
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

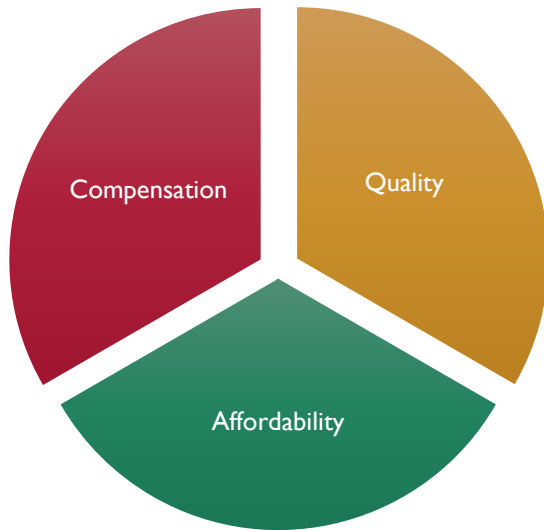


Child Care Providers

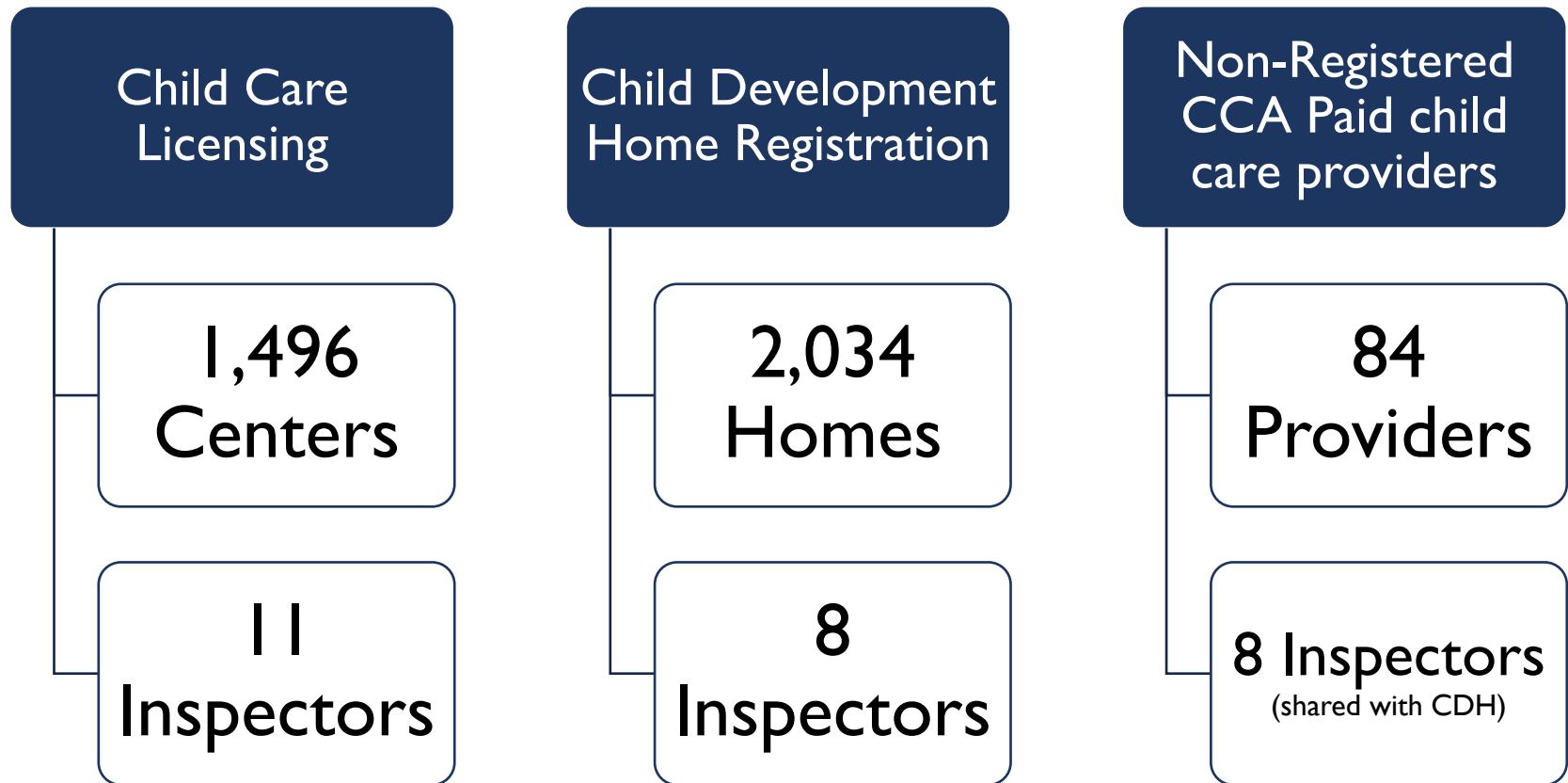
- Child Care regulation
- Supports for child care businesses
- Free and low-cost quality improvement activities



