

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Annual Report on Childcare
Date: May 7, 2001

Recommended Action:

Receive the annual reports on childcare programs at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa.

Executive Summary:

Each university provides on-campus care centers and participates in community referral services. All centers are operating at full capacity. Fees charged by the on-campus centers are comparable to those charged in communities surrounding the universities. All centers assess parent fees based on family incomes and/or student or staff status. Availability of childcare is important in the recruitment and retention of students as well as for faculty and staff.

Financial contributions by the universities to the on-campus centers allow for lower fees to be charged to student parents. The centers could not continue to operate if they cared only for children of students within the current subsidized rate structures. The universities do not subsidize the fees paid by nonstudent parents at the campus centers except for the basic infrastructure provided by each institution, which includes facilities and utilities.

Each university is proposing an increase in the general fund portion of its childcare budget as follows: University of Iowa -- a 4% increase; University of Northern Iowa -- 3% increase; and Iowa State University -- 1% increase. The childcare budgets will be a part of the presentation on preliminary budgets in June.

Background and Analysis:

The Board has received annual reports on the childcare programs at the universities since 1989.

Specific appropriations for funding of childcare programs were provided by the General Assembly in the early 1990's. These appropriations were eliminated by the mid-1990's. The Board and the institutions have continued to improve childcare support through the annual Regent budget process.

Financial support for the childcare programs at the universities for fiscal year 2001 and the proposed budgets for fiscal year 2002 are shown below.

	Fiscal Year 2001			Proposed Fiscal Year 2002			General Fund Percent Change	Overall Percent Change
	General Fund	Inkind	Total	General Fund	Inkind	Total		
SUI	349,734	115,092	464,826	362,238	113,619	475,857	4%	2%
ISU	184,309	160,546	344,855	186,883	178,252	365,135	1%	6%
UNI	144,368	*	144,368	148,699	*	148,699	3%	3%

*Includes space, unspecified maintenance and utilities, etc.

In addition to university contributions, the centers are funded through parent fees, federal funds and other support.

Programs exist at each institution allowing eligible employees to establish spending accounts in compliance with Internal Revenue Service regulations to be used for childcare expenses.

The campus centers employ approximately 200 students, most of whom are work-study students.

Children of students occupy the majority of the slots at the childcare centers:

- SUI Student Government sponsored centers – 55%
- ISU Community Childcare – 77%
- ISU Veterinary Medicine Center – 48%
- UNI Child Development Center – 66%

While centers exist on each campus, childcare needs are not being fully addressed, as demonstrated by large waiting lists for each center:

- The University of Iowa Student Association centers have approximately 260 children on their waiting lists.
- The UIHC Center, which accepts only children of faculty and staff, has about 67 children on the waiting list.

- The ISU University Center has 184 children on the waiting list and the Veterinary Medicine Center has 128 on the waiting list.
- The University of Northern Iowa waiting list has 90 children.

The childcare centers provide practicum sites for students enrolled in various university degree programs. The Iowa State University center also serves as a practicum site for students from Des Moines Area Community College.

Although the special schools do not sponsor childcare centers, both the Iowa School for the Deaf and the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School lease space to not-for-profit childcare centers. Childcare services at the centers are available to the staff of the special schools as well as to the community.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The University of Iowa has three centers sponsored by the University of Iowa Student Association (UISA). These centers are housed in University dwellings with the centers paying market-based rent. A separate Board of Directors governs each center. The center at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics is managed under contract by a for-profit organization. This center serves children of faculty and staff with those employed at the UIHC given priority. This center is housed in Westlawn.

At the University of Iowa all graduate and professional students are eligible to receive a direct subsidy for childcare. A graduate or professional student who has a child under two may receive up to \$100 per month toward the cost of childcare, and a student who has a child above two may receive up to \$70 per month. The average cost for infant care in the Iowa City-Coralville area is between \$550 and \$650 per month, and three to five year old care is between \$450 to \$500 per month. During the current academic year, 101 graduate and professional student parents have been approved for reimbursement. Thirty-five graduate and professional student families are on a waiting list.

The Family Services Coordinator is responsible for promoting, developing, and implementing programs and services responsive to the family needs of University students, faculty and staff. During the year income guidelines were added to the eligibility criteria for participation in the Graduate and Professional Student Childcare Assistance Program. The income guidelines allow those graduate students with the lowest incomes to be served first by the program. The University submitted, in partnership with the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program and the Community Coordinated Child Care, a grant proposal under the federal Department of Education grant program. If awarded the University will receive up to 1% of its 2000 Pell Grant disbursement to assist Pell Grant eligible students with the cost of childcare.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Iowa State University has two on-campus centers. The University Childcare Center is housed in Pammel Court. The center is operated by a nonprofit agency and receives funding from a variety of sources, including both direct and in-kind support from the University. The other center, located near the College of Veterinary Medicine, is in its fourth year of operation and is operated under contract to an outside vendor.

