

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** Annual Report on Child Care  
**Date:** May 6, 2002

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**Recommended Action:**

Receive the report.

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**Executive Summary:**

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| Campus Child Care Centers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each university provides on-campus child care centers and participates in community referral services.</li><br/><li>• The campus centers all operate at full capacity with extensive waiting lists. Maps showing locations of the centers on the campuses are attached to this memorandum.</li></ul>  |
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| Funding of centers        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fees assessed to parents, university subsidies and other funding sources, including federal fund the campus centers.</li><br/><li>• The financial contributions by the universities allow centers to charge student parents lower fees.</li><br/><li>• The centers could not continue to operate if they cared only for children of students within the current subsidized rate structures.</li><br/><li>• Based upon anticipated appropriations, each university has increased its child care budget for FY 2003 as follows: SUI and ISU by less than 1%; UNI – by 5%.</li></ul> |
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Other child care activities

- The University of Iowa provides child care assistance to graduate and professional students. Through the program an eligible graduate student may receive up to \$100 per month toward the cost of child care.
- All three universities participate in community referral services to assist parents seeking options for quality child care.
- The University of Northern Iowa provides summer programs for children of student families living in the University Apartments.
- Iowa State University offers the Flex-Care Program for part-time care of preschool children.
- Iowa State University also provides the Comfort Zone, a child care program for mildly ill children.

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Unmet Needs

- The numbers of student parents who could further benefit from support from the universities relative to their child care expenses is unknown.
- Each of the child care centers maintains a waiting list. There are approximately 150 names on the combined waiting lists for the three on-campus center at SUI and 90 at the center housed at the UIHC. Approximately 300 names are on the waiting lists for the centers at ISU, and 100 at UNI.
- The Graduate and Professional Student Child Care Assistance Program at SUI has a waiting list of 32 students.

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**BACKGROUND:**

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Graduate Student Assistance Program

- The Graduate and Professional Student Child Care Assistance Program is designed to assist professional and graduate students with their child care costs.
- In order to be eligible for the program the child must be less than 60 months of age, and the family must meet the financial guidelines.
- Families with children under two may receive up to \$100 per month for child care, and a student who has a child above two may receive up to \$75 per month.

- To date in the 2002 academic year, 102 graduate student families have been served with 32 on the waiting list.
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Support for Parents  
with Mildly Ill Children

- The University provides support in two ways when the children of students are ill.
  - First, subsidy program provides up to \$50 per semester on a first come first serve basis to help student parents pay for the cost of a substitute caregiver when their children are ill.
  - Secondly, while not a formalized policy, individual faculty members may permit students to attend to their ill children by remaining home.
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Resource and  
Referral Services

- The University contracts with Community Coordinated Child Care (4Cs), a community-based nonprofit agency, to provide child care resource and referral services.
  - During FY 2001, the referral service served 460 university-affiliated families, 177 of which were student families.
  - Best Beginnings is a program that recruits and trains in-home family day care providers and center based staff wanting to provide infant care. In FY 2001, 227 university-affiliated families requested referrals for infant care.
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On-campus centers

- There are five child care centers on campus available to faculty, staff and students. Three centers were formerly operated by student organizations and have evolved into nonprofit agencies, separate from the University. The fourth is a traditional preschool. The fifth program primarily serves employees of the UIHC.
- The three nonprofit centers and the preschool are housed in homes owned by the University. The centers pay market-based rent for the facilities.
- The three nonprofit centers are licensed to care for 125 children. These centers employ approximately 114 students as well as serving sites for student observations and practicums.
- The University Preschool has served the University for over 50 years. Currently, it serves 23 University affiliated children between the ages of 3 and 5.

- The UIHC child care center provides child care for children of employees of the UIHC. The center is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs and is licensed to care for 108 children. The center is managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions. UIHC provides an in-kind contribution of space and maintenance, and some funding.
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Flexible spending accounts

- The University permits employees to set up flexible spending accounts from which dependent child care expenses can be paid on a before tax basis. In FY 2002, 1,232 employees participated in the program spending in excess of \$4 million.
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New initiatives

- Discussions are underway with the College of Nursing to develop a pilot program serving University affiliated families with mildly ill children. The pilot program would be incorporated under Home Safe, a home-health service program of the College of Nursing. If determined feasible, the program would be initiated in the fall and initially would be available to faculty and staff of the UIHC.

