

## **Improve Iowans' Employment and Economic Security**

**Family Investment Program/PROMISE JOBS  
Food Assistance  
Child Care Assistance  
Child Support Recovery**

# Family Investment Program

## DESCRIPTION

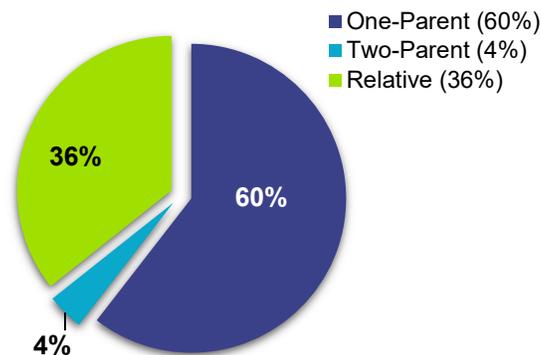
Iowa's Family Investment Program (FIP) is a cash assistance program to support low-income families with children and to provide services to assist them in becoming self-sufficient.

## WHO IS HELPED

FIP 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.

**FIP Family Makeup SFY20**



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

- Every month, about 20 recipients are canceled because of the five-year lifetime limit.
- 79 families currently have a hardship exemption from the five-year limit. This is less than two percent of the FIP caseload.

The average length of time a family receives benefits is:

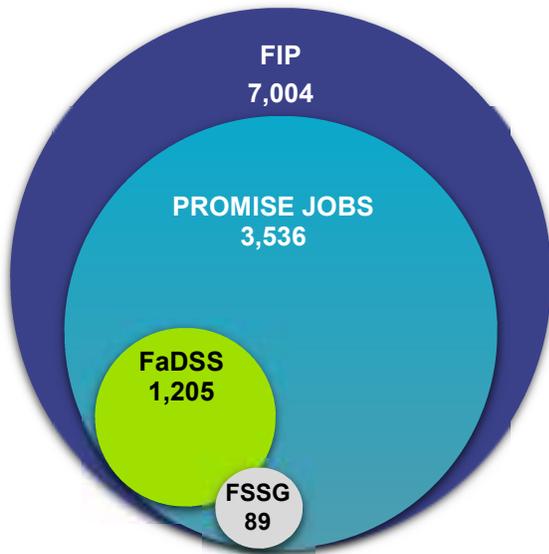
- Single parent family: 20 months
- Two-parent family: 7 months
- Caretaker family: 31 months

FIP funds the following services:

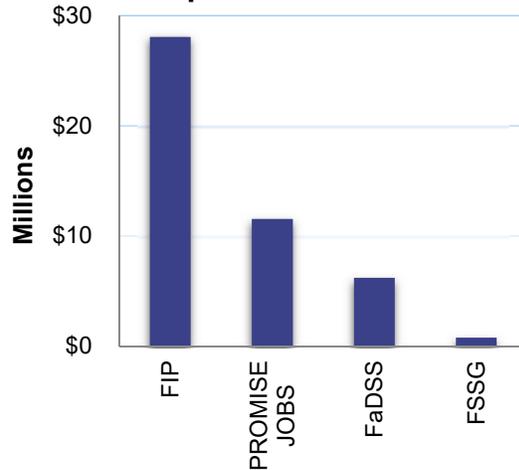
- Cash benefits, provided on a monthly basis.
  - An average of 7,004 families a month received FIP in SFY20.
- PROMISE JOBS Program. The acronym stands for Promoting Independence and Self-Sufficiency through Employment, Job Opportunities, and Basic Skills.
  - Before receiving a FIP grant, PROMISE JOBS participants must sign a self-sufficiency agreement identifying what they will do to become self-sufficient.
  - 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 a refugee status.
- The program goal is to help families become self-sufficient
- An average of 3,536 FIP families a month received PROMISE JOBS services in SFY20.
  
- 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 89 FIP families a month received this grant in SFY20.
  
- Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) Program.
  - The Department of Human Rights (DHR) administers this program.
  - FaDSS provides intensive home-based case management services to PROMISE JOBS families who have barriers keeping them from achieving self-sufficiency.
  - FaDSS is an example of a “Two-Generation” program designed to disrupt the poverty cycle by meeting the needs of both children and their parents simultaneously.
  - An average of 1,205 FIP families a month received this service in SFY20.
  - Beginning in SFY20, DHR began providing FaDSS services to non-FIP families in select areas of the state. At least 90 percent of all families receiving FaDSS services must be currently receiving FIP or have received FIP within the last seven months.

**Monthly Average Types of Services SFY20**



**Expenditures SFY20**



- The FIP budget includes funding to provide tax preparation assistance to low-income lowans for the express purpose of expanding use of the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). By reducing a household’s tax liability and in many cases even paying a refund, the EITC encourages work by increasing the amount of income available to meet household expenses.

