

Why are the child care changes important to children and families in Iowa?

More than 70% of the money Iowa uses for the Child Care Assistance Program is from the federal government. The federal government passed a new law for the money Iowa receives to:

- ❖ Improve the care children get who are on the Child Care Assistance Program
- ❖ Make it easier for parents to participate on the Child Care Assistance Program

What are some of the changes...

☑ **Changing from 6-month to 12-month eligibility**

How can this help families? *As long as the parent(s) does not have a permanent change that keeps the parent(s) from working or going to school, the parent(s) can receive Child Care Assistance for 12 months before the parent(s) must re-apply.*

☑ **Allowing for a program 'exit' eligibility**

How can this help families? *If the parent(s) is approved for Child Care Assistance, 'exit' eligibility may allow the parent to accept pay raises at his/her job and still be eligible for Child Care Assistance even if the family's income is over the income eligibility amount.*

☑ **Increasing the knowledge and skills of the person that is caring for children while parents are at work or in school**

How can this help children and families? *If a child is in a caring, nurturing and safe child care environment, the parent(s) will be less worried, more productive and be absent less often from work or school.*

