

Early Childhood Iowa



2015 Annual Report





Dear Iowans:

Early Childhood Iowa is pleased to share the 2015 annual report. As a volunteer to this effort, I'm proud to play a small part in supporting the programs, services and activities that support our youngest children and their families. As this initiative grows and matures, this report shares information about the results from the cadre of services and system improvements being supported in Iowa's early care, health and education system.

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) is founded on the premise that government and communities can work together so that 'every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful'. ECI coordinates efforts to build a stronger foundation to support the system. Highlights and examples of this year's activities and successes are included in this year's report.

As a nation, we are reminded about the importance of investing early. A child's quality of life and the contributions he or she will make to society can be directly traced to the first few years of life. High quality early education yields higher graduation rates, reduced crime, higher earnings, and better jobs. As a result, economists estimate that every dollar invested in early education produces a 7-10% return on investment through increased personal achievement and social productivity.

There are 38 ECI Areas that cover the entire state. Each area has its own leadership and locally-developed community plan. In those areas, local board members and community partners come together to build a stronger community of services as described in their community plans. In this report, you will see a highlight of the results of their efforts through program performance measures data.

During this year, ECI gathered input, reviewed data from assessments and reports to develop a strategic plan for Early Childhood Iowa. The process supports strengthening of partnerships and working towards common goals and outcomes. The work keeps the greatest needs of our youngest Iowans at the forefront. Their voices can't be ignored if our state is to be strong in the education, economic and global sectors. The three identified goals are:

- Establish and Promote a Solid Infrastructure to Advance the Early Childhood System
- Ensure Access to High Quality Services for Young Children and their Families
- Build Public Will for Supporting Young Children and their Families

Early Childhood Iowa is ready, able and positioned to help bridge those platforms and build a future generation of Iowans who will stay, work and prosper in this great state. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthy effort.

Joanne Lane, Chairperson
Early Childhood Iowa State Board

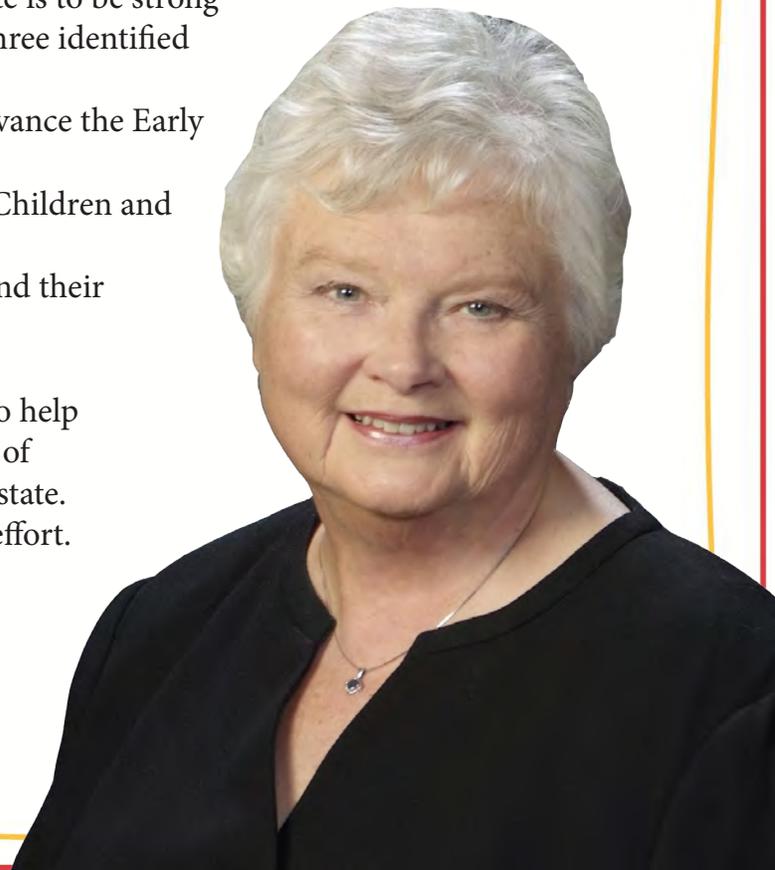


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ECI Overview

The vision for Early Childhood Iowa is, “Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.” There is no single strategy to make this happen. It takes a system of systems for a child to reach their potential. These individual systems include early care, health and education. The ECI State Board, the ECI Stakeholder Alliance and local ECI Area Boards are charged with developing, supporting and maintaining effective, efficient and integrated systems.

ECI was first approved in legislation in 1998 but was known then as Iowa Community Empowerment. In 2008, state policy makers enacted Early Childhood Iowa for state system development. In 2010 the two initiatives were brought together under the banner of Early Childhood Iowa.

The founding legislation for ECI (then Iowa Community Empowerment) established five results to be achieved at both the state and local level and utilized the Accountable Government Act as the standard for measuring progress toward accountability. A result was defined as “the effect desired for all Iowans.” The results described in legislation are:

- Healthy Children
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Safe and Supportive Communities
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

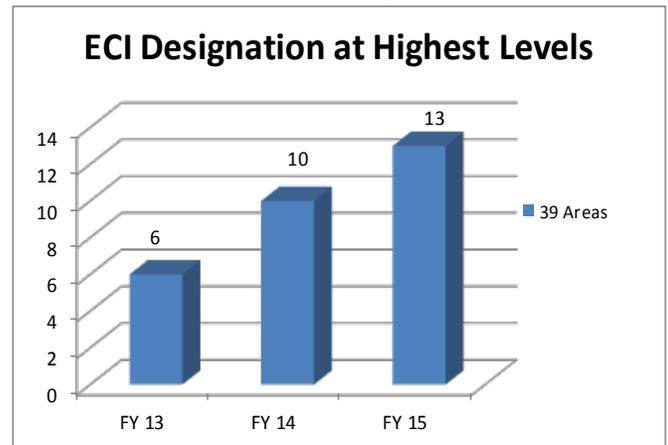
The current reality in Iowa is that programs, polices, and systems are inadequate to do all the work necessary. In order to achieve the results, ECI has undergone a process with over 150 early childhood stakeholders providing input to create a system-wide strategic plan and the goals below focus and will guide their work with limited resources in developing an integrated and quality early childhood system of systems for young children and their families.

The three identified goals are:

- Establish and Promote a Solid Infrastructure to Advance the Early Childhood System
- Ensure Access to High Quality Services for Young Children and their Families
- Build Public Will for Supporting Young Children and their Families

ECI System Activities and Accomplishments to support these goals in FY15 include:

- 13 ECIA boards have achieved Quality or Model designations; the two top levels of the Levels of Excellence Rating System.



- The State Board conducted a site visit to the Pottawattamie County ECI area, meeting with local board members, program providers and community partners.
- The ECI Stakeholders Alliance Professional Development Component Group and Iowa AEYC hosted the Training Coordinators Summit. This was a day of collaboration for training coordinators across systems to share training plans, roadblocks, and strengths. The goal for this day was to encourage increased cross-sector collaboration state-wide across systems, and within Iowa regions.
- The Stakeholder Alliance, through its Equity Advisory Committee, successfully applied for a technical assistance grant from the BUILD Initiative to support work in developing more diversity in early childhood leadership and workforce, including professional development in supporting racial, cultural and linguistic competence. The grant culminated with a statewide Equity Summit.
- Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral and the ECI Public Engagement Component Group (Parent Engagement Work Group) collaborated to convene early childhood professionals from various agencies and child care providers in Iowa to create materials for parents who are looking to choose quality child care. The goal of this project, **Choosing Quality Child Care Core Knowledge**, was to take the most important Iowa regulations and best practices of child

care and present them in a way that could be used by any agency to develop educational resources for parents. Early childhood professionals can use the new core



knowledge document to narrow down topics to make selecting child care easier for parents.

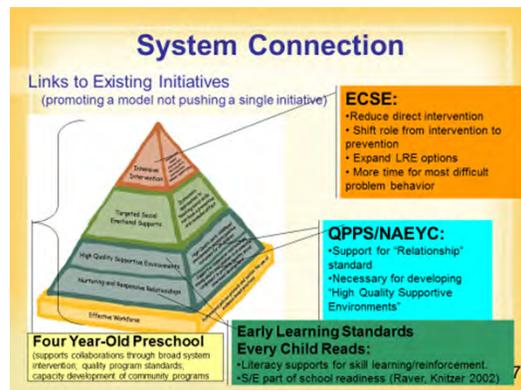
- In collaboration with the Iowa Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, ECI provided funding to implement a licensed, competency-based endorsement system that recognizes professionals



with specialized knowledge and skills in early childhood mental health. Developed in Michigan in 2002, this four-tiered endorsement system has been implemented in 26 states, resulting in significant impact on policies, practices, higher education, training and research. It is anticipated that implementation of this standardized system of competencies and endorsement will, in time, enhance the quality of Iowa's mental health delivery system and inform policy and practice change to better support young children's healthy mental development.

- ECI sponsored a variety of state-wide professional development training sessions and informational opportunities both in person and via webinars throughout the year. Topics included advocacy, child care development block grant reauthorization, meeting facilitation, community impact, and using social media.
- In FY 2015, the ECI Office began publishing a newsletter, ECI Monday Musings. It is a weekly compilation of information, practical advice, training announcements, and success stories. The content is from early childhood state, federal, research institutes and the private sectors. Monday Musings is intended to disseminate information to Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders and others in a timely fashion. To view editions of ECI Monday Musings visit <http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org>.

- The State Leadership Team (SLT) for the Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (EC-PBIS) became a committee of the ECI Quality Services and Programs Component group. The mission



of the EC-PBIS State Leadership Team (SLT) is to develop the state infrastructure so that all early care, health and education providers successfully implement the Pyramid Model of positive behavior supports with fidelity. To accomplish the mission, the SLT uses data informed decision making to develop policies, procedures, and tools to ensure:

- o Consistent practice;
 - o Quality implementation;
 - o Engagement of family and community as critical partners;
 - o Continuous improvement; and
 - o Implementation sustainability.
- In FY '15, usage of the ECI website included 13,697 users. Of those, 58.78% were new or first-time visitors on the website. Through the fiscal year, there were 84,939 page views (hits).



Results Accountability

Accountability for results continues to be the hallmark of ECI. The following pages showcase the data collected by ECI.

When looking at this information, it is important to realize that the Early Childhood Iowa initiative is not a program in and of itself. Instead, ECI funds are legislated to support existing local programs and services by filling gaps – most often by allowing additional families/children to be served, or by increasing the quality of the services provided. As the coordinating body within their ECI area, it is the ECI Area Board’s responsibility to pull the community together to collectively determine the strengths, gaps and needs of the families and young children served. Ultimately, the board makes funding decisions that will impact the priorities determined through the strategic planning process.

Presentation of the Report Data:

The data within this report is organized by Result area and showcases information at the state level (indicators), as well as local program data.

The presentation of the data utilizes the following sequence:

Results

At its inception in 1998, legislation established five results to be achieved, both statewide and at the local level. ECI (then Community Empowerment) utilized the Accountable Government Act as the standard for measuring progress toward accountability. A result is defined as *“the effect desired for all Iowans”*. The legislated results are:

- Healthy Children
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Safe and Supportive Communities
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

Indicators

The Early Childhood Iowa State Board collects and reports statewide indicator data to quantify and track progress toward the statewide results. An indicator is *“a measure that directly or indirectly quantifies the achievement of a result. It measures the whole population, rather than those served by a specific program. More than one resource, program or service is necessary to improve an indicator and it often requires collaboration to reach the goal.”*

Program Performance Measures

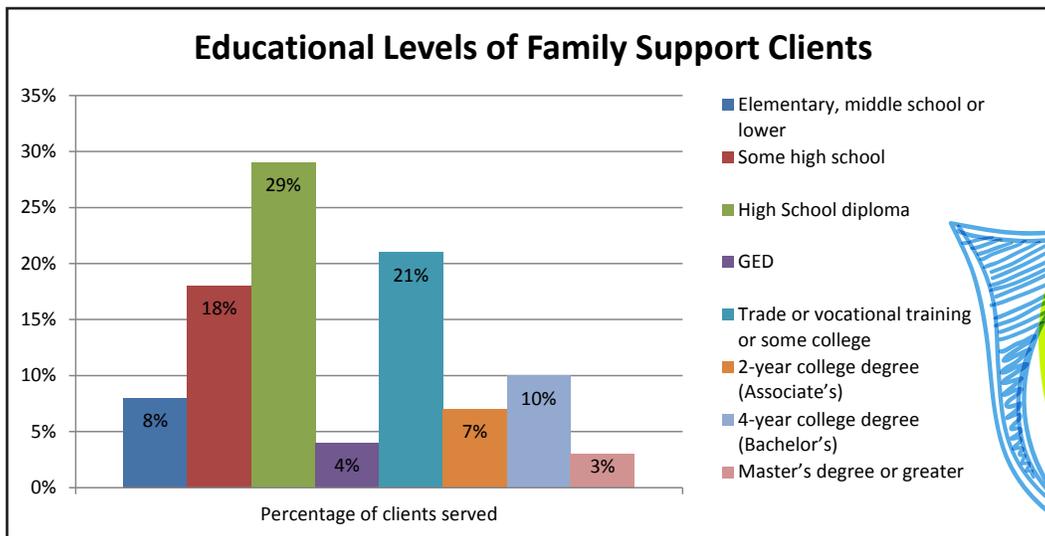
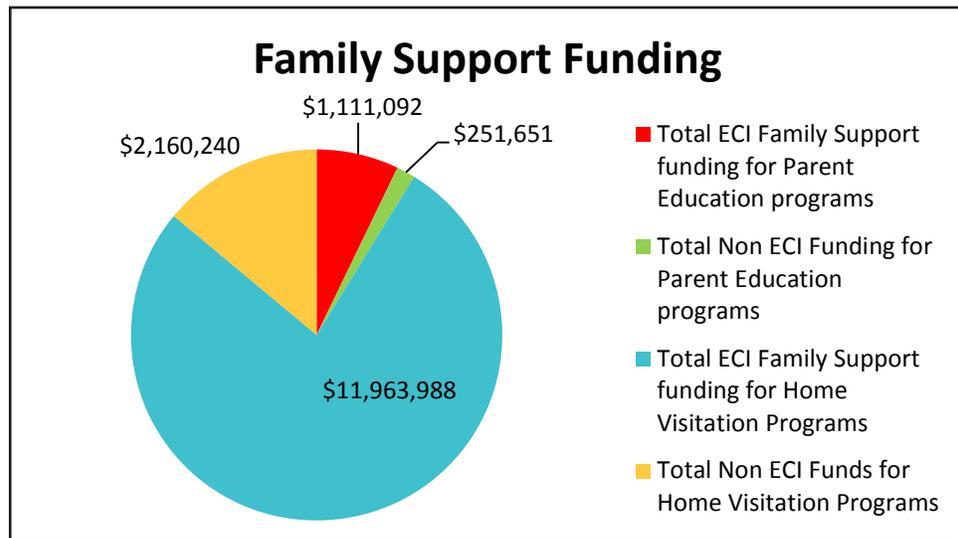
A performance measure *“measures the success of a service, product, or activity for the population served”*. In FY’11, the ECI State Board adopted consistent program measures which are required to be reported by all programs funded with both Early Childhood and School Ready dollars. This information is submitted in the local annual reports submitted to the ECI Office. The data is then compiled and shared from a state perspective in the ECI state annual report.

Note: An Executive Summary for each ECI Area can be found on the ECI website at the following link, http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/EC_resources/annual_reports/index.html; click on *2015 Annual Report*.

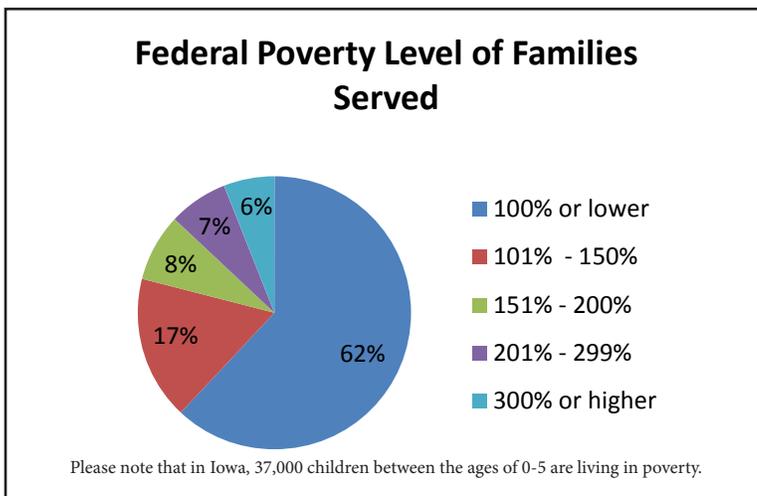


Family Support

Family support programming includes an array of community-based services designed to enable and empower families by building on individual and family capabilities that support and strengthen parenting capabilities and overall family functioning. One strategy for delivering family support services is through home visiting. Another delivery is through parent education which includes a group-based approach to working with families. Programs use varying delivery methods and can have very different goals e.g., preventing child abuse, school readiness, parent involvement, and advocacy.



Of the families served, 26% had some high school education or less.

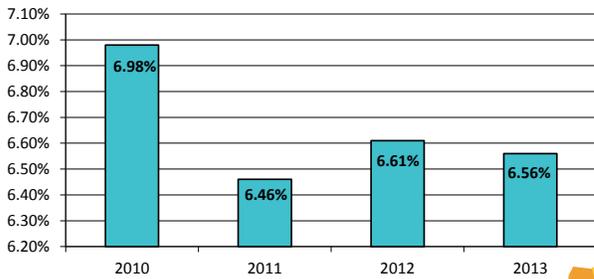


Families, in all the diverse patterns, sizes, creeds, and colors they come in; are the heart and soul of our society. The condition of children's lives largely reflects the well-being of their families. Parents have the greatest impact on their child's development and success, but many need support in learning how to nurture and teach their child. Every day children learn about life and who they are through interactions with and observations of their parents and other primary caregivers.

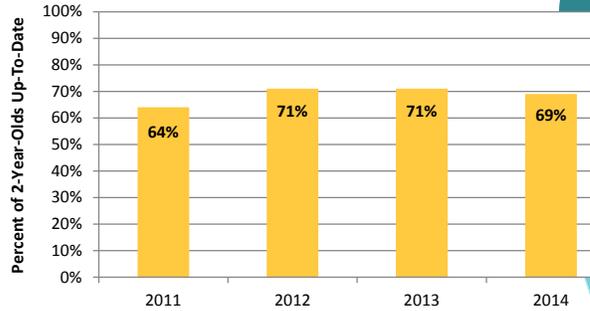
Legislated Result

Healthy Children

Low Birth Weight
(Live Births of less than 2,500 grams)



Immunized Children



LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

Percent of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health- Vital Statistics

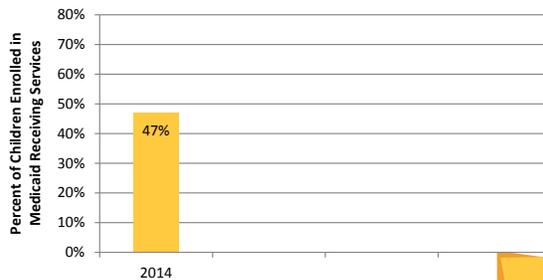
IMMUNIZED CHILDREN

Percent of 2-year-olds with up-to-date immunizations

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health- Bureau of Immunization

State Indicators

Dental Services



DENTAL SERVICES

Medicaid-enrolled children ages 0-5 who receive dental services

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health via CMS 416 Data

State Indicators

Local Strategies and Performance Measures

8 out of the 38 ECI areas supported general health services

\$229,373 total funds reported (ECI: \$212,105; Non-ECI: \$17,268)

11,774 children were served

\$19 average cost per child, based on funds reported

31% of children screened that needed follow up/treatment received those services

General Health

21 out of the 38 ECI areas supported dental screens

\$588,678 total funds reported (ECI: \$359,051; Non-ECI: \$229,627)

16,295 children were served

\$36 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

51% screened that needed dental treatment went to a dentist

86% of the children screened were cavity free

Dental Services

4 out of the 38 ECI areas supported these services

\$45,771 total funds reported (ECI: \$29,933 Non-ECI: \$15,837)

299 children were served (including prenatal children)

\$153 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

83% screened that needed follow up/treatment, received the services

Prenatal/Postnatal Services

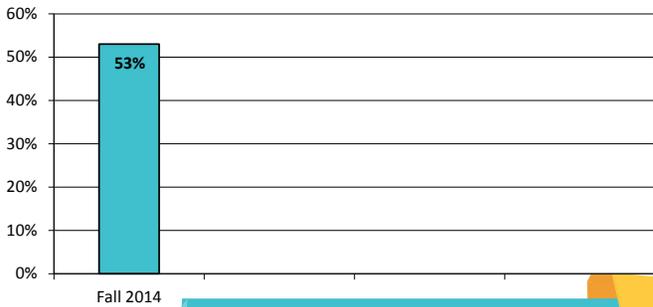
Other Factors Impacting this Result:
I-Smile™; Help Me Grow; ACES; *hawk-i* Outreach; 1st Five Healthy Mental Development; EPSDT; Title V Child Health; Period of Purple Crying; Early Hearing Detection and Intervention; Newborn screening; Immunizations; Lead Screening; Food and Nutrition Program

Additional Partners that Assist in Moving Indicators in a Positive Direction:
Local Public Health; WIC Clinics; IDPH; Child Health Specialty Clinics; Local Title V Child Health Agencies; DHS; Early ACCESS

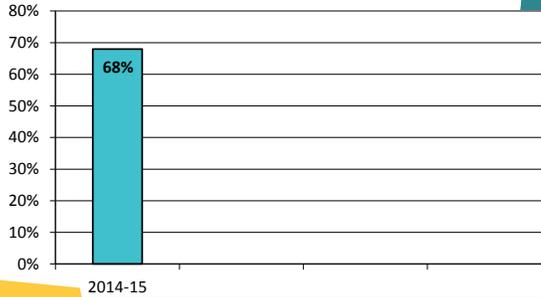
Legislated Result

Children Ready to Succeed in School

Percent of Students Entering Kindergarten Proficient in Beginning Reading Skills Using FAST Assessment



Percent of Students Entering Kindergarten Who Have No Obvious Dental Problems



EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

Kindergartners meeting the Fall benchmark for the early literacy universal screening measure requirements of Iowa Code section 279.68

Source: Iowa Department of Education

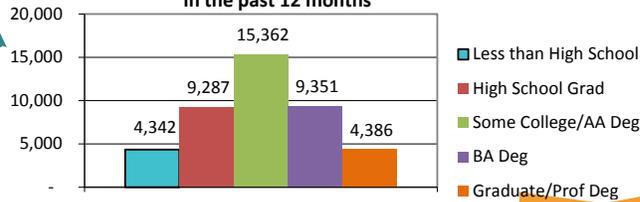
CHILDREN WITH NO DENTAL PROBLEMS

Children entering kindergarten who have no obvious dental problems

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

State Indicators

Educational Attainment of Women age 15-50 with a birth in the past 12 months



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF MOTHERS

Women age 15-50 with a birth in the past 12 months by educational attainment

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

State Indicators

Additional Partners that Assist in Moving Indicators in a Positive Direction:

Iowa AEYC; Head Start; DE; United Way; IPTV; Academy of Pediatricians; community-based early education providers; DHS Wraparound funds; Early ACCESS; AEA; ISU

Other Factors Impacting this Result:

Every Child Reads; Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program; Shared Visions; Raising Readers Learning Centers; Reach Out and Read; Childcare Alliance Response Team (CART); childcare/preschool wraparound programs; Parents As Teachers; ECI preschool scholarships; Positive Behavior & Intervention Supports; Early Learning Standards

Local Strategies and Performance Measures

Scholarship Coordination

26 out of the 38 ECI areas supported these services

\$310,617 total funds reported
(ECI: \$310,372; Non-ECI: \$245)

79% of children applying for scholarships received it

Reasons a child did not receive a scholarship:
over income; inadequate funding available;
eligible for another program; age ineligible;
no longer need; moved out of the specific ECI area

Tuition Assistance

36 out of the 38 ECI areas supported this service

\$7,619,778 total funds reported
(ECI: \$2,908,237; Non-ECI: \$4,711,541)

3,449 Children received tuition assistance/scholarships

\$2,209 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

85% of children demonstrated age appropriate skills

Early Care and Education Supportive Services

21 out of the 38 ECI areas supported these services

\$3,470,365 total funds reported
(ECI: \$2,096,385; Non-ECI: \$1,373,980)

1,980 children were served

\$1,752 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

88% of children served demonstrated age appropriate skills

18 out of the 38 ECI areas supported transportation services

\$343,607 total funds reported
(ECI: \$286,028; Non-ECI: \$57,579)

677 children were provided transportation services

\$507 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

88% of the days preschool was offered that children were able to attend because of this service

Literacy Programs

4 out of the 38 ECI areas supported stand alone literacy programs

\$41,351 total funds reported
(ECI: \$33,151; Non-ECI: \$8,200)

1,150 children were served

\$5 average cost per child, based on funds reported

95% of parents report an increase in reading to their child each day

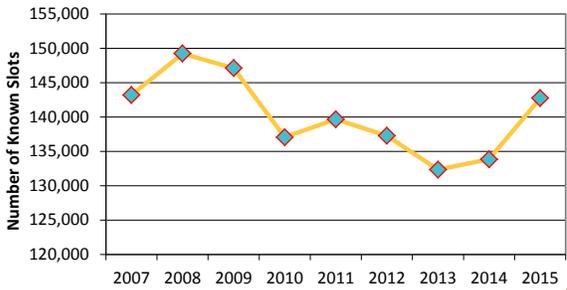
97% of parents report an increase of talking with their child about new words in stories

Transportation

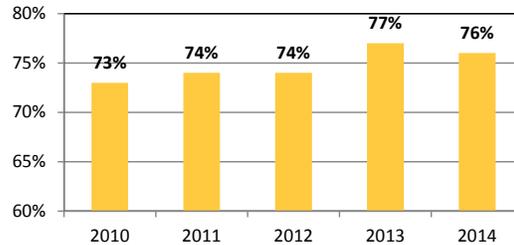
Legislated Result

Secure & Nurturing Early Learning Environments

Availability of Child Care



Percent of Households with Children under Age 6 and All Parents in the Workforce



AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number of licensed and registered child care slots

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

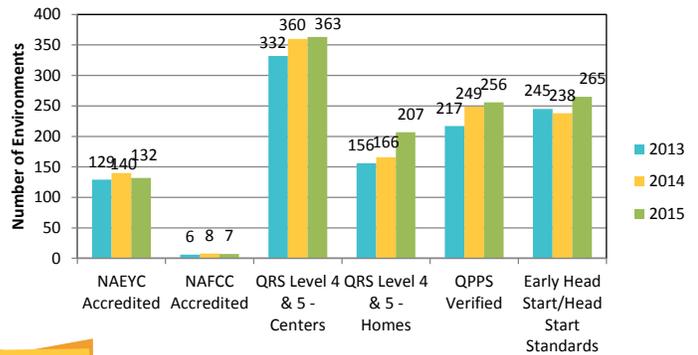
WORKING PARENTS

Percent of households with children under age 6 and all parents in the workforce

Source: American Community Survey

State Indicators

Quality Early Learning Environments



QUALITY EARLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) or NAFCC (National Association of Family Child Care) accredited and/or meet Head Start program performance standards, and/or verified QPPS sites, and/or have achieved QRS level 4-5.

