
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Family Support Subsidy

Background

The Family Support Subsidy (FSS) appropriation includes two programs: Family Support Subsidy and Children at Home (CAH). These programs assist families of children with developmental disabilities to meet the special needs of their disabled children and are administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Family Support Subsidy

The FSS program provides a monthly payment to participating families to support families raising developmentally disabled children at home. Families receive the benefit until the eligible child turns 18. Two-thirds of the families served through the FSS have a household income of less than \$20,000 per year. The FSS provides resources for families under the following conditions:

- Include children (under 18 years of age) living at home with a developmental disability that results in substantial functional limitation in three or more areas of major life activity.
- Have income (AGI) below \$40,000.

The FSS program began in 1987 as a means of reducing barriers to raising children with developmental disabilities at home. In FY 2010, State legislation ended new enrollment. The program is expected to continue until 2024 (when the last enrollee turns 18 years of age).

Children at Home

The CAH program provides cash for particular needs as they arise within funding parameters allowed by the program. Adaptive equipment, special clothing, dietary needs, counseling, parent training, and respite care are some examples of allowable expenses. The CAH program provides resources for families under the following conditions:

- Include a person or persons under 21 years of age with a disability who live at home, or have a discharge plan for the person to return home within 60 calendar days.
- Have an AGI below \$60,000.

Prior to FY 2017, multiple contractors provided services in 23 counties. The program has expanded to serve 81 counties. The HHS has partnered with Visiting Nurse Services to develop statewide standardized payment levels for individual requests and service needs.

The HHS implemented a cap of \$700 that can be spent per child. Multiple payments may be made on behalf of the same child, but the combined amount cannot exceed the cap.

More Information

Department of Health and Human Services: hhs.iowa.gov
LSA Staff Contact: Chris Ubben (515.725.0134) chris.ubben@legis.iowa.gov

Funding

The Family Support Subsidy General Fund appropriation is included in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Act. The two programs in this budget unit are exclusively funded by the State General Fund.

Funding for the FSS program is gradually decreasing since there are no new enrollees and participants eventually age out of the program. Generally, the General Assembly has chosen to use these savings to expand the CAH program.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code sections [225C.35](#), [225C.36](#), [225C.37](#), [225C.38](#), [225C.39](#), [225C.40](#), [225C.41](#), [225C.42](#), [225C.47](#), and [225C.49](#)

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