Federal Grant

- The University was awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant under the program, Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS). The proposed project establishes an in-home family day care program and is being implemented in partnership with Hawkeye Area Community Action Program and the 4Cs. For the next four years, \$55,000 per year will be received to fund the project. Twelve full-time slots will be available in May 2002 for Pell Grant recipients.
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Unmet needs

- In order to better assess the campus child care needs, an existing survey will be modified to add questions relative to family composition and need.
  - Discussions are underway with the Student Government to work in partnership with the Family Services Offices to do an e-mail survey.
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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

On campus centers

- There are two child care centers located on the ISU campus.
- The University Community Child Care at Pammel Court provides 81 FTE slots for children birth through school age, with another 18 FTE slots available during the summer for school-age children.
  - Sixty-eight percent of the families served are student families.

- The center continues to be accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, one of four in Ames, and 9% nationwide, to receive this standard. The center is a designated Gold Seal Quality facility by the Iowa Department of Human Services as a resource in quality improvement efforts.
- The center provides employment to 24 students and as a practicum site for over 60 early childhood and elementary education students from ISU and DMACC.
- The center located at Veterinary Medicine is managed under contract by Bright Horizons Family Solutions, a for profit organization. The center is in its fifth year of operation and continues to be at the maximum capacity of 79 FTE slots.
  - Currently, there are 89 children enrolled with 39% from student families.
  - This center, too, is accredited and designated Gold Seal Quality by DHS. The center employs 16 students and serves as a practicum site for about 45 students.

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Referral services

- The University continues to collaborate with the Center for Child Care Resources (CCR). The CCR is part of the Statewide Resource and Referral Network.
  - Over the past 12 months, 345 ISU families have benefited from the services of the CCR. Sixty-eight percent of these families were ISU student families.
- The Story County Infant Care Network was established to address the increasing need for infant care slots available in family care homes. Of the requests for child care referrals to the CCR, two-thirds were for infant care.
- The University provides financial and in-kind support to the CCR and the Infant Care Network.

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Flex-Care Program

- The Flex-Care Program is a part-time preschool child care program exclusively for student families. The program operates during the academic year. Families may contract for care 1 to 42.5 hours per week, based on class and study schedules. The program is fully utilized with a waiting list of 10 children.
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- Comfort Zone
- The Comfort Zone is a program to care for mildly ill children. The program is open on days that parents request care and is licensed to care for a total of eight children per day. An income dependent sliding fee scale is used for ISU students and employees.
  - Nursing costs for the Comfort Zone have been shared with the Student Health Center. Due to funding constraints in FY 2003, this cost share of \$7,800 will be eliminated. The University is evaluating increased community utilization to partially offset the staffing costs.
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- Communication efforts
- The University collaborates with the YWCA to make the Babysitters List available free of charge to ISU student families.
  - A booklet, "What Everyone Who Cares for Children Needs to Know" is available free of charge. This booklet provides guidance to both parents and sitters.
  - "Child Care Resources at ISU" continues to be distributed on campus for current and prospective students, family, and staff.
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- Need
- The Story County Community Coalition (an organization of local, state, government, and non-profit agencies) conducted a survey in Spring 2001 to determine the needs of residents.
  - The information from the survey is being used to help Story County and ISU determine the needs of child care, health care, family needs, transportation, community needs, and youth activities.
  - The main concerns expressed by ISU families regarding child care services are affordability, accessibility and quality. One major concern is accessibility of care for preschool children.
  - The University is the recipient of a federal grant, Campus Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS). Through this grant program colleges and universities were able to request 1% of their Pell Grant disbursements. ISU was fully funded for the programs proposed.
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- Federal Grant
- CCAMPIS funds of \$89,312 per year for four years provide financial assistance to ISU undergraduate student families to help purchase quality child care services while they are in class, working or studying outside their homes.

