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STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF

**Health** AND **Human**

SERVICES

# Iowa's Child Care Landscape

**Ryan Page, Director of Child Care**

December 6, 2023

# HHS Serves

## Families and Communities

- Child Care Assistance (CCA)
- Oversight of child care facilities
- Supports to improve accessibility and quality of child care



## Child Care Providers

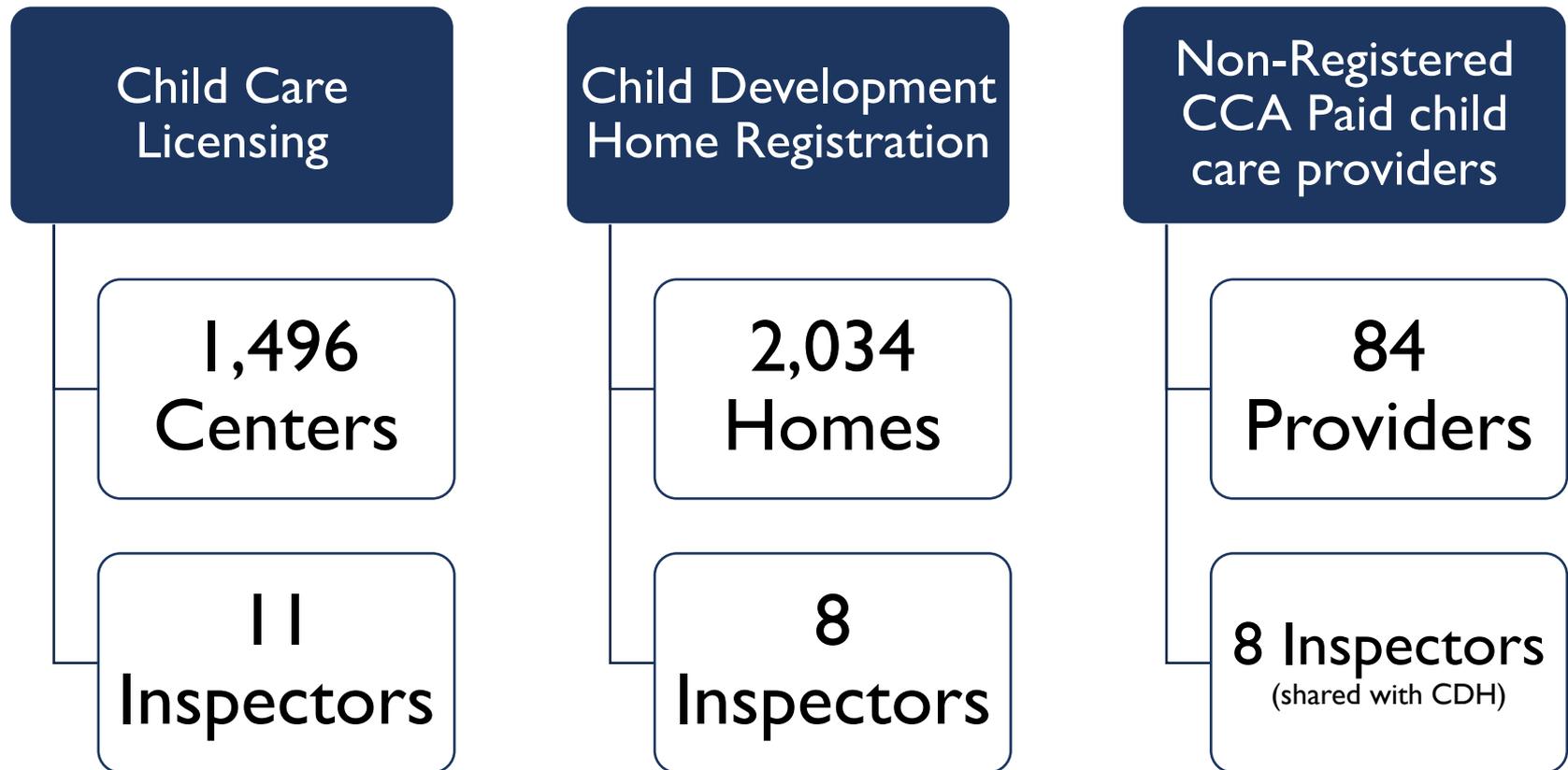
- Child Care regulation
- Supports for child care businesses
- Free and low-cost quality improvement activities



