

Child Care Assistance (CCA) for the Child Care Workforce

Frequently Asked Questions

What is happening with CCA for the Child Care Workforce?

Starting July 5, 2023, HHS implemented a pilot program which allows the child care workforce to apply for Child Care Assistance (CCA) for their own children. This program has been extended for another year. Individuals that work in direct care at a child care facility may continue to apply for the CCA for the Child Care Workforce pilot program until June 30, 2026. 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**
- ▶ Be registered as a child development home provider **OR**
- ▶ Be registered 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 the classrooms in ratio, 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.

How do I apply?

The most efficient way to apply for CCA is to use the online [Family Portal](#)¹. Families may also print off the application form from our [website](#)² and mail or email the application to:

Email: ccaapps@hhs.iowa.gov

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@hhs.iowa.gov or **866-448-4605**.

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

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