Source: Early Childhood Iowa

State Indicators

In October of 2014, the US Congress passed reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant. This legislation increases state requirements in supporting low-income families who rely on child care assistance to access child care. These requirements move the child care system to be more child focused, family friendly and fair to child care providers. There are a number of requirements the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), as the lead agency, will need to implement. The DHS reached out to ECI, through Component Groups and Committees, to provide input and suggestion on how to design the needed changes in child care. The ECI Stakeholders Alliance is very supportive of the changes and will advocate for the implementation.

Local Strategies and Performance Measures

Child Care Nurse Consultants

31 out of the 38 ECI areas supported this service to assist early learning environments (preschools, child care centers, home child care)

\$1,243,524 total funds reported (ECI: \$1,172,320; Non-ECI: \$71,204)

84% of children with special needs had a health care plan

89% of participants improved health and safety in their early learning environments

4 out of the 38 ECI areas supported crisis care services

\$278,894 total funds reported (ECI: \$254,894; Non-ECI: \$24,000)

425 children were served

\$656 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

100% of parents reported they were connected to new support

Crisis Care

Quality Improvement

31 out of the 38 ECI areas supported activities to improve quality through support of the Quality Rating System (QRS)

\$1,551,868 total funds reported (ECI: \$1,295,948; Non-ECI: \$255,921)

39% of the 1,007 early care and education programs that were supported rated at least a level 3 in Iowa's QRS

4 out of the 38 ECI areas supported Wage\$

\$111,305 total funds reported (ECI: \$85,660; Non-ECI: \$25,646)

55 Wage\$ recipients

93% of recipients retained employment in Early Learning Programming

\$2,024 average cost per recipient, based on total funds reported

Wage\$

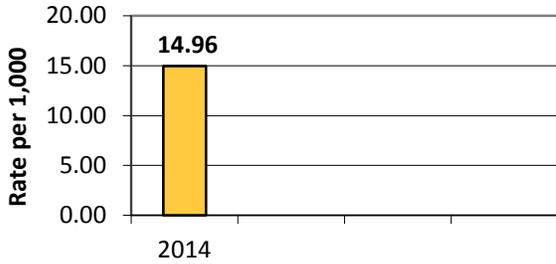
Other Factors Impacting this Result:
Healthy Child Care Iowa; I-Consult

Additional Partners that Assist in Moving Indicators in a Positive Direction:
CCR&R; T.E.A.C.H. Iowa; Head Start; IDPH; ISU Extension

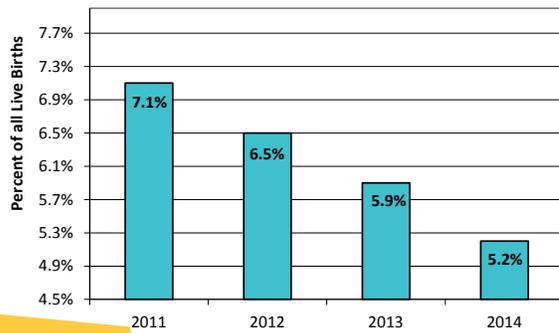
Legislated Result

Safe and Nurturing Families

Incidence of Child Abuse (Children 0 -5 years old)



Teen Births



INCIDENCE OF CHILD ABUSE

Incidence of confirmed child abuse for children 5 years old and under

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

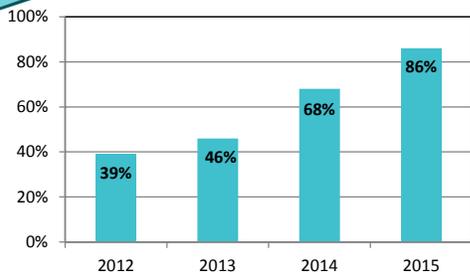
TEEN BIRTHS

Percent of all births to mothers under age 20

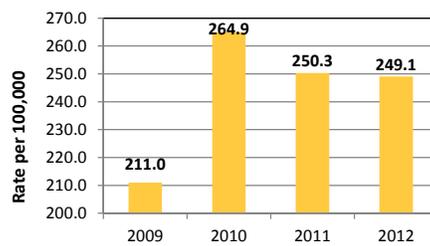
Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

State Indicators

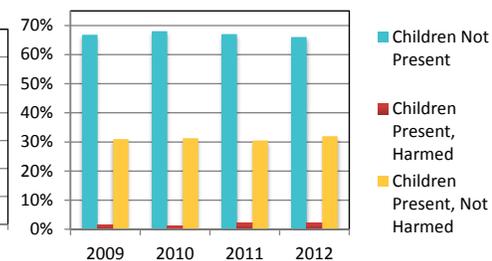
Percent of Accredited Family Support Programs in Iowa



Domestic Violence Rate



Domestic Abuse Incident Characteristics



ACCREDITED FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN IOWA

Programs demonstrating adherence to quality standards as determined by an external review

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RATE

Domestic abuse rate and domestic abuse rate where children were present

Source: Iowa Department of Public Safety

State Indicators

Local Strategies and Performance Measures

2 out of the 38 ECI areas supported resource libraries

\$2,000 total funds reported (ECI: \$2,000; Non-ECI: \$0)

100% of participants increased their knowledge of early childhood growth and development

Resource Libraries

Family Support

38 out of the 38 ECI areas supported family support services

\$20,645,981 total funds reported (ECI: \$13,944,634; Non-ECI: \$6,701,347)

58% of the families have a primary caregiver with a high school diploma or less education

42% of the families served are married

28% of the primary caregivers are non-Caucasian

Iowa Family Support Credential

The Iowa Family Support Credentialing program is a quality improvement framework for family support programs. Technical assistance is provided to enrolled programs to improve practice and to demonstrate adherence to the Iowa Family Support Standards.

Programs complete a self-evaluation with the assistance of their technical assistance mentor to evaluate their adherence to the standards. The results of the self-evaluation formulate the quality improvement plan. A peer review is scheduled when the program determines that they are in adherence in both policy and practice to all of the 139 standards. The peer review team carefully reviews all assessment materials, interviews key stakeholders, observes activities, and reviews family files to determine if the program is in adherence to the standards. A certificate of achievement and recognition is awarded to the program by the state once a program is found to be in complete adherence to the Iowa Family Support Standards.

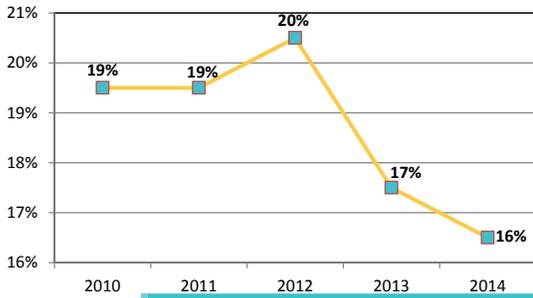
Evidence-based/Promising Practice Priority: In order to implement the legislative intent stated in sections 135.106 and 256I.9, that priority for home visitation program funding be given to programs using evidenced-based or promising models for home visitation, the legislation states that by FY '16, 90 percent of state funds expended for home visiting programs are for evidence-based or promising program models. As of FY '15, Iowa is at 85.77% towards meeting this requirement.

There are now a total of 86 programs that have received the credential either through the standard method (70) or alternate method (16). During the year, 47 programs received technical assistance to move forward with meeting the criteria. Currently 94% of Iowa Counties have at least one program participating in the credential process.

Legislated Result

Safe and Supportive Communities

Percent of Children under age 6 in Poverty

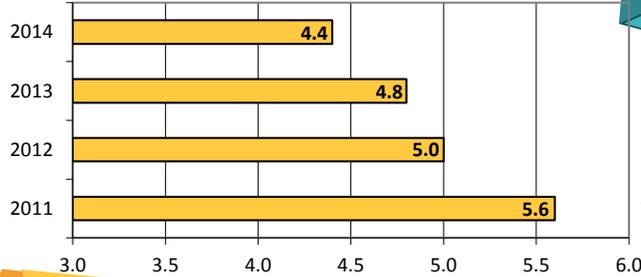


CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Percent of children under six years of age living in poverty

Source: Kids Count Data Center

Unemployment Rate



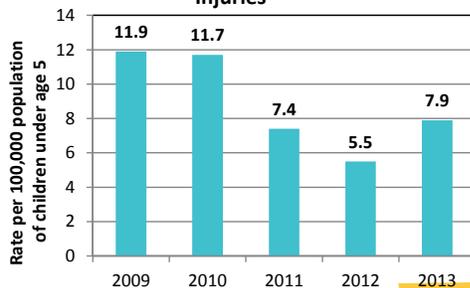
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The percent of unemployed persons

Source: Iowa Workforce

State Indicators

Child Deaths due to Unintentional Injuries

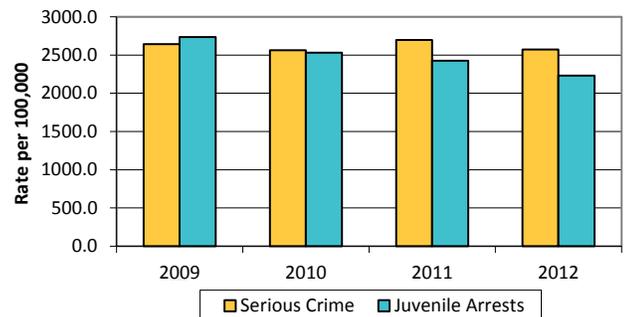


CHILD DEATHS DUE TO UNINTENDED INJURIES

The number of child deaths due to unintentional injuries/estimated midyear Iowa population per 100,000 population of children under age 5 years

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health-Vital Statistics

Serious Crime/Juvenile Arrests



SERIOUS CRIME/JUVENILE ARRESTS

The rate of serious crime per 100,000 population

Total arrests per 100,000 estimated juvenile population (children 18 years old and under)

Source: Iowa Department of Public Safety

State Indicators

Local Strategies and Performance Measures

Coordinated Intake

7 out of the 38 ECI areas supported a Coordinated Intake project

\$114,223 total funds reported (ECI: \$86,083; Non-ECI: \$28,140)

52% of families that received referrals enrolled in the program or service

Car Seat Safety Checks

2 out of the 38 ECI areas supported car seat safety checks

\$2,210 total funds reported (ECI: \$2,210; Non-ECI: \$0)

30 children were served

\$73.67 average cost per child, based on the total funds reported

40% of the car seats were properly installed prior to the safety checks, as reported by the car seat safety technician

Public Awareness Activities

6 out of the 38 ECI areas supported public awareness activities in their areas

\$79,170 total funds reported (ECI: \$78,670; Non-ECI: \$500)

Other Factors Impacting this Result:

Promise Jobs; Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Funds; Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program

Additional Partners that Assist in Moving Indicators in a Positive Direction:

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children; DHS; IDPH; Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Professional Development

Professional Development - Conferences

11 out of the 38 ECI areas supported PD Conferences

\$57,710 total funds reported (ECI: \$57,710; Non-ECI: \$0)

18 conferences were supported by ECI areas

Professional Development - Trainings

33 out of the 38 ECI areas supported professional development trainings

\$605,910 total funds reported (ECI: \$581,958; Non-ECI: \$23,952)

591 professional development trainings were supported.

Professional Development - Credit Bearing

5 out of the 38 ECI areas supported credit bearing professional development activities

\$135,664 total funds reported (ECI: \$134,639; Non-ECI: \$1,005)

54 individuals participated in credit bearing professional development opportunities

Professional Development- Consulting, Mentor, Coaching

28 out of the 38 ECI areas supported professional development consulting, mentoring, and/or coaching.

\$2,682,134 total funds reported (ECI: \$2,484,938; Non-ECI: \$197,196)

216 Programs participating in consulting, mentoring, and/or coaching--this resulted in 9,233 visits/contacts

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA is an affordable, comprehensive statewide scholarship program that provides the early care and education workforce with an opportunity to attain college coursework, credentials, and degrees in early childhood education without going into debt. T.E.A.C.H. scholarships address key issues in child care of under-education, poor compensation, and high turnover while supporting high quality early learning environments for Iowa's youngest citizens.



Funding for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA comes in part from the Iowa Department of Human Services through federal funding from the Child Care Development Fund; Iowa Department of Management

through Early Childhood Iowa Professional Development; United Way of Central Iowa, Women's Leadership Connection; the Iowa Department of Public Health through MIECHV funds; Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Area; and the child care programs who co-sponsor a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA is a successful strategy supporting the result areas of Early Childhood Iowa.

Child Care **WAGES® IOWA** provides education-based financial supplements to early care and education providers to incentivize retention within their child care program as well as continued college education. This program aims to increase retention, education, and compensation for the early childhood workforce. During FY '15, WAGE\$ served 10 counties in Iowa.



Local System Development- ECI Area Boards:

- Administer funding to invest in early childhood programming to support young children and their families
- Build community commitment to reach the ECI Legislated Results
- Develop a community plan that is adopted by various early childhood partners in the community

**ECI
Admin**

Local Boards

- Administrative Staff - \$2,069,069
- Total ECIA Board Expenses (non-staff) - \$254,526
- Board Liability Insurance - \$64,070
- Fiscal Agent Fees - \$242,622
- Audit Expenses - \$102,950

**Total:
\$2,733,237**

State System Development (ECI State Office and State Technical Assistance Team):

- Support and coordinate with the ECI State Board to move the early care, health and education systems forward.
- Support and coordinate the ECI Stakeholders Alliance
- Oversee the development of a high quality early childhood system
- Implementation of the ECI initiative
- Provide leadership and facilitation, communication and coordination of initiative activities and funding for the ECI Area boards

State Office

- 2 FTEs (salary and benefits) + 7 months of previous staff person and a portion of time for clerical support - \$326,485
- Office Expense: (includes individual office space rental, equipment, phone lines, conference phone lines, supplies, computers and IT services, printing, LOE items for model areas, etc.) - \$22,000
- Travel Expenses – Board Members - \$8,050
- Travel Expenses – for ECI Office and state car - \$7,200

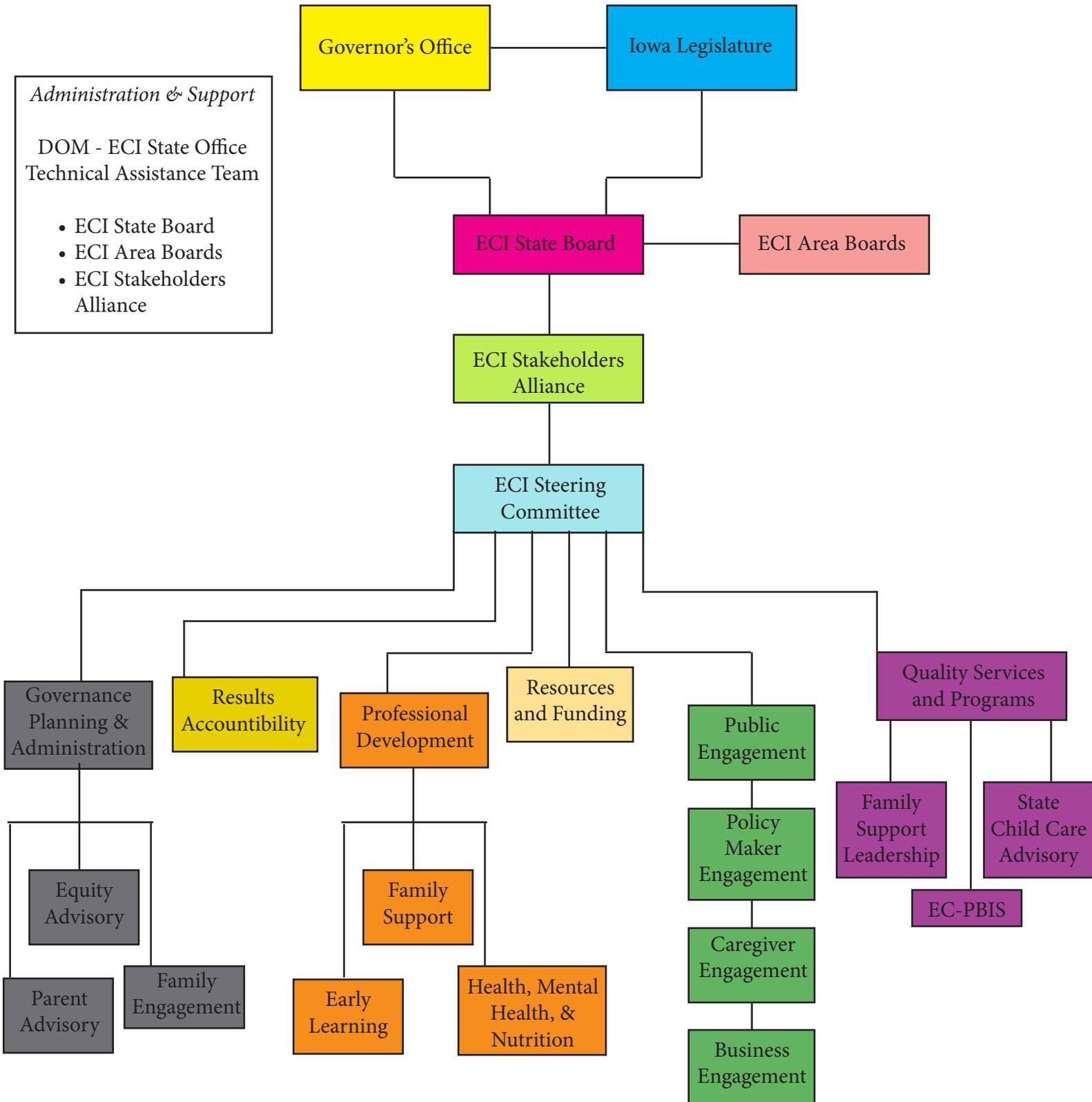
**StateOffice
Total: \$363,735**

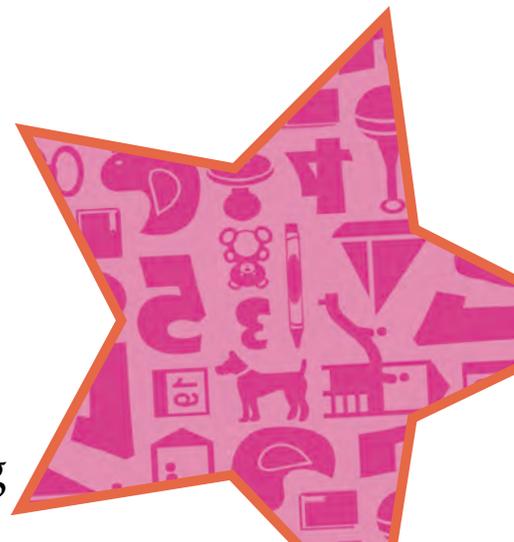
State TA Team

In addition to the State Office:

- DHS utilizes \$50,000 (.5 FTE) of the Early Childhood funding
- IDPH contributes a .25 FTE to the ECI TA Team
- DE contributes a .5 FTE to the ECI TA Team

ECI System





www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

Early Childhood Iowa



2015 Local ECI Area Executive Summary Showcase





4 COUNTIES FOR KIDS

EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA AREA

Contact for Area:

Jack Maletta, Area Director
 209 East Jackson St
 Centerville, IA 52544
 Ph: (641) 856-7431 FAX: (641) 437-4089
 e-mail: jmalett@dhs.state.ia.us

Counties in Area:

Appanoose County, Davis County,
 Lucas County, Monroe County

Vision and Mission of ECIA:

Every child in 4 Counties For Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area will be healthy and reach their full potential. In order to provide opportunities for every child to be healthy and reach their full potential, 4 Counties For Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area provides collaborative planning, development and financial support for programs and services benefiting children prenatal to age 5 and their families.

4 Counties For Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area Story

4 Counties For Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area came into existence in September 1998 as A.D.L.M. Empowerment Area. The name was changed in 2009/2010 in conjunction with name changes for Iowa's early childhood system. 4 Counties For Kids ECI Area is a locally driven collaborative whose only purpose is to build a system of services for children prenatal to age 5 and their families. The services are driven by the needs of that target community. Leadership for the ECI Area is provided by a volunteer Board of Directors made up of community members dedicated to improving opportunities for young children and their families.

4 Counties For Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area Board of Directors is proud of its accomplishments in the nearly 17 years of its existence. It has been instrumental in growing preschool opportunities for children in lower income families. It has built successful Family Support Home Visitation programs that help educate and support parents of children prenatal to age 5. It is an important supporter of NEST group parent education programs that serve large numbers of parents and children prenatal to age 5. It has also been instrumental in helping to build quality child care programs in the four county area. In order to continue to meet its mission, 4 Counties For Kids Board of Directors must find ways to network across all segments of the community to mobilize all available resources. The fact that our "community" is comprised of four small relatively poor counties means that the availability of funds to support the needed levels of programs and services is a continually challenging issue.

Did you know? *Learning Begins at Birth (the earliest years count)*. The first 5 (and particularly the first 2) years of life are critical to a child's lifelong development.

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- Children need quality early learning experiences beginning at home, with their parents and continuing with high quality child care and preschool.
- Many parents need the help of trained professionals to learn about dealing with challenges in their lives and providing for the healthy development of their children.
- Children must be healthy to succeed in school and life, this healthy development begins prior to their birth.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES

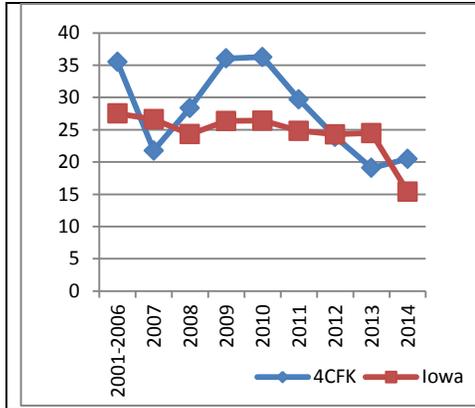
1. Children Ready for School
2. Healthy Secure and Nurturing Families
3. Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

What services/programs/activities do we support?

- Parents As Teachers** – home visitation parent support & education
- HOPES Like HFA Affiliate** – home visitation parent skill development for highly at-risk families
- NEST Programs** – incentive based group parent education program
- Preschool Tuition Assistance** – for low income families
- Preschool Transportation Assistance** – for low income families in Head Start programs
- Preschool Extended Day** – for low income families in Head Start programs
- Preschool Supplemental Assistance** – for children & families involved with school system sponsored and SWVPP programs
- PAT Child Care Educators** – training and consultation for home care providers in child development
- Child Care Nurse Consultant/Child Health Consultant** – training & consultation for providers in health related matters
- Child Care Recruiter/Consultant** – training & consultation in child care business development
- Early Childhood Quality Improvement** – training and assistance in improving child care quality

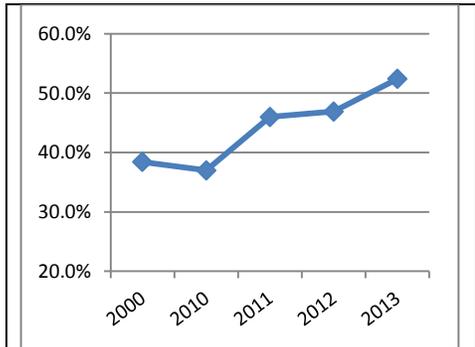
How do we measure our progress?

