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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2026

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2025



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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## Family Investment Program/PROMISE JOBS

### Family Investment Program

The Family Investment Program (FIP) is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and is Iowa's cash assistance program under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant. The Program provides cash assistance to low-income families with children and provides services that are designed to help those families become self-sufficient. To be eligible for the FIP, individuals must meet all income and asset requirements, be a resident of Iowa, and be a U.S. citizen or legally qualified noncitizen (such as a refugee). In FY 2023, there was an average of 4,564 families per month receiving FIP assistance, with an average annual benefit of \$1,610 per recipient. The Program has a 60-month lifetime benefit limit with exceptions in cases of hardship. The average family receives FIP assistance for 22 months.

### PROMISE JOBS

The PROMISE JOBS program, or "Promoting Independence and Self-Sufficiency Through Employment," provides work and training services to FIP participants. All FIP applicants must participate in PROMISE JOBS unless they are exempt. The HHS contracts with Iowa Workforce Development to administer the program via 16 regional sites throughout the State. The average annual cost of services per person in the PROMISE JOBS program is \$4,427.

### Population Served and Benefits Received

Approximately 66.6% of FIP recipients are one-parent families, 28.1% of households provide care to children of relatives, and the remaining 5.4% of families include both parents. The typical FIP family consists of a single Caucasian mother who has a high school diploma, is between 20 and 29 years of age, and has 2 children under the age of 6.

### Family Self-Sufficiency Grant (FSSG) Program

The HHS contracts with Iowa Workforce Development to administer the FSSG program. The program provides up to \$1,000 per family per year to pay for work-related goods and services (e.g., car repair, clothing, and employment-related certification requirements). The program serves approximately 68 FIP families per month with an average grant per family of \$708.

### Family Development and Self-Sufficiency Program

The Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) program assists FIP families with significant or multiple barriers to reach self-sufficiency. Participation in FaDSS is a voluntary option for families receiving FIP benefits. Eligible families are identified and referred to the program primarily by the PROMISE JOBS program. The FaDSS program is provided to families in all 99 Iowa counties through a network of 17 community action and nonprofit social services agencies. Utilizing a strength-based approach, the program is delivered to families through home visits by certified Family Development

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### More Information

HHS Family Investment Program: [hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/cash-assistance/fip-tanf](https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/cash-assistance/fip-tanf)

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Specialists. Core services include assessment and screening, family-driven goal setting, referrals to community resources and supports, and advocacy and self-empowerment.

**Tax Preparation Assistance to Low-Income Iowans**

The FIP budget includes funding for Iowa-based nonprofit organizations to provide tax preparation assistance to low-income Iowans for the express purpose of expanding use of the federal and State earned income tax credit (EITC). State funds are available only to Iowa nonprofit organizations that are awarded federal funds under the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant program.

**Parenting Program**

The HHS contracts with the YMCA of Greater Des Moines to administer the allocation for the Parenting Program. The Program is designed to help strengthen parental skills and involvement of parents with their children. Ongoing weekly classes are held for fatherhood, motherhood, and co-parenting at YMCA locations including the John R. Grubb YMCA and the South Suburban YMCA. The classes offer support in such areas as health and nutrition, effective communication, being a positive role model, co-parenting, financial education, and community resources.

**Funding**

Beginning with 2024 Iowa Acts, [House File 2698](#) (FY 2025 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act), the FIP/PROMISE JOBS appropriation has moved under the new appropriations of Community Access and Eligibility, Health Program Operations, and Early Intervention and Supports.

In prior fiscal years, the FIP was funded approximately 38.0% by the General Fund, 54.0% by federal funds, and 7.0% by other funding sources such as child support recovery collections that are used to offset public assistance.

**Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapter [239B](#)

Iowa Code section [216A.107](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [441—40](#) and [441—93](#)

**Budget Unit Number**

4130N010001

Doc ID 1443659