

Navigating Child Care in the Child Welfare System

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What is child care?

- “Child care” means the care, supervision, and guidance of a child by a person other than the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian for periods of less than twenty-four hours per day per child on a regular basis.....
- There are exemptions to this, which may include nominal fee programming, parks and recs programs, accredited camps, etc

Who is a child?

“Child” means either of the following:

- A person twelve years of age or younger.
- A person thirteen years of age or older, but younger than nineteen years of age, who has a developmental disability as defined under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000

Three Funding Streams for Payment

1. Protective Child Care
 2. Child Care Assistance (CCA)
 3. Foster Care Reimbursement
- Different requirements for each funding source.

Protective Child Care

- May be used when child is not in foster care and there is:
 - Open child abuse or CINA assessment
 - Open child welfare case as result of CPS assessment
 - Petition is on file for CINA adjudication or child is adjudicated
- Must be a part of the case plan

CCA

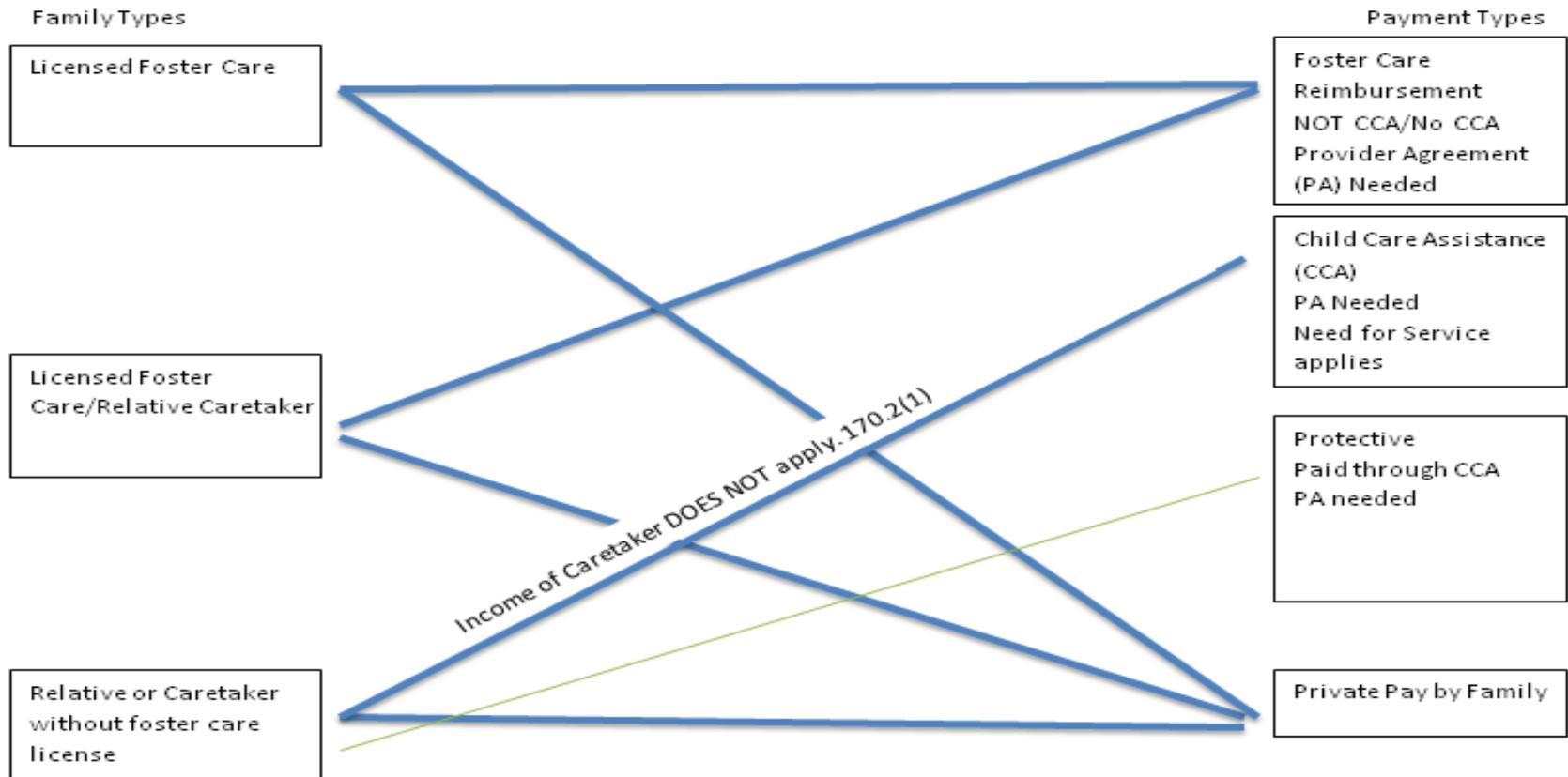
- Relatives or fictive kin caring for a child without a foster care license are eligible for CCA.
- CCA eligibility is based on:
 1. Family's financial eligibility
 2. Need for service (i.e. caregiver has a job or is enrolled in school)
- When the family consists of a caretaker that is not the parent/guardian, the “family size” is ONLY the child and ONLY the child's income is counted (most often “zero”)
 - Income of the caretaker DOES NOT apply

Foster Care Reimbursement

- Utilized when children are placed in licensed foster care homes and foster parent has a need for service (working or going to school)
- Must be approved by the Service Area Manager or designee
- Foster parent pays child care program for the service and is reimbursed by DHS
- Reimbursement is up to the maximum CCA Rate

Child Welfare and Child Care Payments

Foster Care Services and Child Care Payments



Successfully accessing CCA for relatives and fictive kin:

- If you are assisting a family who needs CCA , please have them note on top of **Page 1** of the application that they are a relative or kinship caretaker
 - **This can help expedite process of approval**
- A complete app must include name, address, signature
- Include the work or school schedule of the caretaker applying
- Include relationship of the child to the caretaker

Keep in Mind

- Even though income won't be counted, the family still must have a need for service and an identified schedule for child care.
 - Working at least 28 hours a day, attending school full-time, or both
 - Job search
- It is helpful to have a provider with an existing CCA Provider Agreement, rather than seek a new provider that does not yet have one.

Tips to Ensure Application is Processed Quickly

- If you or the family have questions regarding eligibility after the application has been submitted, please contact the CCA Eligibility Unit at ccaapps@dhs.state.ia.us or 1-866-448-4605, or fax 1-515-564-4032.

Barriers to Accessing Child Care

- Child Care Deserts
 - More common in smaller communities
- Providers won't take CCA
 - May be more open with the CCA Rate increase this year
 - May be willing to enter into a provider agreement to serve children in out of home placements

Barriers cont.

- Child Care Providers with a CCA PA are not permitted to charge the “difference” between their private rate and the CCA rate
 - Program is intended to serve low income families
 - Policy can assist in evaluating under specific scenarios when placement family is able/willing to pay difference and the CCA determination is not based on the income of the family

Barriers Cont

- Access to child care by medically fragile children
 - CCA does permit families of 3 or more to have an “in-home” provider that comes to the family home
 - In events that there are not 3 children but a higher level of need is evaluated, exceptions to policy may be requested.

Help?

- You are encouraged to contact the Service Help Desk and/or Policy Staff with questions about child care payments or specific scenarios of difficulty.