



AGENDA			
DATE	FEBRUARY 17 TH 2026	TIME	5:00pm
LOCATION	<p>Online zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81349624904?pwd=XD5QeYElTbLmaTmdvyb60ACbImhZa.1 Meeting ID: 813 4962 4904 Passcode: 857602</p> <p>Mt Pleasant Public Library 307 E Monroe, Mt. Pleasant, IA. 52641 <i>(If circumstances require a virtual only meeting, then notice will be posted on the DHLW.org homepage.)</i></p>		

TIME		
5:00pm	Welcome/Introductions	
	Consent Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda for today’s meeting • Approval of minutes from January 20th 2025 • Administrative Update 	Action
	Public Comment (limit of 3 minutes per person)	
	Membership <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider acceptance of resignation/reassignment from Shawn Maine, Louisa Co Board of Supervisor 2. Consider approval of new member Kevin Hardin, Louisa County Board of Supervisor 	Action Action
	Financial Report – Treasurer <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Consider acceptance of current financial summary 	Action
	One-time Funding Request (Policy 4.9a) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Consider request from Little Lions Daycare for supplies & equipment 5. Consider request from The Family Connection for literacy activity. 6. Consider request from Ashley’s Childcare for safety related items. 7. Consider request from Creative Sprouts Champions Inc for one-time professional development funding. 	Action Action Action

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate in this event please contact the Director at 319-461-1369.

	<p>FY26 Contracts – Tasha Beghtol</p> <p>8. Consider approval of an amendment to the contract with Henry County Agricultural Extension for the SEI EC Project. Amendment to increase total compensation.</p> <p>9. Consider approval of an amendment to the contract with United Way of Muscatine for the Preschool Transportation program. Amendment to decrease total compensation.</p> <p>10. Consider approval of an amendment to the contract with United Way of Muscatine for the Imagination Library Program. Amendment to increase total compensation.</p> <p>11. Consider approval of allowing the DHLW+M Director to sign agreements related to services purchased for the 2026 SE IA Early Childhood Summit activities.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p>
	<p>Program Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental Program – Rachael Patterson Rahn • CCR&R Region 5 – Becky White 	<p>Information & discussion</p>
	<p>Administrative Update – Tasha Beghtol</p>	<p>Information & Discussion</p>

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate in this event please contact the Director at 319-461-1369.

DHLW+M Early Childhood Area

Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington, Muscatine

January 20th 2026

5:00pm

Mt Pleasant Public Library

307 E Monroe, Mt Pleasant IA. 52641

Zoom option: Meeting ID: 813 4962 4904 Passcode: 857602

Minutes

Members Present: Matt Latcham, Tricia Lipski, Cyndi Mears, Mike Steele, Melody Raub, Unity Stevens, Paris White

Members Absent: Shawn Maine, Stan Stoops, Jim Cary

Advisory members and guests present: Tasha Beghtol, Kevin Hardin, Ginger Knisley, Toni Krana, Jen Craft, Amy McLaughlin,

Yesenia Cruz, Kim Warren, Cheryl Flaatten, Linda Cavazos, Becky Beckner, Jacob Dornbush, Melissa Tucker

Meeting was called to order by Matt Latcham at 5:00pm with a quorum present.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda, November 18th 2025 minutes, and Admin update as presented.

Moved: Cyndi Mears **Seconded:** Mike Steele

Motion carried unanimously

Financial Report

Melody Raub reviewed the financial summaries, and the monthly postings report from Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center. The preschool related programs show a low spending percentage. Those programs are presenting later in the agenda and can share more about spending at that time.

Motion to accept the financial summary as presented.

Moved: Unity Stevens **Seconded:** Mike Steele

Motion carried unanimously

One-time Funding Requests (Policy 4.9a)

Tasha Beghtol reviewed a request from the Wayland childcare center for the purchase of strollers.

Motion to approve up to \$700 to the Wayland Area Childcare Organization for equipment.

Moved: Cyndi Mears **Seconded:** Unity Stevens

Motion carried unanimously

Tricia Lipski arrived at 5:13pm

Members reviewed the previously awarded grant to New London Community Child Care Center to make health & safety improvements. Tasha Beghtol shared that additional guidance was requested from the state office regarding this grant since it includes the purchase of faucets. ECI Areas are not allowed to fund real property, and faucets are a grey area. Members

discussed the overall project and agreed by consensus that the repairs meet a health & safety need, the faucets are general updates and would not add the same kind of value as a typical high-end residential renovation.

Motion to maintain the grant to New London Community Child Care Center for health & safety improvements as previously awarded.

Moved: Melody Raub **Seconded:** Mike Steele

Motion carried unanimously

FY26 Contracts

Preschool Coordination

Tasha Beghtol reviewed amendment language for the Preschool Scholarship Coordination contract with Cheryl Flaatten. This is a new fiscal process for these scholarships, paying preschools directly instead of through an agency. The state office asked that an amendment be considered to clarify process.

Motion to approve the contract amendment with Cheryl Flaatten for Scholarship Coordination as presented.