1. Indicator or Performance Measure the ECIA is tracking – **Incidence of Child Abuse**



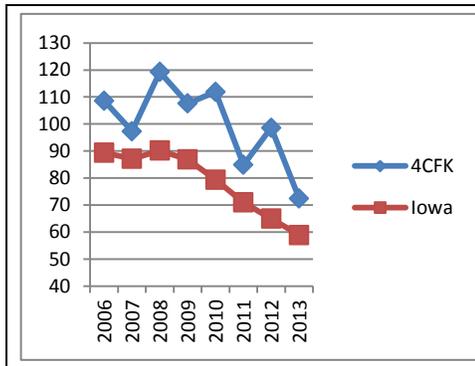
The Confirmed Child Abuse Incidence Rate for children 5 years and under per 1,000 population is obtained from data received from the Iowa Department of Human Services and Prevent Child Abuse Iowa. The Board is well aware that challenges faced by families in our area have historically shown up in incidences of child abuse that are consistently above Iowa state averages. Although many of those challenges are beyond the scope of our services, we continually place substantial Early Childhood Iowa resources toward supporting families in dealing with those challenges in ways that enhance the healthy development of their children.

2. Indicator or Performance Measure the ECIA is tracking – **Percentage of Children Enrolled in Preschool**



4 Counties For Kids has consistently funded public and private preschool tuition assistance and a variety of public and private preschool support services. A child's participation in a high quality preschool experience is a very important transition from learning at home to entering school ready to be successful. It is very satisfying the we have seen the percentage of 3 and 4 year old children enrolled in preschool climb from approximately 38% in 2000 and through 2015 to over 50% in 2013. It is the Board of Directors' desire that every child have the opportunity to participate in a high quality preschool.

3. Indicator or Performance Measure the ECIA is tracking – **Teen Births**



Teen Births (birth to mothers under age 20) is both a current and predictive indicator. Children born to teen mothers are often under weight and have early health problems. Teen mothers are themselves still going through development. Children born to teen mothers are often the victims of abuse and neglect. The Board of Directors primarily sees Teen Births as an indicator of the continuing need for Family Support services in the area. The fact that the rate in the 4CFK area consistently runs more than 20% higher than the state average indicates no decrease in that need. (Data obtained from IDPH Vital Statistics reports)

What can you do to help?

- Contact 4 Counties For Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area and volunteer to become a Board Member.
- Share some of your time and expertise – planning and developing programming, marketing, management, etc. as a member of our TAC (Technical Assistance Committee) Advisory Committee.
- Advocate for children with Local, State and Federal government and community agencies and civic groups.

Others within our community working on similar issues

- School Districts
- Community based private, non-profit and church based preschools and child care facilities
- County Public Health Agencies
- Community Action Programs (SIEDA & SCICAP) Agencies
- Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies

There are approximately 2000 days between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first 2000 days of a child's life can have a PROFOUND and LIFELONG impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.



FY2015 Executive Summary

Contact for Area: Debra Schrader, Executive Director
1011 Pear Avenue
Prescott, Iowa 50859
Phone: 641-344-2250
Email: 4rkidseci@gmail.com
Website: www.4rkid-seci.org

Bob Ockerman, Chairperson
1401 S 13th Street
Adel, Iowa 50003
Phone: 515-238-9835
Email: ockermanbob@gmail.com

Vision Statement: “Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful”

Mission Statement: “Empower families and communities to enhance the quality of the lives of young children”

Beliefs and Philosophy

- That all children are individuals who learn in their own way and at their own pace
- That children learn best through educational experiences that are developmentally appropriate
- That parents and family are the most significant persons in a child’s life
- That every family has the right to quality, accessible and affordable services
- That a collaborative approach should be taken to support children and families

Guiding Principles

The highly valued tenets of behavior, attitude, and action that drive the culture, work, and the decision making of the 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area Board are as follows:

- Healthy children and healthy families result in healthy communities
- We support evidenced-based programs, promising programs and researched based programs
- We support programs that are able to demonstrate performance measures for input, output, quality/efficiency, and outcomes

Priorities

- Quality early childhood education settings (i.e. homes, centers, preschools)
- Health services (i.e. vision, dental, mental, medical)
- Family support and parent education services/programs
- Community resource management and planning

Efforts are Directed to

- Serve families prenatal through age 5
- Serve families that reside in Adair, Dallas, Madison, and or Warren County

Commitment to Results

- Healthy Children
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Safe and Supportive Communities
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

Services Supported by the 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area Board

- ▶ Parents as Teachers
- ▶ New Parent Program
- ▶ Maternal Child Health
- ▶ Coordinated Intake
- ▶ Community Planning & Coordination
- ▶ Preschool scholarships
- ▶ Dental Screenings
- ▶ Preschool Quality Improvement
- ▶ Child Care Nurse Consultants
- ▶ Child Care Quality Improvement
- ▶ Child Care Training

FY2015 Accomplishments and Facts

Family Support & Parent Education

Who were served

302 children received developmentally appropriate instruction
274 families participated in family support and parent education opportunities
2,147 personal home visits were conducted
89% of families served had one or more risk factors
23% of families were Hispanic/Latino
85% of families increased or maintained social supports
89% of families improved or maintained healthy function, problem solving and communication

Did You Know?

85% of a child's brain develops in the first three to five years of his or her life?

Child Care & Preschool

55 child care training events were provided
765 child care providers participated in professional development
80 early learning programs participated in quality improvement
25.7% of early learning providers have a QRS
229 visits were conducted by the child care nurse consultant
172 children received preschool tuition assistance
494 children received dental screenings
24 high risk families were connected with family support services

4 R Kids County Facts

In Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County there are:
25.7% of early learning providers with a QRS rating
84.6% of kindergarteners who had a preschool experience
23.6% single parent families
12,850 children ages 0-5

Are you aware that:

There are approximately 2000 days between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first 2000 days of a child's life can have a profound and lifelong impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.

Want to learn more or get involved with early childhood in Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County?

Visit the following websites

www.4rkids-eci.org

www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

or contact

Debra Schrader at

4rkidseci@gmail.com

Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa

Benton and Tama Counties

P.O. Box 516, Vinton, Iowa 52349

319/472-4543 www.bettertomorrowseci.org

Better Tomorrows Priorities

- Healthy children
- Secure and nurturing families
- Secure and nurturing early learning environments
- Children ready to succeed in school
- Safe and supportive communities

Did You Know?

Mothers who participate in The Tama County Nest program can earn points by going to the doctor during her pregnancy or by attending Nest sponsored classes? These points can be spent like cash on baby items in the Nest Store.

Mission

To enhance the quality of life in Benton and Tama County by promoting strong, healthy families. Barriers will be overcome and programs and services coordinated through community collaboration.

Vision

All children (age 0-5) living in Benton and Tama County will be healthy; have a safe, secure, nurturing home and childcare environment; and be ready to succeed in school.

Services, programs and activities we support

Early Childhood Funds - Child Care Provider Classes, Quality Early Childhood Environments (QECE), Coordination Services

School Ready Funds - MICA Family Support Program, Tama County Health and Home Care Parent Visitation Program, Nest of Tama County, Horizons Family Support Program, Quality Early Childhood Environments (QECE), Preschool Scholarships, Coordination Services

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

Home visitation programs offer families ways to improve their life skills. Of the families participating:

- ⇒76% improved or maintained healthy family functioning, problem solving and communication.
- ⇒61.5% increased or maintained social supports.
- ⇒72% are connected to additional concrete supports.
- ⇒57.5% increased knowledge about child development and parenting.
- ⇒47.5% improved nurturing and attachment between parents and children.
- √An important part of home visitation is having qualified staff going into the homes. 100% of our workers have either a Bachelor's degree or are employed as a Registered Nurse.
- √All of our programs have either a state or national credential or are in the process of becoming a credentialed program.
- √100% of families meet FS eligibility criteria.

Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa

Others within our community working on similar issues:

- ◇ Area Education Agencies
- ◇ Child Care Providers
- ◇ Child Care Resource & Referral
- ◇ Churches
- ◇ County Officials
- ◇ CPPC
- ◇ Decat
- ◇ DHS
- ◇ Family Nurturing Council
- ◇ Four Oaks
- ◇ Horizon's
- ◇ ISU Extension
- ◇ Local Citizens
- ◇ Lutheran Services of Iowa
- ◇ Meskwaki Settlement School
- ◇ MICA
- ◇ Ministerial Association
- ◇ Parents As Teachers
- ◇ Preschools
- ◇ Public Health
- ◇ School Districts
- ◇ SKIP
- ◇ Substance Abuse Councils
- ◇ WIC

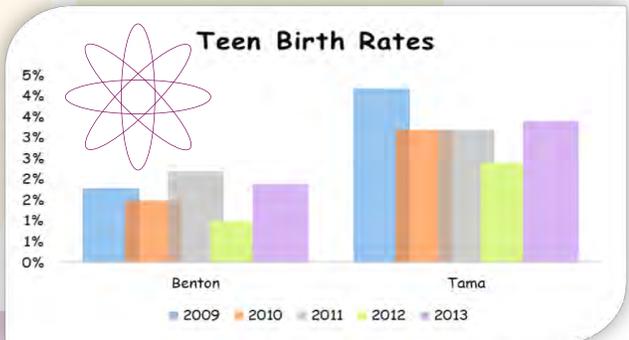
Success Story

One of our young mothers who has been an asset to our Nest of Tama County program was enrolled in the Maternal Health Program through WIC. She attends every month and has become comfortable with being our interpreter during the Spanish class and usually stays for the English class as well. She encourages the other young moms to ask questions when they seem timid. She has gained a social network through the Nest Program and has also enrolled in our last Parenting Class held in May of this year. She has said, "The Nest is great because we learn many things about infant care and we are able to use our points for necessary items like diapers and wipes. The home visit is very informative and I got more information from the home visit than the hospital."

What can you do to help?

- ◇ *State Systems Produce Positive Outcomes for Children and Families* - In evaluating a "systems level approach" to coordinating health care services, researchers in North Carolina concluded that "system-level interactions hold promise to improve the effectiveness and outcomes of care for children." Their findings, published in the *Journal of Pediatrics*, demonstrated outcomes that included policy-level changes, the alignment of multiple organizations toward a common goal, reduced duplication of services, and better health outcomes for mothers and children compared to the outcomes of previous randomized trials.
- ◇ *Community Outreach Activities* - participation on boards and committees involving child welfare.
- ◇ *Financial Support* - donations, both financial and in-kind to assist programs that focus on child welfare.

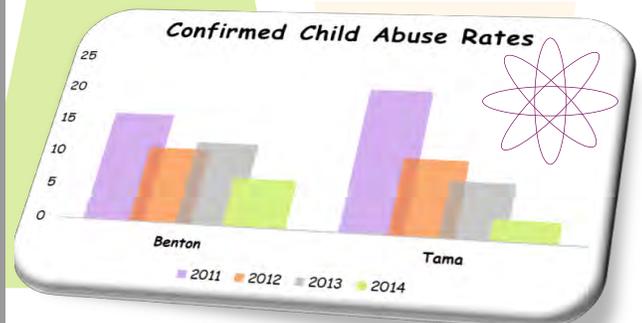
How are we doing? Teen pregnancy rates have decreased from 2009 but are still higher in Tama County.



How are we doing? Prenatal care visits in both counties have held steady and improved slightly from 2009.



How are we doing? Child abuse rates have decreased significantly since 2011.





Early childhood Iowa and DECAT
Cass, Mills & Montgomery Counties

Best way to get little ones ready for life long success? Take 20 minutes each day to read a story – even if they are too little to understand what you are reading.

Home visiting programs cut child abuse & neglect in **half** – little ones that participate in a home visiting program have higher cognitive scores, bigger vocabulary and are 42.5% more likely to graduate from high school.

Children living in poverty or other adverse conditions may hear only 10 million words by age 3, compared to 33 million for children with strong family, economic and social supports.

Research shows that the most rapid brain development occurs before age 5, when a child's brain develops 700 synapses (neural connections that transmit information) every second.

Nurturing and stimulating relationships with parents and caregivers during the first 5 years of life builds healthy brain structure and provides a foundation for lifelong healthy development and learning.



2,000 DAYS



There are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and begins kindergarten. Experiences during those 2,000 days have a lasting impact on later learning, health and success. Children's earliest experiences literally determine how their brains are wired, lay the groundwork for future health, and form the foundation of the social and emotional skills needed for academic and workplace success.

With quality early childhood programs, children will be school ready, have higher graduation rates and grow into productive citizens.

Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy & successful.

Amy Chastain, Director
PO Box 189, Oakland, IA 51560
712-482-3029
director@boost4families.org
www.boost4families.org

	Cass (2013 v 2015)	Mills (2013 v 2015)	Montgomery (2013 v 2015)
Children aged 0-5	1,068/ 960	1,108/1045	704/674
Children 0-5 living in poverty	14.3%	5.9%	21%
Children abused or neglected (DHS confirmed, 2012)	50% ranked 40 in state/35% ranked 38 in state	43% ranked 72 nd state/24% ranked 78 in state	77 % Ranked 5 th in the State/50% ranked 3 in state
Children 0-5 abused or neglected (2012)	26/31	19/18	37/38
Families with all parents working & children under 6	71%/67%	67%/72%	81%/84%
Range of Preschool tuition rates	\$60.00 to \$90.00	\$80.00 to \$283.00	\$30.00 to \$75.00
Quality programs at rate of 3 or more	6	4	5
Average cost per child, for child care	\$121 per week	\$150 per week	\$117 per week

Achieving Results for Kids

- ✓ Healthy Children
- ✓ Children Ready to Succeed in School
- ✓ Safe & Supportive Families
- ✓ Secure & Nurturing Families
- ✓ High Quality Child Care Environments

Our Board of Directors

Jess Rogers, Chair – Mills County
Children's Hospital of Omaha

Christy Casey, Vice Chair – Shelby County Cass
Management/Parent

Cass County

Duane McFadden, Cass County Board of Supervisors
Kristy Pellett, Atlantic School Board
Linda Hartkopf, Atlantic City Council

Mills County

Ron Kohn, Mills County Board of Supervisors
Craig Patzer, Glenwood School Board
Sherry Ford, Mills County ISU Extension/Faith

Montgomery County

Josh Wiig, Montgomery County Board of Supervisors
Bill Drey, Red Oak School Board
John Baker, citizen

Connie Jones/Melissa Nation, Iowa Department of Human
Services

Jayne Wilson, Iowa Juvenile Court Services

What projects do we fund in Cass, Mills & Montgomery Counties?

- Preschool Tuition Scholarships
- Preschool Transportation Assistance
- *Parents as Teachers* © Home Visiting Program (Cass & Mills)
- *Positive Family* Home Visiting Program (Montgomery)
- Preschool Oral Health Screening, Varnishes and Dental Referrals
- Child Care Nurse Consultants
- Quality Improvement Projects for Child Care Centers & Preschools
- Professional Development for Child Care Providers
- Child Care Resource & Referral "Reach for the Stars" Project
- Youth Transition Dream Teams for teens in foster care
- Camp Viking – summer camp for kids with social, emotional and behavioral challenges
- Community-based Family Team Meetings – preventative mediation for vulnerable families
- Circles4Support groups for at-risk families
- Before and after school programming
- Coordinated Intake in Mills/Montgomery Counties
- YES Mentoring





Counties served: Boone and Story
 Contact: Marion Kresse, Area Director
 515-433-4892, fax 515-432-2480,
 mkresse@boonecounty.iowa.gov,
 www.boostforchildren.org

“Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful”

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- Early childhood is when 90% of brain development takes place, forming the base for future development.
- Because quality matters: Studies show that high quality early learning returns up to \$7 for every dollar invested.

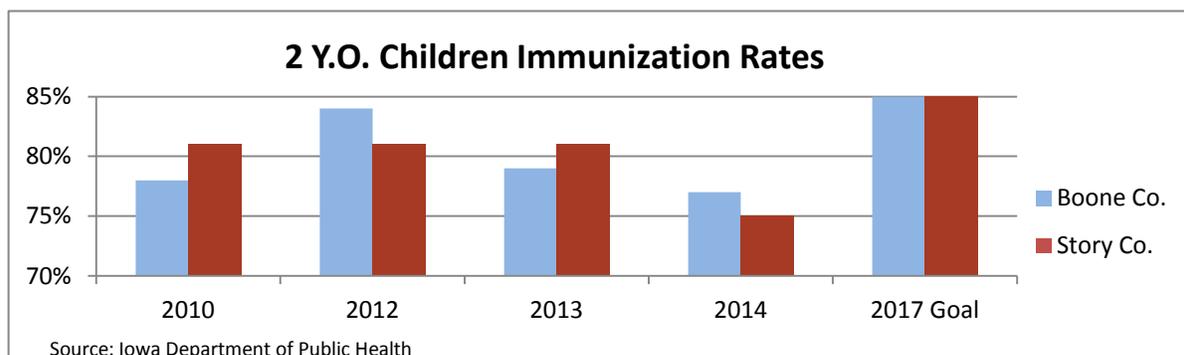
COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Children enter kindergarten ready to learn
2. Highly skilled care and education providers
3. Affordable high quality child care
4. Secure families: as see by reduced rates of child abuse and neglect

What services/programs/activities do we support?

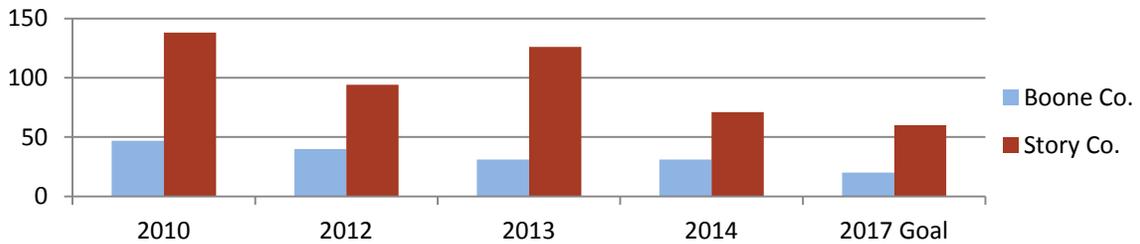
- Parents as Teachers
- Storks Nest and Family Nest
- Child Care Nurse Consultation
- McCallsburg Early Learning Center
- MICA Preschool
- Child Care Consultation
- Preschool Scholarships
- Crisis Child Care
- Healthy Futures
- Preschool Transportation
- Child Care Training
- Professional Development

How are children in the BooSt ECI Area doing?



Year	2010	2012	2013	2014	2017 Goal
Boone Co.	78%	84%	79%	77%	85%
Story Co.	81%	81%	81%	75%	85%

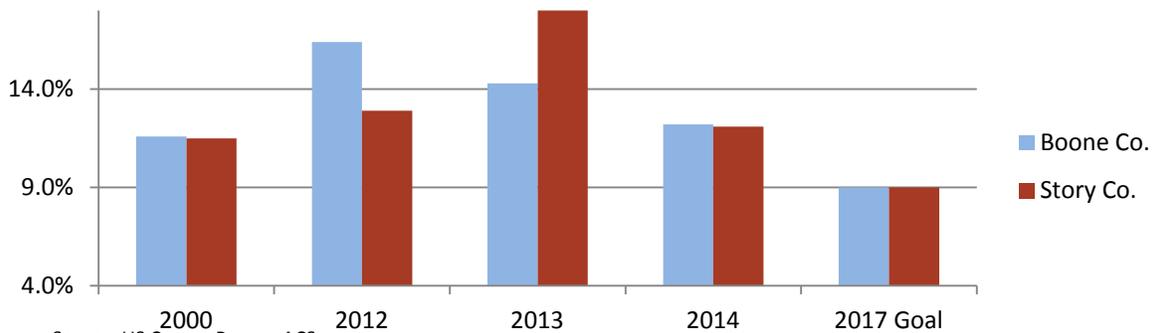
Abused or Neglected Children under age 6



Source: Iowa Dept of Human Services

Year	2010	2012	2013	2014	2017 Goal
Boone Co.	47	40	31	31	20
Story Co.	138	94	126	71	60

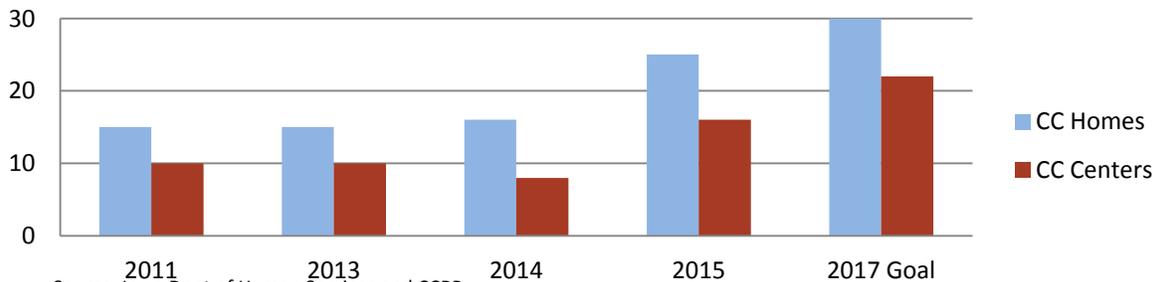
% of Children 5 and Younger in Poverty



Source: US Census Bureau ACS

Year	2000	2012	2013	2014	2017 Goal
Boone Co.	11.6%	16.4%	14.3%	12.2%	9.0%
Story Co.	11.5%	12.9%	18.0%	12.1%	9.0%

No. of CC Providers with QRS Rating



Source: Iowa Dept of Human Services and CCRR

Year	2011	2013	2014	2015	2017 Goal
CC Homes	15	15	16	25	30
CC Centers	10	10	8	16	22



Building Families Early Childhood Area 2014-2015 Executive Summary

Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Counties

Michelle Walters, LMSW – Director

120 1st Ave NW, Suite 14

Clarion, IA 50525

515.602.6371

mwalters@co.wright.ia.us

www.buildingfamilies.net | Facebook @Building Families

Developing healthy, independent and successful children

Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Mission: All children, youth, and families will live in safe and nurturing environments that promote health, independence and success. Building Families will create a continuum of supports and services that embraces children and their families.

Did you know? There are approximately 2000 days between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first 2000 days of a child's life can have a profound and lifelong impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and the ability to become a productive citizen.

Building Families is committed to programs that utilize researched based, evidenced based or promising practices strategies:

- ✓ 1 HOPES program Nationally Accredited
- ✓ 2 HOPES programs Family Support State Credentialed
- ✓ 1 Parent program Family Support State Credentialed
- ✓ 7 programs implement evidence based and researched based/promising practices programs
- ✓ 1 staff credentialed in Playground Safety



Of the 18 Preschools that are not part of the state-wide voluntary preschool program in Hamilton, Humboldt and Wright Counties, Building Families partners with 14 of them to provide scholarships to 3 and 4 year olds who qualify to attend their preschool program, and collaborates with the same programs to provide Preschool Parent Fun Nights for all parents and their children.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Enhance the health, growth, and development of children and adults in the family unit.
2. Improve the availability and quality of preschool programming based on a per child basis.
3. Develop childcare and preschool providers who enhance children's health, safety, developmental skills, and abilities.
4. Improve the public perception of our programs.

➤ *We help educate and support families with young children*

14 Parent Fun Nights at Preschools

203 Parents participated in the Parent Fun Nights

100% of Parents showed an increased awareness of ECI and early childhood services available as a result of participating in Preschool Parent Fun Nights

- *We encourage quality parent/child interactions and monitor the health and growth of young children.*
 - 219 children 0-5 served in our Family Support programs
 - 164 families served
 - 1,932 home visits completed
 - 118 sessions of group parent education offered
 - Over half of the participating families improved nurturing and attachment between parents and children
- *We support programs that implement quality programming.*
 - 4 Total Family Support Programs including HOPES and Parent Connection
 - 1 Healthy Families America Accredited Program
 - 3 Family Support State Credentialed Programs
- *We assist children to be ready to begin school by age five.*
 - 86 children received preschool scholarships
 - 33 students were provided transportation to attend Early Head Start
- *We help to enhance the social emotional development of children.*
 - 52 Early Learning Service Providers participated in quality improvement activities
 - 321 Visits were made by the Early Childhood Educational Advisor to early learning environments
 - 59% of Early Learning programs improved or maintained their highest level in a quality rating

Building Families Programs 2014-15

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ HOPES in Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Counties ❖ Preschool Parent Nights ❖ Parent Connection In-Home and Group Based Parent Education and Support ❖ Early Childhood Educational Advisor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Professional Development ❖ Preschool Scholarships ❖ Playground Safety ❖ Early Head Start Transportation ❖ iSmile Dental Screenings |
|--|--|

Community Partners 2014-15

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bee Inspired CAPP Program ❖ Chambers of Commerce ❖ Child Care Centers ❖ Child Care Resource and Referral ❖ Children and Families of Iowa ❖ Community and Family Resources ❖ County Boards of Supervisors ❖ Crossroads Youth and Family Center ❖ Crisis Intervention Service ❖ Department of Human Services ❖ Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center ❖ Faith Communities ❖ Family and Community Action Team ❖ Family Resource Center ❖ Hamilton County Foundation ❖ Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Decategorization Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Public Health ❖ ISU Extension ❖ Kendall Young Library ❖ KHBT Radio Station ❖ KQWC Radio Station ❖ Law Enforcement ❖ Local Businesses ❖ Local Newspapers ❖ Preschools ❖ Power Up YOUth Coalition ❖ Prevent Child Abuse Council ❖ Reach Out and Read ❖ School Districts ❖ Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grant Coalition ❖ Upper Des Moines Opportunities |
|--|--|

What you can do to help:

- Contact your legislators or representatives and advocate about investing in early childhood, children's education, and child care
- Inform and educate your friends, neighbors, and business partners about the importance of investing in children 0-5
- Take time to read to children of all ages, beginning at birth

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Executive Summary



Executive Summary

Early Childhood Iowa Vision: “Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful”.