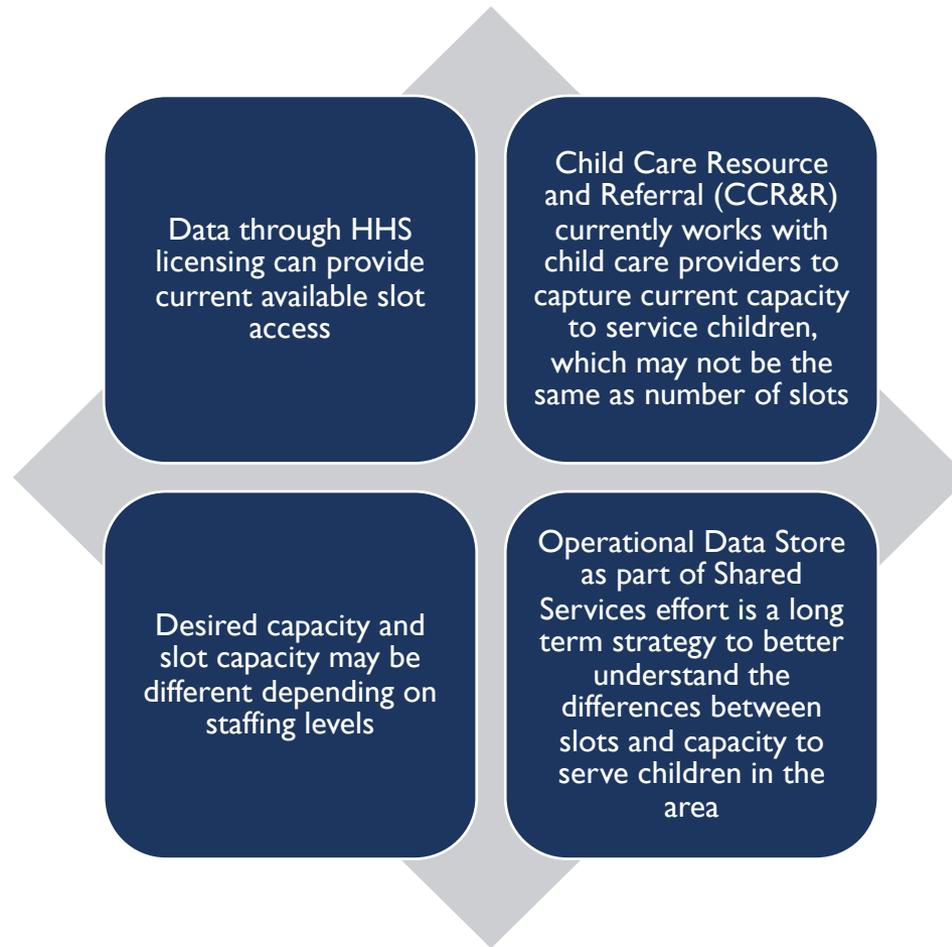
# Child Care



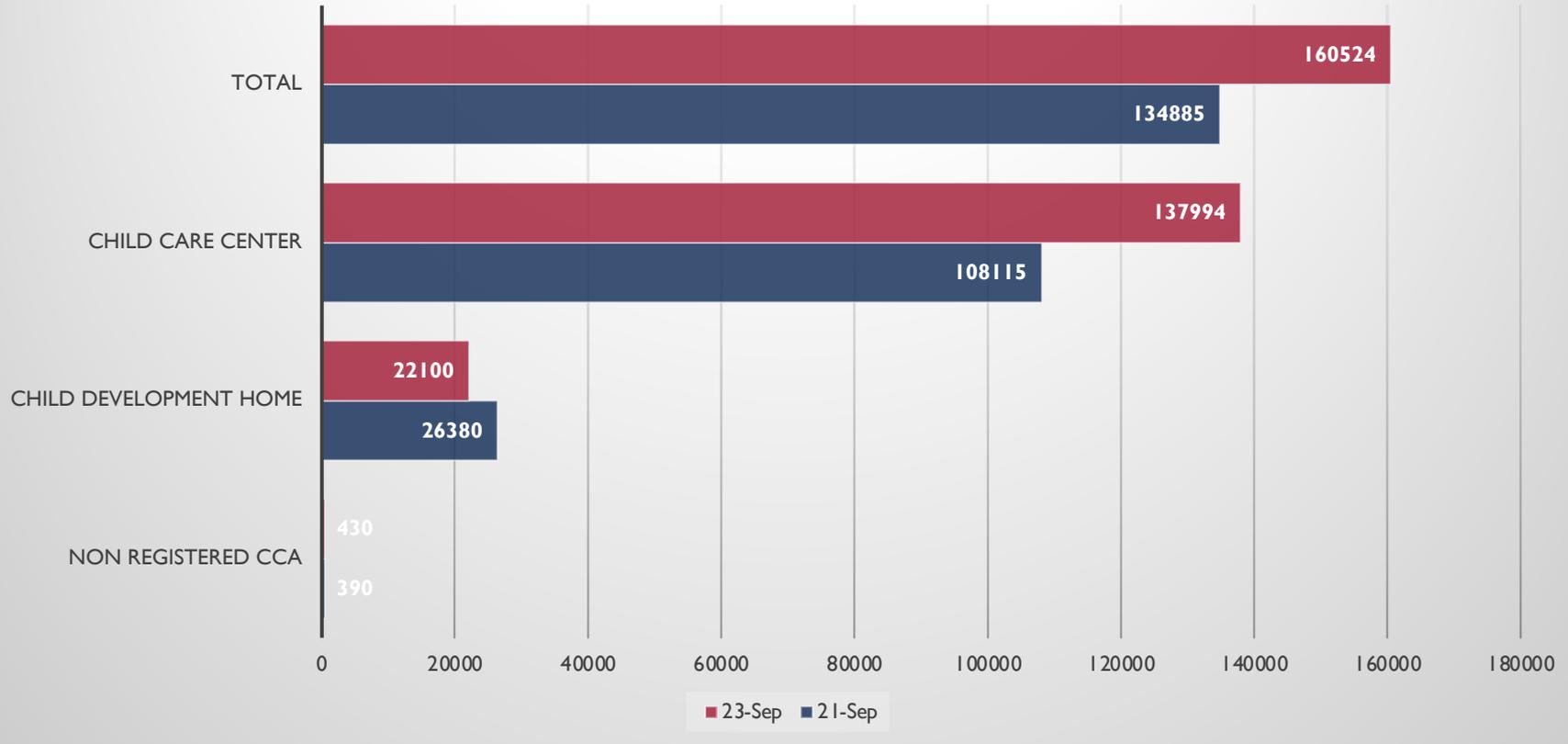
# Areas of Oversight



# Slots Versus Capacity



# Child Care Slot Capacity



## Current Slot Capacity

# Current Child Care Climate

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Quantity of Registered Child Development Homes is decreasing