Moved: Melody Raub **Seconded:** Tricia Lipski

Motion carried unanimously

Mt Pleasant Childcare

The Mt Pleasant Community Childcare Center was awarded funding with the expectation of a December 1st 2025 contract start date. Tasha Beghtol noted that the center was to provide documentation ensuring that change in location was taking place as intended, prior to the start of the contract. The process is taking more time than anticipated with several partners and funding steps. The center has now provided documentation confirming the move and the contract may be implemented. The start date on the contract needs to be moved to February 1st 2026. There is no change to any other part of the contract.

Motion to approve changing the contract start date to February 1, 2026 with the Mt Pleasant Community Childcare Center and authorizing chair signature.

Moved: Cyndi Mears **Seconded:** Tricia Lipski

Abstention by Unity Stevens who recently enrolled her child in the center

Motion carried unanimously

Summit agreements

Tasha Beghtol shared updates about the SE IA Early Childhood Summit activities and expansion. The Mahaska/Wapello ECI Board has joined the collaboration. The Jim Gill concerts will now include Ottumwa, and he will provide the opening session for the conference. With the increased number of counties involved, the committee decided to move the conference to Fairfield for a larger venue. Jim Gill's total cost has increased requiring a more formalized contract. Members reviewed the agreement for services from Jim Gill in March and April and discussed the costs of renting the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center for the conference.

Motion to approve the agreement with Jim Gill Inc for 4 family concerts and one conference session at a cost of \$12,000.

Moved: Mike Steele **Seconded:** Unity Stevens

Motion carried unanimously

Additional discussion was held about the cost of renting the convention center. Tasha noted that the final cost will be based on the number of people who end up attending and the food bill. The total cost is estimated to be \$3200-3500 but could be higher if attendance is big.

Motion to approve the agreement with Fairfield Arts & Convention Center for the April 25th Early Childhood Conference and payment of the \$950.00 deposit.

Moved: Cyndi Mears **Seconded:** Mike Steele

Motion carried unanimously

Program Presentation

Muscatine Preschool Scholarships and Transportation

Yesenia Cruz from United Way of Muscatine County shared updates about the scholarship program and transportation. Scholarships are lower than last year with only 2 children, in part due to the new eligibility criteria for both participating programs and parents. Efforts to expand the transportation program have encountered various challenges. Discussion was held regarding potential unspent funds. The program will provide updated estimates to Tasha and the DHLW+M board may look at a contract reduction next month.

Cheryl Flaatten provided updates about the children and families receiving tuition scholarships in Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, and Washington counties. There are currently 21 children and 6 participating preschools. The cost varies significantly across programs with one now charging \$130/wk compared to \$95/mo in another.

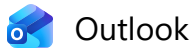
Administrative Update

A written report was provided.

Meeting adjourned by Chair, Matt Latcham, at 6:40pm

Minutes submitted by Tasha Beghtol, Director

Approved on _____



Re: January 9 ECI State Board Agenda and Packet

From Shawn Maine <smaine@louisacountyia.gov>

Date Mon 1/5/2026 10:03 AM

To TASHA BEGHTOL <tbeghtol@dhlw.org>

You have a new board member starting this year.

Kevin Hardin - This years Louisa county Supervisor Board chair is taking over my place. His email address is - khardin@louisacountyia.gov

It was a pleasure meeting everyone and working with you for the past 2 years. You do a great job and the area is lucky to have you. I hope that our paths cross again sometime in the future.

Sincerely,
Shawn Maine

Bank balance as of 1/30/2026 \$ 189,691.95

CIJDC financial report ending January 31, 2026			
REVENUE		EXPENDITURE	
DHLW+M FY25 carryover	\$ 113,218.43	CIJDC report	\$ 544,473.67
DHLW+M FY26 Revenue	\$ 839,739.63	SEI EC Project reimbursements	\$ (32,607.55)
DHLW+M Interest earned YTD	\$ 1,718.13	Summit reimbursements	\$ -
		Imagination Library reimbursements	\$ (122.42)
		voided ck #2139	\$ (187.49)
TOTAL	\$ 954,676.19		\$ 511,556.21

SUMMARY BY CONTRACT

PROGRAM	CONTRACT AMOUNT	DHLW+M Y-T-D EXPENSES	BALANCE OF FUNDS	TOTAL PERCENT SPENT
1 COORDINATED INTAKE	\$ 17,505.00	\$ 7,787.87	\$ 9,717.13	44%
2 HOPES - Des Moines Co	\$ 49,500.00	\$ 28,048.29	\$ 21,451.71	57%
3 THE FAMILY CONNECTION	\$ 247,234.00	\$ 119,542.36	\$ 127,691.64	48%
4 LSI - Louisa & Muscatine	\$ 250,767.00	\$ 111,804.61	\$ 138,962.39	45%
5 DENTAL	\$ 79,663.45	\$ 35,171.80	\$ 44,491.65	44%
6 IMAGINATION LIBRARY -MC	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.02	\$ 4,999.98	50%
7 IMAGINATION LIBRARY DHLV - DHLW+M	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 897.76	\$ 19,102.24	4%
8 PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS - MC	\$ 12,774.70	\$ 1,650.15	\$ 11,124.55	13%
9 PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP COOR	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 4,121.48	\$ 5,628.52	42%
10 PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS -DHLW	\$ 40,250.00	\$ 9,978.00	\$ 30,272.00	25%
11 TRANSPORTATION	\$ 80,227.75	\$ 14,914.62	\$ 65,313.13	19%
12 SEI EC Project (DHLW+M only)	\$ 126,731.54	\$ 62,736.16	\$ 63,995.38	50%
13 WAYLAND CHILDCARE CENTER	\$ 44,318.00	\$ 7,420.58	\$ 36,897.42	17%
14 WEST LIBERTY CSD	\$ 14,739.12	\$ 1,841.35	\$ 12,897.77	12%
15 MT PLEASANT CHILDCARE CENTER	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	0%
16 POLICY 4.9a	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 4,861.67	\$ 30,138.33	14%
17 STAFF & Benefits	\$ 126,280.18	\$ 73,539.14	\$ 52,741.04	58%
18 MILEAGE	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,272.68	\$ 2,727.32	45%
19 ADMINISTRATION	\$ 18,281.82	\$ 13,017.67	\$ 5,264.15	71%
20 SUMMIT*	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,950.00	\$ (950.00)	116%
TOTAL	\$ 1,219,022.56	\$ 511,556.21	\$ 707,466.35	42%

