



April, 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 \(November 2021\)](#).

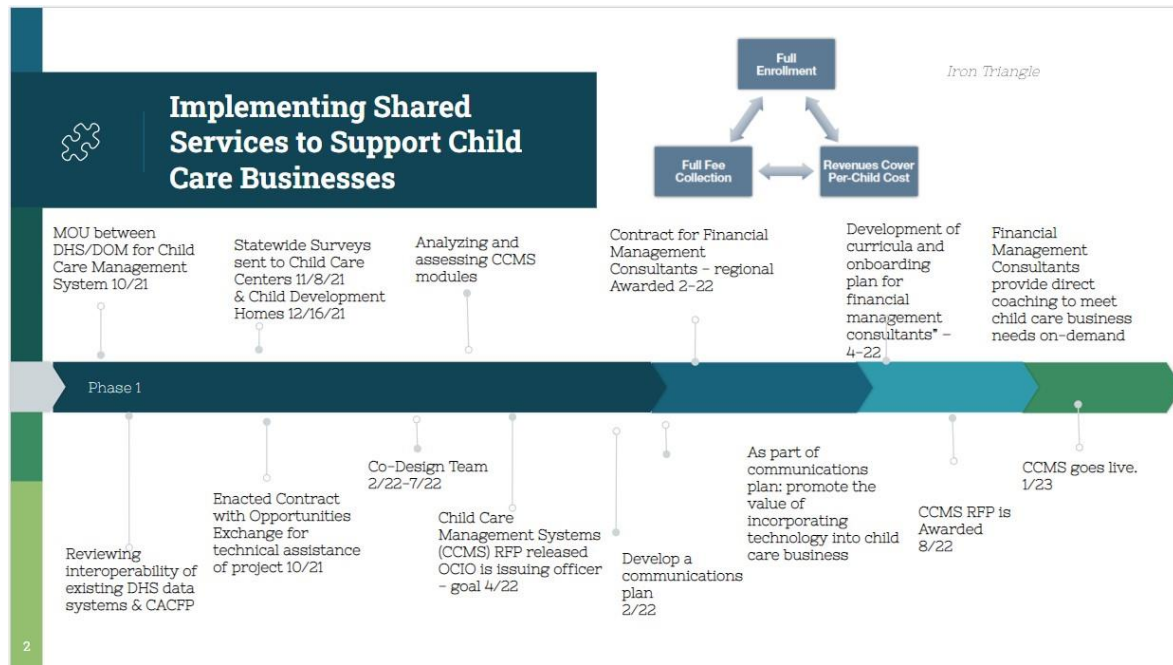
Opportunity Exchange is an organization that provides technical assistance so that the early childhood field can achieve financial sustainability and strong child outcomes through Shared Services. Shared Services is when multiple child care providers agree to share specific costs and resources. The Shared 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:**

- **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.
- **Financial Consultants** 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.
- **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. Data gathered from center and home based child care providers to inform CCMS was finalized. Results can be found [here](#).
- **Co-design team** charged with assessing and developing a Shared Services model and prioritization of child care provider needs. OE is engaging members in a discussion regarding shared services alliance and members gained an understanding of the overall project.

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



**Key Projects Timeline:** Color Coding- ON-TIME; DELAYED; BEHIND SCHEDULE; NOT STARTED; COMPLETE

Project Name	Key Updates	Timeline
Communications Plan	Monthly Updates - <a href="#">March update</a> Presentation to ECI State Board 3-4-22	<b>ON-TIME, ongoing</b>
Financial Consultants to Support child care providers with CCMS financial planning	Through an RFP process Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. was selected as a pilot that includes financial management consultants to expand the Shared Services project by supporting child care businesses towards a successful financial model.	<b>ON-TIME</b>
Child Care Management System (CCMS)	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, an RFP is being drafted to identify specifications needed from Child child care management system software vendors.	<b>ON-TIME</b>
Co-Design Team	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting on March 9. The team learned about the role of Financial Management Consultants to support the CCMS implementation. Preliminary data gathered from provider survey to inform CCMS was shared. Opportunities Exchange shared what other states are doing for their Shared Service Alliance(s) (SSA) and various HUB structures. The team then discussed their preferences for services provided in an SSA.	<b>ON-TIME</b>

