



IOWA QUALITY FOR KIDS



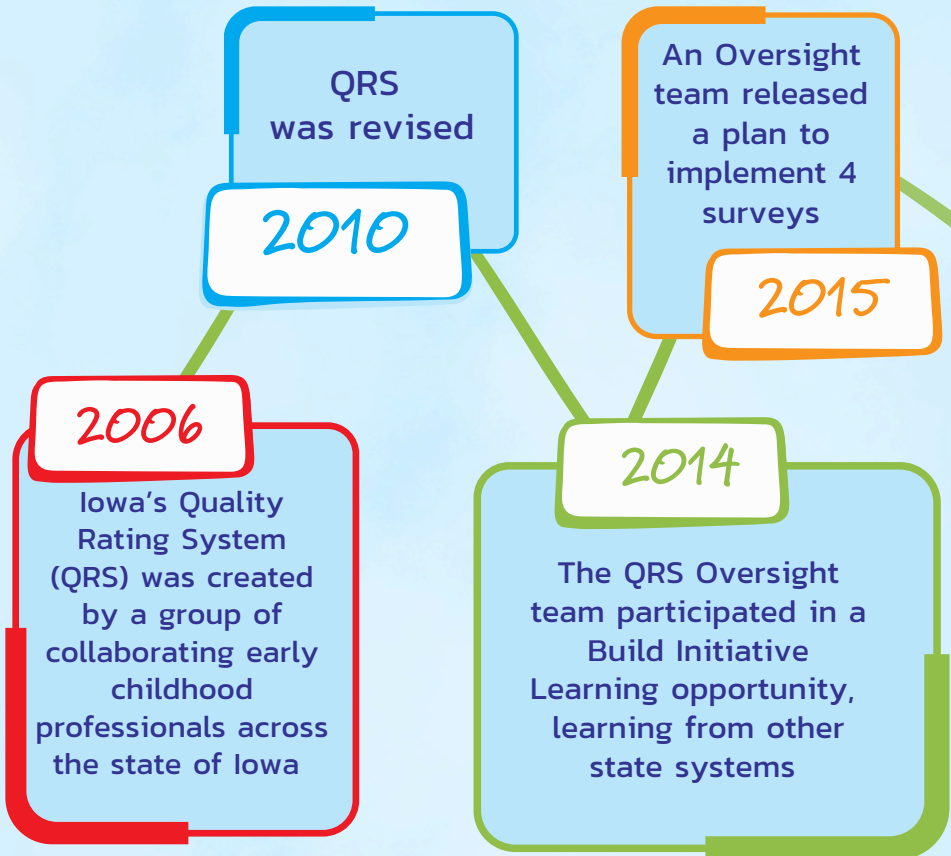
Let's hop
into IQ4K!