SUMMARY BY FUNDING CATEGORY

CATEGORY	TOTAL DHLW+M			
	BUDGET	Y-T-D EXPENSES	BALANCE	% SPENT
ADMIN	\$ 55,664.07	\$ 35,079.40	\$ 20,584.67	63%
COMMUNITY COLLABORATION	\$ 119,211.47	\$ 54,647.85	\$ 64,563.62	46%
HOME VISITATION	\$ 416,035.56	\$ 231,346.97	\$ 184,688.59	56%
DISCRETIONARY	\$ 641,960.15	\$ 190,481.99	\$ 451,478.16	30%
TOTAL	\$ 1,232,871.25	\$ 511,556.21	\$ 721,315.04	41%

9:25 AM
02/10/26
Cash Basis

corrected

Central Iowa Detention
DHLW #1 Postings Report- MONTH CASH
January 2026

Num	Date	Name	Account	Paid Amount
✓ 2758	01/12/2026	Messiah Lutheran Preschool	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-1,575.00 ✓
✓ 2759	01/12/2026	Danville Early Learning Center	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-200.00 ✓
✓ 2760	01/12/2026	Stewart Preschool	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-475.00 ✓
✓ 2761	01/12/2026	First Baptist Preschool	DHLW- Program Discretionary <i>2 months</i>	-580.00 ✓
✓ 2762	01/12/2026	Mediapolis Childcare and Preschool	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-265.00 ✓
✓ 2763	01/12/2026	Corse Early Childhood Center	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-200.00 ✓
2764	01/23/2026	CIJDC	DHLW- Admin <i>VISA</i>	-152.54 ✓
✓ 2773	01/23/2026	Lutheran Services in Iowa	DHLW- Home Visitation	-23,580.91 ✓
✓ 2775	01/23/2026	Henry County Extension	DHLW- Home Visitation <i>Fam Connection</i>	-22,543.88 ✓
✓ 2768	01/23/2026	Cheryl Flaatten	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-800.00 ✓
✓ 2769	01/23/2026	United Way of Muscatine County	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-2,684.20 ✓
✓ 2770	01/23/2026	United Way of Muscatine County	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-450.88 ✓
✓ 2771	01/23/2026	Trinity Muscatine Public Health	DHLW- Program Discretionary <i>car intake</i>	-1,682.08 ✓
✓ 2772	01/23/2026	United Way of Muscatine County	DHLW- Program Discretionary <i>OPIL</i>	-833.33 ✓
✓ 2774	01/23/2026	Lee County Health Department	DHLW- Program Discretionary <i>Dental</i>	-1,712.95 ✓
✓ 2776	01/23/2026	Little Me & Company	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-7,420.58 ✓
✓ 2777	01/23/2026	West Liberty ELC	DHLW- Program Discretionary	-1,841.35 ✓
✓ 2779	01/23/2026	Lee County Health Department	DHLW- Program Discretionary <i>HOPES</i>	-4,703.83 ✓
✓ 2767	01/23/2026	United Way of SE Iowa	DHLW- Community Plan & Collab <i>OPIL</i>	-1,020.18 ✓
✓ 2778	01/23/2026	Henry County Extension	DHLW- SEI EC Project	-17,577.93 ✓
✓ 2765	01/23/2026	Jim Gill Inc.	DHLW- Summit	-6,000.00
✓ 2766	01/23/2026	Fairfield Arts & Convention Center	DHLW- Summit	-950.00
DEP	01/26/2026	Deposit	DHLW- SEI EC Project <i>ISK (Dec)</i>	2,900.35 ✓
DEP	01/30/2026	ECI	DHLW- Admin	12,708.90
DEP	01/30/2026	ECI	DHLW- Program Discretionary	137,460.17
DEP	01/30/2026	ECI	DHLW- Community Plan & Collab	25,735.25
DEP	01/30/2026	ECI	DHLW- Home Visitation	104,008.89
2780	01/31/2026	CIJDC	DHLW- Admin	-4,850.63
2780	01/31/2026	CIJDC	DHLW- Community Plan & Collab	-9,848.81
INT	01/31/2026	ECI	DHLW- Interest	242.27
TOTAL				<u>171,106.75</u>

