



Improve Iowa's Employment and Economic Security

Family Investment Program/PROMISE JOBS

Food Assistance

Child Care Assistance

Child Support Recovery

Family Investment Program



Purpose

Iowa's Family Investment Program (FIP) is a cash assistance program to support low-income families with children and to provide services for them to become self-sufficient.

Who Is Helped

The Family Investment Program helps people with minor children. Families must:

- Meet income and asset requirements.
- Be residents of Iowa.
- Be citizens or legally qualified non-citizens (such as refugees).
- Participate in work, training, or educational services to become self-sufficient.

69 percent of FIP households are one-parent families, while 6 percent include both parents.

25 percent of FIP households provide care to children of relatives. Some of these children are in the child welfare system. Others came to live with relatives as the result of voluntary arrangements with their parents.

The average FIP family is headed by a single Caucasian woman between 20 and 29 years old with a high school or equivalent education. The typical family has two children under the age of 6.

Benefits are limited to a five-year lifetime limit with exceptions in hardship cases.

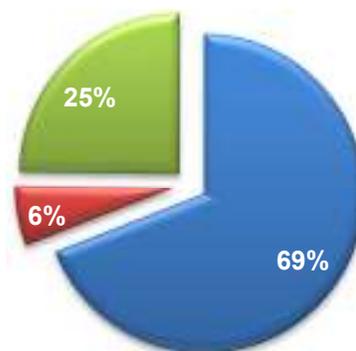
Average length of time on FIP:

- Single parent family: 21 months
- Two-parent family: 9 months
- Caretaker family: 29 months

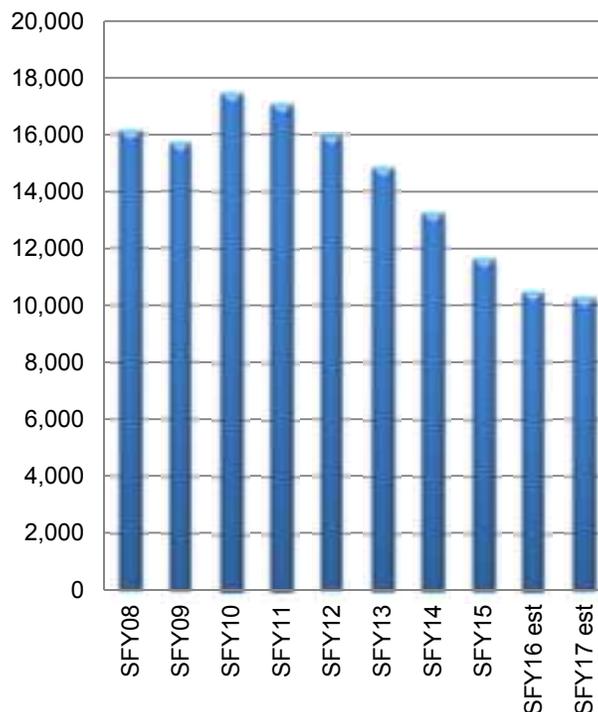
The FIP caseload is currently at a new modern-day low not seen since the late 1960's, when the program was known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

FIP Family Makeup SFY15

■ One-Parent (69%) ■ Two-Parent (6%) ■ Relative (25%)



FIP Average Monthly Cases



- ✓ *A parent with two children must have income after deductions below \$426/month, or \$5,112 annually, to qualify.*
- ✓ *In June 2015, over 90 percent of individuals receiving FIP also received Food Assistance and 94 percent received Medicaid.*
- ✓ *About 217 families currently have a hardship exemption from the five-year limit. Hardship determinations are revisited every six months.*
- ✓ *Every month, about 45 recipients are canceled because of the five-year lifetime limit.*

Services

The FIP appropriation funds the following:

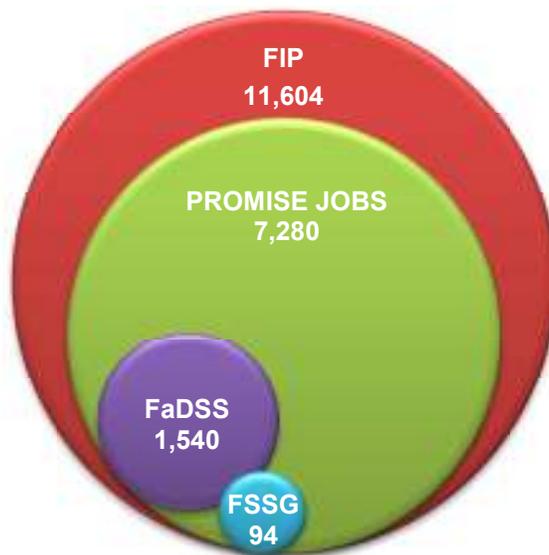
- Cash benefits. FIP cash benefits are provided on a monthly basis. Eligibility determination is made by DHS Field Operations staff. DHS staff also make referrals for the PROMISE JOBS program.
 - An average of 11,604 families a month received FIP in SFY15.

- PROMISE JOBS Program. The acronym stands for Promoting Independence and Self-Sufficiency through Employment, Job Opportunities, and Basic Skills.
 - DHS contracts with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) to provide PROMISE JOBS services.
 - This program provides training, education, and employment services. In addition, the program pays allowances for specified costs, such as transportation, related to participating in program activities.
 - The DHS Bureau of Refugee Services provides PROMISE JOBS services to FIP recipients with refugee status.
 - An average of 7,280 FIP families a month received PROMISE JOBS in SFY15.

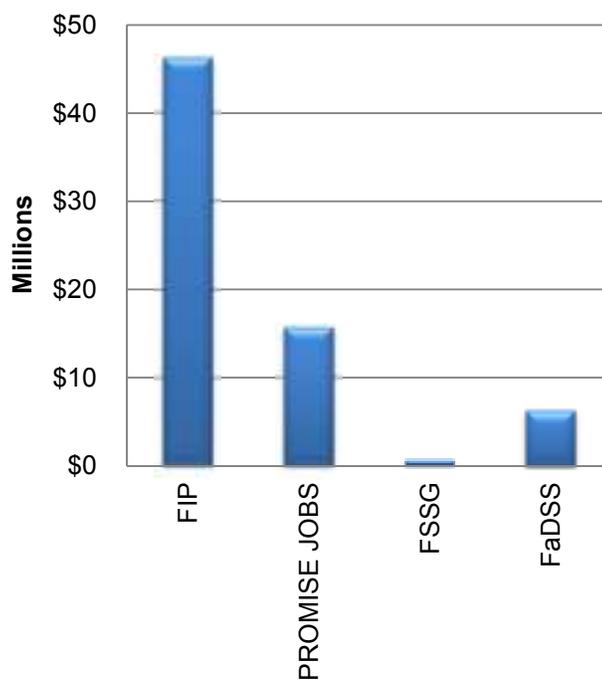
- Family Self-Sufficiency Grant (FSSG) Program.
 - DHS contracts with IWD to administer this grant program.
 - This grant program provides up to \$1,000 per family per year to pay for work related goods and services (e.g. car repair, clothing, and employment related certification requirements).
 - An average of 94 FIP families a month received this grant in SFY15.

- Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) Program.
 - The Department of Human Rights administers this program.
 - FaDSS provides intensive home-based case management services to PROMISE JOBS families who have barriers keeping them from achieving self-sufficiency.
 - An average of 1,540 FIP families a month received this service in SFY15.

Monthly Average Types of Services SFY15



Expenditures SFY15



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Before receiving a FIP grant, PROMISE JOBS participants must sign a self-sufficiency agreement identifying what they will do to become self-sufficient. ✓ FIP recipients receive their monthly cash benefits via an Electronic Access Card (EAC) that can be used anywhere a VISA debit card is accepted. Effective February 1, 2014, the department implemented policy to comply with federal legislation that prohibits participants from using their EAC at liquor stores, casinos, and adult entertainment venues in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state. 	
Goals & Strategies	<p>Goal: Help families become self-sufficient.</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an array of employment related supports. • Coordinate with IWD to improve work participation rates. • Participate as a mandatory partner in Iowa's one-stop centers. <p>Goal: Become more efficient in processing and evaluating applications.</p> <p>Strategy: Install a new eligibility computer system.</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In SFY15, 78.6 percent of people who left FIP stayed off the benefit program for at least a year. • Iowa's actual work rate for the first half of FFY15 exceeds the federal requirement by approximately 30 percentage points. • The DHS has selected a vendor to install a new eligibility system called the ELigibility Integrated Application Solution (ELIAS). The system will also generate Food Assistance and Medicaid eligibility and benefit calculations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The current system is outdated and requires significant duplicate entries and work-arounds. ○ ELIAS will utilize current technology architecture to enable more accurate and timely eligibility determinations; a more effective way to identify potential fraud and abuse; and an opportunity to link with online service applications. ○ In October 2013, the new system was implemented for a portion of the Medical Assistance programs. Work continues to add the remainder of the Medical Assistance programs, FIP, and Food Assistance to the new system.
Legal Basis	<p>Federal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title IV-A of the Social Security Act • Code of Federal Regulations 45 CFR 260 – 265 <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa Code, Chapter 239B • Iowa Administrative Code, 441 IAC 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, and 93 	