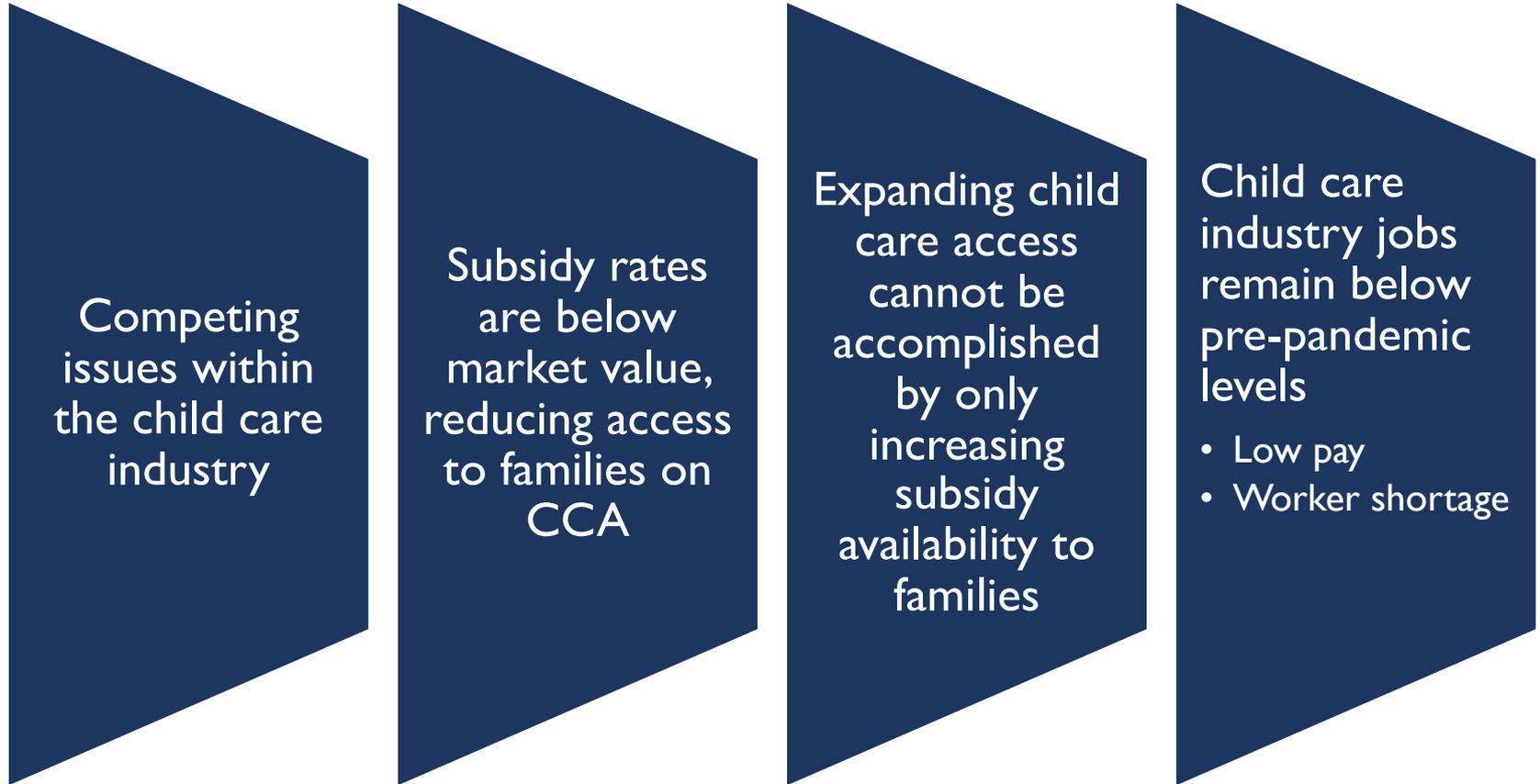
- Family Child Care decrease is a national trend

Licensed Child Care Centers are making up the slot difference through supports such as:

- Child Care Challenge Grants/Investing in Iowa's Child Care collaboration with IVD
- Recruitment and Retention Bonuses
- Increased allowable ratios

Staffing remains an issue, resulting in waiting lists for families

# Child Care System Barriers



# State Initiatives

# Legislative Initiatives: HF 707

## Initial Eligibility for Child Care Assistance (CCA) Program

- Solidified initial eligibility level in code
- Increased the “front door” from 145% to 160% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- For the average CCA family (1 parent & 2 children)
  - 145% FPL= \$36,047 per year or \$2,784 per month (approx. \$17.40/hr)
  - 160% FPL= \$39,776 per year or \$3,315 per month (approx. \$20.72/hr)

## Work Hour Requirement

- Increased minimum requirement from 28 to 32 hours per week
- If child has special needs the requirement remained at 28 hours per week

## CCA Provider Rates

- Solidified provider rates in code
- Increased rates from 50<sup>th</sup>-75<sup>th</sup> percentile to 65<sup>th</sup>-80<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2020 Market Rate Survey (MRS)
- Note: Federal regulations will require this code to be updated once the 2023 MRS is completed.

