

# Iowa Department of Human Services

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Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer  
Director

November 22, 2016

Michael Marshall  
Secretary of Senate  
State Capitol Building  
LOCAL

Carmine Boal  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building  
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Marshall and Ms. Boal:

Enclosed please find a copy of a report to the General Assembly relative to the Children at Home Program Outcomes and Recommendations.

This report was prepared pursuant to the directive contained in 2016 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1139.18.2.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Sally Titus  
Deputy Director

ST/tam/cb

Enclosure

cc: Senator Amanda Ragan  
Senator Mark Segebart

Representative David E. Heaton  
Representative Lisa Heddens

# Iowa Department of Human Services



## *Children at Home Program Outcomes and Recommendations*

*July 1, 2016 - November 15, 2016*

November 22, 2016

## Children at Home Program

### Background

The Children at Home (CAH) program began in 1996 as a pilot program to serve as a payer of last resort designed to assist families in securing the services and supports they identify as necessary in helping their children remain at home. Prior to SFY17, the CAH program operated in only 23 counties.

The program provides cash assistance to families of children with developmental disabilities. The funds help families with expenses not covered by other programs or during emergencies when it would take too long to apply for assistance through other means. These funds are provided on an as needed basis and have paid for respite, summer camps, adaptive equipment, educational software, home modifications, special diets, and special training.

On July 1, 2016, funding was transferred to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) who oversees the Iowa Family Support Network (IFSN). The IFSN provides consumer-friendly and effective coordinated intake and referral services along with education. The CAH Program has been integrated into this existing coordinated intake and referral system is for families, child health care providers, and other professionals seeking information, support and referral.

### Transition and Current status of the CAH program:

The successful transition of the program included past contractors being contacted by IDPH to enlist assistance in the transition process. An advisory board structure was created and recruitment for members was initiated. In addition, the Department of Human Services and IDPH met several times and engaged in on-going correspondence to assure that the program could move seamlessly with limited interruption to serving families and to assure all Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Rules were being met with the transition.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of implementation, July 1, 2016, to September 31, 2016, program expectations were standardized including: Categories of allowable funding requests, Categories that will not be considered for funding, and initial annual per child cap for funding requests.

In September 2016, the CAH program was operational only for families who had the program available in their county prior to the change in service provider. The CAH program has since been expanded for state-wide service, reaching all 99 counties. The IFSN is entering and collecting data on funds allocated and dispersed and the type of services rendered. Families that have been served thus far have received reimbursements or purchased items within 30 days of application approval. IFSN is also conducting satisfaction surveys close to the time of service and delivery and will submit the results with their FY17' Q2 report to the Department of Human Services.

### Next Steps:

The DHS may continue to contract with the IDPH to provide CAH Services through their contracted entity or funding and responsibility may be transferred to IDPH.

### Number of Children Served in the CAH Program:

The CAH program has, on average, served 720 children annually. The CAH program has been fully operational in all 99 counties since October 1, 2016.

As of November 1, 2016, 15 new families and 22 new children have been served in the following counties:

Black Hawk            Floyd  
Buchanan            Johnson  
Clinton                Story  
Delaware

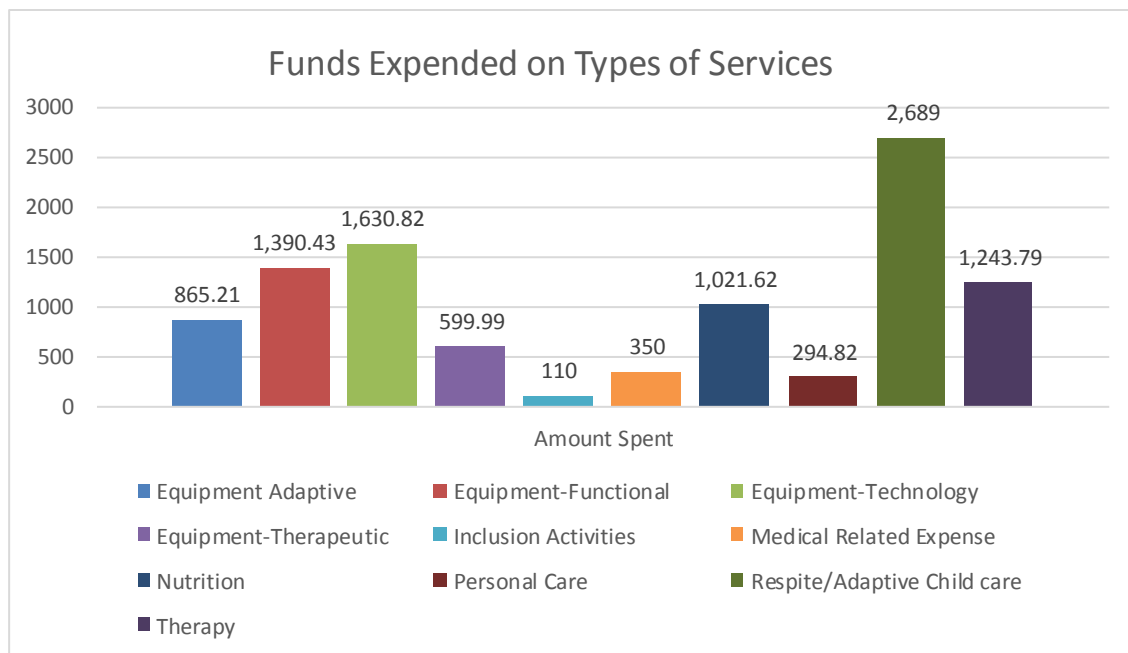
There are 15 applications for Children At Home services currently pending.

Total funds expended: **\$10,195.68** provided to 15 families.

*\*Note: New families and children are those who applied and were approved and have never received funds through CAH with Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa.*

Fiscal Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Children in CAH	826	571	624	791	789

### Funds Expended on Types of Services



*\*Provided by Iowa Family Support Network*

## **Program Recommendations**

The Department of Human Services has contracted with the Iowa Department of Public Health to implement State-wide expansion of the CAH program. Moving forward either the Department of Human Services can continue to contract with the Department of Public Health for these services or the funds can be transferred directly to the Department of Public Health to administer the funds and oversee the services through legislative action.