Earlier this year, the Board of Regents approved proceeding with the planning for the development of a North Campus Child Care Facility to be located in the vicinity of the Student Apartment Community. This facility would replace and expand the existing facilities located in the former Pammel Court area. This program is currently housed in former World War II Quonset huts that are past their useful life and in a location that is transitioning to other campus uses. Locating an expanded facility in the student apartment community area will better serve student families and will be more accessible to other members of the University community. The project cost of the facility is approximately \$2 million, and it would accommodate at least 84 children. In accordance with the Board's capital planning procedures, this project should be submitted for appropriate approvals over the next several months.

During fiscal year 2001, members of the University Childcare Committee (UCCC) participated in a planning process designed to streamline its mission and goal statement as well as the priorities of its four subcommittees. Goals were established as follows:

- Funding – Investigate additional sources of funding in order to provide accessible, affordable, quality childcare facilities and services for the ISU community.
- Policy – Assess current University policy, recommend change and influence future policies affecting children and families of the ISU community.
- Services – Provide accessible, affordable, quality childcare services and facilities to meet the diverse needs of the ISU community.
- Education – Foster awareness and appreciation for the diverse needs of children and families through education and public awareness.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

The Child Development Center at the University of Northern Iowa is a part of the curriculum of the College of Education and is housed in the basement of the Price Laboratory School.

The University of Northern Iowa Childcare Advisory Committee has selected the following goals for the coming year:

- Continue to collect data on the need for child care on the campus,
- Secure student parent grants from student activity fees, and
- Expand availability of on-campus childcare for UNI students.

Additional details from the annual reports are outlined in Attachment A – Child Care Budgets; Attachment B – Campus Childcare Facilities; Attachment C – Community Childcare Referral Services; and Attachment D – Activities.

The individual annual reports are included in the Regent Exhibit Book.

Marcia Brunson Approved: Frank J. Stork
Marcia R. Brunson Frank J. Stork

Attachment A

CHILDCARE BUDGETS

In June, the Board will act upon the individual preliminary budgets of the universities. The childcare budgets will be a part of the preliminary budgets.

University of Iowa

	FY 2001			Proposed FY 2002			General Fund % Change	Overall Percent Change
	General Fund	Inkind	TOTAL	General Fund	Inkind	TOTAL		
Salary Support	33,046	-	33,046	34,038	-	34,038	3%	3%
Operational Costs	1,400	-	1,400	1,700	-	1,700	21%	21%
UI Administered Scholarship Child Care Program								
Mildly Ill Child Care Stipend	400	-	400	750	-	750	88%	88%
Grad. & Prof. Student Assistance	80,400	-	80,400	83,250	-	83,250	4%	4%
Child Care Contractual Services								
4C's								
Resource and Referral	51,000	-	51,000	51,000	-	51,000	0%	0%
Toy Lending Library		6,909	6,909		-	-		-100%
Child Care Centers/Programs								
Alice's Rainbow	92,378	-	92,378	98,110	-	98,110	6%	6%
Brookland Woods	38,230	-	38,230	38,470	-	38,470	1%	1%
U.P.C.C.	36,880	-	36,880	37,120	-	37,120	1%	1%
University Preschool	-	1,860	1,860	-	1,980	1,980		6%
UIHC/Bright Horizons	16,000	106,323	122,323	16,000	111,639	127,639	0%	4%
Childcare Evaluation	-	-	-	1,800	-	1,800	100%	100%
TOTAL	349,734	115,092	464,826	362,238	113,619	475,857	4%	2%

Iowa State University

	Fiscal Year 2001			Fiscal Year 2002			Overall Percent Change	General Fund Percent Change
	General	Other and Inkind	TOTAL	General	Other and Inkind	TOTAL		
Child Care Consultant	54,810	-	54,810	57,384	-	57,384	5%	5%
Center for Child Care Resources	11,174	10,259	21,433	11,174	13,391	24,565	15%	0%
Story County Infant Care Network	5,000	966	5,966	5,000	1,534	6,534	10%	0%
Vet Med Center	32,000	18,000	50,000	32,000	18,000	50,000	0%	0%
Pammel Court Center	29,000	93,071	122,071	29,000	108,988	137,988	13%	0%
Flex-Care Program	18,000	21,270	39,270	18,000	20,602	38,602	-2%	0%
Comfort Zone	33,200	16,980	50,180	33,200	15,737	48,937	-2%	0%
YWCA Sitter's List	125	-	125	125	-	125	0%	0%
ISU Child Care Brochure	500	-	500	500	-	500	0%	0%
Speaker and Program Fees	500	-	500	500	-	500	0%	0%
TOTAL	184,309	160,546	344,855	186,883	178,252	365,135	6%	1%