Early Childhood Iowa Areas enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs on behalf of children, families, and other citizens residing in the area. The focus is to improve results for families with young children, ages 0-5 years.

Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac, Early Childhood Iowa (BVCS ECI) is one out of 39 Early Childhood Iowa Areas identified across the State of Iowa representing all 99 counties.

Each area has a citizen-led board to support activities to promote collaboration and develop systems in the community for young children and their families. Early Childhood Iowa Areas use identified results to develop the capacity and commitment for achieving the results of: Healthy Children; Children Ready to Succeed in School; Safe and Supportive Communities; Secure and Nurturing Families; Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments.

Strategic Highlights

The BVCS ECI mission guides the actions of the organization, provides a path, and guides decision-making. BVCS ECI Mission Statement: *to improve the quality of life for children and families by strongly supporting safe environments, lifelong learning and facilitating a coordinated system for community services.* Stemming from the mission the BVCS ECI 3-County Board has developed priorities to guide them. They are: Parent Education, Quality Preschool Programs, Nurturing Child Care, Health Prevention Measures, Early Literacy, and Coordination of Services.

Funded programs in State Fiscal Year 2015 include: Family STEPS Family Support; Preschool Scholarship and Support; Child Care Consultant; Child Care Nurse Consultant; Oral Health –Screenings, Varnish, & Education; Early Care & Education Provider Development; Quality Improvement Grants; and a Program Director.

The programs supported are important to reaching our mission. They improve outcomes for child well-being and family stability, support growth in the first five years resulting in school readiness, and prioritize quality standards and evidence based or promising practice programs with proven results.



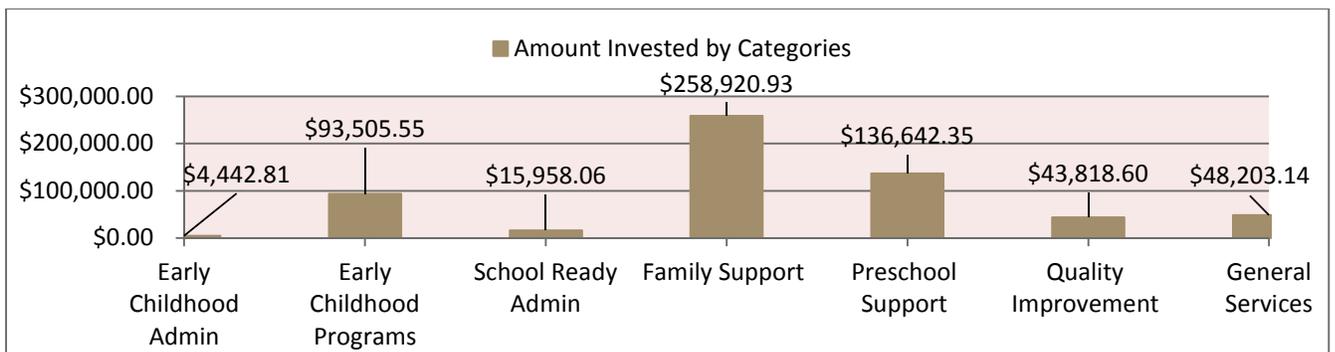
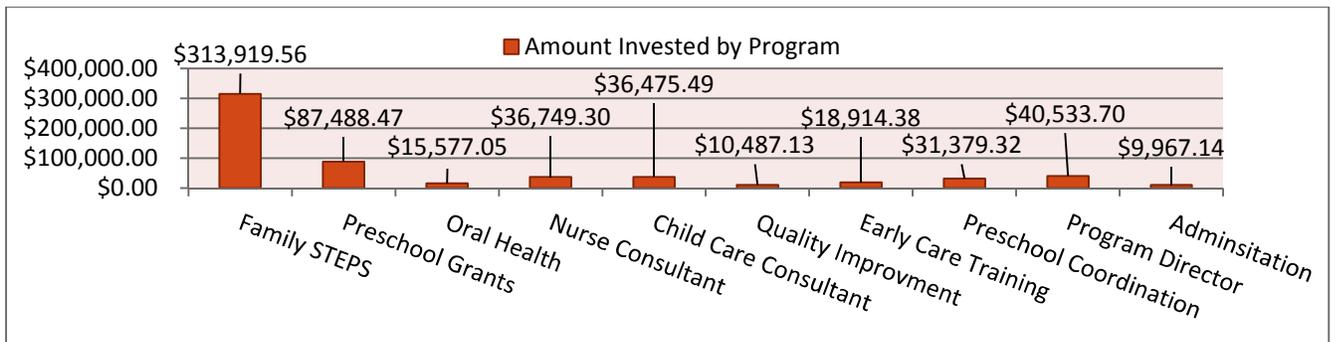
Early care and learning policy should be built as brains are built, from the bottom up. The science is clear that supporting development starting from birth and even before should be an important and integral part of our nation’s early education policy. In the first three years of life, neural connections peak for key functions including language, cognition, and social-emotional interactions, forming the foundation for all learning that follows. When a baby’s environment does not support strong brain development, the gaps in accomplishing developmental tasks open quickly and are apparent by age two—long before a child reaches preK.

[http://www.zerotothree.org/policy/docs/ehs-comments doc_june2015.pdf](http://www.zerotothree.org/policy/docs/ehs-comments_doc_june2015.pdf). *Detailed Zero to Three Comments to the Chairman, House Committee on Education and the Workforce on Strengthening the Federal Investment in Early Childhood Education June 1, 2015*

What can you do? Speak up! Talk about early childhood education with your friends, family, acquaintances, and local, state and federal government officials.

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Financial Highlights & Outcomes

State Fiscal Year 15 funding summary.



Outcomes

Family Support

- Healthy family functioning
- Social supports
- Concrete supports
- Child development
- Nurturing & attachment

Preschool Support

- Age appropriate skills
- Attendance

Oral Health

- Screenings
- Detection
- Referral

Preschool Support - 95% of children demonstrating age appropriate skills.

Transportation – 97% of days that children attended preschool that were provided transportation.

Oral Health - 86% of children who need dental treatment that went to a dentist.

86% families that improve or maintain healthy family functioning, problem solving & communication.

68% families that increase or maintain social supports.

89% families that are connected to additional concrete supports.

72% families that increase knowledge about child development and parenting.

68% families that improve nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and children.

Child Care Nurse Consultant

- Special health care needs
- Onsite assessments
- Trainings

Child Care Consultant

- Registered/Licensed child care
- Child care slots
- Developmentally appropriate practices
- Quality Improvement Program

Professional Development

- Quality Rating System
- Licensing
- Quality Preschool Program Standards

Child Care Consultant – 31% of programs working with Consultant have achieved a Quality Rating System Level 3 or above.

Quality Improvement – 100% of programs that improve, or maintain at the highest level, in a quality initiative.

Professional Development – 14 early provider trainings and one conference held, 100% in early learning content.

Child Care Nurse Consultant – 91% of children with special health care needs have a special needs care plan in place at the child care facility.



Cedar Valley's Promise (include logo if you have one)

Counties in Area Black Hawk County

Contact for Area: Diane Derifield

1407 Independence Ave., Waterloo, IA 50703

Vision: "Each individual in the Cedar Valley will achieve their maximum potential living in our safe, healthy, supportive community."

Insert local story: YPT staff nominated one of our participants for the Rose McCay Award through Youth & Shelter Services in Ames, IA. This YPT participant was chosen as a recipient of a \$1,000 Rose McCay Scholarship! She was recognized at their luncheon in July. This award is given to young parents who have achieved a major goal and turned their lives around. We are so proud of our YPT participant!

Did you know? Black Hawk County is at an all-time low for teen births for the third year in a row and is still served 69 pregnant & parenting teens and 39 of their children through the Young Parents Together (YPT) program. As our community continues to collaborate to help teens prevent or postpone pregnancy during the teen years we also provide a credentialed, multi-disciplined program for young parents.

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- **Healthy Birth Weight** – 99% of the babies born to YPT participants in FY'15 were of healthy birth weight.
- **Prenatal and Postnatal Edinburgh Depression Screen** was completed with 50 YPT participants in FY'15. Any screen that indicated additional counseling would be beneficial to the teen they were referred to additional mental health services.
- **Ages & Stages Questionnaire** to measure developmental delays, with 100% of children screened assessed as developing appropriately in FY'15.
- **County Teen Birth Percentages** – Black Hawk County has experienced a significant decrease in the percentage of teen births over the last decade and a half. In 2013 (most recent data) there were 103 teens (6.1%) under the age of 19 that gave birth in Black Hawk County.
- **Subsequent Pregnancies** – With 99% (68/69) of participants preventing a subsequent pregnancy in FY'15.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. **Children are Supported & Nurtured:** YPT utilizes both small and large group settings for parent education and encourages peer sharing and education including discussion on building and maintaining concrete social supports. YPT is held from 3:30 to 5:30 to make it convenient for teen parents to attend group after school hours. YPT offers a leadership/volunteer opportunity through our monthly Advisory Committee allowing participants the opportunity through our monthly Advisory Committee allowing participants the opportunity to provide input on YPT operations. Participants complete a Reproductive Life Plan to set future goals and how another pregnancy would affect those life goals.
2. **Children are Learning:** YPT partners with Performance Based Diploma Academy, Grad Connect program, and Expo Alternative High School to offer school credit for pregnant/parenting students that attend YPT. Teen parents and their children participating in YPT receive parent education and participate in parent child interaction activities to promote development of safe, healthy, and nurturing relationships between parent and child. Participants are also provided with educational resources encouraging a safe home; including parenting resources focused on childhood development, mental and physical health, as well as the safety and well-being of their children. Teen parents also have the opportunity to participate in home visitation services through Hopes or Early Head Start.
3. **Children are Healthy:** Education provided at YPT includes age-appropriate child growth and development, attending prenatal appointments on a regular basis, making healthy and informed choices as an adolescent, child health and nutrition, including partnering with the Food Bank, how to be a nurturing parent, and parent child interaction activities. Education received at YPT is based on their stage of pregnancy or age of their child. Education is developmentally appropriate and age appropriate provided through the Partners for Healthy Baby Curricula and community speakers. YPT provides support and education throughout pregnancy and parenting. Health screenings are offered at YPT including the Ages and Stages Developmental Questionnaire, depression screenings, Reproductive Life Planning, and I Smile dental care education and open mouth screens. YPT encourages the prevention of unplanned subsequent pregnancies during the teen years.

What services/programs/activities do we support? YPT is an adolescent parent education and support program designed collaboratively and specifically for pregnant and parenting teens aged 19 and younger with children 0-5. YPT increases knowledge during pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting so that children born to adolescents will have healthier outcomes. YPT also provides a place where teens can socialize and break isolation that often comes with pregnancy at a young age. And because we have representatives from so many different agencies and our connections to area resources for these young families is vital. This collaborative community project has evolved and improved to meet the needs of children and teen parents for over two decades with community support. YPT utilizes effective curricula to meet various needs of pregnant and parenting adolescents. This fall YPT became the 19th program in Iowa to earn the Iowa Family Support credential. All teens and their children are eligible for services regardless of race, ethnicity, and gender as long as they are age 19 and younger and space and funding is available. This project has served teens and children dependent upon DHS services and involvement with juvenile court services. Through earning the Family Support Credential our peer reviewer commented that YPT *“has eliminated some of the most significant barriers for low income families including food, transportation, and child care.*

How do we measure our progress? Protective Factors Survey – pre and post evaluation required through ECI funding.

1. Percent of participating families that improve or maintain healthy family functioning, problem solving, and communication.
** 63% of families that complete the pre post PFS survey improved or maintained healthy functioning, problem solving, & communication.
2. Percent of participating families that are connected to additional concrete supports.
** 74% of participating families were connected to additional concrete supports.
3. Percent of participating families that increase or maintain social supports.
** 64% of participating families increased or maintained social supports.
4. Percent of participating families that increase knowledge about child development and parenting.
** 77% of participating families increased their knowledge about child development and parenting.
5. Percent of participating families that improve nurturing and attachment between parents and children.
** 79% of participating families improved nurturing and attachment between parents and children.

YPT Output Data	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2014-2015
***Number of Pregnant & Parenting Teens Served	118	92	80	69**
Low Birth Weight Babies Born	0 low birth weight	1 low birth weight	1 low birth weight	1 low birth weight
Teen Birth % Black Hawk County	10.1%	7.2%	6.2%	6.1%
Unplanned Subsequent Pregnancies	1	1	1	1
Prenatal Healthcare	100%	100%	100%	100%
Depression Screens	46	76	41	50
Current Student or Graduated/Completed GED	86%	85%	85%	81%
Number of Children Served	70	58	51	39
Developmental Milestones	100%	100%	89%	100%
Referrals to Early Access	0	0	0	0

***YPT's number of pregnant and parenting teens served is lower due to the fact that Black Hawk County has the lowest teen birth percentages in history, therefore fewer individuals are eligible for the YPT program. In 2013, 6.1% (106) of teens gave birth in Black Hawk County, as compared to 1995 when our county had the highest percentage of teen births at 17.5% (264) of teens.*

What can you do to help? (Answer this question from the public's point of view.)

- Continue to support funding to support more young families. Support high quality programs with proven results.

Others within our community working on similar issues: YPT is designed collaboratively and specifically for pregnant and parenting teens and their children. The following agencies collaborate to provide this weekly support and education group:

- UnityPoint Allen Hospital, Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health, Covenant Medical Center, UNI Educational Opportunity Center, Nest, Northeast Iowa Food Bank, SuccessLink, Tri County Child and Family Development, Waterloo Community Schools, Waypoint, & YWCA



Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth Empowerment

Contact: Cody Williams, Empowerment Service Coordinator

103 East State Street, Suite 608 Mason City, IA 50401 Phone: (641) 422-2707

e-mail: eac@empowermentforthekids.org Website: www.empowermentforthekids.org

Mission: Building strategies to improve the lives of children and their families through collaboration, coordination, and planning in Cerro Gordo, Hancock, and Worth Counties.

Vision: Working together so every child is happy, healthy, and ready to learn.

Local Story from Family Connections-Home Visitation Program Serving 0-5 year olds.

We have a mom that is a recovering addict and a mom that just had her 9th baby with a completely sober free pregnancy for the first time ever. She has now been sober and drug free for the last year, and is holding down a full time job. She now has been reunited with her 5 year old daughter and has gained full custody.

This mom has been enrolled with us prenatally and her son is now 4 months old. Since being enrolled with us she now plays an active role in the life of her daughter and newborn son. Her favorite thing to do with her daughter is to work on child development and playing school. For the first time as a mother she is parenting and experiencing her children's development such as remembering the first time they laughed or smiled. Even though this is her 9th child, she feels that she is parenting for the first time because she is doing all of it sober. This mom is doing so well that she is reaching out to other parents to join Family Connections because she feels it has been such a great asset to her and her family! - Cerro Gordo County family

Did you know?

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- Programs must be Comprehensive to make the best use of the funds to effect the most children.
- Programs must be Collaborative to achieve success to make all children happy, healthy and ready to learn.
- Programs must achieve our overall mission and vision.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. *Empower parents through parent support and education programs.*
2. *Improve the quality of child care and preschool for all families with young children.*
3. *Enrich the network of community resources to promote a healthy start for all children.*

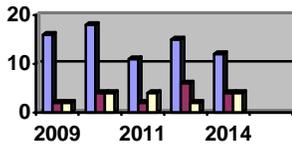
What services/programs/activities do we support?

Family Connections ♦ Parent Education Program ♦ Building Independence ♦ Nurse Consultant ♦ TEACH Healthy Lifestyles ♦ CCR&R Consultation and Training ♦ Preschool Transportation ♦ Preschool Scholarships ♦ Oral Health Project ♦ Calling the Shots

How do we measure our progress?

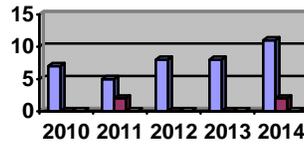
1. Quality Childcare

QRS Involved Home Providers



■ Cerro Gordo ■ Hancock □ Worth

QRS Involved Centers

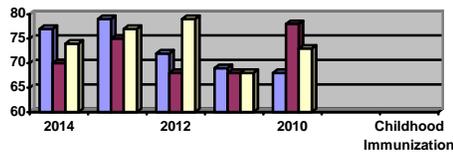


■ Cerro Gordo ■ Hancock □ Worth

How are we doing? In 2011 the number of involved providers decreased dramatically. Rational behind this drop was due to a lack of incentives for the programs being involved. However this past year we have seen a rise in all three counties due to more pushes from incentives and process assistance given. Center numbers have increased in the past year due to local initiative to require for scholarships. .

2. Childhood Immunization

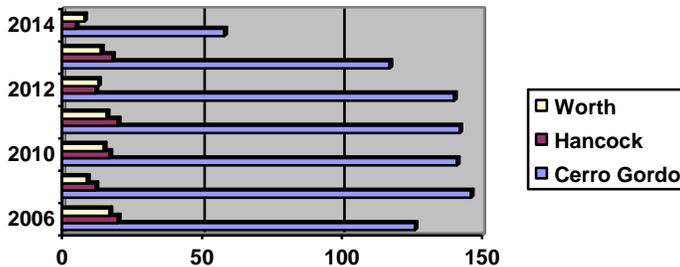
Comprehensive IRIS Data



■ Cerro Gordo ■ Hancock □ Worth

How are we doing? From 2010 to 2014 we saw a large decrease of completed immunizations in all three counties. Since the implementations of the program “Calling the Shots” the program has had success with creating that trend to stop and to move to the goal of 90%. The three county area has significant improvements that are needed, but feels that with the recall program and collaboration with medical homes, that the rate should be at goal in the next few years.

3. Child Abuse 0-5



■ Worth
■ Hancock
■ Cerro Gordo

How are we doing? In relation to the state’s confirmed and founded abuse, Cerro Gordo has been high in last several years. Data trend shows in the local area abuse rates are beginning to decrease significantly for the first time in several years. However, poverty rates are increasing in the area. The hope is to see a decrease over time to the overall confirmed and founded abuse.

What can you do to help?

- To help with awareness of the empowerment board.
- Get involved with local initiatives to increase the health, safety and education of young children.
- Give more awareness to legislators about the importance of funds that support programs that the community needs and utilizes.

Others within our community working on similar issues:

- United Way of North Central Iowa
- Local Decategorization Group

Children First

Local Early Childhood Iowa area of Lee and Van Buren Counties

Director: Ginger Knisley @ 307 Bank Street, Keokuk, Iowa 52632 (319) 526-5686
www.childrenfirstempowerment.org (now on Facebook!) ginnylyn08@gmail.com

Our Vision: "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful."

Our Mission: Children First empowers children and families to thrive and prosper through quality services, resources, and support, in response to community need.

Did you know? Children First is your local ECIA covering 2 counties with 1 Director. 15 board members volunteered 276 hours & travelled 3,334 miles in FY15, supporting efforts of 6 local agencies employing 25 people, touching the lives of over 1,000 local children ages 0-5.

In fiscal year 2015 Children First paid for:

- *Family Support services for 137 families
- *Head Start transportation for 99 children
- *Child Care Nurse Consultant services to 52 Early Childhood Care sites
- *Early Learning Coordinator expertise to 26 Early Childhood Learning sites
- *Preschool Scholarships to 32 children
- *Dental services for 509 children and much more!

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- ✚ Parents are able to be productive members of society, and our local workforce, when their children are being cared for in quality program settings.
- ✚ Young families are given direct guidance and support on parenting their children and helping them prepare for school.
- ✚ Through dental services, children are able to maintain healthy nutrition and be pain free, enabling them to be ready to learn.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect
2. Increase parent education, support and involvement
3. Improve quality of child care in the ECIA...
4. Ensure access to health care...

What services/programs/activities do we support?

- **Child Care Nurse Consultant* providing health and safety guidance to child care centers and homes
- **Early Learning Coordinator* assisting Early Childhood providers to promote school readiness.
- *Transportation services to *Head Start* programs in both counties
- **Dental services* at all Early Childhood sites in both counties
- *Family Support and Education through *HOPES* in Lee County and *Parents as Teachers* in Van Buren County
- **Preschool Scholarships* to assist young families in paying the tuition for preschool
- **Annual full day seminar* to provide Early Childhood professionals with 6 hours of certified training
- *Early Childhood *system building* throughout the area and *advocacy* work at the state and federal level
- *Our Director, a board member, and a Task Force member are now certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians checking car seats and replacing them as needed!!!

1. How do we measure our progress regarding the quality of Early Childhood care in our local area?

The Children First board has developed and implemented a multi-tiered quality requirement for programs seeking funding from the Children First board. While still supporting every Early Childhood program in our area with the services of our Child Care Nurse Consultant and Early Learning Coordinators, we now require programs to meet a certain level of recognized quality rating in order to receive direct funds such as Preschool Scholarships. In the summer of 2013 we saw a significant increase in the number of sites in our area participating in the state of Iowa Quality Rating Scale program. In 2014 providers continued to maintain and improve on those ratings. We were able to provide Provider Forums in FY15 and are excited to bring this group based education to providers again in 2015-2016 to provide them with ongoing, up to date training and education.

2. How do we measure our progress towards school readiness?

The Children First board continues to support the efforts of every local Early Childhood site in identifying and working to improve areas of concern in the development of the children in their care. Each site is provided with materials, support, guidance and feedback in screening children with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire at least twice each school year. We also continue to support the efforts of Kindergarten Transition Teams in each county and we are seeing progress in bridging the gap between Early Childhood and the K-12 systems.

What can you do to help?

- Go to www.childrenfirstempowerment.org and become involved at a meeting or event featured on the calendar. Many different organization's meetings are posted on the website.
- Speak for young children today, to anyone who will listen. Makes children's issues everyone's issues!
- **Consider serving on our Board. We currently have openings on our board for local volunteer members.**

Current Children First Board members:

Lee County: Don Hunold, Kayla Markell, Dennis Osipowicz, Chad Reckling & Tiffany Siefken

Van Buren County: Susan Frey, David Kirchner, Amanda Manning-Maras, Mark Meek, Larry Shipley & Lindee Thomas

Others within our community working on similar issues:

- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Lee County Interagency and Van Buren County Human Resource Councils

Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa



Counties in area: Clinton and Jackson Counties

Contact for area: Jenny Kreiter, Director
226 11th Street, DeWitt, IA 52742
Phone: 563-659-3651 FAX: 563-659-2616
E-mail: kreiter@clintoncounty-ia.gov

Website: http://www.clintoncounty-ia.gov/Page/Clinton_Jackson_Early_Childhood_Iowa.aspx?nt=636

The purpose of Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa is to meet the needs of local children prenatal - age 5 and their families while meeting the specific goals established by the Iowa legislature.

The vision of Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa is that every child will be healthy and successful.

The mission: To develop and maintain a collaborative system of needs-based services, implemented at the earliest possible point of intervention, that strengthens families and communities.

Priority Areas of Clinton and Jackson Counties Early Childhood Iowa:

- Provide resources and support for healthy parenting
- Improve the availability and access to quality health care services
- Increase access and opportunities for quality preschool/childcare experiences

Why Are The Programs ECI Supports Important to Reaching our Vision and Mission?

The Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board Members understands that intentional investment in quality early intervention services is the key to healthy, safe and school ready children.

More Information About Early Childhood Areas

Iowa Areas enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs on behalf of children, families and other citizens residing in the area. The focus is to improve results for families with young children.

The local board members are citizens or elected officials. Board memberships include representatives from business, faith, consumer, human services, education, and health.

Services Supported by the Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board

- Group Parent Education
- New Parent Program
- Bright Beginnings Program
- Nurse Family Partnerships
- I Smiles Dental Program
- Second Shift Child Care
- Trainings and Childcare Conferences
- Child Care Consultant
- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Quality Childcare Improvements
- Preschool Scholarships
- Early Head Start
- Head Start
- Community Planning & Coordination

Did You Know? Quality Care For Your Child Matters!

(By Pam Lynch, Community Relations Specialist, Child Care Resource & Referral; Heidi Hotvedt, Child Care Nurse Consultant; Jessica Ihns, Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board Member)

There are many others things to consider when looking for a program to care for your child. There are measures of quality for the air we breathe, hotels where we stay, cars we buy, and restaurants we visit. When choosing a hotel or a restaurant, many will look for star ratings and/or written comments and recommendations. What about the quality of child care? Considering that a child will go to a child care every day for six to eight hours (and sometimes more), we suggest that parents ask about child care quality too!

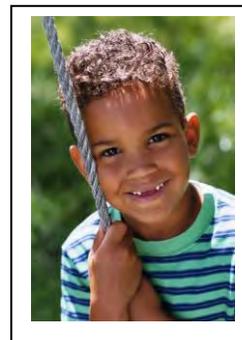
The most common questions asked by parents are about openings, hours, location, and cost. While it is important to consider cost, families also need to know if the program is registered and ask about provider qualifications, the number of children being cared for, and family involvement. Don't forget to ask: "Are you a quality rated program?" Iowa, along with many other states, has a quality rating system (QRS) in place for child care programs. QRS is a voluntary program that offers child care providers a guided way to improve the quality of child care they provide. This system includes professional development, health and safety checklists, the set-up of environment, family and community partnerships, and leadership. As steps are completed, the provider is able to move up in levels. Achieving a star rating, level 2-5, on the QRS scale means the provider has gone above and beyond what the state requires of them. A rating shows that the provider is committed to providing quality child care. Jackson and Clinton county providers have access to the Child Care Resource & Referral Consultant for help with understanding the registration and QRS process in Iowa.