Food Assistance



Purpose

Food Assistance (FA), also known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is a federally funded program that provides food or benefits to purchase food for low-income Iowans.

Who Is Helped

Food Assistance

People eligible for Food Assistance must:

- Be residents of Iowa.
- Be citizens or legally qualified non-citizens (such as refugees).
- Have household incomes not to exceed 160 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of three, that equals a gross annual income of about \$31,000.

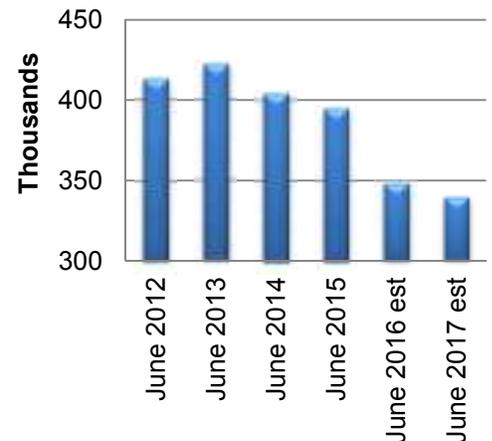
To provide more complete and accurate counts of households and recipients, DHS has made the following improvements, which are reflected in counts for SFY15 and future years:

- Counts are done mid-month following the report month rather than at the end of the report month as has been done in the past. For example, July counts are done mid-August.
 - About 2,000 households are in a closed status at the end of each month but are re-opened the following month.
 - Under the old counting method, these households would not be included and as a result, household and recipient counts have been understated.
- A new category for both households and recipients has been added based on participation in the Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (*hawk-i*) program.
- Recipient counts are now based on each household member's participation status in other programs rather than the household category. Under the old method, if a household was categorized as FA and FIP, all FA recipients would also be categorized and counted as FA and FIP regardless of actual FIP status.

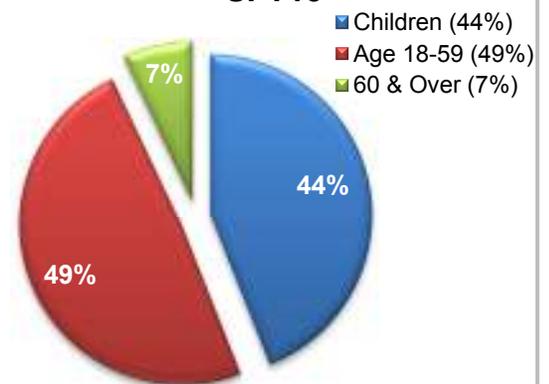
In SFY15:

- An average of 401,328 Iowans in 189,050 households received benefits every month, a 4.7 percent decrease from SFY14.
- 85 percent of FA recipients also receive Medicaid and/or Family Investment Program (FIP) benefits.
- The average recipient is a 26-year-old Caucasian female.