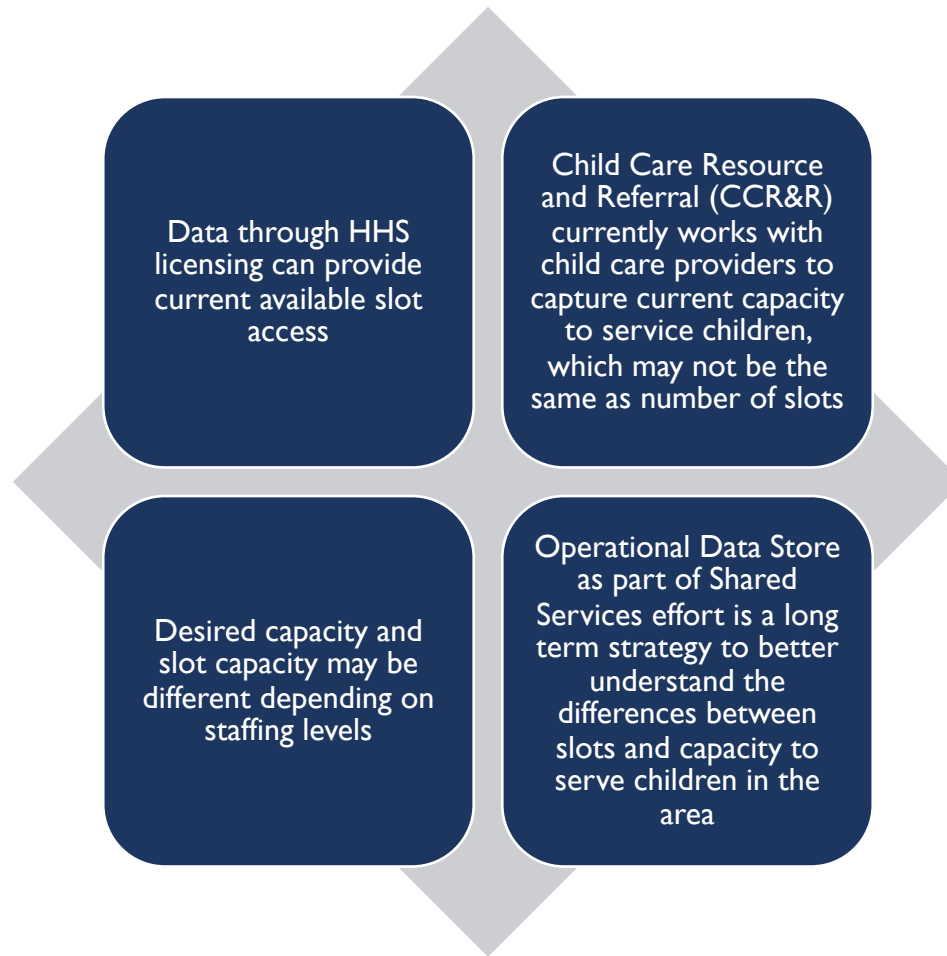
Child Care



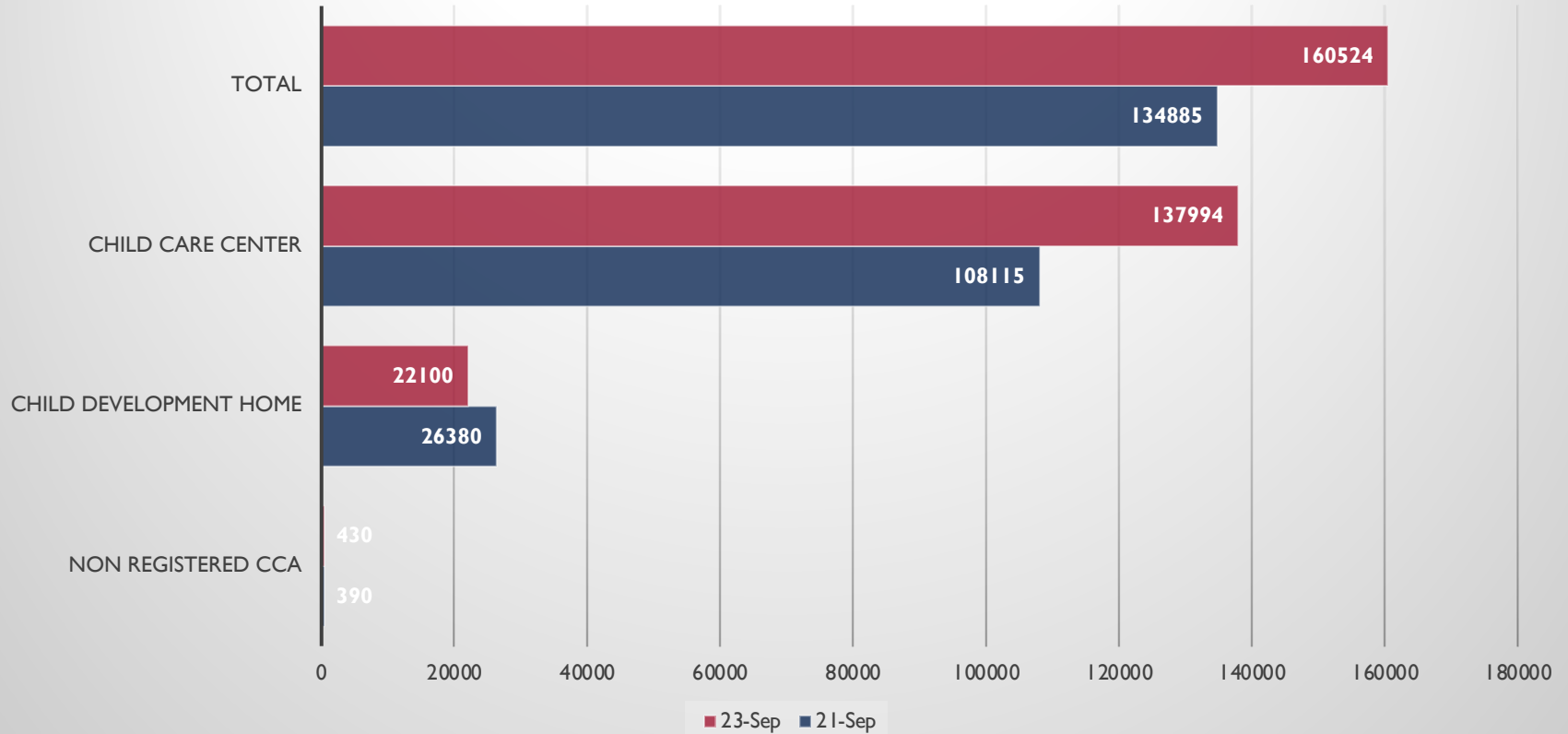
Areas of Oversight



Slots Versus Capacity



Child Care Slot Capacity



Current Slot Capacity

Current Child Care Climate

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

Competing
issues within
the child care
industry

Subsidy rates
are below
market value,
reducing access
to families on
CCA

Expanding child
care access
cannot be
accomplished
by only
increasing
subsidy
availability to
families

Child care
industry jobs
remain below
pre-pandemic
levels

- Low pay
- Worker shortage

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 50th-75th percentile to 65th-80th 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

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:

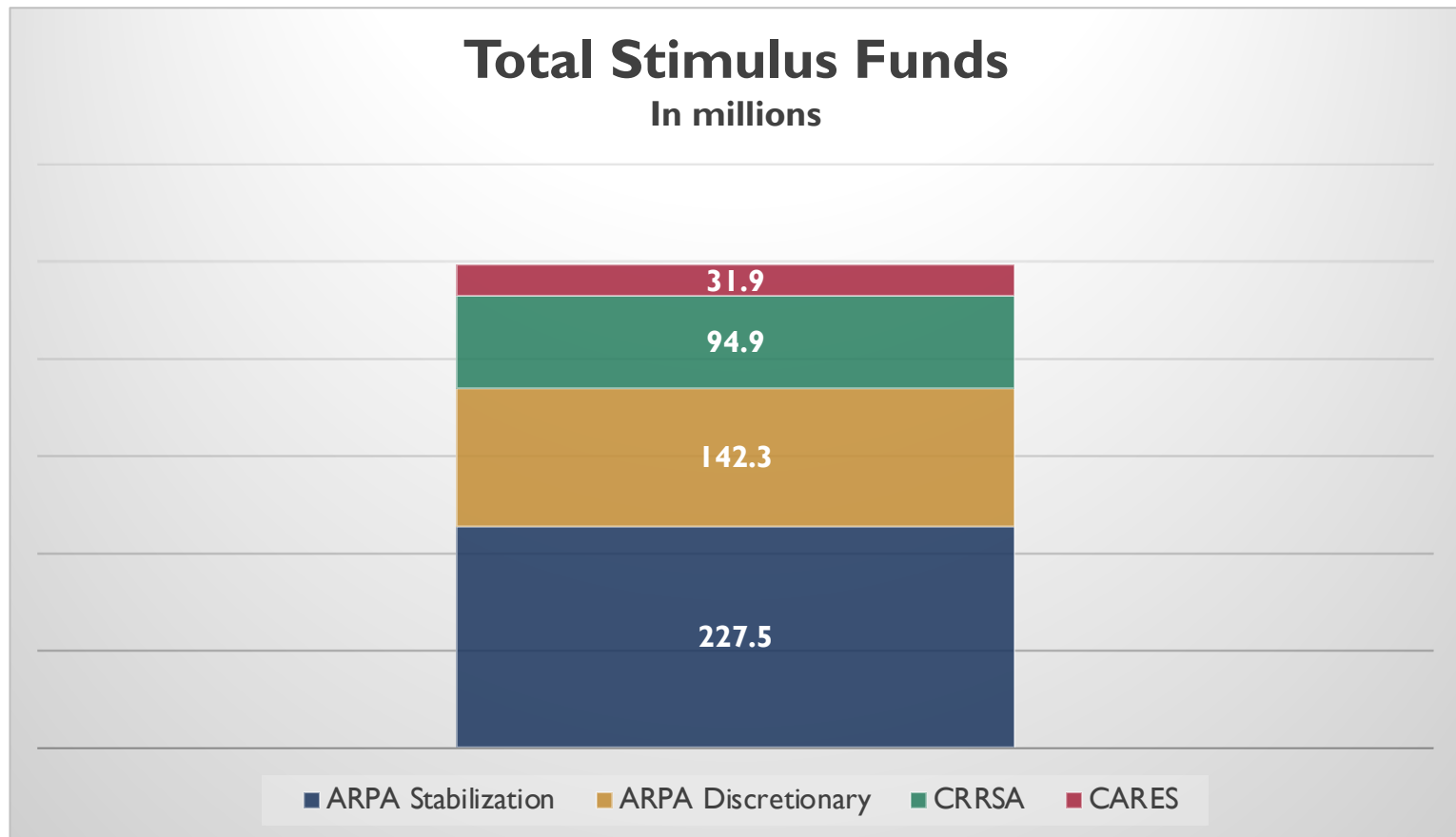
- Market Rate Survey (MRS)=survey of what providers charge families
- Narrow Cost Analysis (NCA)=analysis of what it costs providers to deliver child care services to families
- Note: emerging national data would suggest NCA numbers will be greater than MRS numbers.

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

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

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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