You may apply on line at [www.oasis.iowa.gov](http://www.oasis.iowa.gov) for CCA and other benefits. Or you can apply for CCA only at:

<https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/ClientPortal/Welcome.aspx>

## Food Assistance Program

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is the cornerstone of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) nutrition assistance program in Iowa. The program is called Food Assistance. The goal of the program is to help low-income Iowans meet their nutritional needs by supplementing the household's food budget with benefits that can be used to purchase groceries.

## Who can get help?

Eligibility is determined by the number of people in your home, the amount of earned and unearned income, and the amount of resources in your household. To apply and determine eligibility, go to the site at: [www.oasis.iowa.gov](http://www.oasis.iowa.gov)

## How do I apply?

You can fill out the form on line, print out an application form and mail it in, or get an application form from a DHS office. Call your local DHS office for help with applying for Food Assistance.

For additional information visit:

[www.ifapa.org](http://www.ifapa.org)

**Department of Human Services**



# Financial Assistance for Relative Caretakers

## What if I have questions?

Any local Department of Human Services (DHS) office can answer questions about the programs and services described here. Contact the local DHS office serving the county where you live.

You can visit the DHS website at:  
[www.dhs.state.ia.us](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us)

You may also contact the DHS Field Operations Support Division by calling 800-972-2017.

## How do I apply?

To receive DHS services, you must complete an application form. You can fill out the form on line, print out an application form and mail it in, or get an application form from any DHS office. The *Financial Support Application* for FIP, Food Assistance, and Child Care Assistance, and the *Application for Health Coverage and Help Paying Costs* for medical assistance are available at: [www.oasis.iowa.gov](http://www.oasis.iowa.gov). Complete the application and return it to the DHS office serving the county where you live. You can also apply on line for these programs at: [www.oasis.iowa.gov](http://www.oasis.iowa.gov)

### **Family Investment Program (FIP)**

FIP is Iowa's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. FIP provides temporary cash assistance for needy families as they become self-supporting. Relatives are not subject to PROMISE JOBS requirements. If the relative is interested in receiving FIP for their own needs, DHS would assess their income, resources, and time limits when determining eligibility. The relative would participate in PROMISE JOBS in order to become self-sufficient.

## Who can get help?

To receive FIP as a caregiver, you must:

- Be a U.S citizen or legal qualified alien.
- Live in Iowa.
- Provide a social security number or proof of application for a number.
- Provide all information needed to determine eligibility and benefit level.
- Have a minor child (under age 18 or 19 and still in high school) in the home.
- Be related to the child or children for whom you are caring. DHS rules define which relatives can qualify for caretaker FIP.

Your income is not counted when applying for caretaker FIP for relatives' children. Your income is counted when applying for yourself and your children.

### **Licensed Foster Care Program**

Relative caretakers can apply to become licensed foster parents for their relative. Ask your social worker for contact information for the Recruitment, Retention, Training and Support contractor in your area.

### **Medicaid**

Medicaid (known as Title 19) is a program that pays for a wide range of medical, mental health, and other health care costs for people who qualify. These services are covered only if they are medically necessary and provided by Medicaid participating providers of services. Medicaid participants are managed by two Managed Care Organizations (MCO).

## Who can get help?

Recipients have the opportunity to select an MCO provider; however, if they do not select one, an MCO will be assigned. A health provider that chooses to participate in the Medicaid program must accept the payments that Medicaid makes and make no additional charges to the recipient for services covered under the program. However, some services covered by Medicaid do require a small co-payment be paid.

A child in out-of-home care may be eligible for Medicaid and relationship to the caregiver is not an eligibility factor. The caregiver does not have to be a birth relative. Medicaid does not depend on your income or resources; however the child's income is an eligibility factor (social security, child support, etc.).

## How do I apply?

You can complete the application on line, print out an application form and mail it in, or get an application form from any DHS office. You may apply on line at [www.oasis.iowa.gov](http://www.oasis.iowa.gov).

### **Child Care Assistance**

Child Care Assistance (CCA) is available when caretakers are working, in school, or in vocational training or PROMISE JOBS. Assistance may also be available for a limited period to the children of a caretaker looking for employment or treatment for physical or mental illness.