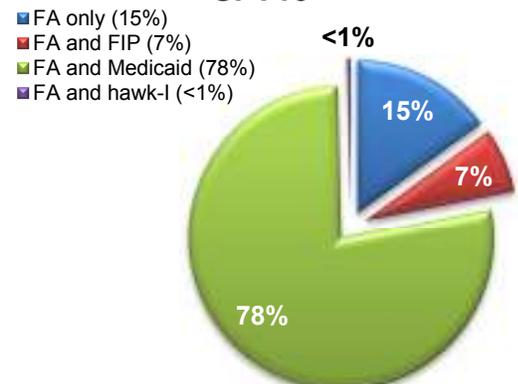
FA Recipients



Age of Recipients in SFY15



Recipients by Program in SFY15



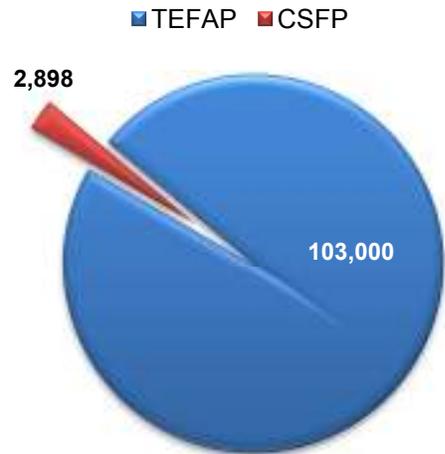
Supplemental Food Programs

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) provide food to low-income Iowans.

Due to a change in federal law, CSFP is now exclusively serving elderly, low-income Iowans. Low-income women and children, who were previously covered, are now being served by the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

- An average of 2,898 Iowans per month were served through CSFP and 865,588 pounds of commodities were distributed in SFY15.
- TEFAP served an average of 103,000 individuals per month and distributed 4.4 million pounds of food during SFY15.

Monthly Average Recipients of TEFAP and CSFP SFY15



- ✓ *Having children is not a requirement to receive Food Assistance benefits.*
- ✓ *People incarcerated more than 30 days are not eligible. Their families may continue to receive benefits if the household still meets eligibility requirements.*
- ✓ *Requirements under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) for individuals to obtain health care coverage and the increased availability of such coverage to Iowans under the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, have caused a shift in household and recipient counts from FA Only to FA Medicaid. By the time this shift is complete, expected December 2016, FA Only households are projected to account for only 10 percent of all households receiving Food Assistance as compared to over 33 percent of all household in December 2012.*

Services

Food Assistance

- Food Assistance benefits assure low-income Iowans have access to food.
- Benefits may only be used to purchase unprepared food and non-alcoholic beverages.
- All Food Assistance transactions occur electronically on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. The card does not have cash benefits and will not work at ATMs.
- EBT cards may be used to buy food from 120 farmers at 91 different farmers markets across Iowa. This provides easy access to the freshest food Iowa has to offer.

Supplemental Food Programs

- The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) distributes commodities directly to elderly recipients.
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) distributes food through food banks to low-income Iowans.



Average Benefits SFY15:

- **\$229.37** per month per household
- **\$108.05** per month per individual
- **\$3.55** per day per individual
- **\$1.18** per meal

Employment and Training Program

This is a voluntary program through Food Assistance offering job seeking skills, classroom training, and structured employment search.

DHS is partnering with Kirkwood Community College, DMACC, and Southwestern Community College to provide services to those seeking training for employment.

Nutrition Education

Written educational materials are provided to FA recipients to promote healthy food choices.

Farmers Markets EBT Sales



- ✓ *While Food Assistance may be used in any state, approximately 95 percent of benefits are used in Iowa or bordering states.*
- ✓ *DHS and the Department of Education partner to identify children who qualify for free school lunches based on the receipt of Food Assistance or FIP, or being in foster care.*
- ✓ *After a series of continuing resolutions extending the 2008 Farm Bill, the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) was signed into law in February 2014. In addition to reauthorizing the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides federal funds and benefits for the Food Assistance program, the Act included a number of changes to SNAP. The department determined that none of these changes had a significant impact on caseloads or benefits for Iowa households getting Food Assistance.*

Goals & Strategies

Goal: Improve efficiency and accuracy.

Strategies:

- Continue monitoring and training on key causes of errors.
- Implement new benefit eligibility and payment system.

Goal: Assure benefits are issued timely.

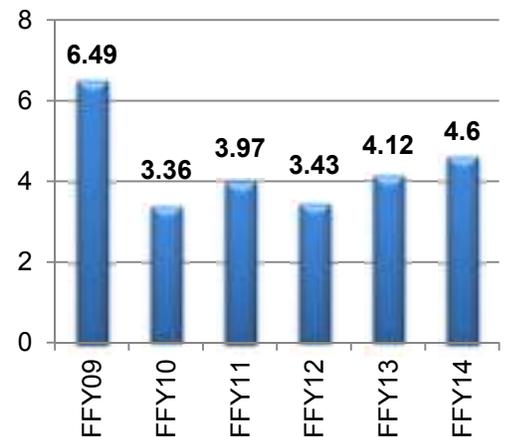
Strategy: Monitor performance.