University of Northern Iowa

University contributions to the Child Development Center (CDC) for fiscal year 2001 and proposed for fiscal year 2002 are:

	FY 2001	FY 2002
General Fund	\$144,368	\$148,699
Inkind	*	*
TOTAL	\$144,368	\$148,699

*Includes space, unspecified maintenance, utilities, etc.

Last year the Student Activity Fee Committee appropriated \$10,000 for childcare grants for student parents. These funds supported 20 student families for one semester each in the amount of \$500.

This year the committee again awarded \$10,000. This amount was matched by UNI which allowed the Campus Childcare Advisory Committee to award a total of \$20,000 for childcare fees. From a pool of 81 applicants, the committee was able to award nine students a full \$1,000 (\$500 per semester). One student graduating in December 2000 was awarded \$500 for fall semester, and another student received a \$500 grant. All grant recipients had a financial aid package that showed a minimum need of \$10,000, mostly in loans, and annual childcare costs ranging from \$2,300 to \$5,000.

Attachment B

CAMPUS CHILDCARE FACILITIES

University of Iowa: The childcare centers on the campus are operated by nonprofit corporations sponsored by the University of Iowa Student Association.

The University rents five houses for use by three centers – Alice's Rainbow, Brookland Woods, and University Parents Care Collective. The rent paid to the University is at the Iowa City market rate for comparable space. An increase of about 3% is proposed for 2001-2002.

The centers care for approximately 125 children. About 50% of the children are children of University students. The waiting lists for the UISA centers include 260 children.

Each center has a separate Board of Directors that establishes rates and sets policy.

All of the centers are licensed by the state. One center is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

Several University departments use the centers for observations and practicums.

The University of Iowa opened the UIHC Childcare Center in August 1994. The center, licensed for 108 children of employees, is housed in renovated space in Westlawn. First priority is given to children of health center faculty and staff.

The center is operated under contract with Bright Horizons Family Solutions. Bright Horizons is required to cover its operating costs by charging tuition rates comparable to those charged by other high quality centers in the same geographic area.

Approximately 67 children are on the waiting list for the UIHC Childcare Center. This number is down considerably from the 184 reported last year. This is due to a policy change at the center that requires a center visit and a cash deposit before being placed on the waiting list.

The UIHC Childcare has received accreditation from the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

The centers on the University of Iowa campus employ about 100 students.

Iowa State University: Two childcare centers are located on the ISU campus.

University Community Childcare (UCC) at Iowa State University is housed in Pammel Court, a part of the Department of Residence. The center has 81 full-time slots for birth through school age with another 18 FTE slots available during the summer for school age childcare. The UCC has been awarded accreditation by the National Academy for the Education of Young Children. The center has also been designated as a Gold Seal quality childcare facility by the Iowa Department of Human Services.

The center is operated as a nonprofit agency housed in University space. In addition to parent fees and federal funds, the center receives support from the community agency, ASSET, in addition to direct and in-kind support from the University.

As of April 2001, 184 ISU families have been placed on the waiting list for services at UCC. Seventy-seven percent of the clients served by UCC are student families.

University support for UCC includes partial funding of staff salaries and Department of Residence in-kind support of annual facility costs. UCC employees are also eligible to purchase health insurance through the University group plan.

The UCC includes the Comfort Zone, an area used for sick childcare. Currently, 240 children are pre-registered for care. Between August 2000 and April 2001, 127 children from 42 families (including 21 student families) received care.

The Flex-Care Program is a part-time childcare program exclusively for student families. As of April 2001, this program has served a total of 21 children of ISU student families. The Flex-Care program continues to be an attractive option for student families to attend classes. The program has a waiting list of 18 children.

A childcare center is located near the College of Veterinary Medicine and is in its fourth year of operation. The center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Currently, 87 children are enrolled with 48% from ISU student families. A total of 128 children are on the waiting list.

The center serves as a practicum and research site for early childhood education students from both ISU and Des Moines Area Community College. The center has also served as a research site for architecture and landscape architecture students.

The campus childcare centers employ about 50 students.

