



Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds
Governor

Adam Gregg
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven
Director

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New Training Available In-Person, Online for Child Care Providers

More Than 15,000 Providers Completed the Series

(Des Moines, Iowa) - As a result of the [re-authorization of the federal Child Care Development Block Grant](#) (CCDBG) Iowa changed child care requirements to include preservice/orientation training requirements on health and safety topics for all child care providers.

The 12-hour "Essentials Series" offered by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) through partnerships with Healthy Child Care Iowa, ISU Extension and Outreach, and Child Care Resource and Referral began in September 2016, with face-to-face and online options available at no cost to child care providers.

Over 15,000 providers involved in child care have completed the series. To be registered as a child care provider in Iowa, providers must have the training completed by September 30, 2017. New providers are required to complete the training before registration is approved, and existing providers must finish the training before registration will be renewed. Annual inspections of programs review for compliance with the new requirement.

The training includes minimum health and professional development training in areas such as use of safe sleep practices, emergency preparedness, administration of medication and prevention and control of infectious disease.

"Child care providers and our many resource, referral and training partners have been getting the word out about this important new training," said Ryan Page, Child Care Regulatory Program Manager for DHS. "We've tried to make accessing the training and resources, online or in person, as easy as possible so that our providers, and the families they serve, benefit from these essential skills."

Melissa Juhl, director with Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral (ICCR&R), a DHS partner, says child care providers are seeking help with emergency preparedness plans and professional development plans.

"Our knowledgeable staff have increased their consultations with child care providers," said Juhl. "This is good news for families who know their providers are getting the training they need to best care for their children."

Heidi Hotvedt, Child Care Nurse Consultant Healthy Child Care Iowa Coordinator with the Iowa Department of Public Health, said that child care nurse consultants have reported an increase in the number of requests for services such as planning for children with special health needs and consultation on medication administration policies and procedures.

Hotvedt said the combined effort and outreach is working.

"The collaboration between DHS, Healthy Child Care Iowa, Child Care Resource and Referral and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has been successful to support child care providers and has increased access to consultation services statewide," she said.

More information

Amy McCoy

amccoy@dhs.state.ia.us

515-281-4848