Goal: Prevent fraud and abuse.

Strategies:

- Implement new methods to identify potential misuse of EBT cards.
- Identify and cancel benefits for ineligible individuals who are incarcerated.

Percentage of Error Calculating Benefits



DHS has selected a vendor to install a new eligibility system called the ELigibility Integrated Application Solution (ELIAS) to perform Medicaid, FA, and FIP eligibility functions. This system will also generate

		<p>FIP benefits and Medicaid eligibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current eligibility system is outdated and requires significant duplicate entries and work-arounds. • ELIAS will utilize current technology architecture to enable more accurate and timely eligibility determinations; more effective ways to identify potential fraud and abuse; and opportunities to link with online service applications. • In October 2013, the new system was implemented for a portion of the Medical Assistance programs. Work continues to add the remainder of the Medical Assistance programs, FIP, and Food Assistance to the new system.
<p>Legal Basis</p>	<p>Federal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Federal Regulations: 7 CFR 272.2 • The Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79). • Section 6 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2014 as amended by P.L. 113-79 <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa Administrative Code, 441 IAC 65 	

Child Care Assistance



Purpose

The Child Care Assistance (CCA) Program supports low-income families with working parents, parents gaining work skills, or parents going to school. In addition to paying for child care, this appropriation supports the regulation of child care providers and quality improvement activities.

Who Is Helped

Child Care Assistance provides financial assistance for children under the age of 13 in:

- Families whose parents are: (1) working at least 28 hours per week; or (2) in school full time; or (3) are working and in school for a combined minimum of 28 hours per week; and (4) have income below 145 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- Families with children with special needs where parents are working or are in school full time with incomes up to 200 percent FPL.
- Families receiving Family Investment Program benefits and are participating in PROMISE JOBS (PJ).

Protective Child Care is available to children who have been abused or neglected.

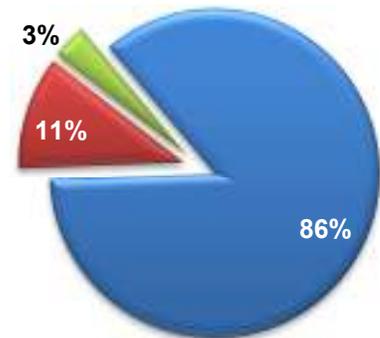
In SFY15, 38,681 children were served.

- A monthly average of 21,205 children received a child care service, a 6.3 percent decrease from SFY14.
- Caseloads for Child Care Assistance, PROMISE JOBS, and Protective Child Care are expected to decrease in SFY16. Caseloads for all three groups are expected to remain at SFY16 levels in SFY17.

The average CCA child is under age five, has one sibling, and lives in a one-parent family. The parent is working. The family income is below 100 percent of the FPL and therefore does not have a co-pay for services.

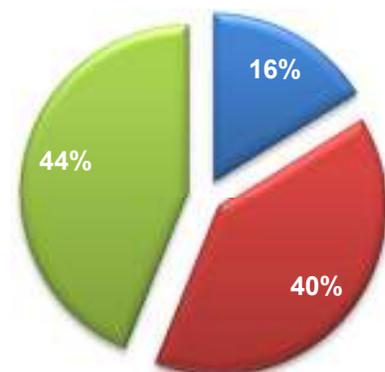
Number of Children Served SFY15

- CCA (86%)
- PROMISE JOBS (11%)
- Protective (3%)



Ages of Children Served SFY15

- Infant and Toddlers (16%)
- Preschool Age (40%)
- School Age (44%)



- ✓ *The 2015 Federal Poverty Level for a family of three is \$20,090. A family of three can earn up to \$29,136 annual gross wages and remain eligible for CCA.*
- ✓ *In SFY15, 94.7 percent of families needing child care were employed; this is no change from SFY14.*

Services

The Child Care Assistance program allows parents to choose their child care provider. Providers include:

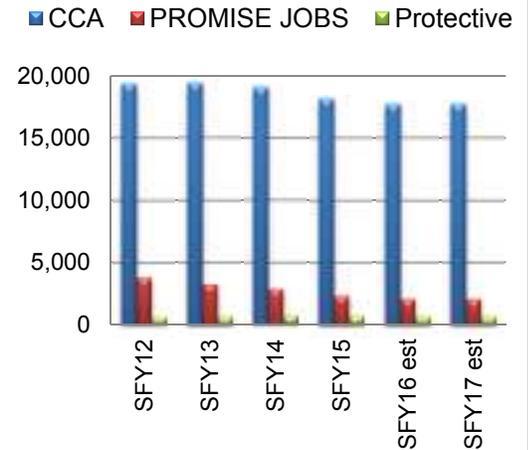
- 1,366 licensed child care centers.
- 3,397 registered child care development homes. In-home providers caring for six or more children at one time must register.
- 1,450 legally operating, non-registered providers who receive payment under the CCA program. Providers caring for five or fewer children at one time are not required to be regulated.

Activities other than child care assistance funded by this appropriation:

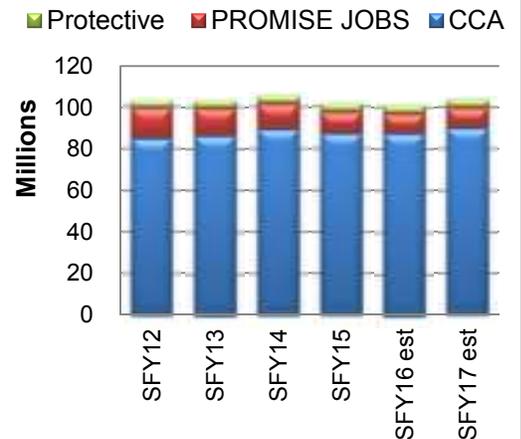
- The five Child Care Resource and Referral contracts and the 17 wraparound child care contracts. Both increase access to quality services/providers. Management and oversight of these contracts is performed by General Administration staff.
- The Quality Rating System (QRS) which identifies and promotes quality in child care services. The QRS is voluntary for providers. Management and oversight for this program is performed by General Administration staff.
- Regulatory activities which are carried out by Field Operations and General Administration staff.

In addition, Child Care Assistance and Protective Child Care eligibility and payment activities are performed by DHS Field Operations. PROMISE JOBS child care eligibility activities are performed by Iowa Work Force Development staff.

Average Monthly Number of Children Served



Expenditures By Type



- ✓ *More than 82 percent of child care bills are submitted electronically.*
- ✓ *100 percent of child care centers are visited annually.*
- ✓ *In working toward a target of monitoring 100% of child development homes, 84% had on-site visits last year.*

Goals & Strategies

Goal: Improve Iowans' Employment and Economic Security

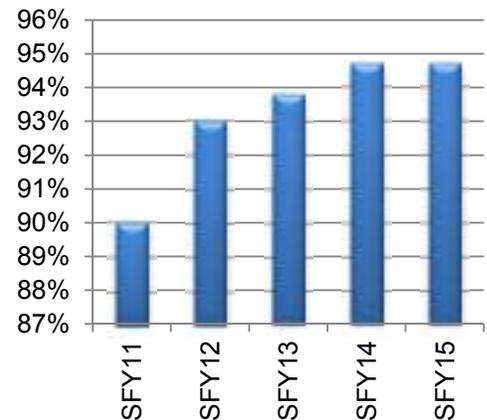
Strategies:

- Provide child care assistance to support working families.
- Promote the use of quality child care services.
- Ensure child care payments are made timely.

SFY15 Results

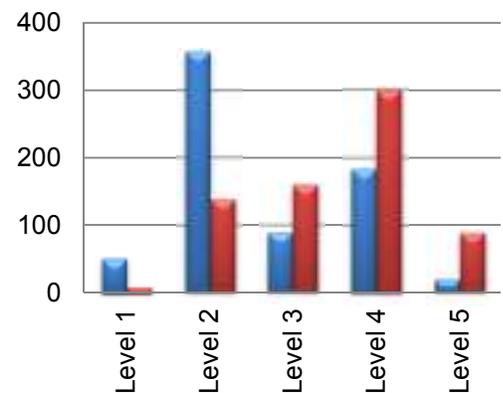
- 94.7 percent of families paid under CCA received assistance due to employment.
- 91 percent of children were cared for in regulated settings.
- 92 percent of all CCA expenditures were made to regulated providers.
- 99.7 percent of correctly submitted child care bills were paid within 10 days.