# Governor Initiatives



## Shared Services Project



## Free CPR & First Aid

Statewide for the child care workforce



## Repayment for IQ4K trainings

Programs reimbursed at \$20/hr for IQ4K mandated trainings their staff complete



## Support for Challenging Behavior

Training and coaching for child care staff to prevent and manage challenging behavior; leadership to use data and recognize patterns in challenging behavior to put systems in place to support their staff.



## Refugee Child Care

Support refugees to open their own Child Development Homes.  
Increases availability of culturally appropriate child care and refugees can help financially support their families.

# CCA Pilot

1-year pilot allowing child care workforce to apply for CCA for their own children with no family income limit

- Over 1100 children currently being served

Must be in a direct care position at the child care program

Must meet all other CCA eligibility requirements

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## Shared Services

- Child Care Management System (CCMS)
- Financial Management Consulting/Coaching
- Technology Grants
- Direct Data Bridge Connection to KinderTrack (KT)
- Data Bridges Through an Operational Data Store (ODS)
- Shared Services Alliances (SSA)
  - LSI-Polk, Woodbury and Plymouth
  - 4Cs-Johnson County



Opportunities  
Exchange

## **IOWA LEADS THE WAY:** How Modern Technology Can Improve Access to High-Quality Child Care

*By Louise Stoney*

*July, 2023*

# Market Rate Survey/Narrow Cost Analysis

## Federal Requirements HHS must complete:

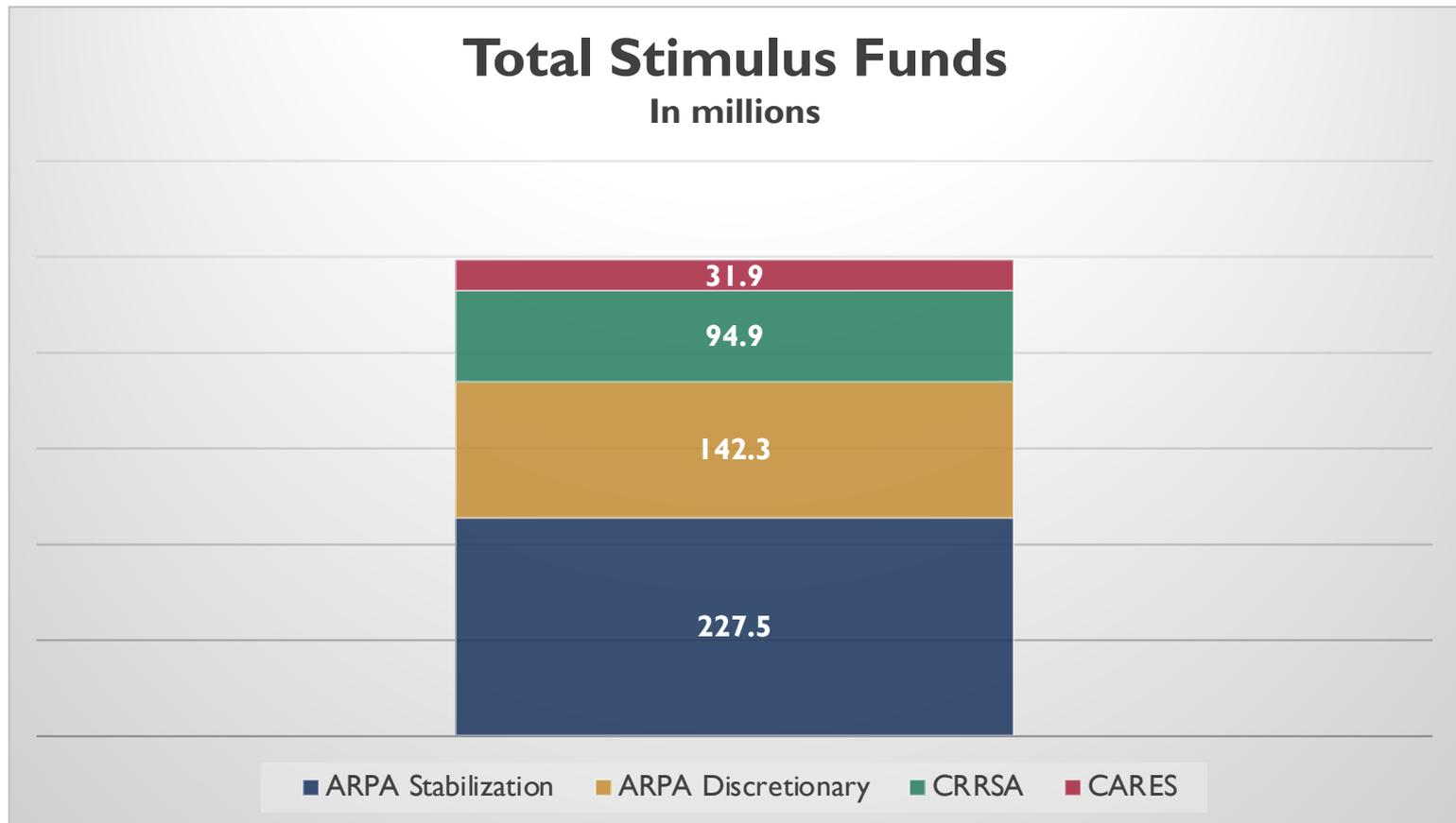
- Market Rate Survey (MRS)=survey of what providers charge families
- Narrow Cost Analysis (NCA)=analysis of what it costs providers to deliver child care services to families
- Note: emerging national data would suggest NCA numbers will be greater than MRS numbers.