3rd qtr payments from state

state ff + direct

OPIL = Oddy Parton Investigation Library

Date received	Applicant	Amount	Support letter required	date support letter received	Service Type	Date approved by board	Amount awarded	Amount claimed	date paid	Check # - Claim closed	Request overview & notes
6/1/2025	Iowa AEYC	\$ 2,687.00	NO		PD	8/19/2025	\$ 2,687.00	\$ 2,687.00	8/25/2025	#2140	Fall conference scholarships for 8 providers already registered. Iowa AEYC wil bill DHLW+M direct.
7/14/2025	YMCA of Washington County, Cornelia Day Child Care Center	\$ 1,207.82	YES	7/16/2025	QI	8/19/2025	\$ 1,207.82	\$ 1,207.82	9/18/2025	#2154	Purchase 4 CPR manikins and additional equipment. Required letter of support received. Meets a quality improvement service type.
7/15/2025	Unity Point Trinity Muscatine Public Health,	\$ 2,693.55	NO		QI	8/19/2025	\$ 2,693.55				Purchase 8 CPR manikins and additional equipment. Meets a quality improvement service type.
7/15/2025	Lutheran Services in Iowa	\$ 1,250.00	NO		PD	8/19/2025	\$ 1,250.00				Requested support for the cost of HFA Peer Reviewer Training. Meets a Professional development service type.
7/25/2025	Henry County Public health	\$ 500.00	NO		QI	8/19/2025	\$ 500.00	\$ 479.96	12/22/2025	#2242	Purchase of car seats. Meets a quality improvement OR car seat safety service type.
7/25/2025	Happy Time Childcare	\$ 1,852.04	YES	8/11/2025	QI	8/19/2025	\$ 1,852.04				Purchase of security cameras. Required letter of support received. Meets QI
7/30/2025	Henry County Public health	\$ 500.00	NO		QI	8/19/2025	\$ 500.00	\$ 486.89	12/22/2025	#2242	Purchase health & safety items to enhance the newborn home visitor program. Meets a QI service type.
10/27/2025	New London Childcare Center	\$ 4,750.00	YES	11/4/2025	QI	11/18/2025	\$ 4,750.00				Replacing faucets throughout for health & safety required improvements. *Application reviewed a 2nd time at the January 20th 2026 board meeting to reaffirm allowable expenditure for ECI funds. Approved to move forward.
11/4/2025	The Family Connection	\$ 4,652.00	NO		PD	11/18/2025	\$ 4,652.00				Travel, lodging, and registration for 3 staff to attend the Infant Mental Health conference in Kalamazoo MI in April 2026.
11/10/2025	Wayland Area Childcare	\$ 700.00	YES	11/12/2025	QI	1/20/2026	\$ 700.00				Purchase specialty strollers for infant room.
1/23/2026	Little Lions Daycare	\$ 2,600.00	YES	1/23/2026	QI						The Ainsworth center, previously DBA as Busy Bees, is under new ownership and making improvements. The application includes health & safety items supported by the CCNC, but also requested various other center related supplies & equipment.
1/26/2026	Ashley's Childcare	\$ 160.27	YES	1/26/2026	QI						Replacing pack n plays for safety reasons.
2/2/2026	The Family Connection	\$ 831.40	NO		QI						Purchase of books for a literacy program implemented by staff. Meets QI
2/3/2026	Creative Sprouts Champions Inc	\$ 4,850.00	NO		PD						Requesting help for the cost of hosting training for center staff in Washington Co. CHARACTER COUNTS! is the training to be done through the Robert D. & Billie Ray Center at Drake University.

TOTAL REQUEST \$ 29,234.08

\$ 20,792.41 TOTAL AWARDED

\$ 4,861.67 TOTAL CLAIMED

\$ 14,207.59 BALANCE AVAILABLE IN 4.9a for additional requests

INCOMPLETE APPLICATION



DHLW Early Childhood Area
Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington
PO Box 882
Washington, IA. 52353

One-time Purchase Request Form

Instructions: Refer to DHLW Early Childhood Area Policy 4.9a for information and details of eligibility. Send a completed request form and other required materials to tbeghtol@dhlw.org.

Table with 2 columns: Field Name, Value. Fields include Name of Organization, Address, Name & Title of person, Email, and Phone.

What type of organization or business is requesting the funding?
[x] Licensed Child Care Center
Registered Child Development Home
Child Care Home accepting CCA
Child care home business not registered with DHS

The items requested include several supplies and equipment above and beyond what the CCNC letter of support includes. If awarded ONLY items from the CCNC letter the total would be \$702. If allowed those items plus the cleaning items that meet a health & safety need the total award would be a max of \$900. TB

What is your current QRS/IQ4K achieved level? _____

Total requested amount \$ 2600.00

Tasha Beghtol

*Include copies of any quotes, order forms, or advertisements that justify the amount requested.
*All requests must include a note of support from CCR&R consultant, CCNC, or DHS. The note may be sent directly from the agency to tbeghtol@dhlw.org

Provide a brief description in the box below about what you are requesting and why.

crib mattresses, changing pads, floor sweepers, big/small trash cans, mop, handheld vacuums, lunch trays, storage baskets, art supplies, outlet covers, first aid kits, desk chairs, chair floor mat, file folders, label maker refills, charging boxes, walkie talkies, playground mulch, printer paper, outdoor toys/playset

ASSURANCE: By signing below the applicant affirms that all information in this request and supporting material are correct and true. If awarded funding, the Applicant is responsible for purchasing the item and then sending copies of receipts for reimbursement.

