

Iowa Family Support Credential Quarterly Newsletter

January 2024



Iowa
Family Support
Credential

[Unpaid Iowa Family Support Credentialing \(IFSC\) Annual Fees](#)

IFSC Annual fees were due December 31, 2023. If you have not paid your annual fees, a late fee will be added, and a new invoice will be sent out after January 1, 2024. IFSC fees

are used to offset program costs (monthly webinars, quarterly newsletters, etc.). Additionally, each program will receive 5 hours of Individual TA each fiscal year.



Congratulations!

BVCS Family STEPS in Buena Vista, Crawford and Sac counties has successfully renewed their Iowa Family Support Credential. Please join the IFSC staff in celebrating their success.



Upcoming Webinars

January 18, 2024

February 22, 2024

March 21, 2024

April 25, 2024

*Monthly IFSC Webinars are held on Thursday afternoons at 1:00.



Quality Standards Workgroup Recruitment

The Quality Standards Workgroup is currently looking for new members. The Quality Standards Workgroup is responsible for reviewing the IFSC Standards annually and recommending any interim changes to them. Representation is needed from all types of programs (small programs, large programs, urban programs, and rural programs) across Iowa. Contact [Lisa Hilsenbeck](#), IFSC Coordinator if interested.

Peer Reviewers Wanted

Who is Eligible to Be a Peer Reviewer?

Peer Reviewers must have a bachelor's degree or higher in Social Work, Human Services, Education or Health Related Field and work experience in the family support field. Peer reviewers must complete an application and peer reviewer training prior to any peer assignments. Peer reviewers cannot have any conflicts of interest with the program they are evaluating. Peer reviewers cannot offer technical assistance during a peer review.

Who Are the IFSC Peer Reviewers?

Peer reviewers are committed to continuous quality improvement. Peer reviewers must be knowledgeable about family support and the best practice standards, and can openly, honestly, and fairly assess a program's current ability to implement standards. Peer reviewers are individuals who are comfortable with conducting interviews and documentation review that focuses on the programs' positive changes and quality improvement efforts, while also helping program is by identifying areas in need of further strengthening.

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Reviewer, contact Lisa Hilsenbeck, IFSC Coordinator, at ifscprogram@lsiowa.org for an application.



TA Corner:

Standard 1

Services are available to help families maintain or strengthen child, individual, and family functioning.

1.01 The organization collaborates with other providers or conducts community outreach to identify families who are potentially in need of service and inform them about the program.

***Interpretation:** The organization can partner with other organizations or agencies where families seek services, such as hospitals and health departments, or provide outreach directly to families. When the organization provides outreach directly to families, efforts should be respectful, non-intrusive, non-stigmatizing, and provided in places where families in the community naturally congregate, such as schools, libraries, and faith-based institutions. Specific strategies can include telephone calls, mailings, information packets, brochures, announcements at community programs and events, and drop-in visits to the home.*

Questions to think about when writing policy/procedure:

Where do we get our referrals?

Who are our community partners?

Who is our target population?

What services are needed in our community?

Evidence (Practice):

Policy/procedure

Brochures

Community event flyers

Newsletters

Contact notes

1.02 Families are engaged to participate in the program in a timely manner.

***Interpretation:** The organization should seek to identify families as early as possible, as appropriate to the type of service offered.*

Things to think about when writing policy/procedure:

The program defines “timely manner”.

How does the program “engage” families?

Outreach strategies

Evidence (Practice):

Policy/procedure (Be sure “timely manner” is defined)

Intake form

Contact note



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**IF YOU ARE WORKING
ON SOMETHING
EXCITING THAT YOU
REALLY CARE ABOUT,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE
PUSHED.
THE VISION PULLS YOU.**

Steve Jobs