## 2023 MRS/NCA

- Contract with ISU to collect and analyze the data and draft the report
- Will have a 1-pager with numbers ready for 2024 legislative session
- Full report will come out in May 2024

# Stimulus Funding

# Stimulus Spending Update



# ARPA CCDF Supplemental Discretionary Funds

Multi-pronged approach to  
continue to support:

Child care facilities and daily  
operations

Families seeking child care

Businesses that have employees  
who rely on child care in order to  
work

All funds must be paid out by  
9/30/24

# Locating Child Care

# How to Find Child Care



[Provider Search Tool](#)



[Review Compliance  
and Complaint  
Reports](#)



[Additional Resources  
for Families](#)

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## Child Care Resource and Referral

- <https://iowaccrr.org/>
- Supports quality child care throughout Iowa
- available to assist families in selecting child care providers who best meet the needs of a child and their family
- provide on-site consultation to licensed preschools, centers, nonregistered home providers and Child Development Home providers



**LOOKING FOR  
CHILD CARE?**

Connect with CCR&R's Parent Service Team for your **FREE** child care referral!

**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!**

 **855-244-5301**  [www.iowaccrr.org](http://www.iowaccrr.org)

Funding provided by the Iowa Department of Human Services through the Child Care Development Fund.

# Business Engagement and Solutions

# 50/50 Business Incentive Grant

- 8 current contracts with businesses, additional contracts are being secured
- Businesses contract with child care facilities to offer child care for employees
- HHS reimbursements 50% of the cost to the business





# Child Care Solutions Funds

- HHS has contracted with communities to support and/or develop Child Care Solutions Funds
- 9 communities secured over \$1.5 million in private and business investment
- HHS awarded over \$3 million
- Supports wage enhancements and recruitment and retention of child care workforce.
- IWF Child Care Solutions Consultation
  - 150 businesses and 70 communities
  - Gaining national media attention and several states are seeking to replicate Iowa's Child Care Solutions work

Questions  
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