

FREE Training Opportunities for Iowa Child Care Providers



Web-Based Trainings

Fall-Winter 2026

First Children's Finance Iowa is excited to announce a range of professional development and training opportunities for Iowa child care businesses. These courses are designed to equip child care professionals with the knowledge, resources, and connections needed to thrive in the industry.



[Register](#)

Accounting and Financial Statements for Family Child Care

September 2 | 6-8 pm

Learn basic accounting terms and review commonly used financial statements. Break down sections of an income and expense statement, a cash flow statement, and a balance sheet. Analyze a case study to determine the financial health of a child care business, and identify strategies to develop goals.

(2 hours of Iowa HHS training credit)

[Register](#)

Planning for the Future: Accounting and Financial Statements for Child Care Centers

September 16 | 1-4 pm

Learn basic accounting terms and review commonly used financial statements. Break down sections of an income and expense statement, a cash flow statement and a balance sheet. Analyze a case study to determine the financial health of a child care center. Identify strategies of how to use financial statements to inform business decisions.

(3 hours of Iowa HHS training credit and NAC renewal hours)

[Register](#)

Separating Your Family Child Care Finances from Your Personal Finances

October 8 | 6-8 pm

This course helps family child care providers examine the rationale and methods for separating business and personal finances. You will learn the benefits of organized financial systems and how to calculate your time-space percentage. Explore how this calculation affects the expenses you can deduct and how it informs budgeting decisions. You will walk away with clear steps and confidence to manage your business finances more effectively.

(2 hours of Iowa HHS training credit)

[Register](#)

Precision Pricing for Your Child Care Center

October 27 | 1-3 pm

This training equips center directors with tools to assess their pricing models. Participants will conduct a SOAR analysis (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results), examine current financial challenges, and identify strategies to set prices that reflect the actual cost of care and thereby ensuring long-term sustainability.

(2 hours of Iowa HHS training credit and NAC renewal hours)



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(Register on I-PoWeR)

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Policies and Practices for Child Care Business Management

November 5 | 1–3 pm

This training supports participants in implementing policies, procedures, and systems that promote stable operations. It includes guidance on organizing and creating a comprehensive policies and procedures manual for child care centers.

(2 hours of Iowa HHS training credit and NAC renewal hours)

[Register](#)

Developing a Marketing Plan for Your Family Child Care

November 17 | 6–8 pm

Explore marketing concepts for child care programs by conducting an environmental scan to assess the current market and identify the key features and benefits of your program. Define your target market to boost enrollment, evaluate competitors in the child care industry, and design strategies to craft an impactful enrollment message. Examine how to apply marketing techniques to establish strong community partnerships.

(2 hours of Iowa HHS training credit)



[Register](#)

Quality Staffing for Your Child Care Center

December 3 | 1–4 pm

Discover the three essential phases of employee recruitment, hiring, and retention. Evaluate your current hiring and employee retention procedures. Examine best practices for attracting and hiring qualified candidates, successful onboarding practices, and strategies for building a strong and high-quality team, as well as managing terminations. Develop both short-term and long-term strategies designed to enhance staffing quality and support sustainable program success.

(3 hours of Iowa HHS training credit and NAC renewal hours)

[Register](#)

Annual Budget and Cash Flow for Family Child Care

December 7 | 6–8 pm

In this course, you build a solid understanding of budgeting by identifying the income and expense components needed to create your program's budget. Examine monthly cash flow projections and break down each part of a cash flow statement. Analyze a childcare business case study to uncover effective cash-flow management strategies. Finally, you will develop financial goals and integrate them into your budget to strengthen your program's financial foundation.

(2 hours of Iowa HHS training credit)



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Business Leadership Cohort for Child Care Centers

October 13 >> Session 1: Enrollment Management and Marketing

October 20 >> Session 2: Financial Management and Planning

November >> Individual Consultation: Financial Analysis

December 1 >> Session 3: Art and Science of Quality Staffing

December 8 >> Session 4: Business Management Planning

January >> Individual Consultation: Business Goal Setting

Sessions are online from 1-4 pm.

The Business Leadership Cohort by First Children's Finance provides center directors with the opportunity to learn about the basics of leadership, management, and financial planning for their child care business within a unique peer-learning cohort environment. The program includes four group training sessions and two individual consultations.

(12 hours of Iowa HHS training credit and NAC renewal hours)

[coming
in 2027](#)

Business Leadership Cohort for Family Child Care

(2026 registration closed)

August 4 >> Session 1: Enrollment Management and Marketing

August 18 >> Session 2: Financial Management and Planning

August >> Individual Consultation: Financial Analysis

September 22 >> Session 3: Business Outcomes and Roundtable

September 29 >> Session 4: Business Management Planning

October >> Individual Consultation: Business Goal Setting

Sessions are online from 6-8 pm.

The Business Leadership Cohort by First Children's Finance provides family child care providers with the opportunity to learn about the basics of leadership, management, and financial planning for their child care business within a unique peer-learning cohort environment. The program includes four group training sessions and two individual consultations.

(8 hours of Iowa HHS training credit)

Look for a new session starting in 2027.


[REGISTER](#)

(Register on I-PoWeR)

For questions, please contact us at
infoIA@firstchildrensfinance.org.



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