Percentage of CCA Families Employed



QRS Level Achieved June 2015

■ Child Development Homes (695 total)
 ■ Child Care Center (693 total)



- ✓ *The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014, "Reauthorization", establishes significant new policy direction across the subsidy, regulatory, and quality improvement components of the child care system. Funding increases over five years are authorized. Actual appropriations and allocations for individual states remain unknown. Final revised CCDF rules are yet to be issued to provide states further detail on meeting these new requirements.*
- ✓ *Federal funding for CCDF is partially subject to annual sequestration reductions required under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA, P.L. 112-25). The impact of future sequestration is unknown and has not been included in CCDF funding estimates.*

Legal Basis

Federal:

- Section 418 of Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, as amended
- Title VI of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
- Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant Act of 2014
- Code of Federal Regulations 45, Parts 98 and 99

State:

- Iowa Code, Chapters 237A and 256I

Child Support Recovery Unit



Purpose

The Child Support Recovery Unit assists custodial parents to receive court-ordered child support payments. Recoveries also reimburse taxpayers for the cost of public assistance (welfare).

Who Is Helped

Eligibility for services:

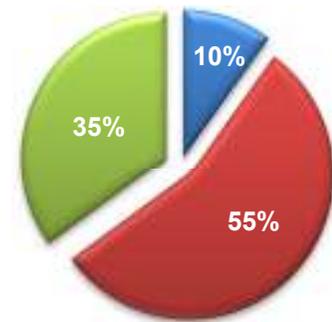
- All people who receive public cash assistance from the Family Investment Program (FIP). Recoveries reimburse government benefits.
- All people who pay a one-time fee (\$25) for help in recovering court-ordered support.

Number served:

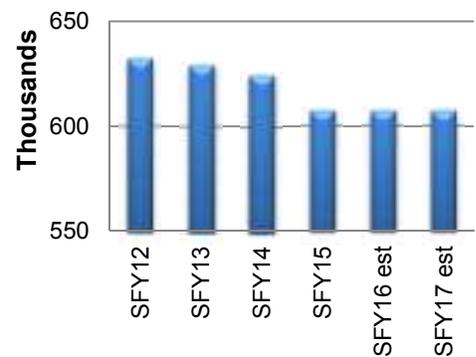
- In SFY15, CSRU served 606,961 parents and children on 172,432 cases. Of these:
 - 10 percent receive FIP.
 - 55 percent formerly received FIP.
 - 35 percent never received FIP. These people asked for the state's help in collecting child support and paid a one-time \$25 fee.
- Caseloads are projected to remain level through SFY17.
- During SFY15, in cases where support had been established or modified by CSRU, the median annual income of a custodial parent served by CSRU was \$14,544. For noncustodial parents served by CSRU, the median annual income was \$19,824.

Who Receives Child Support SFY15

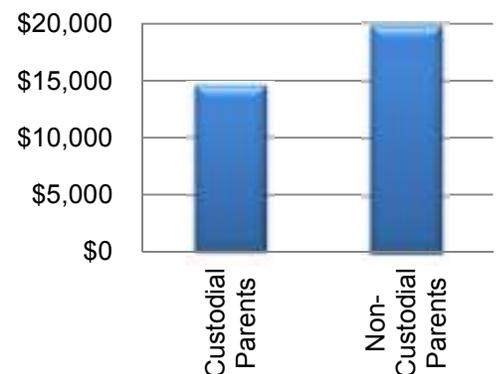
- Now Receiving FIP (10%)
- Former FIP (55%)
- Never FIP (35%)