- Currently the program has been to assist financially with the child care fees of 35 children of student families with an additional 12 children on the waiting list.
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New child care center

- Because of deappropriations this fiscal year, the north campus child care center was temporarily put on hold. Now based upon the current budget status, the University is authorizing planning to proceed. It is expected the project will be bid in August 2002 with occupancy scheduled for late fall of 2003. The new facility will accommodate 88 children, the Comfort Zone, Child Care Resources, and the Child Care Coordinator.
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#### UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Child Development Center

- The UNI Child Development Center (CDC) is a licensed, nationally accredited, full-day child care program located in Price Laboratory School.
  - The CDC provided high quality child care for 53 children. Currently, 35 are children of student parents.
  - The center employs approximately 75 students and hosts approximately 80 university students for a variety of field experiences each semester.
  - UNI has worked over the years to keep parent fees as affordable as possible. However, with the beginning of the 2002-03 academic year, fees will increase about 25%. Semester fee for student parents with a child under 2 will be \$1,500; for faculty/staff parents, \$2,220.
  - The fall 2003 fees remain at the low end of the local range for child care fees for student parents and about mid-range for faculty/staff parents.
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Activities at University Apartments

- The University Apartments continues to operate a recreational program for children who reside in the complex.
- Due to low attendance the preschool program for children 2-5 years old will be eliminated.
- There is an after school program for children 5-12 that currently has 9 children registered.

- The summer session programs generally enroll 12-15 preschool children and 20-25 school age children.
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Referral Services

- Between February 2001 and February 2002, the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) received 734 calls requesting assistance in finding child care services. Of these 63 families identified themselves as being from UNI. Since it is not required for families to identify where they work or attend school, it is difficult to know the total associated with UNI.
  - Nearly 75% of the families contacting CCR&R for assistance in locating child care were searching for infant or toddler care.
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Needs assessment

- In Spring 2002 the Child Care Committee developed and implemented a campus-wide survey to determine how many parents with dependent children need child care services to work or attend classes at UNI.
  - The data analysis is still underway. Preliminary analysis indicates that, of the 446 persons who responded, 79 were employees and 367 were students (310 undergraduates). Among the respondents, 143 (32%) reported that they have dependent children needing child care services.
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Student Activity Fee  
Child Care Grants

- The Student Activity Fee Grant Program was designed to offset the cost of child care for student parents whose children are not enrolled at the CDC. While graduate students may apply, the program gives priority to undergraduate students.
- Off-campus costs have been significantly higher for these families. Currently, student parents pay approximately \$500 more per semester than student parents with children at the CDC.
- This year the committee awarded \$15,100 which was allocated to 17 families. Average child care costs for these families were \$4,500 annually.

The committee expects with the 18.5% tuition increase this fall that an even larger pool of parents will be eligible for funds. The committee has requested \$35,000 for FY 2003 for child care grants plus \$500 to defray printing and advertising costs.

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Additional facilities

- The Child Care Committee continues to seek additional sites for possible child care facilities on or adjacent to the campus.

- The committee has made a formal proposal for a satellite child care site in the Redeker complex. Space on the lower level of Redeker could be used. The center would be staffed similar to the CDC and could care for an additional 100 children, either full or part-time.
- In addition to finding available space, resources must also be identified for remodeling costs, program start-up and on-going support. The committee plans to vigorously pursue this proposal.

FUNDING

Financial Support Financial support for the child care programs at the universities for FY 2002 and proposed FY 2003 is shown below:

	Fiscal Year 2002			Proposed Fiscal Year 2003			General Fund Increase	Overall Percent Change
	General	In-kind	Total	General	In-kind	Total		
SUI	353,707	108,303	462,010	357,913	111,628	469,541	1%	2%
ISU	188,745	160,546	349,291	189,135	200,555	389,690	0.21%	12%
UNI	151,038	*	151,038	158,077	*	158,077	5%	5%
TOTAL	693,490	268,849	962,339	705,125	312,183	1,017,308	2%	6%

\*Includes space, unspecified maintenance, utilities, etc.

- The proposed budgets for the child care program do not include possible budget reductions as a result of changes in state funding.

  
Marcia R. Brunson

Approved:   
Gregory S. Nichols