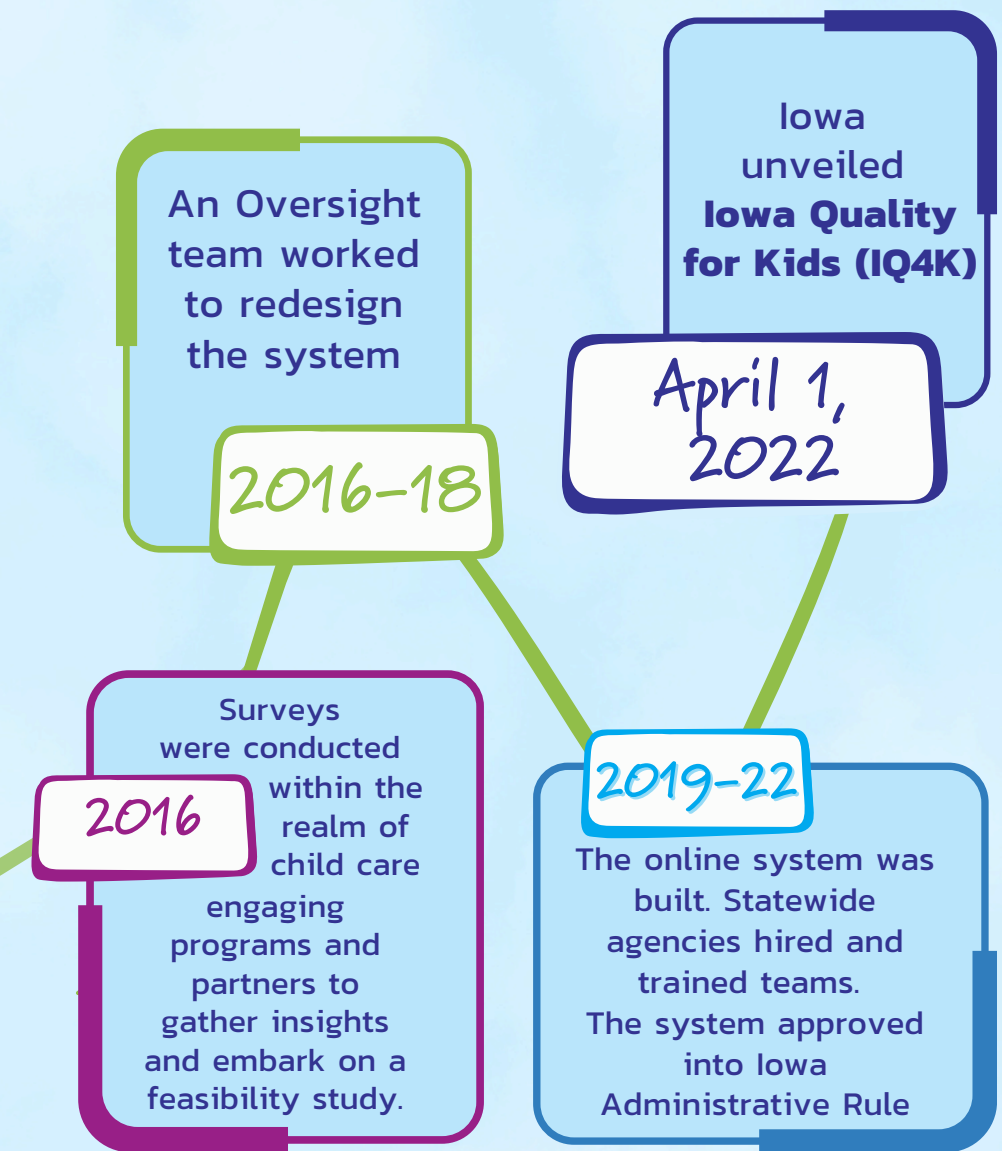
Building quality environments one block at a time

IQ4K Timeline

HISTORY:

Iowa was the 11th state to implement a quality rating system. Iowa Health and Human Services lead the way, contracting with Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) to guide efforts and collaborate with Iowa's Child Care Community to create the Iowa Quality for Kids system.





Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral is the contracted agency that implements and supports the initiative. Each CCR&R region employs the IQ4K Specialists.

I'm Kaya, your quality Kangaroo. I will hop you through everything you need to know about IQ4K®!



Kaya knows a strong start is the key to a great leap forward!

Kaya is passionate about helping programs create quality environments through IQ4K.

Hop along with Kaya to explore the benefits of this voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement system and see how programs can hop to new heights!



Scan here to learn more!



IOWA QUALITY FOR KIDS

Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools, registered Child Development Homes, and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school.

IQ4K provides five levels of quality (building blocks) programs use to work toward growth and achievement!



1Q4K implements Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

CQI is an ongoing process of assessment, action planning, goal setting and implementation. This cycle repeats, ensuring that quality measures are kept in place through changes in the program, such as staffing and enrollment.



Continued research around health, safety and learning in Early Childhood Education can lead to new best practice recommendations. Having a CQI process embedded in programming can ensure as recommendations evolve, your program is able to assess how those changes impact your program.

Why CQI?

Quality
Programs

Programs can utilize the "building blocks" of IQ4K to focus on maintaining and implementing quality changes to better serve the children and families they care for.

