

Child Care Timeline 2020 - Present

2020 | January - December

MARCH

On March 13, 2020, a nationwide state of emergency was declared due to the COVID-19 virus.

- ▶ Stood up support for temporary child care sites for essential workforce.
- ▶ Covered cost of record checks for temporary child care sit staff.
- ▶ OCIO map of child care availability goes live.
- ▶ Unlimited absent day billing for CCA.
- ▶ QRS expirations were extended.

JULY

- ▶ HF2198 Revised Infant/Toddler definition to improve rates paid for 2-year-old children.
- ▶ Removed 12-month time limit on CCA Plus and eligibility increased to 225% FPL.
- ▶ QRS expirations were extended until July 2021.

JAN

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APRIL

- ▶ Implemented
 - Monthly stipends
 - Essential Employee add-on stipend
 - Rejuvenation Grants
 - Waived family co-pays
 - Waived temporary lapse policy so families experiencing job loss didn't lose subsidy
 - Provided PPE and cleaning supplies
- ▶ QRS expirations were further extended.

2021 | January - December

MARCH

- ▶ Governor Proclamation created a Child Care Task Force.
- ▶ Partnered with Iowa Workforce Development for Child Care Challenge Grant
 - 61 projects; 3,942 slots
- ▶ Increased monthly stipends.

JULY

- ▶ CCA Provider Rate Increase to 2020 MRS.
- ▶ Implemented State-wide wages
- ▶ FFY 22-24 CCDF State Plan submitted.
- ▶ New Business Training and TA contract begins.

SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Ended co-pay reimbursement.
- ▶ Ended Unlimited CCA Absent Day billing.

NOVEMBER

- ▶ Increased absent day billing for CCA from 4 to 6.
- ▶ Governor's Child Care Task Force Report released.
- ▶ ECI partnered with DAS to issue an RFP for Early Childhood Financial Management Consultants.

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FEBRUARY

- ▶ Iowa's child care public facing dashboard goes live.

MAY

- ▶ Investing in Iowa's Child Care kicked off with Child Care Resource and Referral.

AUGUST

- ▶ Through IICC Awards posted 139 Round 1 awards for 1874 slots and supporting urgent regulatory needs for existing providers.
- ▶ Stipends to child care providers ended.

OCTOBER

- ▶ Enacted a MOU between DHS and ECI to support subcontract with Opportunities Exchange for Shared Services project.

2022 | January - June

FEBRUARY

- ▶ Initiated Recruitment and Retention Bonus Program for child care providers.
- ▶ Shared Services Co-Design Team began.

MARCH

- ▶ ECI, in partnership with DAS, enacted an Agreement with Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. establishing financial management.

APRIL

- ▶ Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K) roll out.
- ▶ Increased IQ4K bonus structure.

JUNE

- ▶ HF2198 modified ratios for 2 and 3-year-old children, effective upon signature.

JAN

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JANUARY

- ▶ Initiated Child Care Stabilization Grants.
- ▶ Round 2 of Child Care Challenge/ Investing in Iowa's Child Care awarded.
 - 107 projects and 5,062 slots
- ▶ Survey sent to all licensed child care centers regarding regulations per Task Force recommendation.
- ▶ ICC Round 2 through CCR&R Awards Posted: 140 projects
- ▶ Modified regulations to reduce burden for Child Development Home effective.
 - Number of children served (HF260 for unregulated numbers).
- ▶ Removed part time hour limit, which increases allowances for full time care.
- ▶ Increased number of infants served in a home with 2 providers (C2).
 - Modified inspection of private sewage disposal.
 - Modified permission requirements for field trips.

MAY

- ▶ ECI, in partnership with OCIO, issued an RFP for Child Care Management Systems (CCMS).

2022 | July - December

AUGUST

- ▶ Office of Child Care Federal Monitoring Visit.
- ▶ Rules package submitted to implement regulatory changes in response to licensed center survey results.
- ▶ ECI issued RFP for Shared Services Alliance Hubs to Support Child Care Businesses.

SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Business Incentive Grants awarded
 - \$600K to “slots” projects
- ▶ New Business Incentive Slots Grant opportunity opened with modified parameters.
- ▶ All Stabilization funds are spent
 - Total Amount Awarded: \$218,929,611
 - CDH: 1,296 programs with an average amount of \$27,904.50
 - Center: 859 programs with an average amount of \$211,709.97
- ▶ HHS staff participated in IAAYC fall conference with over 600 participants and did break out sessions on regulations, CCA billing, i-PoWeR (professional development registry), and the Shared Services project.
- ▶ Added foster care-child care to Kinder Track for payment processing.
- ▶ ECI subcontracted with Iowa State University to establish an operational data store to provide interoperability and automation phases to create efficiencies for child care businesses.