There are checklists to help you remember all the things to ask and look for when trying to find child care. For more information about choosing quality child care and Iowa's Quality Rating System, call Child Care Resource & Referral at 1-855-CHILD-01 (855-244-5301) or visit these websites: www.iowaccrr.org and <http://dhs.iowa.gov/iqrs>.

A snap shot of some of our areas accomplishments!

Child Care & Preschool	
83	children received a preschool scholarship
253	children, 3 to 4 years old received a dental screening
456	children, 4 to 5 years old received a dental screening
106	visits were conducted by the Child Care Nurse Consultant
184	visits were conducted by the Child Care Consultant
27	early learning programs participated in quality improvement

Family Support & Parent Education	
143	families participated in family support and parent education opportunities
1858	home visits were provided to Family Visitation Program Participants by a family support worker
206	families participated in a family support program or activity



What can you do to help?

 Increase your awareness about volunteer and mentoring programs and opportunities in your community!

 Educate yourself and others about adverse childhood experiences @ www.IowaAces360.org



Why Invest in the First 2000 Days? There are approximately 2000 days between the time a baby is born and when he or she will begin kindergarten. Research shows that the care a child receives during the first five years of life dramatically affects future educational attainment, job participation, wage acquisition, and civic engagement.
 (Iowa Fiscal Partnership, policy brief, 4-9-12)



Counties in Area: Fremont & Page Counties

Contact for Area: Staci L. Scroggie, Director

114 E Washington Street

Clarinda, IA 51632

Phone: 712-246-8117

E-mail: cceadirector@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.co.page.ia.us/offices/earlychildhood/index.htm>

Mary Kay Kesterson, Chair

411 Smith Street

Thurman, IA 51654

Phone: (712)628-2021

Vision: *"Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful."*

Mission: *"The Corner Counties Early Childhood Area Board will collaborate with community resources to nurture children so they will grow safe, healthy, well-adjusted socially, and ready to learn."*

Did you know? When Family Support and Parent Education Program staff works with families to increase protective factors, they also help families build and draw on natural support networks within their family and community. These networks are critical to families' long-term success.

Protective factors are conditions in families and communities that, when present, increase the health and well-being of children and families. These attributes serve as buffers, helping parents to find resources, support, or coping strategies that allow them to parent effectively, even under stress.

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- They provide an opportunity for children to afford a high quality early learning environment.
- They provide resources, support, and encouragement for families with children 0-5.
- They provide caregivers and teachers with professional development opportunities that will be reflected within the quality of the early learning environment.
- They provide opportunities for health screenings that have the potential to eliminate obstacles that could affect a child's learning ability.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Health status of children.
2. High quality family support and parent education opportunities.
3. High quality preschool environments with capacity to serve all preschool age children within the local early childhood area.
4. High quality child care environments with adequate capacity.

Insert local story

Recently during a postnatal depression screening our worker noticed that the mom was not feeding the baby properly. The infant was in the swing and crying. She laid the baby down on the floor and propped a bottle in his mouth. Our worker immediately described the dangers of bottle propping. She also talked about secure attachment that comes from holding, talking and interacting with the baby. The worker explained that secure attachment is crucial for brain and social-emotional development. She was amazed how unaware of these issues the mother was. This local story is courtesy of Page County Growing Strong Families

What services/programs/activities do we support?

- Child Care Nurse Consultant**
- Child Care Home Consultant (CCR&R)**
- Multiple Child Care Center Quality Improvement/Support Incentives**
- Early Childhood Area Service Coordination**
- Positive Family Program**
- Preschool Tuition and Transportation Grants**
- Oral Screenings and Varnishes within Preschools and Day Care Centers**
- Social-Emotional Screenings within Preschools**
- Dinosaur School**
- Growing Strong Families Programs**
- Coordinated Intake**

How do we measure our progress?

1. Indicator or Performance Measure the ECIA is tracking

For SFY'15 we served 158 families, as compared to 148 families being served in SFY'14
 For SFY'15 we served 225 children 0-5, as compared to 223 children 0-5 in SFY'14
 For SFY'15 we completed 1684 home visits, as compared to 1575 in SFY'14
 For SFY'15 164 children were screen for developmental delays as compared to 146 children in SFY'14.

How are we doing? Our providers continue to press on despite decreased funding opportunities in our local area. Our area has been very fortunate with low turnover rates within the family support programs. This allows for the workers to get more involved with the families that they are serving, because of the consistency of seeing them on a regular basis. There is always an opportunity to increase our numbers, but funding wise, our programs seem to be at capacity.

2. Indicator or Performance Measure the ECIA is tracking

	Early Care and Education Provider									
	Registered		Non-Registered		Licensed Centers DE, HS, Licensed		DOE Preschools		DHS Licensed Preschools	
	FY 13	FY 14	FY 13	FY 14	FY 13	FY 14	FY 13	FY 14	FY 13	FY 14
Fremont	8	7	9	7	1	5	4	2	1	4
Page	11	12	13	11	7	7	3	3	1	1

Licensed Centers includes: Licensed Centers, Head Starts, & Department of Education centers that have a licensed from the Department of Human Services.

How are we doing?

Another priority for our area is promoting quality day care and child care centers. The graph above was recently provided to us by Child Care Resource and Referral. They work closely with early care and educational providers to help ensure their success. Although the numbers fluctuate narrowly, there has been some good progress in Fremont County regarding the licensing of child care centers and DHS Licensed Preschools. This fiscal year our board also provided grants to assist with the Reach For the Stars incentive program. This allows for the childcare providers and centers to be rewarded for achieving a 3,4 or 5 rating on their QRS ratings.

Challenge: Recruitment of new child care providers is a challenge for reasons such as, regulations, lack of business practice experience, lack of appropriate child care program sites, low wages, and lack of benefits.

3. Indicator or Performance Measure the ECIA is tracking-
For SFY'15 we provided 34 preschool scholarships, compared to 51 scholarships in SFY'14. The reason for the decline was that one school who received 16 scholarships became fully funded through the school.

How are we doing? As an ECI area, we chose to fund Dinosaur school this year to help assist with some of the behavior issues the preschool teachers were seeing. Because of this funding, there was a decrease in the dollars allocated to fund preschool tuition scholarships. The need continues to be there for these scholarships, thus the reason why for SFY'16 those funds have been increased.

What can you do to help? (Answer this question from the public's point of view.)

- Continue to provide funding to our family support programs. Without adequate funding, the families and programs suffer.
- Continue to be a viable presence in the local communities. By attending county wide meetings and making local presentations to various groups and agencies about the services we fund and how they are making an impact in our area of the state.
- Continue to be the voice for our smallest citizens, so that every child at birth can be healthy and successful.

Others within our community working on similar issues:

- **Early Head Start and Head Start**
- **West Central Community Action**
- **Catholic Charities/Phoenix House**
- **Local Ministerial Associations**

Children are the pathway to a
prospering community.

DUBUQUE COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD 2015 ANNUAL REPORT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Model Early Childhood Iowa Area
www.dcearlychild.org

**VISION: “All Children in Dubuque
County are Healthy & Successful.”**

Meet Us

Dubuque County Early Childhood is a nonprofit organization. Our sole purpose is to lead and facilitate quality resources for young children and their families who live here.

Our organization is one of 38 Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) areas in the state. Working with citizens, ECI areas mobilize communities to address early childhood needs and solutions.



Road to Success for Children and Their Families

Since 1999, Dubuque County Early Childhood (DCEC) has brought early childhood issues to the forefront and built a coalition that cares. Quality early experiences matter and shape children's entire lives.

DCEC also knows that when children are supported from birth moving forward, the community in which they live will prosper. There are real benefits for everyone in Dubuque County.

Based on community needs assessment, DCEC has identified the following priorities for local children and their families:

- Quality community services
- Family success skills
- Early nurturing and learning
- Safe and secure relationships
- Healthy development



To make progress toward achieving these priorities in 2015, DCEC supported:

- Preschool scholarships; grants, professional development, and quality standards for child care providers.
- Family support and home visitation program called Parents as Teachers.
- Child care nurse consultants to improve health and safety in care; oral health screenings for preschoolers.
- Community health program with education and resources for new mothers.
- Kindergarten survey on health, education, and literacy trends.

Read more about DCEC's efforts in this summary of the 2015 Annual Report.



The DCEC Board

DCEC is led by a board of directors. Their efforts are guided by extensive community assessment and planning. Many other partners participate in and support this process. The board is committed to quality early childhood resources, collaboration, and positive outcomes for the children of Dubuque County.

2015 Membership:

Kristine Croatt, *Chair*
 Joel Reicks, *Vice Chair*
 Leta Hosier, *Secretary*
 Karla Braig
 Jeanne Coppola
 Mary Rose Corrigan
 Lynne Devaney
 Meg Gilligan
 Tom Hancock
 Jim Osterberger
 Nick Patrum
 Brian Recker
 Judy Schmit
 Bob Shaw
 Brian Spannagel
 Don Vrotsos
 Julie Woodyard

Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except in July and December) at 12 p.m. at Keystone Area Education Agency (unless otherwise announced).

For more info, contact:

Sherri Edwards, *Director*
 2310 Chaney Road
 Dubuque, IA 52001
 (563) 588-1620
www.dcearlychild.org

Steps on a Provider's Journey to Quality

In 2009, Joann Gansen was pondering a post-retirement career. She and her husband were moving back to Dubuque. They wanted to work with children and spend time together, so they began exploring the option of "babysitting."

They participated in a *Business Basics* class offered by Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) and funded by DCEC. They learned about the tax advantages associated with a home business and felt this was the right choice. They could offer care for children and provide financially for themselves.

They also gained tools to manage their business. Joann became a registered provider. However, she realized, "I soon saw that state requirements were the minimum expected, but best practices meant additional steps were needed to improve quality of care and make the recipe for a successful business."

Since then, Joann has participated in many trainings and services offered through DCEC's support. She said, "My mindset entering this profession was that I was a 'babysitter.' I now view my role as a care provider and teacher."

By taking brain development classes, she challenged herself to make each

interaction intentional and mindful because children's future success depends on it. Other trainings, like ChildNet, enhanced her practices. Joann noted, "These trainings changed my thinking about my commitment to my profession. In the beginning, my decision was to fill a gap between early retirement and social security."

"Then, the concept of 'continuity of care' challenged my original plan. I looked carefully at my commitment to each child and realized that caring for and loving these children as they grew was my primary goal, not the short-term personal gain."

Recently, Joann secured a Child Development Associate Credential to further her professional development and as a

sign to families of her efforts to provide the best for their children.

Beyond classes and trainings, the CCR&R staff have offered other support. Joann said, "I can call or stop by their office with questions. They connect me to community resources, guide me in difficult situations, and offer encouragement when I need it."

"Every week, I get phone calls from frantic parents seeking child care," said Joann. "The need is great. With DCEC's support, CCR&R helps providers gain the skills and resources they need to offer important quality care."



Our “Child at Heart”

Congratulations to Julee Albers for winning the 2015 “Child at Heart” Award from Early Childhood Iowa. As faculty in the early childhood program at Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta, Julee has built partnerships that expand student opportunities in higher education, in community service, and in engagement at the high school level. Julee leads the way in developing outstanding early education professionals and in building a community that cares.



Some Ways to Learn and Play

This year, DCEC continued its tradition of promoting early childhood resources and activities in the community:

- Held the annual Kids Expo–Dubuque County, a resource and fun fair. Over 2,400 people attended and visited with 60 local exhibitors.
- Produced and distributed a *Family Resource Guide* to showcase local programs/services plus the 12th annual issue of the *Family Connections* booklet with 18 articles on supporting children.
- Was selected as the community service project by the American Advertising Federation, leading to a successful campaign to engage home providers with the Quality Rating System.
- Renamed the Leaders in Early Education Award to honor founding board member, Arnie N. Honkamp. The award recognized 19 child care providers exceeding standards of educational advancement and consistency in care.



The Impact of Dental Care on Kids

DCEC’s oral health program at Dubuque’s Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) provided services to preschoolers in at-risk classrooms in the county. Here is the story of this program and its impact on a child and his family.

Each year, the program visits preschools to do dental screenings as well as tooth sealants with parental permission. VNA hygienists educate children and families on best practices in oral health and offer care coordination as needed.

At one particular preschool, the VNA identified a child with severe decay in need of urgent help. Staff assisted the parent with the challenging task of finding a dentist who would accept the family’s Medicaid coverage and in getting an appointment.

Due to the child’s age and severity of need, he was scheduled for surgery in the hospital. He had no medical doctor, so the VNA linked the family with a physician for a pre-op physical. The child also was due for immunizations, which were completed. Transportation was an obstacle throughout, so the VNA arranged for taxi services.

The physician identified several developmental delays, so the family was referred to other VNA programs and received a home visit as well as supportive services after the immediate dental issues were resolved successfully. The VNA has continued to work with the family to address overall health needs. The child has returned to preschool to learn and advance in his classroom.

Early Childhood Facts

Results of DCEC and partner efforts in Dubuque County.

Quality Rating System Participation

Registered Home Providers	
2013	19%
2014	17%
2015	21%
Child Care Centers/Preschools	
2013	23%
2014	54%
2015	43%

Supportive Health Services

Child Care Centers that Received Child Care Nurse Consultation	
2013	19%
2014	17%
2015	21%
Children in Preschools/Centers that Received Oral Health Screenings	
2013	14% (with 7% serious needs)
2014	14% (with 8% serious needs)
2015	12% (with 9% serious needs)

Family Support Programs

2013	8% of children
2014	7% of children
2015	7% of children
A majority of newly-enrolled families had at-risk factors.	





- Become a board member
- Join a committee
- Help plan family events
- Volunteer in the office

Building a community that supports quality early childhood services.

There are opportunities for community members to get involved with Dubuque County Early Childhood and make a difference in the lives of young children.

(563) 588-1620 | WWW.DCEARLYCHILD.ORG | FIND DCEC ON FACEBOOK



Dubuque County
EARLY CHILDHOOD

2310 Chaney Road
Dubuque, IA 52001
(563) 588-1620
www.dcearlychild.org

MISSION: “Dubuque County Early Childhood builds community collaboration, commitment, and advocacy for a quality early childhood system.”

There are approximately **2000 days** between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first **2000 days** of a child's life have a PROFOUND and LIFELONG impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.

2,000 DAYS



Early Childhood North Central Iowa

*Serving families of children ages 0—5 in Emmet, Kossuth,
Palo Alto and Winnebago Counties*

Mission

The Early Childhood North Central Iowa Area envisions that through our collaborative efforts all families will have knowledge and accessibility to services in order to become self-sufficient and to provide a nurturing environment for their young children.

Vision

The Early Childhood North Central Iowa Area will use community collaboration to build an environment that empowers and supports the well being of all children and families in Emmet, Kossuth, Palo Alto and Winnebago counties.



Priorities

- Secure and Nurturing Environments for Children
- Children will be School Ready
- Quality Childcare will be accessible to all families
- Healthy Children

Funding For:

Family Support—Home Visitation Programs
Child Care Consultant
Additional Training Opportunities for Child Care Providers
Quality Improvement Grants for Preschools and Child Care
Preschool Tuition Assistance
Preschool Transportation Assistance
Literacy programs
Child Care Nurse Consultant
Respite Nursery

Our Partners

Child Care Resource and Referral
Emmet County Public Health
Kossuth Community Health
Palo Alto Community Health
Winnebago Public Health
Webster Co. Public Health
Prairie Lakes AEA
Local Schools and Preschools
Local Libraries
Area Child Care Providers
North Iowa Community Action Organization
Kossuth County CARE Team



2257 home visits were made to 379 families

20 Early childhood service providers participated in quality improvement activities with a child care nurse consultant

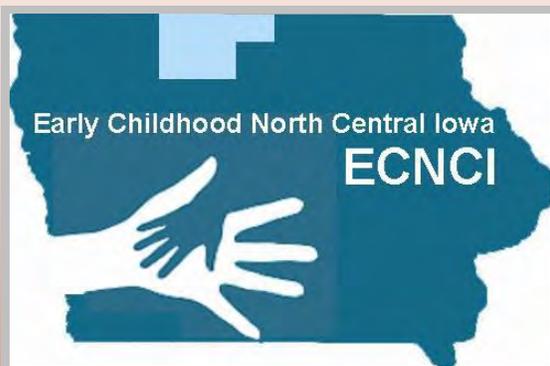
Early Childhood North Central Iowa funding provided an extra 202 visits by a child care consultant

83 low income children receive assistance for preschool tuition

38 child care and preschool locations received grants for quality improvement

143 Families participated in Literacy activities

119 S. Jones St. Algona, IA 5051 * (515) 295 - 7784 *
(515) 320-4801 * phollinger@aea8.k12.ia.us
<https://sites.google.com/site/ecnciowa/>





EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA MUSCATINE COUNTY

Contact: Tangie Viner

1422 Houser Street, Muscatine, IA 52761

Phone: 563-263-8476 Fax: 563-263-1562

Email: ecimuscatinecounty@gmail.com

Website: www.ecimc.org

Vision: Every child in Muscatine County, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Mission: ECIMC is a community group promoting the well-being and success of Muscatine County children ages 0-5 by optimizing strengths and eliminating barriers.

Local Successes:

- 192 Muscatine County children received preschool/daycare scholarships in fiscal year 2015.
- Professional Development opportunities were offered to all child care and preschool providers throughout Muscatine County to help increase the quality of their programs.
- 20 child care providers and/or preschool providers in Muscatine County received grants to improve the safety and health of children in their care.
- 6 Family support programs served 162 families. 967 home visits were conducted, and 530 group based parent education meetings were attended.
- Child Care Nurse Consultant made 135 visits.

Did you know? Children who are raised in safe, nurturing environments are more likely to grow into responsible, contributing members of society. For every \$50 spent to treat child abuse, only \$1 is spent to prevent it from occurring. Studies show investing in parental support and education is less expensive and more effective than trying to treat the effects of child abuse.

Those who are subject to child abuse face emotional, cognitive, physical and behavioral development challenges at higher rates than children who aren't abused. Specifically, children who are abused are more likely to:

- Perform poorly in school
- Develop unhealthy relationships
- Attempt suicide
- Suffer from:
 - Attention deficits
 - Depression
 - Violent aggression
 - Obesity
 - Alcoholism
 - Drug usage
 - Cigarette addiction

What can you do to help?

- Talk with your local, state, and national legislators. Encourage them to support and fund services for young children and their parents. Register to vote! Vote!
- Refer families seeking support
- Ask your childcare/preschool provider if they participate in QRS

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Assisting the advancement of positive parenting skills to foster the well-being and success of children ages 0-5.
2. To promote and enhance quality child care that is accessible for all children ages 0-5.
3. Help develop a supportive community where children can reside in safe and stable environments.
4. To support the health and wellness of children ages 0-5 in Muscatine County.
5. Preschool aged children will have access to quality and affordable preschool programs.

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- Increase High School Graduation Rates
- Increase quality and safety of early learning environments
- Prepare children to be *School Ready*
 - Increase safety of children and decrease rate of child abuse
 - Improved nutrition and health

Programs Currently Supported by ECIMC includes:

Durant Community School District Muscatine Community School District West Liberty School District
 Child Care Resource and Referral Louisa County Extension
 Lutheran Services in Iowa Muscatine Community Y Trinity Muscatine Public Health
 Muscatine County Preschool Providers Muscatine County Childcare Providers

Others within our community working on similar issues:

Child Care Resource and Referral WIC Trinity Public Health United Way

Child abuse rate in Muscatine County for children ages 0-5.	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	448 reported child abuse cases	483 reported child abuse cases	641 reported child abuse cases	395 reported child abuse cases	319 reported child abuse cases	191 reported child abuse cases
	161 confirmed or founded	179 confirmed or founded	245 confirmed or founded	60 confirmed	30 confirmed	28 confirmed
	118= 73% total confirmed or founded were ages 0-5	145=81% total confirmed or founded were ages 0-5	138=56.3% total confirmed or founded were ages 0-5	133 founded	104 founded	84 founded

Continued decrease in child abuse cases.

% of registered and licensed child care programs involved in quality initiatives. Definition: (ChildNet Certification, QRS, or National Accreditation).	July 2012 18/68=26.5% DHS Registered Child Development Homes are involved in quality initiatives	July 2013 19/66=28.8% DHS Registered Child Development 4/11=36.4% DHS Licensed Centers	July 2014 28/50=56% DHS Registered Child Development 2/11=18.2% DHS Licensed Centers	July 2015 28/47=59.6% DHS Registered Child Dev. 5/11=45.5% DHS Licensed Centers		
	2/10=20% DHS Licensed Child Care Centers are involved in a quality initiative.					

Increased participation in quality initiative each year. Have seen a decrease however of registered Child Development homes.

# of child care providers present at professional development trainings offered within the Muscatine County area.	July 2012 327 total participants attended 32 trainings	July 2013 115 total participants attended 13 trainings	July 2014 180 total participants attended 15 trainings

Increased participation from July 2013. Need to continue to strive for additional participation.

FMC Early Childhood Iowa FY 2015

(Chickasaw, Floyd, Mitchell)

Contact: Laurie Kristiansen, P.O. Box 3, Nashua, IA 50658 Phone: 641-435-4435; email: kristiansen5775@gmail.com

Website: <http://kristiansen5775.wix.com/fmciakids>

Vision: Children, prenatal to school age, will live in a healthy, safe, nurturing environment in order to become successful and contributing members of our community. Families will be strengthened and empowered through support services leading to their self-sufficiency.

Mission: FMC ECI works to provide assistance so each child has a right to be safe, healthy, nurtured, and educated; families are the primary caregivers and educators of their children; working collaboratively results in eliminating barriers, meeting identified objectives, and utilizing resources.

Who is the FMC Early Childhood Iowa Area organization and board?

The FMC Early Childhood Iowa Area board is comprised of 10 volunteer community leaders, citizens and elected officials who oversee two State of Iowa grants. The grants are specifically for children in the Floyd, Mitchell and Chickasaw area, age birth to five. The School Ready grant prepares youngsters to be “school ready”. An Early Childhood grant helps childcare providers and daycare centers with technical assistance and professional development. Within that framework are several active collaborative provider partnerships working together through a variety of successful established systems and referrals. Several of the providers are credentialed, adding an additional level of professionalism to the FMC ECI system.

Did you know-*

Quality child care is essential: Children age 6 and under are in child care approximately 36 hours per week; 21% of their first 2,000 days are spent in child care settings.* **U.S. Census Bureau*

Home visitation programs have room for growth: 18.3% of Iowa families participate in a home visitation program.

Literacy begins early: 48% of Iowa parents read to their 0-5 year-old every day.

**www.zerotothree.org/policy/statebabyfacts*

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- ✓ Child Care Resource and Referral actively works to improve the quality and accessibility of child care in the FMC area.
- ✓ The Family Support/home visitation (Families Together) and Learning Connections Family Support group programs help families learn vital skills. Children whose families have stable home environments and parental tools have a better chance to succeed. Chronic stress from abuse, neglect or living in deep poverty can be toxic to the developing brain, according to “Pediatrics: Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics 129, No.1”.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Secure and Nurturing Early Care Environments
2. Secure and Nurturing Families
3. Children Ready to Succeed in School
4. Safe and Secure Communities
5. Healthy Children

Services and programs supported through the FMC Early Childhood Iowa grants:

Early Childhood Grant:

Child Care Resource & Referral (Child Care Consultant provides technical assistance, consultation, training, and support services for FMC area providers and centers)

School Ready Grant:

Family Support/Parent Education: Families Together/Lutheran Services of IA (parent ed/home visitation); Learning Connections in the St. Ansgar and Charles City Community School Districts

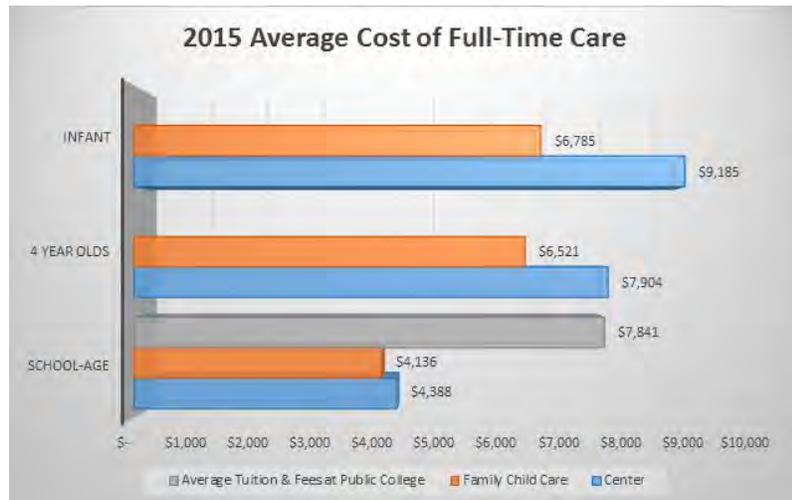
Preschool Programming Support for Low Income Families: Preschool scholarships & Head Start (preschool expansion of days/hours), and Kindergarten Connections (preparing for kindergarten).

Quality Improvement: Coordination services for the FMC ECI area and program partners

Other: EAGLE-(Exploring Avenues to Get Literate Early): early literacy programming in concert with local libraries and community literacy outreach.

What can we do to help increase quality child care and address the costs associated with quality care in the FMC ECI Area?

