ARC 9563C

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT[641]

Adopted and Filed

Rulemaking related to child protection center grant program

The Department of Health and Human Services hereby rescinds Chapter 94, "Child Protection Center Grant Program," Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new Chapter 94 with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapter 135.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 135.118.

Purpose and Summary

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

An Amended Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on July 23, 2025, as **ARC 9411C**. Public hearings were held on the following date:

- August 12, 2025

Prior to the public hearings, the Department worked with key stakeholders and circulated revisions to the proposed chapter. At the public hearing and via email, four stakeholders indicated their support for the Department's proposed revisions, which are included in this Adopted and Filed chapter.

Changes from the Notice have been made. Specifically, the Department added a definition of "department service area" and added new subrule 93.3(3) to clarify that, subject to funding availability, at a minimum, the Department will award a grant to a child protection center in or available to each Department service area. This will help ensure that children all across the State can continue to be served by the child protection centers.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Department on August 27, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 441—Chapter 6.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on November 1, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 641—Chapter 94 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 94
CHILD PROTECTION CENTER GRANT PROGRAM

641—94.1(135) Definitions. For the purposes of these rules, the following definitions apply:

"Child abuse" means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 232.68(2).

"Child protection center" or *"child advocacy center"* means a comprehensive, child-focused program, designed by communities to meet their needs, based in a facility that allows law enforcement, child protection professionals, prosecutors, and the mental health and medical communities to work together to handle child abuse cases. "Child advocacy center" is synonymous with "child protection center."

"Department service area" means one of the five geographic areas designated by the department for the provision of family well-being and protection services.

641—94.2(135) Goals. A child protection center's goals for victims of child abuse allegations shall be:

1. To provide consistent and expedient response and follow-up to abuse reports.
2. To coordinate activities to investigate, prosecute, and treat child abuse.
3. To advocate for medical and mental health resources to effectively help the child and the child's family.
4. To reduce the number of interviews and interactions with a victim.
5. To provide consistent and compassionate support for the child and the child's family.
6. To ensure that the child is not further victimized by the system designed to protect the child.
7. To increase successful prosecutions.

641—94.3(135) Review process.

94.3(1) The department will establish a request for proposal and application process for organizations eligible to receive funding. The department will establish a process to review applications, including receiving input from a review committee. The review process and review criteria will be described in the request for proposals.

94.3(2) The director will create a committee to review proposals and make recommendations to the director. At a minimum, committee membership will be in accordance with Iowa Code section 135.118(3).

94.3(3) While implementation of the grant program is subject to the availability of funding, if sufficient funding is available, the department will, at a minimum, award a grant to a child protection center in or available to each department service area.

641—94.4(135) Eligibility and criteria. To be eligible for a child protection center grant, an organization shall:

94.4(1) Have acquired partial membership rank as a child advocacy center from the National Children's Alliance and shall identify a plan to acquire full membership rank within one year of receiving a state grant.

94.4(2) Have in place an interagency memorandum of understanding that meets the requirements of Iowa Code section 135.118. The applicant shall provide in the application written information in the following areas:

a. Data, statistics and facts from an assessment of need and assets in the community to support a child protection center for children.

b. Identification of barriers to the child protection center to reach the purpose and goals for children as may exist in federal, state, or local rules, regulations, codes, policies, or procedures.

c. A plan to request and advocate waivers of federal, state, or local rules, regulations, codes, policies, or procedures to remove or reduce barriers.

d. The child protection center's access to information regarding all suspected or confirmed child abuse/neglect victims in the identified service area.

e. The child protection center's provision of 24-hour access to center staff for support, questions, and referrals regarding child abuse.

f. Identification of matching local funds to support and sustain the child protection center in the community.

g. A plan for community education on prevention of child abuse and neglect.

h. Collaboration agreements with providers of human services, child health services, early education services, and all other potential community partners to support the purpose and goals of the child protection center.

i. The child protection center's ability to access and utilize alternate funds for activities provided.

641—94.5(135) Appeals. An applicant may appeal the denial of a properly submitted grant application. Appeals will be governed by 441—Chapter 7, Division II.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 135.118.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 9/17/25.