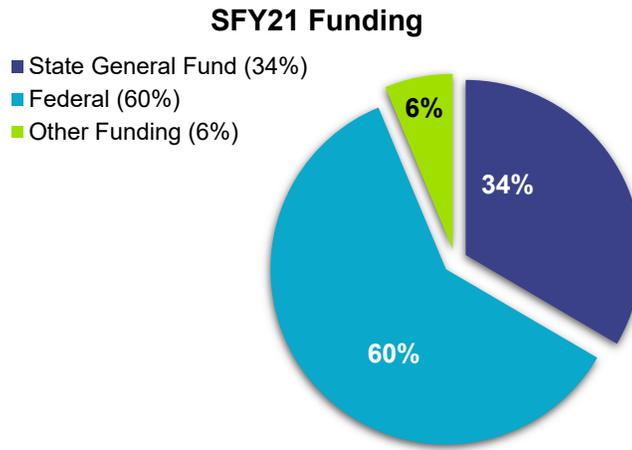
## COST OF SERVICES & FUNDING SOURCES

- The average SFY20 annual benefit per FIP recipient was \$1,682.
- The average SFY20 annual cost of service per-person in the PROMISE JOBS program was \$2,706.
- The average SFY20 annual cost per family receiving FSSG assistance was \$644.

FIP is funded by state general funds, federal funds, including TANF, and other funding from child support recovery and intrastate transfers.

The SFY21 total FIP budget is \$119,638,853

- \$40,003,978 (34 percent) is state general funds.
- \$72,121,020 (60 percent) is federal funds.
- \$ 7,513,855 (6 percent) is other.



# Food Assistance

## DESCRIPTION

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

## WHO IS HELPED

### Food Assistance

Provides Food Assistance benefits to ensure low-income lowans have access to food.

People eligible for Food Assistance must:

- Be residents of Iowa.
- Be citizens or legally qualified non-citizens (such as refugees).
- Have a household income not to exceed 160 percent of the federal poverty level.

Recipient data:

- The average recipient is a 28-year-old Caucasian female.
- 54 percent of recipients are under age 18 or over age 59.
- Recipients and benefits have decreased every year since SFY14; COVID-19 and derecho impacts are being experienced.
- An average of 312,866 lowans in 152,297 households received benefits every month; this is a 5.8 percent decrease from SFY19.

### Food Distribution Programs

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

TEFAP provides commodity foods through food pantries and meal sites statewide to residents of Iowa whose income does not exceed 185% of poverty. CSFP provides commodities in six Iowa counties to persons ages 60 and over whose income does not exceed 130% of poverty.

### Employment and Training Program

Food Assistance Employment and Training (E&T) is a voluntary program for FA recipients. The program offers recipients job seeking skills, classroom training, and structured employment search, at no cost to participants through partnerships with nine community colleges. Expansion of this program is in-process.

### Wireless EBT Program

This program provides farmers with wireless machines so they may process transactions for FA recipients at farmers markets and roadside stands. EBT cards may be used to buy food from farmers, farmers markets and roadside stands.

### Nutrition Education

SNAP Education (SNAP-Ed) teaches FA recipients about good nutrition and how to make their food dollars stretch further. SNAP-Ed participants also learn the importance of being physically active.

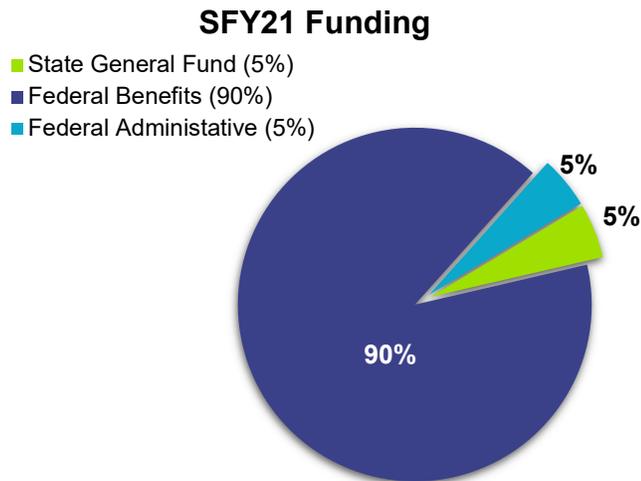
## COST OF SERVICES & FUNDING SOURCES

Food Assistance benefits and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) are funded entirely by federal dollars. Administrative costs are 50 percent state and 50 percent federal.

Nutrition Education, Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and the Employment & Training (E&T) program are funded entirely by federal dollars.