University of Northern Iowa: The Child Development Center at the University of Northern Iowa is a part of the College of Education and serves as a practicum site for student teaching. The center offers only full-time care. The center has space for 53 children. Sixty-six percent of these are children of students. The center is housed in space at the Price Laboratory School. Staff at the center includes 75 student employees. The center has a waiting list of 90 families with approximately 43% from student families.

Attachment C

COMMUNITY CHILDCARE REFERRAL SERVICES

University of Iowa: The University contracts with the Community Coordinated Childcare (4Cs), a community based nonprofit agency to provide childcare resource and referral services to University affiliated families.

Since the University makes a financial contribution, the referral service is provided free of charge to University staff and students. During fiscal year 2000, there were 556 requests from students and staff affiliated with the University for referrals to childcare providers. Of those 556 requests, 203 were from students. An average of one hour is spent in providing childcare referral services to a parent.

The 4Cs recruits and trains caregivers and manages the Best Beginnings Infant Care Program. During the past year, there were 306 requests from students and staff for referrals for infant care. Currently there are 58 Best Beginnings caregivers who provide 232 caregiving slots.

The Toy Lending Library loans out toys, large play equipment, and educational materials to parents and providers. For a childcare provider, the fee is \$15 annually. University student parents receive the service free of charge. Approximately 84 University-affiliated families accessed the program this year. The University provides an inkind contribution of space and utilities for the Toy Lending Library program.

Iowa State University: The University continues to collaborate with the Center for Childcare Resources (CCR), the community resource and referral agency located in Pammel Court.

The CCR, a part of the Statewide Resource and Referral Network, which is funded by local, state and federal funds, maintains a database of over 611 childcare options for families within a three-county area in central Iowa. Over the past 12 months, 417 ISU families have used the CCR referral services in their search for childcare. Forty-six percent of the ISU families served by the CCR were student families.

University of Northern Iowa: The University cooperates with the Childcare Coordination Resource and Referral Services (CCR&R).

Records kept by the CCR&R indicate that in the past 12 months, 36 UNI families were assisted in locating childcare. Student families accounted for 78% of those seeking childcare referrals.

The CCR&R provides referral services in Black Hawk and adjacent counties. The CCR&R also provides ongoing training and technical assistance to childcare providers as well as ongoing recruitment for providers.

Attachment D

ACTIVITIES

University of Iowa

In an effort to inform the University community of the services of the resource and referral program, four brown bag seminars describing childcare services were held throughout the campus during the past year. Information on childcare services is also presented during student and employee orientation.

Iowa State University

The University continues to make significant progress toward addressing the childcare needs of students, faculty and staff. Progress in fiscal year 2001 included:

- Continued collaboration with Student Health Services to provide staffing for the Comfort Zone.
- The addition of six infant care providers to the Story County Infant Care Network.
- NAEYC accreditation for the University Childcare Center at Pammel Court.
- Collaborative efforts with the Story County Coalition Committee to survey the ability of ISU student families to access childcare both on campus and in the community.

University of Northern Iowa

UNI Child Development Center: The Child Development Center (CDC) served 53 children in full-time care. The CDC mission parallels that of the University of Northern Iowa. First, the CDC is deeply involved in teaching, both young children and University students. Second, the mission of research is carried out in all classrooms by practicing teachers and undergraduate and graduate students. Third, the center provides an extremely valuable service in providing quality and affordable childcare for students and staff. Fourth, the center provides a practicum site for approximately 80 University education students each semester. Finally, the CDC provides outreach-training services for childcare professionals at all levels.

Activities Program for Children at University Apartments: University Apartments continue to offer recreation programs for children 2-12 who reside in the complex. The preschool program has a spring 2001 enrollment of 6 children

between the ages of 2-5 years. This low enrollment continues a trend with student parents reporting a search for full-time care for their children while they attend classes or work. Four of these six preschool children are international and their first language is not English. This presents a real challenge for the staff.

The after-school program currently has 20 children registered. This program is for children 5-12 years of age living in University Apartments.

The summer 2000 preschool program had 14 children enrolled and attending daily. The summer 2000 program served 24 school-age children, all attending on a daily basis. In contrast to the Child Development Center enrollment that decreases each summer, the enrollment numbers for the 2001 summer programs at the University Apartments are expected to increase due to the low turnover in student families in the apartments during the current year.

Both the preschool and after-school programs are educational in nature with cooperative learning experiences emphasized. The programs are designed around a weekly theme. Some of the themes have been Pioneer Week, Grandparents Week, Chinese New Year, Unusual Animals Weeks and U.S. Presidents week.