Signed: Sarah Edgar Date: 1/21/26

DHLW+M,

I have been working with Little Lions Daycare and after a health and safety walk through, it was noted that there was a need for **crib mattresses** to be replaced due to damage and some of them would curl up with the sheet in place causing a risk of suffocation. The **changing table pads** also had areas of damage and need to be replaced to prevent spread of possible infectious illness. It was also noted that they needed to add **garbage cans** to each room so they can separate soiled diapers from regular trash per HHS regulation. It was also recommended that the **outlets that** were not covered with a **safety cap needed to be covered**. I also recommended them adding basic **first aid kits** to each room and have **2 full first aid kits** available to use when outside or transporting children. I support their request as the items will help improve the health and safety of the center and get them in compliance with HHS regulations.

Thanks,

Toni Krana RN, CCNC

Muscatine Public Health

1609 Cedar St.

Muscatine, IA 52761

563-262-6274



DHLW+M Early Childhood Area

Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington, Muscatine

One-time Purchase or Activity Request Form

The DHLW+M Board has designated funding in FY26 to support early childhood projects and/or professionals with one-time purchases or short-term activities that directly enhances the well-being of families with children prenatal through age 5. This application is not intended for long-term high cost projects. Contact Tasha Beghtol, DHLW+M Director, prior to completion of this application to confirm eligibility and amount of funding available.

Email: tbeghtol@dhlw.org

Phone: 319-461-1369

Refer to DHLW+M Early Childhood Area Policy 4.9a for additional information. Send a completed request form and other required materials to tbeghtol@dhlw.org.

Applicant Information

Name of Organization:	The Family Connection
Adress:	127 N. Main St.
City & Zip:	Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
Name and title of person completing the application:	Amy McLaughlin Family Support Supervisor
Email:	amclaugh@iastate.edu
Phone:	319-759-8415

What type of organization or business is requesting the funding? Select One

- Community Organization or Non-Profit that is NOT childcare
- Licensed Child Care Center
- Registered Child Development Home
- Child Care Home accepting CCA
- Child care home business not registered with HHS

For Childcare Applicants Only:

What is your current QRS/IQ4K achieved level? _____

Will the items/activity requested increase your current QRS/IQ4K level? No

Total requested amount \$ 831.40

Required materials to include with your application:

*For one-time purchases include copies of any quotes, order forms, or advertisements that justify the amount requested.

*For short term activity include a detailed budget with narrative explaining all costs.

*All requests from **childcare businesses** must include a note of support from CCR&R consultant, CCNC, or HHS. The note may be sent directly from the agency to tbeghtol@dhlw.org

Provide a brief description in the box below about what you are requesting funding for and why.


Iowa State Extension and Outreach has developed a research-based literacy program called Our Bookshelf. Our Bookshelf is a 6-part virtual series where parents are taught about dialogic reading. Dialogic reading is an interactive way to read books with children where discussion about the story takes place to boost language, comprehension and critical thinking. Family Support Specialist Lisa Clark has been trained to facilitate this program. Each session is 30 minutes long and occurs weekly. Parents receive a copy of each of the six books discussed during facilitation. These books are: Are You Ready to Play Outside?, From Head to Toe, Bunny Cakes, Abuela, The Way I Feel, and Those Shoes.

This one-time funding request is to purchase 20 copies of each book. Lisa will then offer the Our Bookshelf program to enrolled families in the spring and again in summer. This program and funding request align with the Early Childhood Iowa service type: literacy.

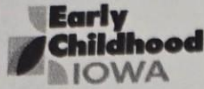
Project Budget: (prices from Amazon)

Are You Ready to Play Outside?	\$7.04 x 20 = 140.80
From Head to Toe	\$7.19 x 20 = 143.80
Bunny Cakes	\$6.39 x 20 = 127.80
Abuela	\$6.29 x 20 = 125.80
The Way I Feel	\$7.64 x 20 = 152.80
Those Shoes	\$7.02 x 20 = 140.40
Total Cost	\$831.40

ASSURANCE: By signing below the applicant affirms that all information in this request and supporting material are correct and true. If awarded funding, the Applicant is responsible for purchasing the item and then sending copies of receipts for reimbursement.

Signed:  Date: 1/29/26

TB



DHLW+M Early Childhood Area
Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington, Muscatine

One-time Purchase or Activity Request Form

The DHLW+M Board has designated funding in FY26 to support early childhood projects and/or professionals with one-time purchases or short-term activities. One-time purchases must directly enhance the well-being of families with children prenatal through age 5. Short-term activities may include professional development opportunities attended by individuals directly working in an early childhood program, or training opportunities implemented for early childhood professionals. This application is not intended for long-term high cost projects. Contact Tasha Beghtol, DHLW+M Director, prior to completion of this application to confirm eligibility and amount of funding available.

Email: tbeghtol@dhlw.org
Phone: 319-461-1369

Refer to DHLW+M Early Childhood Area Policy 4.9a for additional information. Send a completed request form and other required materials to tbeghtol@dhlw.org.