The SFY21 total projected budget is \$485,825,112:

- \$461,603,979 is federal
  - \$438,526,650 in benefits
  - \$23,077,329 in administrative costs
- \$24,221,133 in state general fund



# Child Care Assistance

## DESCRIPTION

The Child Care Assistance (CCA) Program supports low-income families with working parents, parents gaining work skills, and 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

CCA provides financial assistance for children under the age of 13 in families whose parents are:

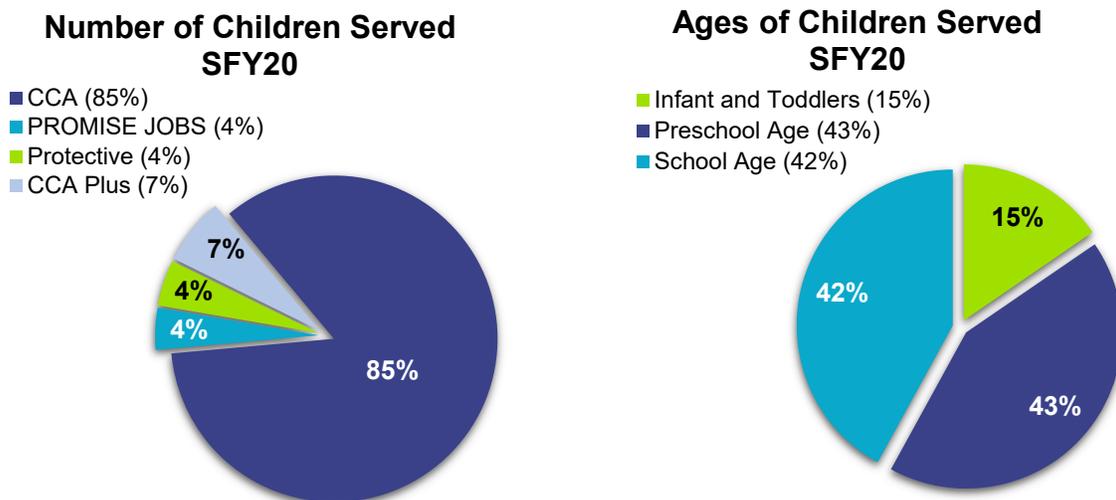
- working at least 28 hours per week; or
- in school full time; or
- working and in school a combined minimum of 28 hours per week; and
- have gross monthly income below 145% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) based on family size. A family of three (one adult and two children) can earn up to \$31,500 annually.

CCA is also available for children with special needs under age 19 in families whose parents work or are in school as described above, and have gross monthly income below 200% of the FPL.

Families receiving Family Investment Program (FIP) benefits and participating in certain PROMISE JOBS (PJ) activities can receive financial assistance for CCA.

Protective Child Care is available to children who have been abused or neglected and does not consider income for eligibility.

After a family is determined to be eligible for initial CCA, a review is performed every twelve months. If a family exceeds the initial eligibility threshold (145 or 200% FPL as applicable), they may continue to receive assistance with child care if their income does not exceed 225% FPL. When they exceed 145% FPL and are below 225% FPL, the program is called CCA Plus. A family of three can earn up to \$48,876 gross annual wages and remain eligible for CCA Plus child care assistance.



- ✓ *The average CCA child is under age five, has one sibling, and lives in a one-parent family; the parent is working and has a gross monthly income below 100% FPL.*
- ✓ *In SFY20, 92.8 percent of families paid under CCA received assistance while maintaining employment.*

## **COST OF SERVICES & FUNDING SOURCES**

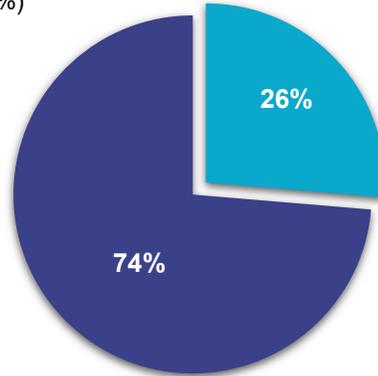
CCA programs are funded by state general funds and federal funds, including the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) block grant.

The total CCA budget for SFY21 is \$154,987,699:

- \$ 40,816,931 (26 percent) state general funds
- \$114,170,768 (74 percent) federal funds
- Includes carry forward of federal CCDBG funding from the prior year.

### **SFY21 Funding**

- State General Funds (26%)
- Federal Funds (74%)



# Child Support Recovery Unit

## DESCRIPTION

The Child Support Recovery Unit helps parents establish paternity and support orders and enforces orders for support. Child support collections help families become self-sufficient.

## WHO IS HELPED

Eligibility for services includes:

- All people who receive public cash assistance from the Family Investment Program (FIP). Collections also reimburse taxpayers for the cost of public assistance benefits.
- All people who ask for help in collecting court-ordered support.

## COST OF SERVICES & FUNDING SOURCES

The average annual cost for CSRU to provide services is \$368 per case.

The CSRU collects an average of \$2,362 annually per court-ordered case.

The Child Support Recovery Unit is funded by state dollars and federal funds, including a match via federal financial participation and federal incentives based on key performance areas.

The total budget for SFY21 is \$57,976,158:

- \$41,598,272 (71.8 percent) is federal funding.
- \$14,867,813 (25.6 percent) is state general fund.
- \$ 1,510,073 (2.6 percent) is other funding.

