Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: ICOACH Youth Center **Enrollment:** 53 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51993

Street: 4300 Beaver AVE **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50310 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 8401 Douglas AVE STE 3C, Urbandale, IA, 50322

Director's Name: Boaz Nkingi **Phone Number:** 515-505-9109

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** boaznkingi@icoachiowa.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-07-2023

X **Licensing Visit** **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

X **New Application** **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-29-2022

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 02-23-2022

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				102	102
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 02-17-2023

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was conducted on 2/7/23. The director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

This program was given Permission to Open on 10/4/22. A visit was conducted at the program on 9/28/22 for a pre-licensing visit. The program is located in the basement of the Zion Lutheran Church. ICOACH stands for Iowa Congolese Organization and Center for Healing. Prior to becoming licensed, this organization provided after school programs for school age children at no cost, however wanted to become licensed to broaden their scope of care and obtain financing to provide more services and structured programming for children. Boaz Nkingi is the director of this center. Boaz has a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication. Boaz has been the ICOACH executive director for five years and the youth pastor at Zion church for four years. Boaz meets qualifications to be the director.

This program provides care for school age children; children who are in Kindergarten up through age 12. The plan and hope is to add all ages by the end of the summer of 2023. The hours of operation at this time differ between school days and no school days/summer; during the summer and no school days the program hours are from 7 am to 7 pm. On school days, the program hours are 4 pm to 8 pm on M-T-Th-F, they do not provide after school care on Wednesdays due to space in the church and church activities.

There are several classrooms in the basement of the church, as well as a large motor play room. This program shares some space with a separate preschool program that has been in operation for many years. This program currently uses 8 classrooms as well as the large motor play room and a large cafeteria space in the basement. The program currently uses classroom 102 with a capacity for 13 children; 104 with a capacity for 11 children, 106 with a capacity for 16 children, 154 with a capacity for 10 children, 158 with a capacity for 11 children, 162 with a capacity for 16 children, 166 with a capacity for 13 children and 177 with a capacity for 12 children. The large motor play space has a capacity for 53 children.

The program has use of a large area of green space on the church grounds for outdoor time and activities.

The program does not have a set curriculum, however they work with children according to their age and where they are at academically; they have daily lesson plans and structured activities with the children. The program will have a set curriculum when they add all ages and will have a curriculum coordinator.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program provides a needed service for the community and the Director and staff are passionate about meeting the academic, emotional, developmental and social needs of the children.

The staff are invested in the program and have developed strong relationships with the children and parents.

This program has strong support from the community.

The parents are appreciative of the program and many volunteer their time.

The program partners with other agencies, including United Way and CCR&R. The program received funding from United Way and they are looking at applying for other grants through United Way for the program.

The children love coming to the program and enjoy being there.

The program provides transportation; not only picking up children from school, but also taking those who need transportation home. In the summer they will provide transportation both to and from the program, which allows for more children to attend who might not be able to attend due to transportation barriers.

The program not only provides their services to children in the Des Moines area, but also to surrounding communities, including West Des Moines, Johnston, Urbandale, Ankeny, and Perry; as well as other communities.

When asked to speak to strengths of the program, the Director stated:

"BECOME MORE SELF-AWARENESS
Here at ICOACH we try to keep in touch with our own thoughts and feelings and how they affect our programs. We believe that being aware, we're more able to control our emotions, make tough decisions and be a better program. We are also able to look at our organization strengths and weaknesses more objectively and assess how our own actions and mindset affect our success – or failure.
PUT OURSELVES IN OUR PARTICIPANT'S SHOES
Everything goes back to creating trust and relationship with the families we serve, including how we identify organization strengths and weaknesses. We always uncover our X factor: the way that we provide more valuable programs. That's our biggest organization strength. Asking for family's feedback and taking it to heart is also one of the best ways to uncover our weaknesses. Families we serve are almost always honest – when we ask them.
ASK AROUND
Here at ICOACH we believe that we'll never get a holistic view of our organization's strengths and weaknesses if we only listen to our own opinions. We Always interview other stakeholders, board members and team members at every level of the organization.
CONTINUALLY ASSESS
Just like any other successful organization, ICOACH is committed to constant and never-ending improvement – and that means continually reassessing every aspect of our organization. Program change. Organization grow. We review our organization strengths and weaknesses at least once a year."

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

There were no aspects of operation that fell below the standards noted or observed during the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program conducted radon testing at the end of January, sending in the test kits on 1/28/23; the results of the radon testing have not been received as of the completion of this report. The director will send the test results when they are received.

The program has completed an emergency preparedness plan as well as an emergency evacuation kit. Discussion took place regarding adding a few more items to the emergency evacuation kit.

The menu reflects the center is following CACFP guidelines and the program will apply for the food program. The program provides a snack for their after school children that is wholesome and filling. The program has use of a full kitchen and during full days of care will provide for all of the snacks and meals.

Discussion too place regarding the parent and employee handbooks and a suggestion to add more information to the handbooks detailing more process and steps that will be taken for any discharges or termination.

The first licensing visit did not reflect any below standards, this shows the commitment and dedication of the director and the staff in providing a quality program that meets State guidelines and regulations.

A full, two-year license is recommended.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.