Number of Parents and Children Served



Median Annual Income for CSRU Families in SFY15



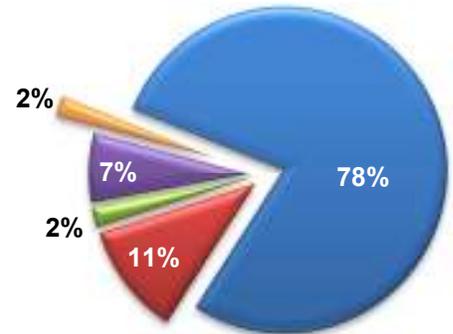
- ✓ *In SFY15, \$19.3 million in collections went to state and federal governments to offset the cost of public assistance.*
- ✓ *9 percent of custodial parents served by CSRU are male.*

Services

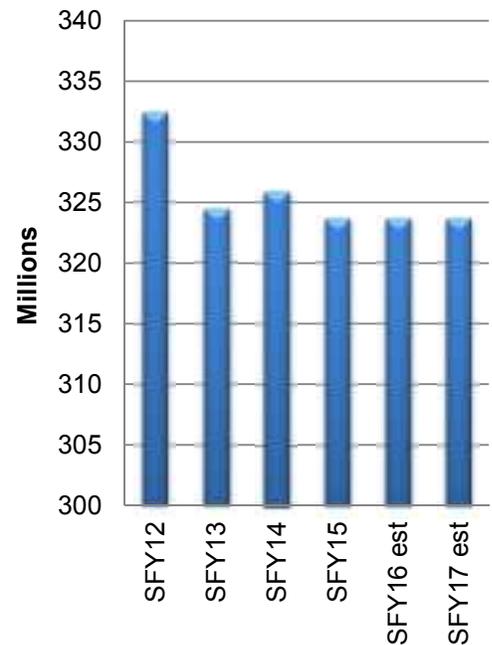
- The CSRU helps parents establish paternity and support orders and enforces orders for support. Child support collections help families with children become self-sufficient.
- Customers are served by 22 field offices, a centralized employer call center, the Collection Services Center, and a central operations unit.
- CSRU sent 163,460 income-withholding notices to employers in SFY15. Seventy-eight percent of collections come from employer withholdings.
- Trend: There has been an increase in withholdings from employers and the benefits collected from unemployment benefits appears to have leveled off to pre-recession amounts.
- In SFY15, the Collection Services Center (CSC) processed 2,862,322 child support payments, totaling \$323.6 million.
- In SFY15, the CSRU filed 8,086 affidavits establishing paternity, 5,674 orders establishing paternity and support, and 4,791 modifications of support orders.

Child Support Collections SFY15

- Income Withholding (78%)
- Other (11%)
- Unemployment Benefits (2%)
- Tax Offsets (7%)
- License Sanctions (2%)



Total Child Support Collections



- ✓ *The average child support collected during SFY15 was \$172.83 a month.*
- ✓ *Child support helps address part of the estimated \$951 per month it costs to raise a child.*
- ✓ *In SFY16, 65 percent of the Child Support Recovery Unit operating budget is for staffing costs and 35 percent is for the support costs.*

Goals & Strategies

Goal: Secure financial and emotional support for children from both parents.

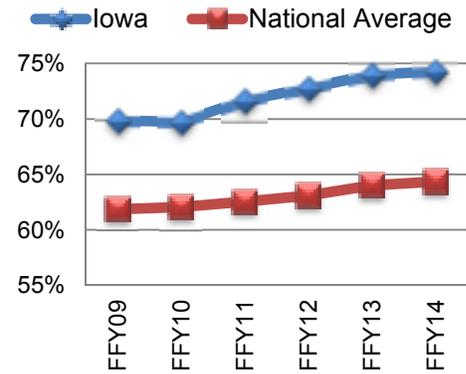
Strategies:

- Collect child support in the month it is due. Timely support is essential to family self-sufficiency.
- Make it easy for employers to deduct child support from wages.

Results:

- In SFY15, CSRU collected 74 percent of current support in the month due. Iowa routinely exceeds the national average.

Support Collected in the Month Due



- CSRU collected \$251.8 million from employers in SFY15. Iowa was the first state to operate one-stop service center for employers.

Legal Basis

Federal:

- 42 U.S.C. §602(a)(2) Additionally, in accordance with TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements at 42 U.S.C. §609(a)(8) and §652(g)

State:

- Iowa Code, Chapters 252B, 252C, 252D, 252E, 252F, 252H, 252I, 252J, 252K
- Iowa Administrative Code, 441 IAC 95, 96, 97, 98 and 99