Applicant Information

Name of Organization:	Ashley's Child Care
Address:	1211 Smalley St.
City & Zip:	Muscatine 52576
Name and title of person completing the application:	Ashley Smith - Provider
Email:	Sterner-ashley@yahoo.com
Phone:	(563) 260-6600

What type of organization or business is requesting the funding? Select One

- Community Organization or Non-Profit that is NOT childcare
- Licensed Child Care Center
- Registered Child Development Home
- Child Care Home accepting CCA
- Child care home business not registered with HHS

For Childcare Applicants Only:

What is your current QRS/IQ4K achieved level? NA

Will the items/activity requested increase your current QRS/IQ4K level? NO

Total requested amount \$ 160.27

Required materials to include with your application:

*For one-time purchases include copies of any quotes, order forms, or advertisements that justify the amount requested.

*For short term activity include a detailed budget with narrative explaining all costs.

*All requests from **childcare businesses must** include a note of support from CCR&R consultant, CCNC, or HHS. The note may be sent directly from the agency to tbeghtol@dhlw.org

Provide a brief description in the box below about what you are requesting funding for and why.

I'm requesting funding for two new pack-n-plays because of all the wear n tear on my current ones and the baby gate for my kitchen for safety reasons with Infants & Toddlers while preparing & cooking meals. Thank You.

ASSURANCE: By signing below the applicant affirms that all information in this request and supporting material are correct and true. If awarded funding, the Applicant is responsible for purchasing the item and then sending copies of receipts for reimbursement.

Signed: _____

Ashly Smith

Date: _____

1/25/26

DHLW+M,

I support the requested items for Ashley Smith, having 2 new pack in plays to replace her old ones will improve the safety of the infants that are sleeping in them. When the material started to break down is becomes an infectious disease concern as well has possible choking hazard. Ashley would also benefit from having a gate to separate the play area from the kitchen area to prevent injuries that could occur in a kitchen.

Thank you,

Toni Krana, RN CCNC

1609 Cedar St.

Muscatine, IA 52761

Toni.krana@unitypoint.org

563-262-6274



DHLW+M Early Childhood Area

Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington, Muscatine

One-time Purchase or Activity Request Form

The DHLW+M Board has designated funding in FY26 to support early childhood projects and/or professionals with one-time purchases or short-term activities. One-time purchases must directly enhance the well-being of families with children prenatal through age 5. Short-term activities may include professional development opportunities attended by individuals directly working in an early childhood program, or training opportunities implemented for early childhood professionals. This application is not intended for long-term high cost projects. Contact Tasha Beghtol, DHLW+M Director, prior to completion of this application to confirm eligibility and amount of funding available.

Email: tbeghtol@dhlw.org

Phone: 319-461-1369

Refer to DHLW+M Early Childhood Area Policy 4.9a for additional information. Send a completed request form and other required materials to tbeghtol@dhlw.org.

Applicant Information

Name of Organization:	Creative Sprouts Champions Inc
Address:	520 W 5th Street PO Box 887
City & Zip:	Washington 52353
Name and title of person completing the application:	Amy Schulte, Board President
Email:	creativesproutschamps@gmail.com
Phone:	319-383-3660

What type of organization or business is requesting the funding? Select One

- Community Organization or Non-Profit that is NOT childcare
- Licensed Child Care Center
- Registered Child Development Home
- Child Care Home accepting CCA
- Child care home business not registered with HHS

For Childcare Applicants Only:

What is your current QRS/IQ4K achieved level? _____

Will the items/activity requested increase your current QRS/IQ4K level? No

Total requested amount \$ 4,850

Required materials to include with your application:

*For one-time purchases include copies of any quotes, order forms, or advertisements that justify the amount requested.

*For short term activity include a detailed budget with narrative explaining all costs.

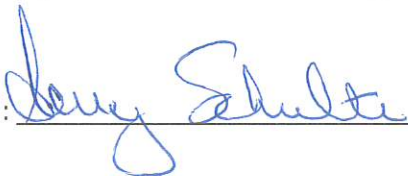
*All requests from **childcare businesses must** include a note of support from CCR&R consultant, CCNC, or HHS. The note may be sent directly from the agency to tbeghtol@dhlw.org

Provide a brief description in the box below about what you are requesting funding for and why.

Creative Sprouts Champions is seeking a one-time support to help cover 60% of the cost of training materials for CHARACTER COUNTS! for Early Childhood, delivered through the Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University. This evidence-based training equips early childhood educators with developmentally appropriate tools to intentionally teach and model the Six Pillars of Character—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Funding will ensure access to high-quality materials that strengthen classroom culture, promote social-emotional learning, and support positive behavior development for young children, while enhancing educator consistency and confidence across participating programs. These materials will be made available to childcare centers in Washington County at no cost through this partnership.

Our organization wants to make this a priority for childcare centers who are seeking wage enhancement funding from us, but we recognize the cost barrier this could cause for some centers. By making the materials available to them we can ensure that their staff receive additional and relevant training, gain valuable classroom resources and are one step closer to wage enhancement funds. The goal will be to provide the center lead teacher and another lead staff with the materials as well as the in-person training to implement these materials in the classroom. We estimate the total cost of the materials to be \$8,096 and we are seeking \$4,850 or 60% of the total cost to support this implementation for up to 14 childcare staff in Washington County centers.