JULY

AUG

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DEC

JULY

- ▶ HF2252 effective. Allows CCA for families with a permanently disabled parent.
- ▶ Began CCA Exit program (state funded) to allow eligibility from 225% FPL up to 250% (Basic) and 275% (Special needs).
- ▶ HF2198 allowance for 16 and 17-year-old staff persons effective.
- ▶ HF2589 effective. Allows chiropractors to complete staff physicals and well-child checks.
- ▶ CCNC Program is a requirement in the FFY23 Child and Adolescent Health (CAH) RFP. Prior RFP years it was an “optional” activity.

OCTOBER

- ▶ All ratio modifications effective in Iowa Administrative Rules.
- ▶ Administrative rules in chapter 170 now effective to allow CCA for families with a permanently disabled parent.
- ▶ Intent to Award for to CCMS vendors was issued and contracts were enacted with Playground and brightwheel. Vendors debuted in Iowa at the IowaAEYC Fall Institute.

NOVEMBER

- ▶ FieldPrint Livescan fingerprint option for child care employees anticipated live date.

JAN

JANUARY

- ▶ Two contracts awarded for implementing Shared Services Alliance Hubs.

FEB

MAR

MARCH

- ▶ Implemented
 - Increase family eligibility limit from 145% FPL to 155% (ETP).
 - Increase provider reimbursement rate ceilings based upon 2020 MRS. Base moved from 50th percentile to 65th percentile (75th percentile for infant/toddlers). QRS 5 max moved to 80th percentile (ETP).

APRIL

- ▶ Focus groups were held throughout the state in Spring of 2023 to hear feedback on CCR&R services to inform the upcoming CCR&R RFP.

APR

MAY

On May 11, 2023, the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration ended.

MAY

JUNE

- ▶ Contract with Pyramid Model Consortium to provide supports to programs working on implementation of Early Childhood-Positive Interventions and Supports (EC-PBIS) for IQ4K.

JUN

JUL

JULY

- ▶ Implemented HF707
 - Increase family eligibility limit from 155% FPL to 160% (now in IA Code).
 - Income limits updated to be consistent with the federal poverty guidelines (Manual only).
 - Fee chart updated to be consistent with the new income guidelines (Manual only).
 - Increase minimum participation hours from 28 to 32 for all families except families with SN children (will remain at 28 hours).

AUG

- ▶ Implemented Child Care Assistance Pilot program.
- ▶ Iowa is showcased in Opportunities Exchange brief for leading the way with modern technology.

SEP

SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Developed the coordinated CCRR/HHS/CCNC bi-monthly/quarterly meetings.

OCT

OCTOBER

- ▶ “Business Round Table” on child care facilitated by HHS and IEDA.
- ▶ Gap Funding support developed for Foster Care child care services.
- ▶ Released free 1st Aid and CPR training for child care providers.

NOV

NOVEMBER

- ▶ 2 New business incentive grants began.
- ▶ \$3 million awarded for child care wage enhancements across 9 communities.
- ▶ Launched the Child Care Collaborative of Iowa (CCCI) Online Business Library.

DEC

DECEMBER

- ▶ Released final stipend application.

2024 | January - December

FEBRUARY

- ▶ \$60 million in Child Care Provider Stipends funded by ARPA.

APRIL

- ▶ HHS extends paying for CCMS licenses through June 2025.

JULY

- ▶ Child Care Director presents testimony at US Senate Committee on Finance.
- ▶ New CCR&R contract implemented.
- ▶ Submitted "Red Tape Review" for 441.109 Child Care Center Rules.
- ▶ Implemented HF2658
 - Implement increased CCA Reimbursement Rates.
 - Extended CCA Pilot an additional year.

JAN

JANUARY

- ▶ Developed "Addendum" Policy for regulatory reports.
- ▶ Started (CCCI) family child care provider tax prep series.
- ▶ Received preliminary noncompliance from 2022 monitoring.

FEB

MAR

MARCH

- ▶ CCDF Final Rule Issued.

APR

MAY

MAY

- ▶ 2023 MRS/NCA Report was released.

JUN

JUNE

- ▶ Initiated Child Care Emergency Response Plan for the 2024 floods.
- ▶ Submitted 25-27 CCDF State Plan

JUL

AUG

AUGUST

- ▶ Release Child Care Connect and near-real time child care search function.

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