Iowa ranks #1 for highest percentage of parents working outside of the home. In Iowa 76% of parents with children under the age of 6 labor outside the home. In Northeast Iowa, the median income for these working families is \$59,876. The average annual cost of child care can be viewed in the illustration on the right.



Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) provided 176 consultation visits in all child care settings along with 19 quality trainings to 204 FMC ECI Area providers in FY15. Consultation and trainings are vital steps toward quality in child care, but without proper funding these resources become strained.

Child Care Resource and Referral hosted a tour of child care environments in the FMC Early Childhood Iowa Area with a local legislator in FY 2015. Future plans are to take additional legislators on another tour of child care environments in FY 16 to continue advocating for child care and the continued need for funding and support.

Others within our community working on similar issues:

- Early Childhood Iowa: Statewide collaborative partnerships
- Family Services and Support Organizations: Families Together/LSI of IA; DHS; local and state Prevent Child Abuse Councils; Learning Connections; DECAT/Families Making Connections, Our Kids Count
- Active referral systems in place for local public health agencies in Floyd, Mitchell, and Chickasaw Counties; Home Health Care; family practitioners and hospitals in the FMC area
- Education organizations: 7 FMC area school districts and faith-based education/preschools; Community Action/Head Start; AEAs, Early ACCESS; ISU Extension in FMC area; local area libraries in the three area counties
- Private individuals, citizen families, and community stakeholders, legislative partners and interested advocates



**HARRISON – MONONA – SHELBY
EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA**
Contact: Diane Foss
610 Iowa Avenue; Onawa, Iowa 51040
(712)433-9553

VISION: Our community will assist families in nurturing their children in a safe and supporting environment, which will provide the opportunity in preparing our children for a safe and healthy future.

MISSION: To ensure the collaboration within our community that will provide our families with young children the resources and opportunities necessary to have the highest quality of life possible

Did you know:

In Iowa, 77% of households with children under age of 6 have all available parents in the labor force.

In Iowa, children under the age of 6 are in child care settings an average of 36 hours each week.

In Iowa, 21% of a child's time in the first 2,000 days is spent in child care.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

- ✓ Parent Education
- ✓ Quality Early Care & Education Environments
- ✓ Access to Quality Preschool
- ✓ Health Services/ Initiatives

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- Provides families with a support system, resources, and guides them toward being their child's first teacher.
- Provide families the choice of quality and affordable early childhood learning environments.
- Provide support to early childhood learning environments in becoming a high quality program.
- Provide families and their children opportunities for dental/health screenings.
- All preschool age children are able to have an early childhood educational experience before entering kindergarten.

Services, Programs, and Activities supported by HMS Early Childhood Iowa

Early Childhood Funds

Child Care Nurse Consultant
Early Childhood Care and Education Professional Development
Early Childhood Care and Education Environment Quality Improvement Activities

School Ready Funds

Learning for Life; Family Support Program
Low-Income Preschool Scholarships and Head Start Transportation
Health and Safety Professional Development for Early Care and Education Environments
Preschool Dental Screenings
Early Childhood Care and Education Environment Quality Improvement Activities

Family Support/
Parent
Education

HMS ECI supports *Family Support/ Parent Education* through the Learning for Life Family Support Program in FY15 where 158 families with 243 (0-5 years of age) children were served and 982 in home visits were made in FY2015.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa – www.pcaiowa.org	2010 Rate of Abuse 0-5	2011 Rate of Abuse 0-5	2012 Rate of Abuse 0-5	2013 Rate of Abuse 0-5
Harrison County	55.2%	35.3%	39.3%	42.9%
Monona County	43.3%	50%	33.3%	42.9%
Shelby County	41.9%	53.8%	48.3%	54.3%

**Represents % of all abuse children (0-17) that are between the ages of 0-5.

Quality Early
Childhood Care and
Education
Environments

HMS ECI supported *Quality Early Childhood Care and Education Environments* through support to Child Care Consultant, Child Care Nurse Consultant, Professional Development, and Early Care and Education Quality Environment Improvement Program.

July '11 July '15	Registered Homes		Non-Registered Homes		DHS Licensed Centers		DE Preschools or Centers		DHS Licensed Preschools	
	FY11	FY15	FY11	FY15	FY11	FY15	FY11	FY15	FY11	FY15
Harrison	15	7	32	20	2	2	6	6	2	2
Monona	13	12	18	10	2	2	3	2	2	1
Shelby	10	10	19	17	3	3	6	4	1	1

**License center follows DHS guidelines; DE preschools/centers under Dept. of Education guidelines.

July '11 July '15	QRS Level 1-2		QRS Level 3-5		Statewide 4 yr. old Voluntary		National Accreditation	
	FY11	FY14	FY11	FY14	FY11	FY14	FY11	FY14
Harrison	1	1	15	6	--	5	0	0
Monona	4	1	6	1	--	4	0	0
Shelby	0	1	10	5	--	3	0	0

Access to Quality
Preschool

HMS ECI supports *Access to Quality Preschool* by supporting transportation for those under 100% of the federal poverty level to an Head Start center and to a quality rated preschool for those families with children that are below the 200% of the poverty level.

Health Services/
Initiatives

HMS ECI supports *Health Services/Initiatives* by supporting a local oral health program that provided screening and applying fluoride varnish for 414 preschool age children in the three counties. 65 of the 414 children were identified as possibly needing additional services or treatment.

The complete HMS Early Childhood Iowa Area Annual report can be found at:
http://www.mononacounty.org/Early_Childhood_Iowa.html
The complete Early Childhood Iowa State Annual Report can be found at:
<http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org>



HAWC Partnerships for Children

Counties in Area: Allamakee, Clayton, Howard & Winneshiek
Contact for Area: Michael R. Bergan 563-382-4447
1111 Paine St, Suite H 563-382-1870 (fax)
www.hawc-iowa.com Decorah, IA 52101 hawcmb@neitel.net

Vision – *Every child, beginning at birth will be healthy and successful.*

Mission – *Promote quality early care, wellness, education, and intervention opportunities for children and families through community collaboration and support.*

HAWC is a combined Early Childhood Iowa/Decategorization project area. We meet regularly in a variety of advisory and community meetings among area providers, schools, state agencies, and faith community.

Did you know? Helping Services for Northeast Iowa is the area service provider for Family Education, a Parents as Teachers model program for children age 0 to 36 months, which meets Iowa's Family Support Standards certification.

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission? We believe. . .

- access to information on child development and best practices in care promotes quality early care necessary for a good start.
- wellness is supported through knowledge on child health and safety in our home, care setting, and community.
- education begins at birth with the parent as the first and most important teacher. Support to parents and care providers prepare children for school.
- early interventions save money and improve the lives of our children with prompt identification of developmental delays and access to appropriate services for remediation.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. **Child Care:** build quality and capacity in child care.
2. **Family Education:** In-home family education and support targeting children age 0 to 36 months utilizing an evidence based or credentialed program.
3. **Preschool Support:** Provide preschool supports and tuition for children of low income families.
4. **Integration of Iowa's Early Learning Standards and Iowa's Quality Preschool Program Standards** in area early childhood services.
5. **Health Initiatives:** Promote early childhood health initiatives through coordination and collaboration with state and local resources.
6. **Coordination:** Coordination of area early childhood services to improve collaboration, effectiveness & efficiencies.
7. **Early Interventions:** To reduce child and family involvement with child protection services through collaboration and support.

What services/programs/activities do we support?

In-home family education and support for families with children age 0-3 utilizes about 48% of our funding. Preschool support and tuition assistance for low income families utilizes about 23% of our funds. Support to child care providers to improve quality and capacity utilizes about 17% of funds. Coordination of early childhood programs and service along with administration cost consume the balance of available funding.

How do we measure our progress?

Indicator: Child Abuse Rates – in the HAWC area compared to the state of Iowa and the 27 counties in the Department of Human Services' Northern Service Area

County	Rate of Abuse 2008	Rate of Abuse 2009	Rate of Abuse 2010	Rate of Abuse 2011	Rate of Abuse 2012	Rate of Abuse 2013	Rate of Abuse 2014
Allamakee	5.77	14.10	12.50	15.38	12.92	12.28	9.45
Clayton	11.15	6.84	12.92	7.09	15.45	14.50	6.75
Howard	12.27	3.94	4.38	11.39	11.83	12.30	12.73
Winneshek	5.62	8.80	6.84	9.04	7.09	7.76	4.61
HAWC Area	8.41	8.63	9.52	10.34	11.68	11.57	7.76
Northern Service Area	18.65	21.11	21.66	18.94	19.53	19.34	10.86
State of Iowa	16.45	18.60	18.82	17.56	17.39	17.27	10.45

While county and HAWC area abuse rates are below state and regional rates, there has been a slight rise in the trend. Approximately 75% of child abuse is classified as Denial of Critical Care (Neglect). In the HAWC area we see few cases of sexual abuse or exposure to manufacturing of meth, but yet our area rates in these areas exceed state and regional rates for 2014.

Approximate Rate of Type of Abuse for Child Victims of Confirmed or Founded Abuse for CY2014

HAWC Totals	9.30	0.29	0.07	1.03	0.66	1.10	0.22	0.00	12.67
NSA Totals	10.98	0.12	0.02	1.94	1.48	1.01	0.25	0.00	15.80
State Totals	10.67	0.17	0.03	1.88	1.30	1.01	0.17	0.00	15.23
County	Denial of Critical Care (Neglect)	Exposure to Manufacturing of Meth	Mental Injury	Physical Abuse	Presence of Illegal Drugs in Child's System (PID)	Sexual Abuse	Allows Access by Registered Sex Offender	Other	Total

What can you do to help?

- Ask yourself as a parent or grandparent, "Is my child enrolled in a registered child care setting? What is its quality rating?" Find the answers; ask us if you need help.
- Encourage your provider to improve their quality of care and to attend trainings to enhance their professional development.
- Be an advocate for family and friends. Encourage contact with Child Care Resource and Referral for finding child care placement. 1-855-299-0499

Others within our community working on similar issues:

- **Child Care Resource and Referral**
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program through Northeast Iowa Community Action Corp.**
- **DHS Child Care licensure and Child Care Subsidy**
- **Department of Education, Keystone AEA, and area schools in implementing the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Standards**
- **Head Start programs through Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation**
- **Public Health and Child and Maternal Health Agencies in support of health and safety**

IOWA/JEFFERSON/KEOKUK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA AREA

Mission of Iowa/Jefferson/Keokuk County Early Childhood Iowa Area:

To strengthen the health, education, and well-being of children, prenatal to age five and their families, utilizing resources to provide services and increase the quality of these services through collaboration and support.

Contact: Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson, 744 Clinton Ave
Marengo, Iowa 52301, 319-321-5730, Tammywk72@aol.com

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- Iowa/Jefferson/Keokuk County Early Childhood Iowa Area Board funds programs that support families directly in helping their children become school ready or funds programs that indirectly support families by increasing the quality of early care and education services.

Did you know? All of the school districts in Iowa, Jefferson and Keokuk Counties participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. In addition, three private preschools participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program in partnership with their local school district.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Education and Support for At-Risk Families,
2. Quality, Affordability, and Accessibility of Child Care & Preschools for Children,
3. Accessible Health Services for Children,
4. Improved Collaboration Amongst Services in the Iowa/Jefferson/Keokuk ECI Area

What services/programs/activities do we support?

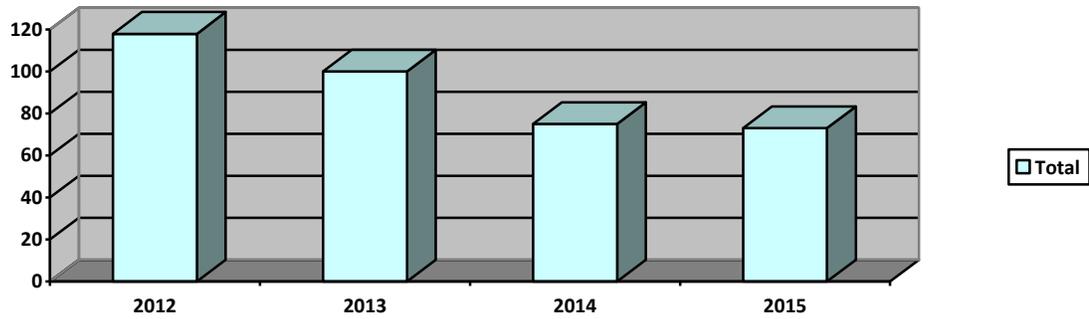
We support families directly to help their children be healthy, happy, and ready for school by providing:

- Healthy Families America
- Parents As Teachers
- Preschool Scholarships
- Transportation Assistance

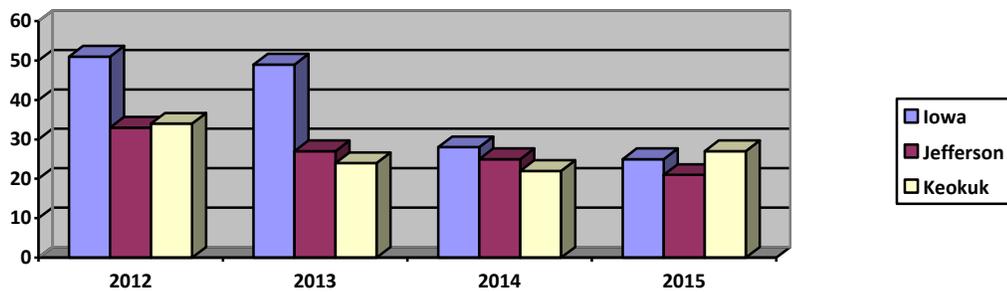
We support children to have safe, educational, positive, nurturing experiences in child care and preschool:

- Preschool Quality Improvement
- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Professional Development Classes for Providers
- Child Development Associate Certification Support

How do we measure our progress? Preschool Scholarship Data



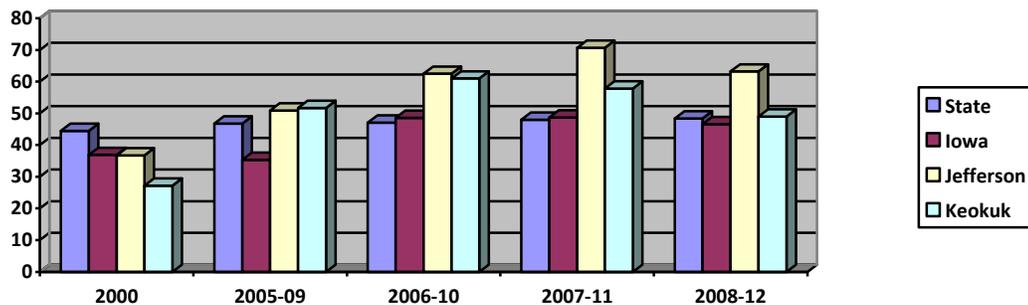
Total number of scholarship for Iowa, Jefferson, and Keokuk Counties. Source: Annual Report Data. They have decreased from 2012 (118) to 2013 (100), 2014 (75), and finally 2015 (73). As the recession has ended families are seeing their incomes increasing, and by 2012, there were thirteen preschools offering Statewide Voluntary Preschool.



Jefferson and Keokuk Counties have been stable in the number of scholarships. Iowa County saw a huge decrease in scholarships from 2013 to 2014. The number of scholarships were evenly distributed across all three counties.

How are we doing? We continue to be able to meet the requests families have for assistance to send their children to preschool or transportation.

How do we measure our progress? Preschool Enrollment



Percentage of children age 3-4 enrolled in preschool. Source: (Iowa Kids Count)

How are we doing? In 2000, Iowa, Jefferson, Keokuk Counties all had lower preschool enrollment than the State of Iowa. By 2011, Iowa, Jefferson, Keokuk Counties all had higher preschool enrollment than the State of Iowa. In 2012, all of the counties saw a decrease in the percentage of students attending preschool. Iowa County's percentage of 3-4 year olds enrolled dropped below the State percentage.

Iowa River Valley ECA Annual Summary

Our Purpose...

The purpose of the Iowa River Valley Early Childhood Area Board is to empower and enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human service programs on behalf of the children, families, and other citizens residing in Marshall and Hardin Counties. The goal of IRVECA is to have its activities improve the quality of life for families with young children.

Our Vision...

Beginning at birth, every child in Hardin and Marshall County will be physically, mentally, socially and spiritually healthy.

Our Mission...

To improve the well-being of children from prenatal through age five. Iowa River Valley Early Childhood Area efforts will be devoted to providing leadership for collaborative activities promoting health, growth, success and safety for children.



In FY'15 We Were PROUD to Support...

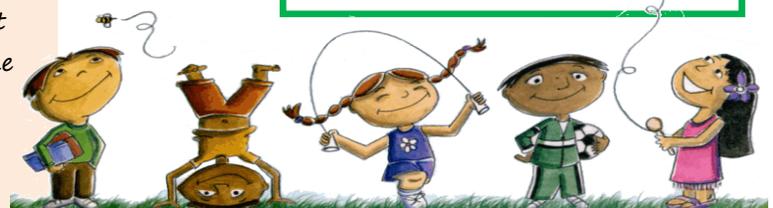
Building Healthy Families * MICA Early Head Start *
Child Care Resource & Referral * MICA Child Care Nurse Consultant *
MICA Head Start Wrap Around * Christian Edu-Care * Cougar's Den
Preschool * Hubbard Radcliffe Preschool * Good Shepherd Preschool *
Sonshine Preschool * GMG Preschool Transportation *
East Marshall Preschool Transportation * St. Paul's Preschool *
Crayonville Preschool * West Marshall Trojan Tots Preschool *
Early Childhood Specialist, Sue Junge

Our Priorities

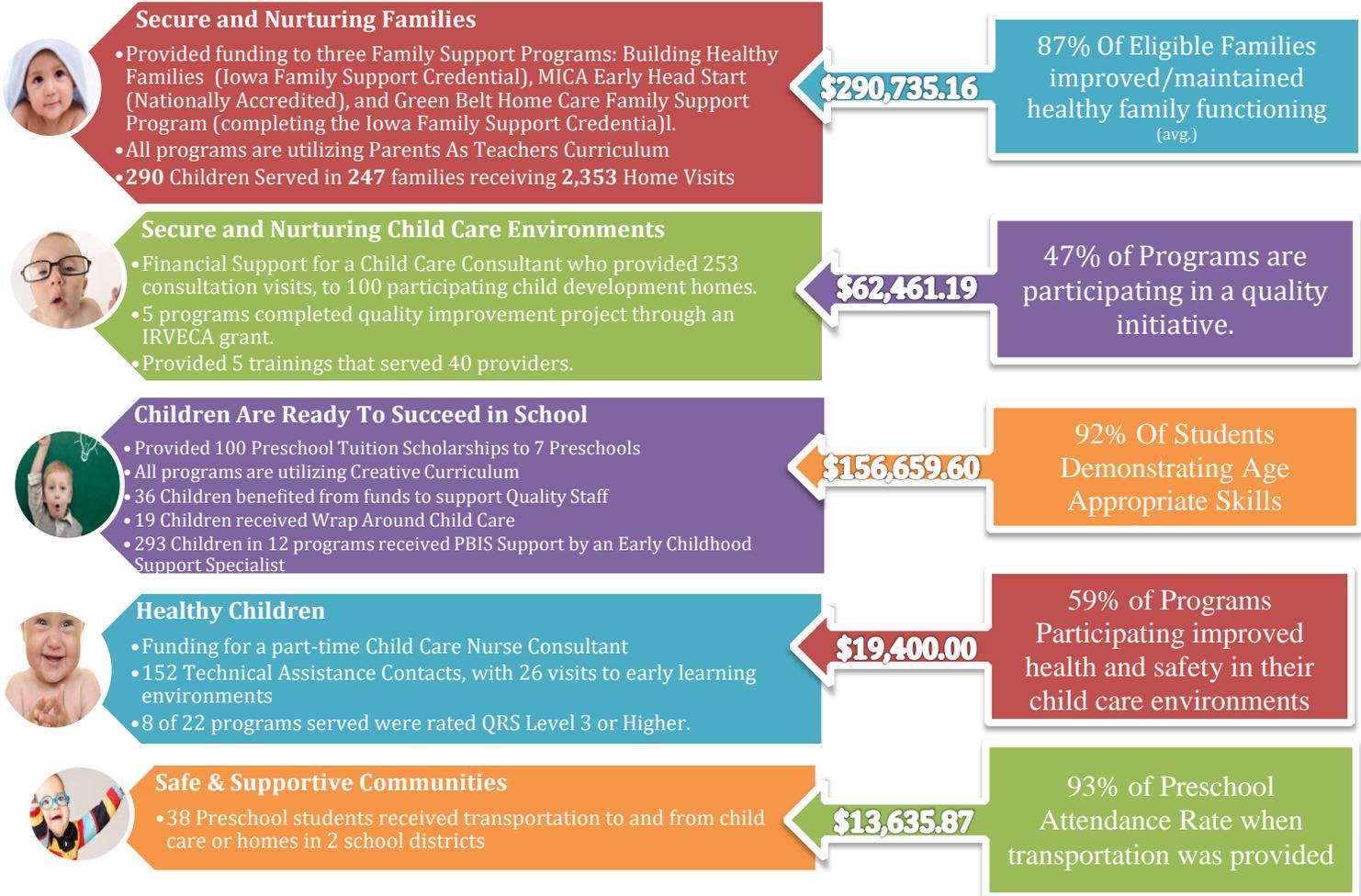
- * Family Support & Healthcare Services provided to children 0-5.
- * Safe & Secure Environments for children
 - * All children receive a quality preschool experience before entering school.
 - * Safe and supportive communities for children 0-5 and their families.
 - * Transportation services so children may attend a quality preschool program.
 - * Accessibility of a quality, affordable child care environment.
- * Social-Emotional, Early Literacy, and Intellectual skills for children so they are ready to learn when starting school.

A LOCAL SUCCESS STORY

"I would just like to share with you how important and beneficial the scholarship my daughter received for her preschool tuition was. I am a single mother of three young children and without the financial assistance of tuition scholarships, I wouldn't be able to send my kids to school and see them every day. I'd have to maintain at least 2 jobs and even then, it would be a struggle. Both my children and I are so grateful and appreciative of all the generous and important resources, such as tuition scholarships that we have available to us. Thank you for all that you've done and will hopefully continue to do for families like mine. Every child deserves and needs an education."



Working hard to make a DIFFERENCE...



How much time does it take to be a Board Member?

In Fy'15....
6 Meetings were held

- Total time dedicated to serving kids **98 hours, 48 minutes**
- Total Board Meeting Time **9 hours, 43 minutes**
- Average Board Meeting Length **1 hour, 37 minutes**
- Avg. Yearly Board Meeting Commitment **7 hours, 36 minutes**
- Average time spent in committees **3 hours**

Sponsored by Iowa River Valley Early Childhood Area Board* 641-648-6575

How can YOU help?

- Consider becoming a BOARD MEMBER!
- Consider joining the Hardin County or Marshall County Early Childhood Committee, or Champions for Children.
- Support Early Childhood and Early Literacy service providers through acts of volunteerism, donation of food, books, clothes, learning materials, and developmentally appropriate activities for children.
- Encourage child development homes to become/maintain DHS registry and enroll in QRS, so children are cared for in safe environments.
- Continue to keep legislators informed about issues and areas of concerns within Hardin and Marshall County.



JMP Early Childhood Iowa Area

Counties in Area: Jasper, Marion, Poweshiek

Contact for Area: Nicole Brua-Behrens, PO Box 344, Grinnell, IA 50112, 641-236-5518, ext. 222, fax-641-236-5590, www.greaterpcf.org

Vision and Mission of JMP ECI Area: Vision-All children prenatal to school age and their families living in Jasper, Marion, and Poweshiek (JMP) counties will be healthy, safe and ready to learn.

Mission-Collaborative efforts among Jasper, Marion, and Poweshiek counties will provide families with young children the opportunities, resources, and supports necessary to fulfill our vision.

The Visiting Nurse Services I-Smile Coordinator who serves Jasper and Poweshiek Counties recently reported that during a screening event at a JMP area preschool the hygienist noticed a 4 year-old had an a dental abscess on an upper tooth. The severe tooth infection can rapidly progress through the sinus and into the orbital space in the brain. The parent of the child has had a difficult time finding a dentist who will take Medicaid and the I-Smile Coordinator was able to assist the parent in securing an appointment with a dentist in Des Moines. The child was treated and is doing fine thanks to the I-Smile coordinator making the diagnosis and assisting the family with securing an appointment.