ASSURANCE: *By signing below the applicant affirms that all information in this request and supporting material are correct and true. If awarded funding, the Applicant is responsible for purchasing the item and then sending copies of receipts for reimbursement.*

Signed: 

Date: 01/27/2026

**DHLW+M Early Childhood Area
and
Henry County Agricultural Extension
Southeast Iowa Early Childhood Project**

Pursuant to Paragraph 15.0 (K) Amendments of the Contract entered by Henry County Agricultural Extension and DHLW+M Early Childhood Area on July 1, 2025, the Contract is amended as follows:

7.0 COMPENSATION.

The Contractor will be paid for the services described in the Scope of Work and Requirements Section 6.0 a fee not to exceed **\$200,475.61** for the Contract period. Line items are approved as outlined in the budget made part of this Contract by this reference. DHLW+M, Children First, and IJK, shall allocate the following portions for payment of services rendered.

DHLW+M - \$131,943.93 (65.8%)

Children First - \$35,516.25 (17.7%)

IJK – \$33,015.44 (16.5%)

Summary of Amendment

The contract is amended to increase the total compensation from \$192,601.13 to \$200,475.61.

In all other respects, the Contract among the parties is ratified and affirmed.

Contractor: Henry County Agricultural Extension

By: _____

Date: _____

Name and Title: Whitney Howell, Regional Director

Federal Tax Identification Number: 42-1028618

DHLW+M Early Childhood Area

By: _____

Date: _____

Name and Title: Matt Latcham, Board Chairperson

Children First, Early Childhood Iowa

By: _____

Date: _____

Name and Title: Amanda Swan, Board Chairperson

Iowa, Jefferson, Keokuk Early Childhood Iowa

By: _____

Date: _____

Name and Title: Tami Gilliland, Board Chairperson

Budget Amendment Request FY26 (DHLW Early Childhood Area)

Instructions: Send a completed and signed form (PDF format) to tbeghtol@dhlw.org

Note: Document has formulas embeded, but is not protected. If you 'delete' a cell the formula will be deleted.

Southeast Iowa Early Childhood Project

Line Item descriptions and budget justification	Current budget	Revised budget request	% change	Brief explanation of line item change.
<p>Direct staff salaries</p> <p>Master Consultant PHD 150 hrs @ \$50= \$7500 (previous: 50 hrs @\$50=\$2500)</p> <p>1 Coach/Consultant 1 FTE @\$28.33/hr x 40 hrs/wk x 52 wks= \$58,926.40</p> <p>1 Coach/Consultant 1 FTE @\$27.81/hr x 40 hrs/wk x 52 wks= \$57,844.80</p> <p>$\\$58,926.40 + \\$57,844.80 + \\$7500 = \\$119,271.20$</p>	\$ 119,271.20	\$ 124,271.20	4%	Increase Becky's salary from 50 hours to a total of 150 hrs for the year. Total expense is + \$5000.
<p>Direct Staff Benefits</p> <p>Health Insurance (July-Dec) \$825mo/6 months, 2 staff= \$9, 900</p> <p>Health Insurance (Jan-June) \$875mo/6 months, 2 staff= \$10,500</p> <p>IPERS/FICA 17.09% (\$119,271.20 x .1709=\$20,383.45)</p> <p>$\\$9,900 + \\$10,500 + \\$20,383.45 = \\$40,783.45$</p>	\$ 40,783.45	\$ 41,637.95	2%	Additional expense of benefits for 100 add'l hours is + \$855.
<p>Contract Services</p> <p>insert narrative here</p>	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	No change.
<p>Travel</p> <p>Federal Rate \$0.70</p>	\$ 17,300.00	\$ 20,145.00	16%	Change for Jan-June 2026: Federal travel reimbursement rate increased to \$.725 per mile.

1000 miles mo/12 months, 2 staff= \$16,800				Additional ramies and centers on the edges of our service area have increased a need for additional mileage.
Travel to DEC conference,=\$500				
Equipment	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	0%	
<i>computer repairs, cords, etc.</i>				
Office Supplies	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 900.00	-25%	Reallocated \$300 for salary expenses.
<i>Paper, ink, copies, lamination, etc.</i>				
Operational	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 2,050.00	0%	
<i>Ongoing tech hotspot/phone, \$50/person, \$150 mo x 12 months= \$1,800</i>				
<i>Materials, literature/curriculum \$250</i>				
Staff Professional Development	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 1,575.00	0%	
<i>ASQ Trainer of Trainers training 1 staff=\$1,100</i>				
<i>DEC Conference Registration 1 staff=\$475</i>				
Incentives	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00	-90%	Reallocated \$900 for salary expenses.
<i>food items, materials,</i>				
subtotal	\$ 183,429.65	\$ 190,929.15	4%	
Indirect Administration - max allowed = 5% unless agency has federally approved r	\$ 9,171.48	\$ 9,546.46	4%	
TOTAL	\$ 192,601.13	\$ 200,475.61		

WAO Hercul

1/20/26

Administrator signature

date

CONTRACT AMENDMENT

CONTRACT #: DHLMW – 25 - 003	AMENDMENT #: 001
CONTRACTOR: United Way of Muscatine	CONTRACT TITLE: Preschool Transportation

This contract is amended to reduce the total compensation by \$20,000.

