



## Scott County Growth Fund Program Overview



The Scott County Growth Fund is a multi-year program designed to move successful child care centers “to the next level” in their business operations and growth. Selected participants will receive comprehensive business assistance to help you grow and improve your business quality, viability and sustainability, which leads to high-quality child care and education for all young children and families.

### How the Growth Fund Benefits Child Care Programs

Child care centers and preschools participating in the Growth Fund program have reported many improvements to their programs such as increases in quality environments and playgrounds, higher enrollment, improvements in finances, and decreases in staff turnover.

Listen to testimonials of child care providers that have recently participated in a different Growth Fund program at: <http://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/blog/2014/06/12/new-video/>

### Benefits Include:

- **Financial Tools-** Receive customized budgeting tools created specifically for child care businesses.
- **Business Improvement Plan-** With in-depth assistance, you will develop your road map for the future. The planning process includes market research and a financial analysis of your program.
- **Grants-** Receive \$10,000 to implement your plan and make your dreams a reality. Centers receive \$5,000 each in 2015 and again in 2016; assuming annual funding renewal of the Growth Fund program through Scott County Kids.
- **Training-** Specialized Iowa DHS-approved trainings developed specifically for child care businesses focus on critical child care business topics.
- **Consulting-** Receive one-on-one assistance to address the unique questions and challenges of your child care program.
- **Peer Cohort Model-** Selected centers have opportunities network and learn from each other.
- **Volunteer Advisors-** Access to professional business advice and knowledge through a carefully selected group of business and early care and education professionals.
- **Quality, Sustainability, and Growth-** The Growth Fund has been proven to help most participants achieve their goals while also increasing quality, growth and resources.

### Eligibility Guidelines

For-profit and nonprofit child care centers and preschools must meet the following:

- Located in Scott County;
- Have a current Iowa DHS Child Care Center License and be in good standing;
- Serve low income families (see FAQ's for definition and guidance);

- Have been in operation for one year or longer;
- Participate in the Iowa Quality Rating System—or agree to apply by June 1, 2015;
- Not receiving funding through the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program, Head Start, Early Head Start or Shared Visions programs; and
- Have not previously participated in the Growth Fund Program. Exception: Programs with multiple locations may apply with a different director and a different location.

### **How to apply**

Go to [www.firstchildrensfinance.org/iagrowthfund-scappinst](http://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/iagrowthfund-scappinst) for the application and instructions.

### **Application and Cohort Launch Timeline**

October 14, 2014 Applications due

October 14-20, 2014- Applicants will be contacted to set up a brief site visit

October 31, 2014- Selected centers notified

November 5, 2014- Orientation for the selected centers

The overall timeframe of Growth Fund participation for the selected centers is November, 2014 through June, 2016.

### **For more information**

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