development promotes a skilled, confident workforce capable of delivering high-quality, effective support.

Early Care and Education Scholarships

Inputs:

- ▶ Amount of funding per funding category
- ▶ Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- ▶ # of children
- ▶ # of families served
- ▶ Age of children (0-5) served based on September 15th of school year
- ▶ Marital status of primary caregiver *head of household*
- ▶ Household size
- ▶ Federal poverty level
- ▶ Education level of primary caregiver head of household
- ▶ Race of child
- ▶ Ethnicity of child
- ▶ # of programs
- ▶ # of programs meeting a quality initiative
- ▶ Education level of lead teachers
- ▶ *# of children screened*
- ▶ # of screened who were referred for further evaluation
- ▶ May use one-time funds to cover scholarship amount for up to 3 months while family awaits results for CCA or from other funding resources

Quality/Efficiency:

- ▶ # of children screened with ASQ-3
- ▶ # of children screened with ASQ:SE
- ▶ # of children screened with ASQ-3 and referred for follow up services/treatment
- ▶ # of children screened with ASQ:SE and referred for follow up services/treatment
- ▶ Cost per child
- ▶ # of programs participating in quality initiative

Outcomes:

- ▶ # of children demonstrating age-appropriate skills as assessed by the ASQ-3
- ▶ # of children demonstrating age-appropriate skills as assessed by the ASQ:SE
- ▶ # of temporary scholarships (3 months or less) who moved towards CCA per CCA approval

Results Area:

- ▶ Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments
- ▶ Healthy Children
- ▶ Secure and Nurturing Families
- ▶ Safe and Supportive Communities
- ▶ Ready to Succeed in School

Designed to expand access to quality early learning opportunities for children and families who face financial barriers. Through dedicated funding and additional support, scholarships are provided to help cover the cost of early education programs, enabling families to access safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate environments. These scholarships prioritize children from diverse backgrounds, taking into account household size, federal poverty level, marital status of the primary caregiver, and the education level of the head of household to ensure equitable access to early learning. Participating programs are encouraged to meet quality initiatives and maintain high standards. Scholarships also support developmental screenings, helping to identify children who may benefit from further evaluation or services. Data collected from these screenings ensure that children are meeting age-appropriate milestones and receiving the support they need to thrive.

As a funder of last resort, the scholarships require documentation of Child Care Assistance decline to confirm eligibility. Programs that receive back pay from CCA eligible family, may apply EC scholarship for the tuition rate difference.
All families who are at 160% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or below must apply for Child Care Assistance (CCA). The state has dedicated staff trained to help families navigate CCA questions. *https://www.iowa.gov/how-do-i-apply-child-care-assistance*

ECI's will develop a local application to verify the family is not eligible for other financial support for this care and reason why no other financial support eligibility was met. The local ECI will develop a board policy to document their scholarship rates/ranges and eligibility for a scholarship to be made payable to the child care or preschool program on the family's behalf. If an ECI chooses to pay the tuition difference between CCA and their program's tuition rate, the ECI will need to include their scholarship plan for rates and eligibility in their board approved policy.

To ensure continued eligibility and program alignment, scholarship recipients are required to complete a follow-up review annually. This process verifies ongoing participation in quality programs and assesses any changes in eligibility status, promoting accountability and effective use of resources.

By reducing financial barriers and promoting high-quality early learning experiences, these scholarships empower families, enhance child development, and contribute to

long-term educational success. ECI may provide funding for scholarships to programs who are eligible to accept CCA and do accept CCA, but requesting families have a verified income outside of current CCA eligibility (i.e. 161% up to 200% FPL).

ECI may provide funding for scholarships to programs who are authorized by the Iowa Department of Education as a preschool program without child care licensure. ECI cannot provide funding for scholarships for time paid for by Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) or Head Start. Time beyond these funding streams may be supported by a scholarship if there is a need (200% FPL or below) and no other funding source is available.

A scholarship should not be provided to an early learning program (i.e. child care or preschool) that is not officially associated with either the Iowa Department of Education or the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

*Quality Initiative defined as a child care or preschool program meeting a relative quality system (i.e. IQ4K – Iowa's Quality 4 Kids, IQPPS – Iowa's Quality Preschool Program Standards, NAEYC – National Association for the Education of Young Children, or a Head Start grantee)

Scholarship Coordination

Inputs:

▶ Amount of funding per funding category
▶ Additional funding and source

Outputs:
▶ # of applications processed
▶ # of scholarships awarded
▶ # programs with a scholarship awarded to a child
▶ # of programs meeting a quality initiative

Quality/Efficiency:

▶ Cost per scholarship

Outcomes:
▶ # of scholarships awarded
▶ # of scholarships not awarded because of (list reasons)

Results Area:
▶ Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments
▶ Healthy Children