DID YOU KNOW?: Children who attend a high quality early childhood program have a higher rate of completing high school and having above average test scores. Adults who attend a high quality early childhood program have a higher rate of stable employment and a lower rate of social service use and criminal involvement.

www.nowforlater.org/files/2013/03/The-Facts.pdf

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- The JMP Preschool Scholarship program meant that 102 at risk children would have access to high quality preschool helping them to be ready to learn, ready to read and ready to socialize with peers. In the JMP Area 72% of the families receiving preschool scholarship assistance were awarded a 100% scholarship because their income was at or below 150% poverty level (meets JMP Vision).
- Organizations in the JMP area who provide consultation and technical assistance to preschools and childcare providers meet several times per year to talk about new initiatives in their organization and how they can collaborate. The groups include Childcare Resource and Referral, Iowa

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Access to high quality **health** providers
2. High quality **preschool and childcare environments** with the capacity to serve all children within the JMP ECI area
3. High quality parent/family support & **education** for all families with children ages 0-5
4. **Collaboration** promotes safe communities in the JMP ECI area

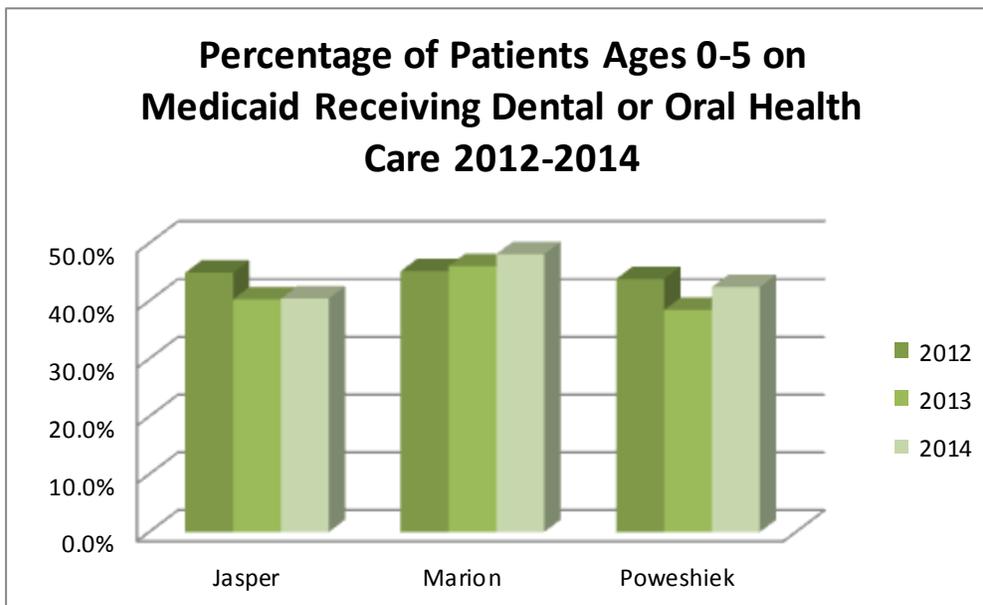
State University Extension-Jasper County and Crossroads Cares (meets the JMP Mission).

- The Childcare Resource and Referral coordinator serving the JMP area worked closely with a daycare center this last year to assist them in receiving a 5 on the QRS scale for the first time. This is the only level 5 in Jasper County (meets the JMP Vision).

What services/programs/activities do we support? The JMP ECI Area provides funding to support the following programs in Jasper, Marion and Poweshiek counties: preschool scholarships for low-income families, mini-grants to preschool teachers for equipment and professional development, family support and education programs, lactation and pre/post natal programs, dental services for preschoolers and children ages 0-5, childcare nurse consultant services, childcare consultant services, resource libraries, and professional development.

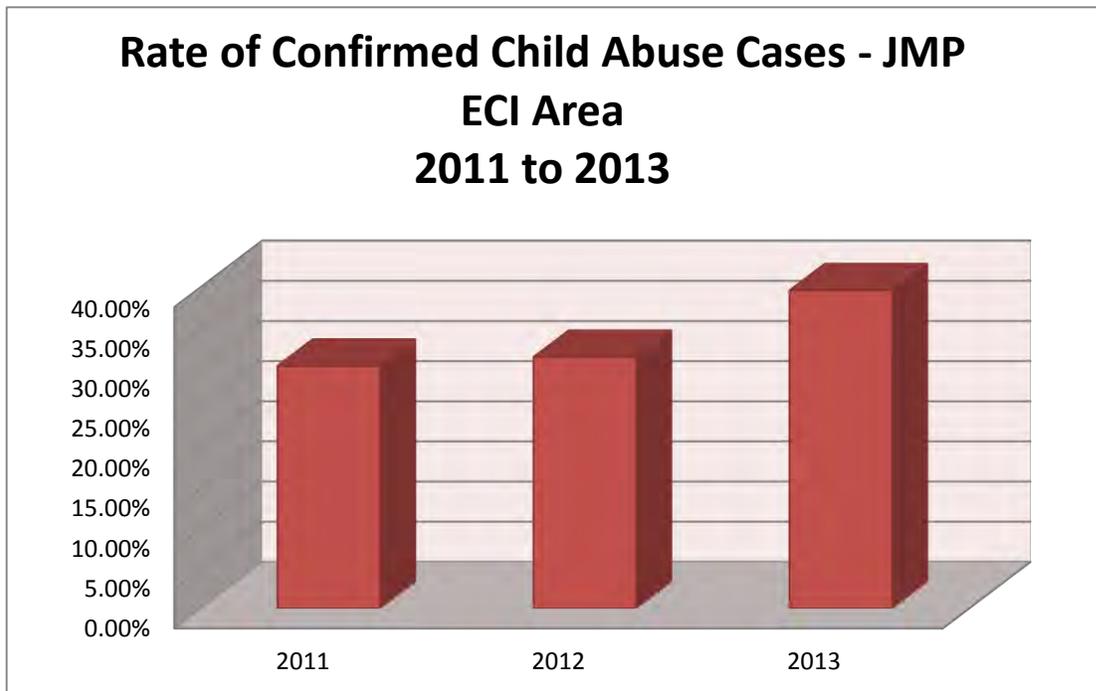
How do we measure our progress?

1. **Percentage of children ages 0-5 on Medicaid receiving any dental or oral health service.**



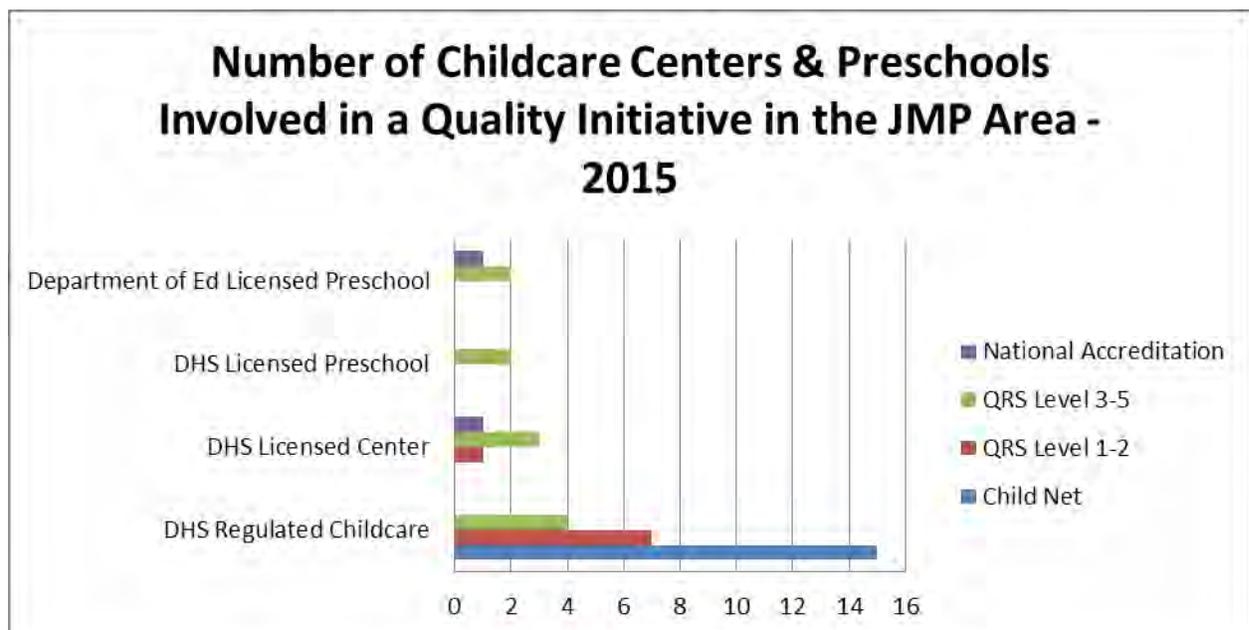
How are we doing? Between 2012 and 2013 there was a decline in the number of young people receiving dental or oral care in both Jasper and Poweshiek counties. In 2013, the JMP ECI Area board began funding dental services in Poweshiek County. Both Poweshiek and Jasper County dentists advertise that they do not take Medicaid. The JMP board will continue to watch this trend and hope that the number of children ages 0-5 on Medicaid receiving dental or oral health care will grow in all three counties. Jasper and Marion Counties have had I-Smile programs for several years but the program has been expanded in the last few years. Marion County saw continued growth in the rate between 2012 and 2014.

2. Incidence of child abuse and neglect.



How are we doing? In 2011 the combined rate of confirmed cases of child abuse in the JMP ECI Area was around 30%. In 2012 that rate increased slightly for the three county region. By 2013 which is the most current set of data, the rate hovered around 39%. The steady increase is alarming to the JMP board who will continue to monitor the program and support programs that prevent child abuse such as family support services.

3. Percentage of licensed/ registered providers in voluntary QRS system or some other quality rating.



How are we doing? The JMP ECI Area board funds several programs whose goal is to encourage providers to enroll in a quality initiative. Orchard Place's Childcare Consultant works with providers, centers and preschools on quality initiatives. Crossroads of Pella works with family members and providers through the Family, Friend and Neighbor Care program to ensure that early child providers are using quality practices. Iowa State University Extension-Jasper County provides training to enhance the quality of early care programs in the JMP area. Preschools who participate in the JMP Preschool Scholarship program must show evidence of enrollment in a quality initiative in order to receive preschool scholarships for their low-income students. The JMP board continues to monitor this information to determine if the figures increase for programs enrolled in a quality initiative.

What can you do to help? (Answer this question from the public's point of view.)

- Continue to monitor the indicators for our region and make adjustments to priorities.
- Encourage coordination among providers in the JMP area and other social service/health/education efforts.
- Continue to fund programs that are working to increase quality in their preschools or centers in an effort to ensure children are entering school ready to learn.

Others within our community working on similar issues:

- The Grinnell Newburg School district has been accepted into the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading. The program will focus on school readiness, also a priority for the JMP program.
- Each county in the JMP region has a human service provider network that meets regularly to discuss projects and look for ways to collaborate. These groups include the SYNC group in Jasper County, Human Service Provider group in Marion County and the Healthy Choices Coalition in Poweshiek County. The JMP program also participates in these meetings.



Johnson County Community Empowerment

Executive Summary For Fiscal Year 2015

Johnson County is a safe and healthy community in which to learn, work, and live.

There are approximately 2000 days between birth and kindergarten. We need to make them count.

The Johnson County Community Plan identifies three Result Areas the JCE/ECIA Board works to impact. Within each Result Area are two Priorities and for each Priority, the board has identified two Strategies that will help to achieve it's goals.

RESULT AREA A: Secure and Nurturing Early Education Environments

Priority 1: Increase accessibility and availability of quality early education.

Strategy 1: Address affordability of care, hours of care, and issues of transportation.

Strategy 2: Address the need for additional infant care, quality providers accepting state funded care, and full-day, full-year programs. Address barriers to providers accepting state Child Care Assistance (CCA).

PROGRESS: Local ECI funds expand part-time Head Start and Statewide Voluntary Preschool programs to full-day, full-year programming; reducing the need for transportation. The School Ready Scholarship Program supports affordable (almost always free) care and provides wraparound to children participating in SVPP. Home Ties Emergency Child Care, a short-term, no-cost child care program for families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, serves mainly infants and toddlers. In FY15 these programs served **155 children**, 56 of whom were age 2 or younger.

The Early Childhood Specialist met with service providers and a faith-based organization to create the Bridge Care program. Bridge Care acts as an 'insurance policy' to providers to care for children while their CCA application is pending.

Priority 2: Increase quality in early education.

Strategy 3: Support and make available high quality professional development opportunities and services which align with quality demonstration programs. A specific area of need is children's social/emotional development.

Strategy 4: Increase parent and community demand/expectations for high quality early care and education environments.

PROGRESS: 4Cs Community Coordinated Child Care to provide training, coaching, and mentoring to child development homes in Program Wide Positive Behavior Intervention Services. The Child-care Alliance Response Team (CART) provides consultation regarding social/emotional development and behavioral concerns. These programs served **100 early care and education programs** and **93%** of programs met their goals.



RESULT AREA B: Safe, Stable, Nurturing Families and Homes

Priority 3: Prevent child abuse and neglect and increase supportive parenting skills.

Strategy 5: Support parent, family, and community education. Supports include home visitation services and programs that enhance the parent/child relationship.

Strategy 6: Work with other community organizations (e.g. Prevent Child Abuse-Johnson County and Community Partnership for Protecting Children) to increase awareness about child abuse prevention and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

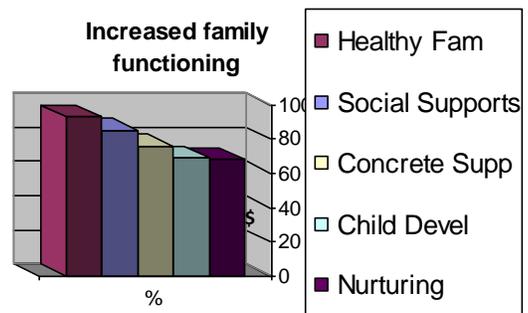
PROGRESS: In FY15, JCE/ECIA funded 2 Parents As Teachers programs with each program targeting a specific population. United Action for Youth serves teens through home visitation and 2 weekly groups. Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County serves families living in the neighborhoods the centers serve (Broadway, North Liberty, Pheasant Ridge). They provide home visitation in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Swahili/French as well as offering a parenting group in Spanish. In FY15, a total of **2,868 home visits** were conducted with **168 families** that included **242 children** age prenatal-5 years.

The JCE/ECIA Director is the current chairperson of Prevent Child Abuse-Johnson County (PCA-JC) and is a member of the Shared Decision-Making Team for Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC). JCE/ECIA worked with both of those organizations to increase child abuse prevention awareness through the Kits for Kids activities in Lower City Park & North Liberty and the Juneteenth Celebration at the IC Rec Center, as well as Celebration of the Young Child, which had over 1,500 attendees. JCE/ECIA collaborated with our regional MH/DS to bring the ACE Interface training to Iowa.

Priority 4: Increase families’ healthy informal networks of support and utilization of appropriate community resources.

Strategy 7: Support group-based parent education and informal support.

Strategy 8: Link families with services to address parental problems of depression/mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, disability, low educational attainment, or unmet basic needs.



PROGRESS: In collaboration with CPPC and other organizations, Parenting With Love & Logic parent education classes served over 40 parents. JCE/ECIA funds parent education groups for Spanish-speaking families through The Children’s Center for Therapy and NCJC. There were **39 sessions** provided in Spanish to **40 families** with **56 children** age birth-five years. JCE/ECIA funds teen parent groups through UAY; the **75 groups** were attended by **40 pregnant/parenting teens** and their **36 children** age 0-5.



RESULT AREA C: Children Ready to Succeed in School

Priority 5: Prevention, early detection, and identification of child health issues.

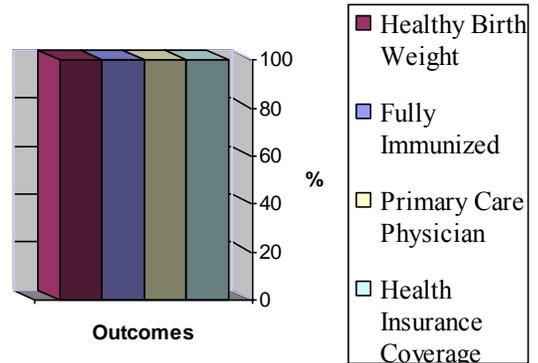
Strategy 9: Facilitate screening and follow-up of health, developmental, and/or behavioral obstacles for children. This includes toxic childhood stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)..

Strategy 10: Support preventive health services including well-child care, healthy nutrition, physical exercise, and dental care.

PROGRESS: JCE/ECIA family support programs all utilize the Ages & Stages Questionnaires-3 (English, Spanish, and French) and the Ages & Stages: Social-Emotional screening tools (English & Spanish) with the children they serve. Early education programs that receive JCE/ECIA funds complete developmental screening with the children funded with ECI funds. In FY15, **359 children were screened** in JCE/ECIA funded programs. Of those children, 85% demonstrated age appropriate development and **35 were referred** for additional assessment and early intervention.

The UAY Nurse Home Visitation program serves pregnant and newly parenting teens. The program stresses the importance of prenatal and pediatric well-care. In FY15, there were **88 prenatal and 105 well-child/pediatric visits** provided to **32 families**. There were 14 births to program participants and **100%** were at a healthy weight. Of the participating children, **100%** are fully immunized, **100%** have a primary care physician, and **100%** have health insurance coverage.

Health Services Outcomes



Priority 6: Strengthen the transition to kindergarten.

Strategy 11: Facilitate connections among schools, early childhood providers, and families.

Strategy 12: Strengthen the alignment of curriculum and expectations between early childhood and K-12 education systems and support best practices in early education environments and kindergarten classrooms.

PROGRESS: The JCE/ECIA Early Education Work Group includes individuals from 4Cs, a Registered Child Development Home, Iowa City CSD, Grant Wood AEA, Child Care Resource & Referral, NCJC Child Care Center, and the community who come together to address quality in early childhood and the transition from early childhood to kindergarten. A subset of the Early Education Work Group is developing a tool for local use that aligns early childhood curriculum with the Iowa Early Learning Standards and is starting to pilot parts of that tool with local providers.

For more information about the Johnson County Empowerment/Early Childhood Iowa Area Board and the programs it funds, visit our website at www.jcempowerment.org or contact us:

855 S. Dubuque Street, Suite 202B • Iowa City, IA 52240 • Telephone 319.339.6179 • e-mail Empower@JCEmpowerment.org



Vision: Every Child beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Mission: Kids First Communities Early Childhood Area will build community capacity to deliver a comprehensive and integrated early care, health and education system.

Local Story: Child Care Consultant

FY15 brought significant changes to two Child Care Centers in our ECI Area. Both were in process of replacing long time directors and the Child Care Consultant with Child Care Resource and Referral became an integral part of the process. Numerous hours were spent assisting the new directors and Boards. The consultant became the “go-to-person”, providing the staff and Boards with solutions to meet the current and future needs of the facilities.

Community Plan Priorities:

- Parent Education Services
- Preschool Experience
- Quality Child Care

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- Diminished duplication through our preschool collaborations.
- Building healthy children, healthy families, and a healthy community through our Home Visitation Program.
- Quality Child Care through professional development of preschool staff, center staff and home child care providers; availability of Child Care Consultant and Child Care Nurse Consultant.

Services Supported by Kids First Communities ECI Area

Home Visitation ** Child Care Home Consultant ** Child Care Nurse Consultant ** Home, center and preschool quality improvement grants ** Preschool Tuition and Transportation scholarships ** Salary support for preschool staff ** Newborn well baby/mom visits and screenings ** I-Smile Dental Education ** Provider Professional Development

FY15 Preschools Facts

There were 410 children ages 3-5 enrolled in preschools during the FY15 year.

3 Preschools received tuition assistance for 34 students (33 families).

- 79.4% demonstrated age appropriate skills
- 36% of the families are Hispanic
- Average cost per student \$128.69

2 Preschools received transportation assistance for 67 students.

- Students attended class 91.5% of the time.
- Average cost per student \$265.98

3 Preschools received salary assistance for 87 children.

- 94.2% demonstrated age appropriate skills.
- Average cost per student \$486.17

FY15 Child Care Facts

2 Public Health Agencies made well baby/mom visits for 66 children.

- 28 of 28 children received recommended follow up services
- Average cost per child \$50.97

3 Child Care Centers, 14 home providers and 11 preschools received quality improvement grants.

- Average cost per provider \$644.42
- 9 of 28 (32%) have a QRS rating of 2 or higher

1 Public Health Agency provided I-Smile services

- 66 children received services
- 77.2% of children received additional treatment
- 75% of children were cavity free
- Average cost per child \$35.14

2 Child Care Centers Professional Development

- Staff attended 20 trainings at a cost of \$339.46 per training.

Child Care Consultant made 53 visits to 56 providers and 206 technical assistance contacts.

- Average cost per provider \$353.16

Child Care Nurse Consultant visited 18 providers

- Average cost per provider \$292.85

FY15 Family Support & Parent Education Facts

Who were served?

137 children received developmentally appropriate instruction
89 families participated in parent education opportunities

What did we do?

667 face to face home visits were provided to families
28 parent education group meetings were provided to families

What difference it made?

82% of families improved or maintained healthy family functioning, problem solving and communication
45% of families increased or maintained social supports
94% of families are connected to additional concrete supports
68% of families had an increase in knowledge about child's development and parenting
48% of families improved nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and child(ren)

Ethnicity of Children Served
32% Hispanic/Latino (state avg. 16%)
68% Non-Hispanic/Latino (state avg. 84%)

Family Income
94% at 200% or below FPL
(state avg. 87%)

Average cost per family: \$1,922.54
Average cost per child: \$1,248.95
Average cost per visit: \$256.53

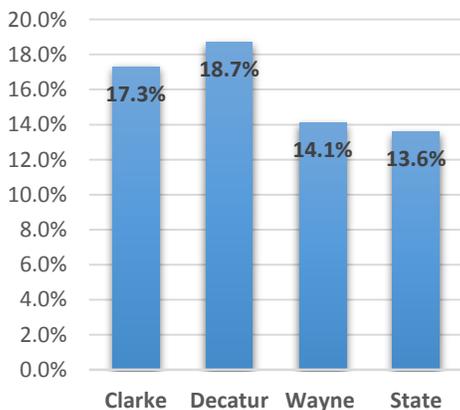
What can you do to help?

****Work with others in a collaborative effort and support county interagency groups. **Continue to inform community of supported programs and the benefits that result. **Make well thought out decisions that accurately reflect the economic climate of our area and exercise fiscal responsibility.**

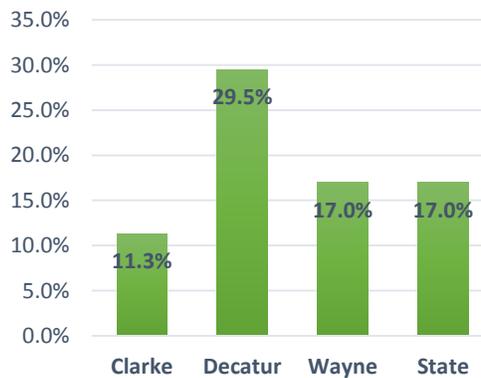
Others in our community working on similar issues:

****Area Education Agencies**Preschools**Child Care Centers/Home Providers**Extension Offices**Human Service Agencies**School Districts**County Interagency Groups**Public Health Agencies; and Community Volunteers.**

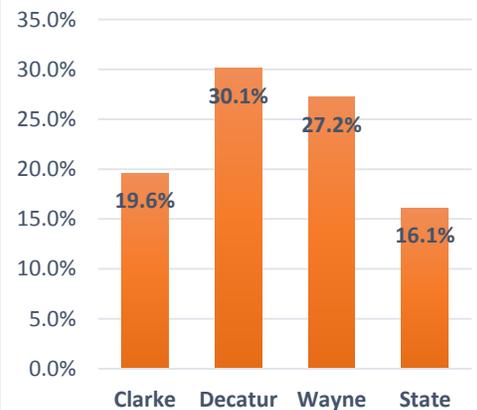
Indicator: Food Assistance



Indicator: Child Abuse/Neglect (Per 1,000 Children, age 0-17)



Indicator: Child Poverty Rate



Did You Know?

- 85% of a child's brain develops in the first three to five years of his or her life?
- 2000 Days! There are approximately 2000 days between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first 2000 days of a child's life can have a profound and lifelong impact on physical and emotional well-being, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.



Your Source for Happy, Healthy Children!

Children are precious gifts. They are our future and hold so much potential and promise. Linking Families and Communities assists parents, caregivers and the community by providing programs, resources and support so that children have the love, support and skills to fulfill that promise.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

FOR CAREGIVERS:

Child Care Consultant
Child Care Nurse Consultant
Professional Development Opportunities
Quality Incentive Program
Wage\$

FOR PARENTS:

Family Foundations
Positive Solutions for Families
Preschool Dental Screening
Preschool Tuition Assistance
Resource Coordination and Referral
Parent Child Interaction Therapy

FOR THE COMMUNITY: Coordination and Referral
KIDZMANIA
Presentations



**LINKING FAMILIES
AND COMMUNITIES**



Making a difference for children and families

96% of area kindergarten children have had a quality preschool experience.

90% of incoming kindergarten children were ready for school.

78% of families enrolled in family support services improved or maintained healthy functioning, problem solving and communication.

52% of families enrolled in family support services improved nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and child(ren).

95% of preschool age children are cavity free.

OUR PRIORITIES

Access to Resources
Family Support and Education
Mental Health
Quality of Child Care

OUR PARTNERS:

Area Child Care/ Preschools/ Schools
Calhoun County Public Health
Child Care Resource & Referral
Children and Families of Iowa
Golden Kiwanis
Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children
Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.
Pocahontas Home Care Aide Agency
Unity Point
Webster County Health Department
YOUR Head Start

We Still Need You!

Making a difference in the community

100% of child care providers involved in our programs improved the health and safety conditions in their early learning environments.

100% of area preschools implement an evidence-based curriculum.

12 therapists trained in Parent Child Interaction Therapy to ensure access to mental health services for children age 5 and younger.

25% of the registered/licensed child care providers are rated on the Quality Rating System (QRS).

