

CCA FOR THE CHILD CARE WORKFORCE

Frequently Asked Questions

What is happening with CCA for the Child Care Workforce?

Starting July 5, 2023, HHS will implement a one-year pilot program which allows the child care workforce to apply for Child Care Assistance (CCA) for their own children. There will be no family income limit for this pilot program, meaning a child care worker may apply even if their family income is over the initial limit to receive CCA. To be eligible for the pilot program an individual must:

- ▶ Work at least 32 hours per week in a direct care position at a licensed center, or is registered as a child development home provider or as a non-registered child care home accepting CCA.

To be approved the family must meet all other CCA eligibility criteria except for household income. For more information see the question “What Criteria Do I Need to Meet?”.

If an individual is approved for CCA under this pilot program, the family will be assessed a co-pay amount based on the monthly family income. Additionally, the individual’s child must be cared for by someone other than the parent/guardian. For example, if a registered Child Development Home (CDH) provider were to apply, the child would need to be cared for by a different child care provider.

What is a “direct care position” at a licensed center?

Direct care positions are positions where the individual is regularly in ratio in classrooms and providing care to enrolled children. If directors, co-directors, or other administrative staff are regularly in ratio (e.g., assisting when classroom staff are out, during breaks, on field trips, and during transportation), they may apply.

Are co-providers at C2 child development homes eligible?

Yes, co-providers can participate in this pilot program.

Are assistants or substitutes at a CDH eligible?

No assistants and substitutes at child development homes are not eligible for this pilot program.

What other criteria needs to be met?

There must be a need for child care services to be eligible for the CCA program. For example, in a two-parent household where one parent is employed at a child care center and the other parent is at home and not engaging in work or training, there is mostly likely not a need for child care services. HHS staff will evaluate the information in each family’s application and reach out to the family if they need additional information to determine if the family meets the criteria.

What if I am already approved for CCA?

If you are already approved for CCA you do not need to do anything differently. On your renewal paperwork please note that you work in child care. If you renew during this pilot project and you are over exit eligibility income limits at your renewal you will be able to continue receiving CCA as long as you meet all other eligibility criteria.

Will I have a copay?

Eligible individuals that are part the child care workforce will be assigned a copay based on family income.

What child care programs can I use?

The child care program you send your child to must have a CCA Provider Agreement with HHS. To ease the paperwork requirements child care programs may be interested in participating in one of the state-supported Child Care Management Systems that directly transfer CCA attendance data to the State’s subsidy data system, KinderTrack (KT). More information can be found on the Child Care Collaborative of Iowa’s web page: <https://midsioux.org/programs-services/children-and-families/ccci/>

Note: if you are the primary provider in a Child Development Home or a Child Care Home, you may not care for your own child.

How do I apply?

The most efficient way to apply for CCA is to use the online Family Portal I. Families may also print off the application form from our website² and mail or email the application to:

Email: ccaapps@dhs.state.ia.us³

Mail: HHS CCA Eligibility

2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310-5703

What if I have additional questions?

If you still have questions after reading this document you may contact the Centralized Child Care Assistance Unit at ccaapps@dhs.state.ia.us³ or 866-448-4605.

1



<https://go.iowa.gov/37DW>

2



<https://go.iowa.gov/EWcp>

3



ccaapps@dhs.state.ia.us