



As a parent, you make many important decisions regarding your child's health and welfare. Finding quality caregivers is one of the most important of those decisions. Every child should begin school healthy and ready to learn and many children benefit from quality early educational experiences in preparing them to succeed in kindergarten. Scientific evidence shows that early childhood education significantly improves the scholastic success and educational attainments of children even into early adulthood. And children in high-quality child care demonstrate greater school readiness and success through second grade than children in low-quality care. But not every parent can afford quality early education. Johnson County Empowerment provides funding for several programs that are designed to help families access quality early care and education for their children.

Empowerment Early Education Funding

Bridge Care

The Bridge Care program increases the accessibility of quality early education experiences for children who are also eligible to receive funds from State Child Care Assistance or Promise Jobs. Bridge Care bridges the gap of eligibility during brief periods of ineligibility due to school breaks or other planned times of ineligibility for those programs.

Continue Care

The Continue Care program can provide a seamless continuum of child development and care that is both flexible and accessible to eligible parents who reside in Johnson County. The Continue Care program provides financial support to help a family pay for its current cost of child care during the time the family is experiencing a financial crisis due to a temporary change in its family situation. Financial assistance is granted for the sole purpose of maintaining stability for a child in their current child care arrangement during a change in family situation. Support is time limited, lasting no more than six months, and not a provision for ongoing child care. Funds from the Continue Care Program are available only if no other source of funding exists. It is possible for families to request partial payment from Continue Care while the family pays the other portion.

School Ready Scholarships

Johnson County Empowerment's School Ready Scholarships (SRS) assists in paying for a quality pre-kindergarten educational experience for children age 3, 4, or 5 who will be starting kindergarten during Fall 2010 or Fall 2011. Children may participate in full- or part-time preschool at the family's choice of program. Eligible programs may include licensed child care centers, licensed preschools, or registered child development homes that provide a quality early education setting. School Ready Scholarships can cover up to half of the cost of required registration fees or deposits and can cover tuition for a maximum award of up to \$6,000 per year. Preschool programs are expected to meet minimum quality standards.

Wraparound Care Funding

Wraparound Care funds expand part-time funding from State Child Care Assistance, Promise Jobs, Shared Visions Preschool, Statewide Voluntary Preschool, or Head Start into full-time early education. Wraparound Funding is agency-specific and can be used in only certain programs.

Tell us about who will be caring for and educating your child:

Include all providers on your application – we can reimburse only those providers that you list. Provide us with the daily/weekly/monthly rate that you are paying (or is paid on your behalf) for child care. If you need assistance in identifying available care, you may contact 4Cs Child Care Resource & Referral at 1500 Sycamore Street, Iowa City, by telephone at 319.338.7684, or e-mail Justine@iowa4cs.com.

_____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____ per _____
Child(ren)	Name of center or provider	Address	Phone	rate of payment
_____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____ per _____
Child(ren)	Name of center or provider	Address	Phone	rate of payment
_____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____ per _____
Child (ren)	Name of center or provider	Address	Phone	rate of payment

Indicate the dates for which funding is being requested: _____ through _____

Indicate the main reason for this application:

Preschool scholarship _____ Job search _____ Maternity leave _____ Parent is a student on break _____ Temporary decrease in work hours _____
 Waiting list for child care assistance _____ Early childhood special education funds end for summer _____
 Extra household bills, i.e. (circle one) medical bills, car repair, legal expenses, other (describe below) _____
 Family emergency (such as a death in the family, etc.) (describe below) _____ Other – Describe in detail below _____

Continue Care: Describe your current situation and need for child care funding, including the change in family circumstance and plan for when this funding ends: _____

Because you may be eligible for other funds, it is necessary for us to verify your income and if you work or are a student. While information provided on this application may be reviewed by the agencies listed below, information obtained from Empowerment applications is to be used only in determining eligibility and receipt of Empowerment funding. Information is not to be used by or shared with other agencies, programs, or individuals without the specific written consent of all parties.

I understand that in addition to Empowerment and DHS, the following agencies may review my application. I have checked agencies that I do not want reviewing my application. HACAP Head Start _____ Home Ties (4Cs) _____ Iowa City Community School District _____
 Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County _____ Promise Jobs (FIP) _____ University of Iowa _____

 Parent Signature Date

Send completed applications to:
 Empowerment Early Care & Education Funding
 Attn: An Leonard Fevold, DHS
 855 S. Dubuque Street, Suite 102
 Iowa City, IA 52240
 Phone: 319.688.5740 Fax: 319.688.5711

For help completing this application, contact:
 Johnson County Empowerment
 Laurie Nash
 855 S. Dubuque Street, Suite 202B
 Iowa City, IA 52240
 Phone: 319.339.6179 email: empower@jccempowerment.com www.jccempowerment.com

Johnson County Empowerment CHILDCARE DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY

1. Child Name: 2. Today's Date:

3. Age of child when this scholarship started:

3 4 5

4. Child's Gender

Female Male

5. Child's Race (Please choose the ONE that best describes what you consider to be the child's race):

African American/Black African/Middle Eastern
 Asian Caucasian/White
 Hispanic/Latino Native American or Alaska Native
 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders More than one race
 Other