Keeps
Families
Involved

Everyone
Works
Together

For example, providers and staff participating in IQ4K complete an annual professional development plan that supports ongoing training to increase knowledge and best practices implemented in their program.

Increased
Provider
Knowledge

After a rating is achieved, completion of ongoing annual requirements aligns with the CQI model.

Children
learn and
grow

Categories of Quality Indicators

Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K) consists of several categories of criteria. Programs submit evidence showing how they are implementing best practices.

The categories include:

- Nutrition & Physical Activity
- Professional Development
- Leadership & Administration
- Family & Community Partnerships
- Environment
- Teaching Staff & Provider Qualifications
- Teaching & Learning



When a program implements quality practices from these areas, they:

- Utilize enhanced best practices in health, safety and nutrition
- Implement individualized supports for children through activity and lesson planning, developmental screenings, and sharing resources that support children's and family's needs
- Achieve higher standards in education and experience for Program Administrators, teaching staff, and/or providers
- Complete research-based training to assist in educating and supporting all children in their programs
- Create learning spaces that are welcoming, interactive, and engaging for all
- Build partnerships and strengthen relationships with families

Achieving an IQ4K[®] rating has its **BENEFITS:**



Enhanced best practices across all areas of programming support quality outcomes for children



Increasing staff qualifications and participation in quality systems can support staff retention



Monetary bonus upon achievement of each IQ4K level



Can qualify for higher child care assistance payments



Potential to be eligible for other grants and funding opportunities, as available

Check out the Marketing Toolkit on the IQ4K website for resources programs can utilize to share their achievements!

Achievement Bonus

Child Development Home (CDH)

Level 5	\$4,000
Level 4	\$3,200
Level 3	\$2,400
Level 2	\$1,600
Level 1	\$800



Center, Preschool, School-Age 0-25

Level 5	\$4,000
Level 4	\$3,200
Level 3	\$2,400
Level 2	\$1,600
Level 1	\$800

Center, Preschool, School-Age 26-50

Level 5	\$8,000
Level 4	\$6,400
Level 3	\$4,800
Level 2	\$3,200
Level 1	\$1,600

Center, Preschool, School-Age 51-100

Level 5	\$12,000
Level 4	\$9,600
Level 3	\$7,200
Level 2	\$4,800
Level 1	\$2,400

Center, Preschool, School-Age 100+

Level 5	\$16,000
Level 4	\$12,800
Level 3	\$9,600
Level 2	\$6,400
Level 1	\$3,200

View Iowa's currently rated programs here:

<https://iowaccrr.org/providers/iq4k/>

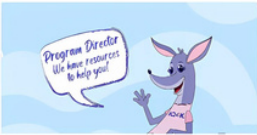
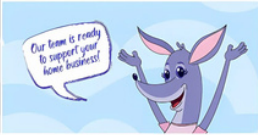
SCAN ME



Three applications based on type of programming

Application Resources

Listed below are suggested forms and required documents to help programs successfully complete IQ4K® applications.

 Center or Preschool + Resources	 Child Development Home + Resources	 School-Age Program + Resources
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Programs who participate in other approved quality systems are able to have those achievements recognized through **Specialized Tracks**.



Iowa Quality Preschool
Program Standards (IQPPS)



IQ4K ratings are valid for 2 years. Programs are eligible to apply to increase their rating after 1 year at the current level. Each time a program applies, the program will receive the full bonus. The bonus can be used to enhance the overall quality of a program.

Partnership Process

The IQ4K application is designed to be completed in partnership with your CCR&R Consultant and IQ4K Specialist. They will partner to review documentation and follow up with any clarifications needed. The goal is to support programs in submitting evidence that captures best practices that have been implemented.

