



March 1, 2022

Background. Early Childhood Iowa, in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) and with technical assistance from Opportunities Exchange (OE), is launching a multi-phase Shared Services project with proven success in other states. This collaboration is in response to the [Governor’s Child Care Task Force Report \(November 2021\)](#).

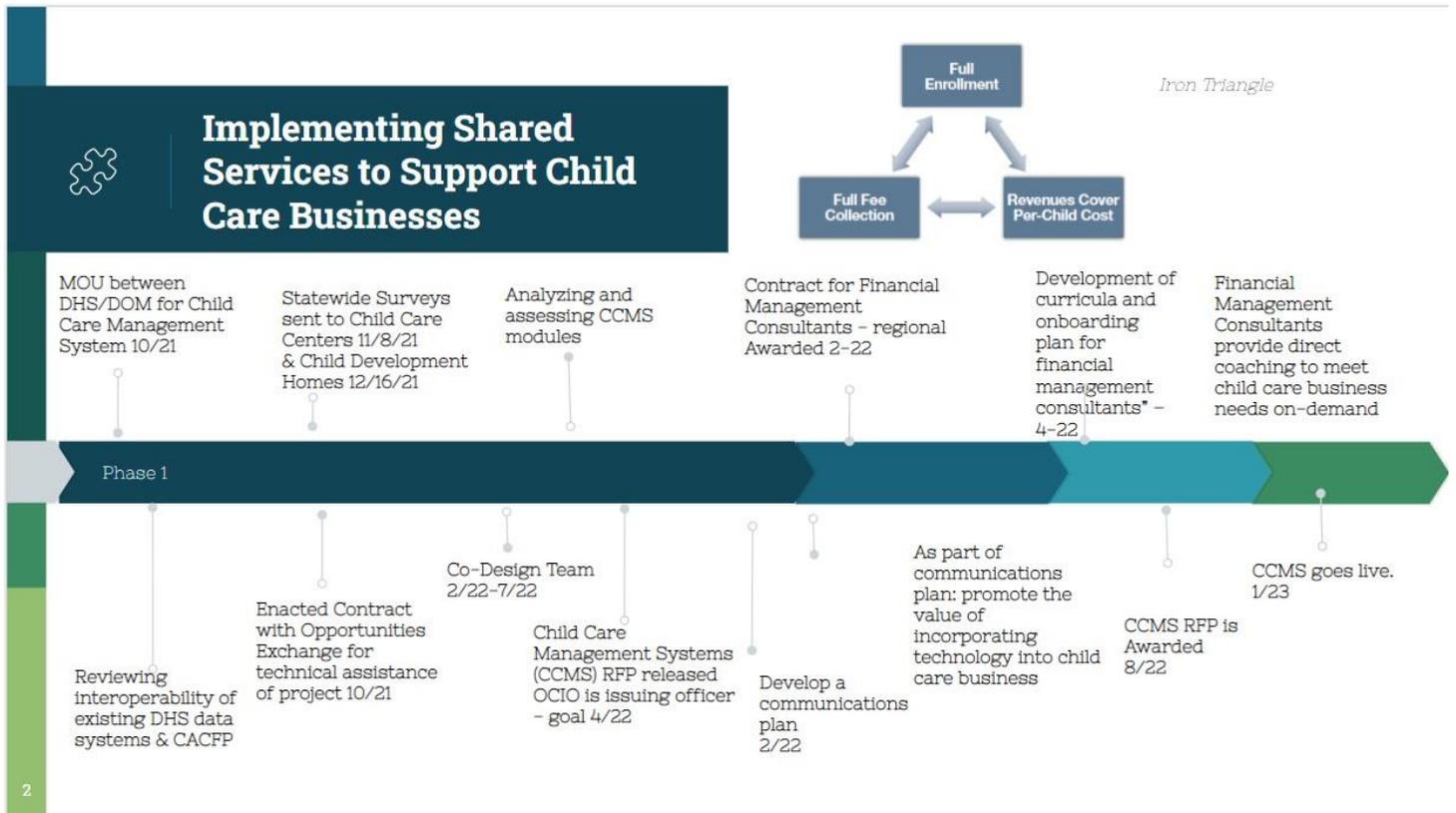
Opportunity Exchange is an organization that provides technical assistance so that the early childhood field can achieve financial sustainability and strong child outcomes through Shared Services. Shared Services is when multiple child care providers agree to share specific costs and resources. The Shared Services project will include the implementation of a child care management system (CCMS) and the provision of technical assistance through financial management consultants to help child care businesses monitor and implement a framework for a Shared Service Alliance. The CCMS and financial management consultants will assist providers with successful financial model (full enrollment, full fee collection and ensuring revenues are covered per child cost) called the Iron Triangle.

The Shared Services project also includes the assessment, development and prioritization of “other” shared service components including the framework for a Shared Services Alliance. A co-design team made up of child care providers and early childhood experts began working on February 8, 2022 and will conclude their work in six months.

SHARED SERVICES Project Overview Update:

- **Communications Plan** developed for periodic communications to agencies, partners, providers, and the general public to keep open and clear communication throughout the Shared Services Project. Key stakeholders, communication methods and procedures, feedback loop and timing of release of messaging has been completed.
- **Financial Consultants** RFP awarded and contract negotiations to begin. Financial consultants will work with child care providers as they navigate the Child Care Management System. Consultants will focus on the Iron Triangle (full enrollment, full fee collection, ability to cover per child cost) as a successful financial model. Provider selected through RFP process. Contract negotiations will be completed by March 1, 2022.
- **Child Care Management System (CCMS)** meetings with DHS IT, Resultant (specialize in IT procurement and work for OE), and ECI have been in discussion with options for the structure connectivity measures to prepare for the CCMS RFP and development. Infrastructure discussions and planning are underway regarding state IT logistics and IT guidance is being provided via Opportunities Exchange and their expert partners at Resultant. Currently, options are being explored regarding Child Care Assistance Time and Attendance data feed to Kinder Track from CCMS.

- **Co-design team** charged with assessing and developing a Shared Services model and prioritization of child care provider needs. All invited members were in attendance for the initial meeting. OE presented and engaged members in a discussion regarding shared services alliance and members gained an understanding of the overall project. First co-design team meeting held on 2/8/22. OE presented and engaged members in a discussion regarding the benefits of a shared services alliance and members gained an understanding of the overall project.



Updates found at <https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/workforce-support>