6. Child's Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

7. Does this child have health insurance?

Yes No

8. Primary language of Head of Household

English Spanish Arabic Other

9. Marital Status:

Married Partnered Single
 Divorced Widowed Separated

10. Household Size:

1 2 3
 4 5 Greater than 5

11. Family Income:

\$0 - \$10,000 \$10,001 - \$20,000 \$20,001 - \$30,000
 \$30,000 - \$40,000 \$40,001 - \$50,000 \$50,000 - \$60,000
 More than \$60,000

12. Highest Level of Education of Head of Household:

A. Elementary or middle B. Some high school
 C. High school diploma/GED D. Trade/Vocational Training
 E. Some college F. 2-year college degree (Associate's)
 G. 4-year college degree (Bachelor's) H. Master's degree or above

13. Number of children in the household ages 0-5 years:

0 1 2
 3 4 Greater than 4

Who is eligible?

- ☞ Families must reside in Johnson County.
- ☞ Not eligible for State Child Care Assistance or Promise Jobs Child Care Funding for this care.
- ☞ Not able to participate in Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program, Shared Visions, or Head Start OR need this as wraparound to turn that part-time care into full-time care.
- ☞ Families must meet income guidelines below. (Continue Care is 185% - change to match?)

Bridge Care Only:

- ☞ Families must have a brief period of ineligibility for other childcare funding (such as State Child Care Assistance or Promise Jobs).
- ☞ At least one of the children being served must be less than school age.
- ☞ Children must have attended this child care within the last 7 days.
- ☞ Not eligible for other funding for this care, including Empowerment Wraparound funding.
- ☞ Children of graduate students are not eligible.

Continue Care Only:

- ☞ Families must be experiencing a change in family situation that leads to a temporary need for child care funding.
- ☞ At least one of the children being served must be less than school age.
- ☞ Children must have attended this child care within the last 7 days.
- ☞ Not eligible for other funding for this care, including Empowerment Wraparound funding.
- ☞ Children of graduate students are not eligible.

School Ready Scholarships Only:

- ☞ Child born before September 15, 2005, and entering kindergarten Fall 2010 or Fall 2011.
- ☞ Attending a quality licensed child care center, licensed preschool, or registered child development home.
- ☞ Children of graduate students are eligible.

Wraparound Care Only:

- ☞ Children must attend a program that has a Wraparound Childcare contract with Empowerment.
- ☞ Children must receive additional childcare funding from other sources such as State Child Care Assistance, Promise Jobs, Shared Visions Preschool, Statewide Voluntary Preschool, and/or Head Start.
- ☞ Children must not be eligible to receive other funds for the times of this particular care.
- ☞ Children of graduate students are eligible.

Family Income Guidelines (200%):
in household/monthly gross income

2	\$2428
3	\$3052
4	\$3675
5	\$4298
6	\$4922
7	\$5545
8	\$6168
each additional person add	\$ 623

How this works:

Families apply for funding.

Empowerment reimburses providers directly.

Approval letters are sent to providers.

Providers have up to 10 business days after the month in which care was provided to submit invoices for payment.

Families and child care providers track their own usage – Empowerment does not notify when maximum reimbursement has been reached.

Funding is available for childcare/preschool tuition and service only.

Bridge Care

Children must be experiencing a period of ineligibility for State Child Care Assistance or Promise Jobs childcare funding. Care for the child must have been paid by one of those sources prior to receiving Bridge Care.

Service providers must be registered or licensed with DHS or meet DHS non-registered provider criteria.

At least one of the children receiving funding must be less than school-age.

There is a funding cap of \$1,000 per under-school-age child and \$500 per school-age child.

Providers are reimbursed at the rate that is currently being paid on behalf of the child.

Bridge Care funds are available only if no other source of funding exists for this care.

Continue Care

Continue Care will participate in “cost-sharing”; where the family pays a portion of the monthly child care costs and Continue Care pays the difference. In this way, families may extend their eligibility from approximately 3 months to approximately 6 months.

Service providers must be registered or licensed with DHS or meet DHS non-registered provider criteria.

At least one of the children receiving funding must be less than school-age.

Funds are available for up to 6 months with a cap of \$1,000 per under-school-age child and \$500 per

school-age child.

Families may apply only once in any 12 month period.

Providers are reimbursed at the rate the family is currently paying or is being paid on their behalf.

Continue Care funds are available only if no other source of funding exists for this care.

School Ready Scholarships

Children are not eligible for Continue Care or Bridge Care when this funding has ended.

This program runs August 2009 through August 2010.

School Ready Scholarships does not pay any late fees or late pick-up charges.

SRS does not pay for transportation or activity fees.

SRS follows providers' standard contract regarding payment for sick and vacation days.

SRS pays for only one calendar week of absences before a family is considered to have "abandoned" the program and SRS no longer pays.

Programs must meet minimum quality standards.

Priority is given to 4- and 5-year olds beginning kindergarten Fall 2010.

Wraparound Care

Providers are reimbursed at the rate that is currently being paid on the family's behalf.

When a child is eligible for Wraparound Funds during a month, they are eligible for those funds during the entire month. Participating children are not eligible to use both Wraparound Funds and Continue Care/Bridge Care during months in which they are eligible to receive Wraparound Funds.