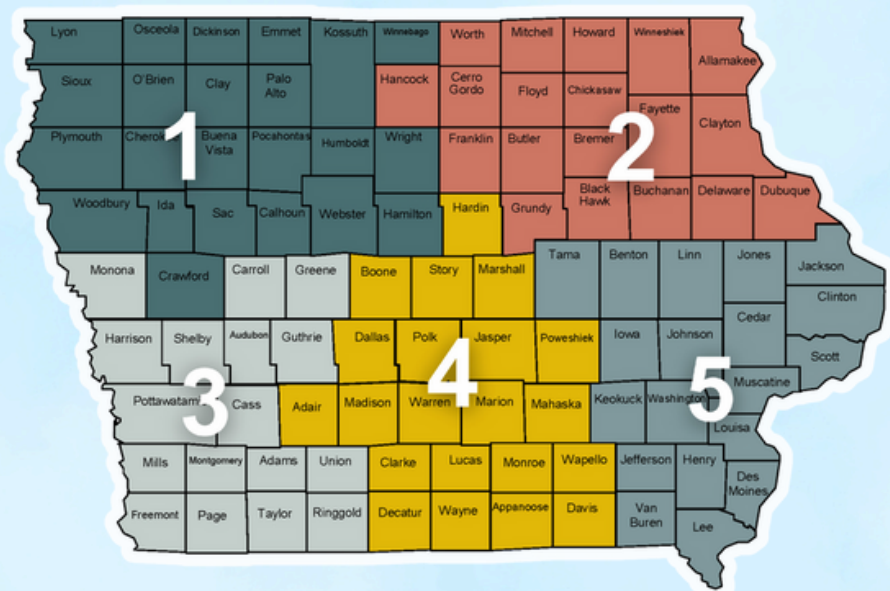
- **IQ4K pulls information from i-PoWeR, be sure information is up-to-date before you start!**
- **Data uploaded will be saved for all applications - upload all year long.**
- **The application is available on-demand, login using i-PoWeR credentials.**

The CCR&R website has valuable resources and IQ4K documents to help you complete the application process. A link to the online application can also be found at:

<https://iowaccrr.org/providers/iq4k/>

Programs should partner early with their CCR&R Child Care Consultant to make a plan and set goals.

1Q4K Specialists are here to help!



Region 1

**CCR&R of NW Iowa
Mid-Sioux
Opportunity, Inc.
418 S Marion St
Remsen, IA 51050
712-786-3489
ccrr@midsioux.org**

Region 2

**CCR&R of NE Iowa
Exceptional
Persons, Inc.
3675 University Ave,
PO Box 4090
Waterloo, IA 50704
800-475-0804
childcare@episervice.org**

Region 3

**CCR&R of SW Iowa
West Central Comm
Action Agency
1408 A Hwy 44
Harlan, IA 51537
712-755-7381
region3ccrr@westcca.org**

Region 4

**CCR&R of Central Iowa
Orchard Place
808 5th Ave
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-246-3590
ccrrinfo@orchardplace.org**

Region 5

**CCR&R of SE Iowa
Comm Action of
Eastern Iowa
500 E 59th St
Davenport, IA 52807
866-324-3236
ccrria@cae Iowa.org**



**Funding provided by the Iowa Department of Health and Human
Services through the Child Care and Development Fund**

Read what others say about IQ4K!



"Some of the biggest benefits I have seen from implementing continuous quality improvement through IQ4K is building closer relationships with families of the children I care for as well as our community."

Child Development Home Provider

"Through the implementation of IQ4K in my program, I have eliminated most challenging behavior, and it was easier than I expected. Without the presence of challenging behavior, we have so much time for fun and learning opportunities."

Child Development Home Provider

"I have had the opportunity to have my entire staff take the Iowa Early Learning Standards training, which has given our program a much-needed framework for training, curriculum, and assessment."

Child Care Center Director

"The review of our policies was the most beneficial aspect: it safeguarded myself and the center from potential liabilities and clearly laid out policies geared towards consistent quality care practices."

Child Care Center Director

"I've been a provider for over 32 years, it's important to stay relevant and keep up to date on continuing education with best practices, inclusion, safety and challenging behavior education. I'm providing my littles with the best care and setting them up for success!"

Child Development Home Provider