

Iowa Family Support Credential Quarterly Newsletter

April 2026



Iowa
Family Support
Credential

Why Annual Fees?

The fee for continued participation in the Iowa Family Support Credential gives programs access to the following opportunities:

- 5 hours of individual TA per year, this includes years when the program is not actively participating in renewal of the Iowa Family Support Credential;
- Monthly webinars highlighting topics relating to the Iowa Family Support Standards or best practices;
- Quarterly newsletters highlighting changes to the Iowa Family Support Standards, new IFSC policies, updates on best practices, or new IFSC resources and tools;
- Training and Professional Development offered by IFSC



Upcoming Webinars

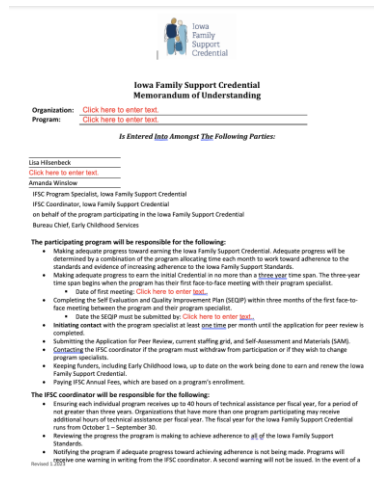
April 16, 2026

May 21, 2026

June 18, 2026

July- Summer break

*Monthly IFSC Webinars are held on Thursday afternoons at 1:00. If there is a topic/standard you would like to see discussed, please contact your [IFSC Program Specialist](#) or the [IFSC Coordinator](#).



MOU

What is a MOU and why is it important?

MOU stands for **Memorandum of Understanding**. A MOU is a formal agreement between two or more parties outlining roles and responsibilities.

For the Iowa Family Support Credential, the **MOU** states that the program participating in the credentialing process will work together with the assigned program specialist during a time span of up to three years with a maximum one-year extension for an initial certification and up to one year for a renewal. The program agrees to make adequate progress, allocating time each month to work toward adherence to the standards. The MOU will be signed by a representative from the participating program and IFSC Staff.

FOCUS Tool Overview

- Supports coaching and reflection

- Aligns with Iowa’s Family Support Professional waiver certification process
- Documents professional growth and observed competencies
- Observations occur at a minimum of every 45 days
- Completed by supervisor
- Reviewed with staff within 48 hours of the observation



Share Your Success!

We encourage you to keep your ECI director up to date on your credential/renewal. It is important for them to be aware of your expected timeline and they may serve as a wealth of information as you progress through your technical assistance.

Share your TA Recommended Timeline with them if they are interested in following along with your process. Encourage them to share in your successes along the way!



IFSC Facebook Group

Have you joined yet? The IFSC Facebook group is a place to find IFSC updates and is a great way to network with other family support programs throughout the state of Iowa. If you have questions or want to learn more feel free to reach out to IFSCprogram@Iowa.org



TA Corner:

Family Goal Planning

- **Think of goals as stepping stones:**
 - What do they want?
 - When do they want it?
 - Where/How do they get it?

- **Setting goals empowers the family and allows them to have a greater sense of worth**
 - Make it a conversation
 - Ask open ended questions
 - Brainstorm out loud

- **Set SMART Goals**
 - S= Specific
 - M= Measurable
 - A= Attainable
 - R= Relevant/Realistic
 - T= Timely

- **Use a goal planning document**

- Documentation of goal
- Holds everyone accountable for their role
- Review often
- Easy to make changes
- Sets a clear timeline



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STAY
positive

WORK
hard

MAKE IT
happen