



Kossuth Childcare Solutions Fund Program Guidelines

Overview

The intent of the Kossuth Childcare Coalition and the Kossuth Childcare Solutions Fund is to increase the number of daycare slots in daycares serving the Kossuth County area.

The Kossuth Childcare Coalition is a subcommittee of the Algona Area Economic Development Corporation. Funds for the Kossuth Childcare Solutions Fund are collected and distributed by the Algona Growth Alliance, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, as a special project of the Northeast Iowa Community Foundation.

Program Objective

The objective of the program is to raise and distribute funds to licensed daycare centers and registered daycare providers to increase the number of daycare slots. Priority will be given to applicants/daycares located within Kossuth County. Daycare providers serving families of Kossuth County located in neighboring communities outside of Kossuth County will also be considered.

Daycares may apply for loan or grant funds to assist with the cost of workforce recruitment and retention programs; the completion of quality measures identified by Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K) and facility improvements that impact expansion. Depending on the scale and scope of the project, some applicants may be awarded grant funds and others may be awarded low-interest loans.

What we fund

- **Wage Enhancement Programs:** Daycares that are unable to hire and maintain the appropriate number of employees operate at a lower capacity, which reduces income and efficiency. Grant funds may be used for costs related to workforce recruitment and retention, such as hourly wage enhancements, recruitment bonuses or retainment bonuses.
- **Quality Improvements:** Higher levels of quality in the daycare environment equal higher levels of reimbursement through the State of Iowa for families that qualify for Child Care Assistance (CCA). Applicants may request funds to assist with the costs associated with completing Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K) levels.
- **Facility Improvements:** Applicants may apply for funds to assist with the construction of a daycare facility and/or remodeling of an existing space to increase the capacity of the daycare.

Eligibility to Apply

- Applicants must be a state-licensed daycare or a registered Childcare Development Home located in Kossuth County or serving Kossuth County families.
- Non-profit and for-profit daycare centers and in-home daycare providers may apply.
- Application and all relevant documents must be received by the deadline date to be considered.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored on the following:

- Organization – The overall viability of the organization and its capacity for completing the project.
- Feasibility – The likelihood that the project will successfully increase daycare access.
- Community Need and Outcomes – The need for the project and the impact it will have on daycare access.
- Project Budget – The budget details and ability to secure the rest of the funds for the project. Balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow projections must accompany the completed application.