



Gerd W. Clabaugh, MPA
Director

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

CaH Update #5

I FINALLY have EXCELLENT news! The Children at Home Program is up and running!

All of the contractual paperwork is complete and VNS has been issued the contract (AND funds!) to administer the Children at Home Program. They are ready and excited!

Families who have contacted VNS were sent the application last week and past contractors have received a letter and information to assist with transitioning families to the new contractor.

Program Contact Info

toll-free telephone: 1-888-425-4371 (888-IAKIDS1)

email: iafamilysupportnetwork@vnsia.org.

Timeline

Prior to October 1st, Children at Home applications will only be accepted from participants from 2015-2016 eligible counties. (Blackhawk, Boone, Cass, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clinton, Crawford, Dubuque, Floyd, Grundy, Harrison, Jackson, Johnston, Keokuk, Mahaska, Mills, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Story, Wapello, Washington, Woodbury).

On October 1st, the Children at Home program will be expanded statewide and applications will be accepted for all 99 counties.

Expedited Transition for families have been served in the last calendar year under the Children at Home Program.

If a past contractor certifies eligibility, eligibility will be assumed and the family can submit requests for funding without having to prove eligibility and supply supporting additional documentation of income, etc. Past contractors will need a release of information from the family before passing along eligibility and past service records to VNS. VNS welcomes receiving any information that past contractors can provide about the clients they have served.

Families may also initiate the transition process and complete a new application.

If the family completes the application and a past contractor has not certified eligibility, they will need to provide supporting documentation for both disability and income.

Application and Request for Funding Details

The application has 4 basic parts.

1. Family demographics (child name, family info, address, etc.)
2. Income info (additional documentation to be submitted to verify)
3. Certification of Disability Info (if child is on Waiver or SSI additional info is not needed, if not on Waiver or SSI then a professional needs to sign off to certify disability)
4. Application for funds (this would be what the family is requesting, details on payment, justification of how expense ties to disability and assists in the ability for child to remain in the home and provider sign off)

Sections 1-3 of the application will need to be completed annually for each child.

Section 4 will be completed with each request for funding.

Initially, VNS will be able to approve up to \$700.00 of eligible requests per child per year. This may be adjusted (increased or decreased) as we monitor spending trends.

The eligibility requirements for program participation have not changed.

To qualify for the Children at Home program the family must include a child with a disability, which is defined as an individual who is less than 22 years of age and meets the definition of developmental disability. In addition, the family's intent is to secure those services and supports that would enable their child to remain living in the family home. The family's federal net (not gross) taxable income for the most recent tax year is less than \$60,000.

In the process of standardizing policies and procedures for the program, the following allowable funding request categories have been identified. Each request will be evaluated individually based on information provided in application material. In staying true to the intent of the program, the project will target funds towards services and supports for children **as it relates to their disabilities**.

Equipment

- Adaptive
- Therapeutic
- Functional
- Technology * additional documentation may be required.

Therapy

- Inclusion Activities
- Parent/ Caregiver Education
- Personal Care
- Respite/Adaptive Child Care
- Medical related expenses
- Transportation
- Nutrition

Categories that will NOT be considered for funding

- Adoption fees
- Animals or training of animals that do not fall within defined criteria by the Americans with Disability Act
- Basic child items (non adaptive) clothes, shoes, school supplies, diapers, food
- Basic living expenses (rent, water, utilities, heat/LP, etc.)
- Childcare for a child age 12 or younger unless there are extenuating circumstances specifically pertaining to a child's disability that is above and beyond everyday child care costs.
- Costs incurred from illegal activities such as court costs and fines.
- Gas cards (note: travel/transportation is an allowable request –however reimbursement will not be made in gas cards)
- Guardianship costs
- Insurance deductibles and co-pays
- Phone, Phone minutes
- Purchase of or repair of vehicles (Modification/adaptation of vehicles is an allowable request)

The Children at Home application is attached to this email and soon will be available to be downloaded online on the Iowa Family Support Network website at <http://www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org/> Hard copies will be mailed as requested.

Children at Home Advisory Committee

We welcome your knowledge and participation in the Children at Home Advisory Committee. The Children at Home Advisory Committee will help to steer program policy and spread awareness about the services available through the Children at Home Program. The Advisory group will meet quarterly in November, February, May, and August. If you would like to serve on the Children at Home Advisory Committee, please contact Tabby Kuehl at TabbyK@vnsia.org or 515-558-6228 and she will send you details and an application.

Feel free to contact the VNS of Iowa Children at Home staff with any questions.
Phone: 1-888-425-4371
Email: iafamilysupportnetwork@vnsia.org

Again, we are more than happy to receive feedback as we move forward. You can do that via the comment link on the IPDH website (<https://www.idph.iowa.gov/family-health/family-support>) or by sending me an email. Past updates are also posted at this site for your review.

Thanks again for your interest (and patience!) in the program. If you would like to be removed from this update list please send me an email and I will take your contact information off updates.

Kelly Ann Schulte, LMSW
kellyaschulte@yahoo.com (for quickest response)
kelly.schulte@idph.state.gov
515.778.2212