Specific additions to the current contract language include the following sections and corresponding details:

1.6 Contract Payment Clause.

1.6.1 Pricing. In accordance with the payment terms outlined in this section and the Contractors completion of the Scope of Work as set forth in this contract, the Contractor will be compensated an amount not to exceed \$60,227.75 during the term of this Contract.

Contractors may not exceed the available funds for each contract year and may not carryover funds into a consecutive contract year without a written amendment executed by all parties.

All other terms of the contract remain in effect. The contractor specifies no additional changes have been made to the Special, General or Contingent Terms.

The parties hereto have executed this contract amendment on the day and year last specified below.	
For and on behalf of the ECI Area Board:	For and on behalf of the Contractor:
By: _____	By: _____
Matt Latcham, Board Chair	Kim Warren, Executive Director - AIM

**DHLW+M Early Childhood Area
and**

United Way of Muscatine

Imagination Library

Pursuant to Paragraph 14.0 (K) Amendments of the Contract entered by United Way of Muscatine and DHLW+M Early Childhood Area on July 1, 2025, the Contract is amended as follows:

6.0 COMPENSATION.

The Contractor will be paid for the services described in the Scope of Work and Requirements Section 5.0 a fee not to exceed **\$17,500** for the Contract period. Budget line items shall be 100% incentives, covering the cost of books only.

Summary of Amendment

The contract is amended to increase the total compensation from \$10,000 to \$17,500.

In all other respects, the Contract among the parties is ratified and affirmed.

United Way of Muscatine

By: _____

Date: _____

Shane Orr, President and CEO
Federal Tax Identification Number: 42-0761080

DHLW+M Early Childhood Area

By: _____

Date: _____

Matt Latcham, Board Chair

DHLW+M Early Childhood Area

Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington, Muscatine

Administrative Update

FEBRUARY 2026

ECI State Board

The ECI State Board's next meeting is scheduled for March 6th 2026. ECI meeting information can be found on the [Iowa HHS website under 'public meetings'](#) and members from the public are welcome to attend.

District update

District 6 (D6)

The ECI District 6 Board Elect met virtually on January 21st 2026. A brief discussion was held regarding potential changes for ECI and members agreed by consensus to not meet in February, reconvening in March with the hope that more information is known.

The family support home visitation programs that serve counties in HHS District 6 held an initial network meeting on February 2nd. Six different agencies representing several models of service introduced themselves, shared program information, and discussed potential system transitions and the impact on services. Members agreed to continue the network meetings, staying connected as further transitions are known. The next meeting has not been scheduled yet.

District 7 (D7)

District 7 held its first in person meeting on February 6th in Coralville. Introductions were made and each ECI Director provided an overview of funding and services specific to their area. The agenda was modified at the last minute to spend more time discussing current legislation and advocacy efforts instead of work plans. The next D7 Board Elect meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Summit

The SE IA Early Childhood Summit committee and activities have expanded to include the Mahaska/Wapello ECI Area. Jim Gill concerts will take place in Williamsburg (3/27), West Burlington & Keokuk (3/28), and Ottumwa on (4/24). The annual conference will take place on April 25th in Fairfield. It is open to all early childhood professionals including childcare staff, preschool teachers, family support, and anyone working in the field. Jim Gill will provide the morning keynote session.

Iowa AEYC has agreed to partner with the Summit conference this year. They will be assisting the session trainers in getting details submitted to ensure that HHS credit is available to childcare staff who attend. The next Summit Committee meeting is March 5th, 2026 at noon. For more information or to participate in the virtual meeting contact Tasha at tbeghtol@dhlw.org

Legislation

HSB 623 was introduced in subcommittee on February 4th 2026. The bill eliminates ECI Decat, and CPPC. The bill was tabled 2/3 by the subcommittee with instructions to HHS leadership to work with the partners affected for a compromise.

SSB 3111, the companion bill to HSB 623, was introduced in subcommittee on February 12th 2026. HHS leadership shared that amendments are being drafted for the bill, but not yet available. Suggested changes include keeping ECI Areas and the State ECI Board, while also building the new Early Childhood Family Services System (ECFSS). The bill was passed 2/3 out of subcommittee based on the framework of draft amendment language.

Association of ECI Area Boards and Advocates

The Association has hosted legislative updates and discussion every Monday at 10am since the introduction of the HHS department bill that eliminates ECI, decat, and CPPC. The Association Board of Directors met with HHS leadership in person on February 12th at 3pm to discuss draft amendment language to SSB3111. HHS agreed to provide actual amendment language by Monday February 16th to the Association and to hold a follow-up meeting within a week. Message from the Association President to all members on February 13th included:

- *The Board did **not** agree to any terms or amendments with Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.*
- *HHS understands that, as of now, we will **not concede** to the current language or the suggested language changes.*
- *HHS remains very firm in its position that it wants to contract for home visiting in order to access the Title IV-E match. They have indicated this is currently non-negotiable.*
- *They are working on revised language and expect to share it early next week so we can review and respond.*

Mid year reporting

The Qualtrics mid year report has been completed. 100% of DHLW+M contractors submitted 2nd quarter reports to Tasha Beghtol. Those reports are then used to input data into the state designed and required mid-year Qualtrics. New to this report is the requirement to submit fiscal information for all programs and administration.