Linn County Early Childhood Iowa

Counties in Area: Linn County

Contact for Area: Chris Kivett-Berry, Linn County ECI Director
1240 26th Avenue Ct SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
Phone: 319-892-5721 Fax: 319- 892-5619
E-mail: chris.kivett-berry@linncounty.org
Website: linncountyearlychildhoodiowa.org



Vision: *Every child will have access to quality services empowering them to be healthy and successful.*

Mission: *To provide and support quality education, health and human services through community partnerships and collaborations, for children prenatal-age 5 and their families, resulting in healthy, safe and school ready children.*

Did You Know?

- ✚ Children are expelled from state-funded preschool programs *at more than three times* the rates of children in elementary and secondary school. (Gilliam, W. S. (2005). *Prekindergarteners Left Behind*. Yale University Child Study Center.)
- ✚ Report also noted that the likelihood of expulsion is... *cut in half when teachers have access to "behavioral consultants."* (Gilliam, W. S. (2005). *Prekindergarteners Left Behind*.)

The Childcare Alliance Response Team (CART) serve a on-site behavioral consultants for early care providers to increase their expertise in serving children with behavior issues in order to reduce expulsions from appropriate child care settings. Here are a few comments from CART Participants:

"I am so very happy with how things have turned a corner over the last month or two. My son is very happy at preschool and I can tell that ***the frustration his teachers have felt is reduced.***" (Parent)

"This program has benefited our classroom greatly. These children have grown tremendously due to the CART behavior plans we have put in place. I am confident they will continue to grow and it will lead to their academic success in the future. ***What a great way to set our children on the path to success!!***" (Preschool Teacher)

Why Are The Programs ECI Supports Important to Reaching Our Vision & Mission?

- The Linn County ECI Board understands that investment in quality early intervention services is the key to ***healthy, safe and school ready children.***

Linn County Community Plan Priorities

- ✓ Quality Early Care and Education
- ✓ Child & Family Resources
- ✓ Preventive Child Health
- ✓ Mental & Behavioral Health Supports

Types of Services supported by Linn County Early Childhood Iowa FY 15

- Child Health Services and Screenings
- On-Site TA Support for Child Care Providers
- In-Home Visitation & Family Support
- Part Day Preschool for 3 year olds
- Full-day Wraparound Child Care for 0-5 year olds
- Quality Improvements (NAFCC, QRS, ERS)
- Group-Based Parent Education
- Child Mental Health & Behavioral Supports
- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Child Health & Developmental Screens
- Parent-led Behavior Interventions
- Child Care Home & Center Consultants

How Do We Measure Community Level Progress in Linn County?

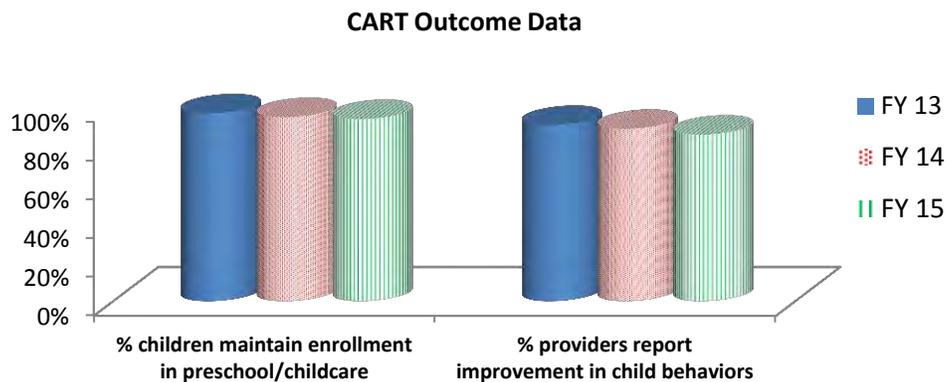
Preschool children are being expelled from child care programs at an astonishing rate, often because of challenging behaviors such as aggression, tantrums, and noncompliance. (Fox & Smith 2007). Forty states with state-funded preschools were included in a 2005 Yale University Child Center study. (Gilliam, W. S. (2005). *Prekindergarteners Left Behind*. Yale University Child Study Center.)

- ✚ The average rate of expulsion in state-funded preschools was **6.67 children per 1,000 enrolled**.
- ✚ The rate of expulsion in Iowa was **2.32 preschoolers per 1,000 enrolled**. Iowa ranked 37/40 in expulsion rates in descending order. (Shared Vision data)
- ✚ Although significantly lower than the national average the preschool expulsion rate in Iowa is **5.45 times** the rate of K-12 expulsions (.43/100).

Research has proposed potential explanations such as classrooms with high numbers of children per teacher, longer hours in care, teacher bias and the impact of adverse childhood experiences on children in poverty or high stress family structure. That same research also indicates that expulsion rates plunge when teachers feel competent about working with challenging young children and supporting their emotional development. (www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/04/02/27ocrprek.h33.html#sthash.OhNWCnYe.dpuf)

How Do We Measure Program Level Progress in Linn County Early Childhood Iowa?

Assistance with children’s challenging behaviors is the greatest need identified by preschool administrators and educators (Busecmi, Bennett, Thomas, & Deluca, 1996; Yoshikawa & Zigler, 2000). The Childcare Alliance Response Team (CART) provides intensive on-site consultation to early care providers to increase their expertise in serving children with behavior issues. The goals are to maintain the child in an appropriate child care setting while teaching techniques the staff can use after CART services end. CART provides a variety of tools including a classroom environment assessment, assisting teachers with classroom transition routines and Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports. Parent communication is key and referrals to additional services are provided as needed. The table below indicates the consistently positive outcomes of the CART program in addressing behavior concerns and reducing childcare expulsion rates.



What Can You Do To Help?

- Refer families seeking support or information to the Linn County Early Childhood Iowa office at 319-892-5721 or www.linncountyearlychildhoodiowa.org
- Increase your awareness of the long term impact of adverse childhood experiences @ www.IowaAces360.org

Other Partners in Linn County that assist with Child Behavioral Supports

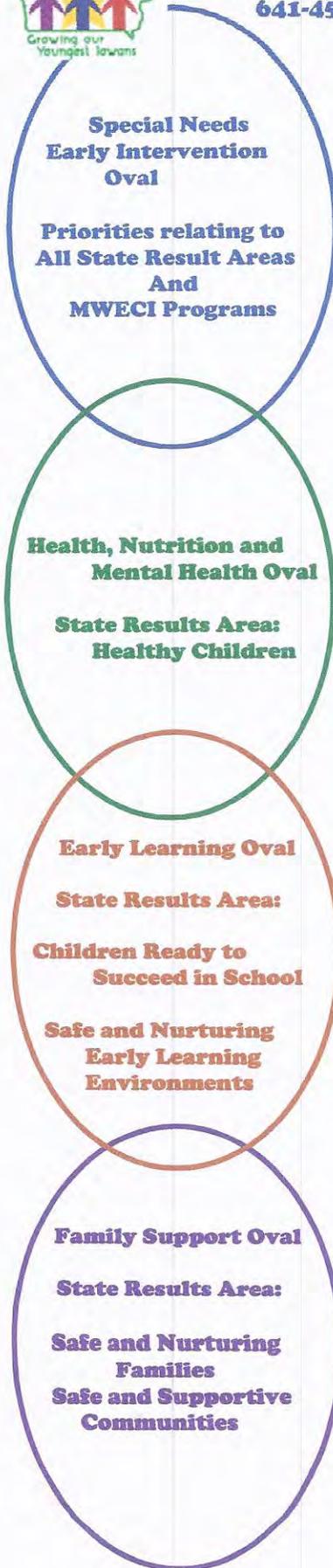
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| ▪ Grant Wood AEA/Early ACCESS | ▪ First Five @ HACAP | ▪ Abbe Center |
| ▪ TIES program (ECI –funded) | ▪ Positive Behavioral Intervention & Support | ▪ Tanager Place |
| ▪ ACE’s Stakeholder Groups | | ▪ Four Oaks Inc. |



MAHASKA WAPELLO Early Childhood Iowa

Pat McReynolds, Area Director
 P.O. Box 335, Richland, Iowa 52585
 641-451-5437

patmcreynolds318@gmail.com
www.mweci.biz



2015 Community Plan Priorities

- Support high quality services including utilization of research-based and evidence-based curricula and program models and execute with fidelity.
- Support high quality training including utilization of high quality trainers and participant rewards for completion and implementation of training outcomes.
- Support all ECI funded programs and services to make referrals as appropriate to Early ACCESS and AEA.



All (100%) MWECI funded programs utilize research-based curricula and program models are monitored to validate fidelity.



The MWECI Advisory Committee annually reviews and develops new quality control assurances within each programming/results area. The Advisory frequently asks, "Are we requiring too much from providers?" The providers respond with a resilient "NO, we want to be a quality program."

- Support services and training for the prevention of infectious disease, prevention of child injuries, development of health emergency protocols, administration of medications, care for children with special needs, and early childhood screenings (development, vision, hearing, nutrition and social-emotional).



The MWECI Board was able to increase the amount of hours the Child Care Nurse Consultant provides to local communities by 10% this year. Having a pediatric nurse available for consultation for all of our funded programs is a great asset. The nurse also provides early childhood screenings and community car seat safety checks.



Most of our funding is focused on other priorities. More funding is needed to address mental health concerns.

- Support services and training to improve the quality of early learning environments (child care centers, preschools, child development homes, and FFN (friends, family & neighbors).
- Support services to help families' access quality preschool experiences for all children 3-5 years.



The MWECI Board supports three (3) programs that provide the train/coach/train model of professional development to most of the early learning environments in the local communities. These programs also put their trainings onto the DHS training registry. All trainers have degrees (2-BA and 2-MA). All training participants must have an action plan and achieve goals to receive program rewards.



The MWECI Board supports two (2) local school districts to provide quality preschool and kindergarten transition programs. Both of these programs have documented great success in student achievements.

Without increased funding, the successful growth of these programs limits the amount of funding applied to the true cost per child each year.

- Support services to provide family support through home visitation and group parent education.
- Support services and community awareness for prevention of child abuse and neglect.



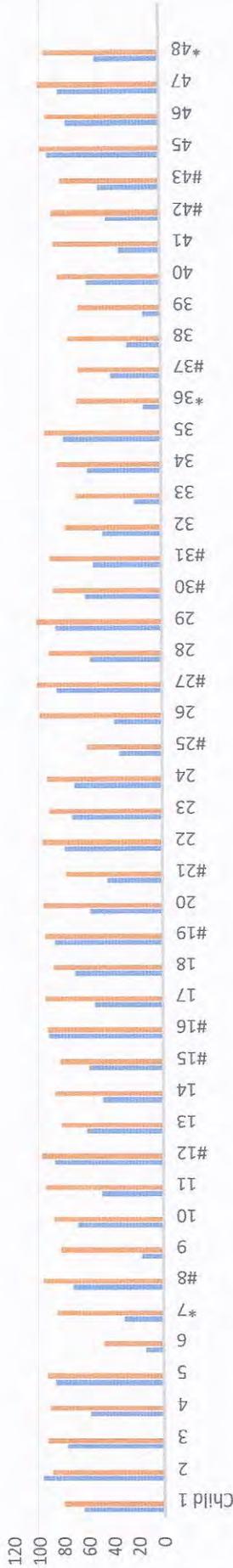
The MWECI Board supports two (2) home visitation programs and two (2) group parent education programs. A total of 342 children and 263 families were provided with concrete supports leading to safe, stable and nurturing relationships, three critical elements that make a difference for children as they grow and develop.

Others working on similar issues.

The Wapello County ACEs Team was officially formed through the Prevent Child Abuse Iowa's Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Response (CBPR) to ACEs Project. The collective experience of the Wapello ACEs Team encompasses experience in child abuse prevention, family support, and community engagement. Identified strengths of the Wapello ACEs Team are a strong team-oriented approach, connections in the community, a willingness to tailor efforts based on the community readiness assessment results and trainings, and a keen focus on child abuse prevention. MWECI is the lead organization for these efforts.

FYE 2015 – Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa – Program Showcase
Cardinal Community School District 3 Year Old Preschool Partnership

CARDINAL 3 YEAR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS
 ■ Fall 2014 Assessment ■ Spring 2015 Assessment



Joel Pedersen joel.pedersen@cardinalcomet.com via wildblue.net

to Heather, Pat, Pat, Brian May 18

Exciting results for especially homeless students and students from poverty.

*Denotes a homeless child. #Denotes a 100% FPL child.

The Cardinal 3 Year Old Preschool Partnership includes a braiding of school

district funds, Head Start funds and MWECI funds. The 48 students represents three classes of 3 year old students from Wapello County. Several of these students are "open enrolled" into the Cardinal district, by those parents who desire a smaller school district and smaller classroom approach. All three classrooms follow national Head Start Performance Measures and each student receives comprehensive benefits of all Head Start offers as well as all that the school system offers. These benefits include: all day preschool / 4 days a week; small class size (16) with 1 licensed teacher and 1 degreed classroom assistant; general developmental and health assessments (including vision & hearing, nutrition and mental health); parent involvement (monthly meetings and literacy activities); busing; school lunch & snacks; music; art; P.E. and janitorial room maintenance.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Feb. 16, 2015

Superintendent Joel Pedersen,
 Cardinal Community School District,
 4015A Highland Road,
 Blount, Iowa 52554

Dear Cardinal Community School District, Southern Iowa Economic Development Association (SIEDA), and Mahaska and Wapello County Employment Area:

Thank you for showing how innovative community partnerships can provide more children with high-quality, comprehensive preschool experiences to promote their socially and academically successful future. You have set an outstanding example of what can be done.

You are leaders in recognizing the value of establishing such a partnership for Wapello County children and their families. It is impressive that you have tripled the number of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled over the past three years by braiding funding from various sources including federal, state, and local funds. The fact that you have been able to do this with such a small number of students is a testament to your vision and developmental screening, and free transportation to and from school.

Superintendent Pedersen's description of being able to walk into any Cardinal preschool classroom to see students having fun while learning essential skills, such as problem solving and how to express thoughts and feelings appropriately, is heartwarming.

Your community partnership demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to serving young children. Thank you again for all that you and your dedicated staff do every day to make sure that 3- and 4-year-olds in Wapello County get off to the best start possible.

Sincerely,
 Ken E. Branstad
 Governor of Iowa

Ken E. Branstad
 Ken Branstad
 Lt. Governor of Iowa

Northwest Early Childhood Iowa (NECI)

Counties in area: Cherokee, Lyon, Plymouth, Sioux

Contact for area: Takysia Larsen
400 Central Ave NW
Orange City, IA 51041
Phone: (712) 707-9599

Fax: (712) 707-5435

Email: tlarsen@siouxlandship.org Website: neci.sharepoint.com

Vision: Security and success for children by strengthening families and communities

Mission: Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful



Healthy Families

Healthy Families is a home visitation service offered to families so parents are better able to get their children off to a healthy start. A Healthy Families worker will visit a home to listen to parent concerns, answer questions about child development, proper nutrition, or discuss parenting strategies.

"Healthy Families strives to provide all expectant and new parents with the opportunity to receive the education and support they need at the time their baby is born."

What are the goals: The goals of trained Healthy Families workers are to (1) promote positive parenting, (2) enhance child health and development and (3) prevent child abuse and neglect. Visits occur anywhere from once a month to several times a week, depending on family needs.

Note: The Healthy Families programs in all four counties have been credentialed by Healthy Families America, which means they have achieved mastery of 12 critical elements of effective home visitation.



Did you know in Iowa 169,790 children under the age of 6 potentially need child care? Iowa is ranked 43rd in the nation for child care, so being able to provide a program for family child care providers like Quality Steps for Home Providers is crucial.

Source: Child Care Aware (<http://www.naccrra.org/public-policy/resources/child-care-state-fact-sheets-0>)

NECI Community Plan Priorities

1. Improve parenting skills in families where there are children ages prenatal through age 5
2. Enhance child care and preschool quality and availability



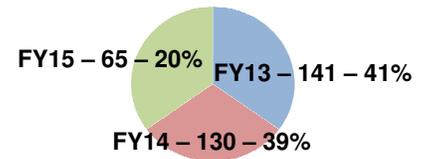
- **What services/programs/activities do we support and why?** Healthy Families home visiting program for overburdened families of young children; home visitors teach parents of young children child growth and development, as well as proper interactions with children ... **Preschool Tuition Scholarship Program** for children whose families are at or below 185% of poverty; makes it possible for more children to attend quality preschools, which means increased security and success in school and life... **Child Care Nurse Consultant** services to help create safe and healthy environments for children, **Quality Steps for Home Providers** to help family child care providers move forward in Iowa's Quality Rating System; ensures upward movement in quality for early learning environments... and **Professional Development Opportunities** for early childhood providers who work in center based, preschool and family child care settings.

How do we measure our progress? For NECI's priority of *enhance childcare and preschool quality and availability* we help meet our goals with the 3 areas mentioned below.

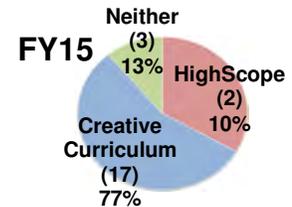
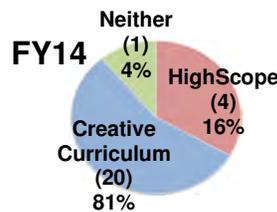
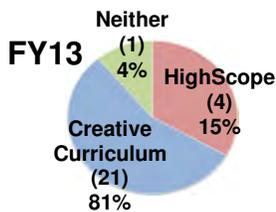
1. Providers attending professional development NECI has been able to provide funding for professional development geared toward family child care providers, and preschool and center staff. The opportunities are developed in collaboration with other local early childhood organizations with a variety of early childhood topics on the schedule.

How are we doing? Attendance grew significantly until FY13 due to a change of venue and less opportunities being offered. There are no more venue changes anticipated so growth is expected in upcoming years once again.

EEE Symposium Attendance Over 3 Year Period



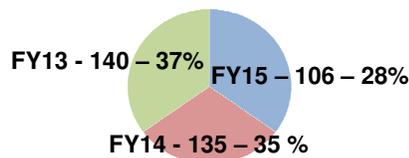
2. Research-based curriculum implementation progress in childcare centers and preschools Since support for attending training began in order that programs could begin the process of 1st get the overview training, 2nd commit to getting extended training in either curriculum, and 3rd begin the hard work of applying the knowledge into their setting, programs have begun to adopt research based curriculum. **How are we doing? We've gone from 81% of programs having no commitment to adopting research-based curriculum in 2008 to 87% presently having adopted a research-based curriculum.** We track where programs are in the stages of curriculum implementation.



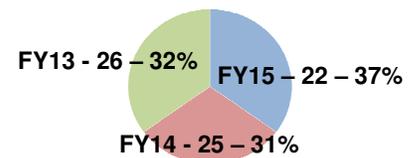
3. Preschool Tuition Scholarships NECI has had the opportunity to provide preschool tuition scholarships to families at or below 185% of poverty so more children would have an opportunity to attend quality preschool. Although we have seen a decrease in funding over recent years, this program is still utilized heavily by families in our area. Programs in the Preschool Tuition Scholarship Program are required to have a rating of 3 or higher in Iowa's Quality Rating System. **NOTE:** FY10 380 children received NECI preschool tuition scholarships, and FY15 106 children received NECI preschool tuition scholarships, drastic drop in funding caused drastic drop of available scholarships.



Children receiving NECI preschool tuition scholarships



Programs participating in NECI preschool tuition scholarship program



What can a citizen in the NECI area do to help?

- Learn about the connection between a child's first years of life and his/her success in school and adulthood, participate in planning council meetings in your county
- Support early childhood initiatives in your conversations, with your time and through your vote

Others within our community working on similar issues:

- NECI is working alongside Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. with the Child Care Nurse Consultant and Quality Steps
- NECI collaborates with Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. to plan and promote professional development opportunities
- Public Health programs are very instrumental in the delivery of our Healthy Families programming



Vision: Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful

Mission: Partnerships 4 Families utilizes community resource to provide opportunities for families with children ages 0-5 to be healthy and successful.

Partnerships 4 Families, Early Childhood Iowa Area Audubon, Carroll, Greene & Guthrie Counties

Cindy Duhrkopf, Area Director
PO Box 672
Carroll, Iowa 51401

Phone: 712-775-7926
Email: cduhrkopf@newopp.org
Website: www.partnerships4families.org

Curriculum Change in Home Visitation

After fifteen years of using the same curriculum our home visitation programs embraced a change and became trained in Growing Great Kids. Growing Great Kids is a curriculum based on building the attachment between a parent and child while instructing parents on child development milestones while building parenting, family strengthening & other essential life skills with parents who may have experienced childhood adversity and other traumatic events.

Families that were previous unengaged have become engaged and are writing goals, changing behaviors and engaging with their children in positive ways. Our H.O.P.E.S. programs served 239 Children in 175 Families in four counties.

Increased Community Involvement

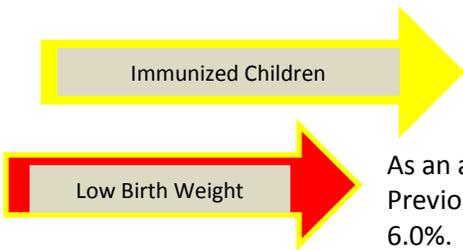
This year P4F witnessed more community involvement in early childhood initiatives by citizens in all our counties. Over 50 were involved in the development of the Children's Nest in Audubon alone.

SERVICES/PROGRAMS/ACTIVITES WE SUPPORT

- Family Support In-Home-Visitation 0 - 5 years
- Preschool Tuition Assistance/Support
- Center Child Care Consultant
- Oral Health - Screenings, Varnish, & Education
- Early Care & Education Provider Development
- Quality Improvement Grants
- Program Coordination



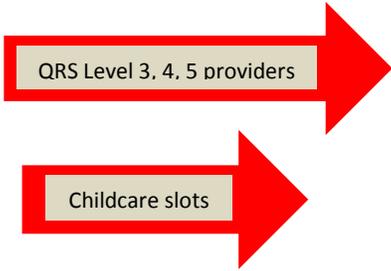
Healthy Children



The P4F area maintained immunization rates between 68-83% of 2 years olds fully immunized. We strive to have an 80% compliance rate over all. Our child care centers maintain a 95-100% of all children being in compliance.

As an area we saw a Decrease in Low Birth Weight babies born. Previous rate was 6.6% to 6.9%. 2013 stats reveal rates of 5.9-6.0%. A Low birth weight is less than 5.5 lbs.

Secure & Nurturing Child Care Environments



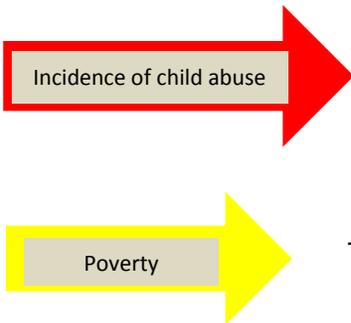
From 2013 to 2014 the P4F area saw a decrease in providers and child care slots. We maintained having 12 sites rated at a QRS 3-5.

There was a decrease in slots took place as a change in classification of providers arose, 2036 slots to 1768 slots of registered homes or centers due to respite providers no longer being counted.

Children Ready to Succeed in School

All of the P4F Indicators lead to children ready to succeed in school

Secure & Nurturing Families



2013 data shows that the P4F area had 85 confirmed cases of child abuse that involved children 5 years of age or younger. This was an increase over 78 in 2012.

The US Census reports that 12.7 % of all people in Iowa are living in poverty. In our counties a 2013 report shows that 11.7 to 19% of the children 0-17 live in poverty.

Color around the arrows translates how the P4F ECI area has or has not met the indicators established by the P4F ECI Board: Red, goals not met, Yellow, making progress toward goal, Green, goal met. Indicators are located in the P4F Early Childhood Community Plan.

CARING ADULTS
SAFE PLACES
HEALTHY START
MARKETABLE SKILLS
OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



300 West Broadway, Suite 213, Council Bluffs, IA 51503 Telephone: 712-256-9920
Patricia Russmann, Executive Director prussmann@cbcsd.org www.promisepartners.org
Melvyn Houser, Chairperson County Board of Supervisor

MISSION: *Empowering a caring community that promises the well-being of every child.*

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- ❖ Promise Partners prioritizes quality standards and evidenced-based programs with proven results.
- ❖ Improve outcomes for child well-being and family stability.
- ❖ Support for growth in the first five years will result in school success and later contribution to society.
- ❖ Without support during early years, a child will be highly likely to drop out of school, receive welfare benefits and commit crime.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Provide parent education, health services, and support for children ages 0-5.
2. Provide access to quality early learning environments for children ages 0-5.
3. Provide preschool support to low income families in programs meeting quality standards.
4. Promote social/emotional/behavioral health.

What services/programs/activities do we support?

- ✓ Pre-School Support Grants
- ✓ Child Care Quality Improvement
- ✓ Child Care Consultant and Nurse Consultant
- ✓ Community Planning, Coordination and Collaboration
- ✓ Nurturing Parent Group-Based Parent Education
- ✓ Parents As Teachers Home Visitation
- ✓ Welcoming Infants into the Neighborhood (Growing Great Kids) Home Visitation
- ✓ Coordinated Intake for Family Support
- ✓ Teacher –Child Interaction Therapy

What did we accomplish?

Secure and Nurturing Families:

- 284 children participated in a family support program
- 2276 home visits were completed and 48 group-based parent education classes
- 77% of participating families improve or maintain healthy functioning, problem solving and communication
- 75% of participating families increase or maintain social supports
- 82% of participating families are connected to additional concrete supports
- 69% of participating families increased knowledge about child development and parenting
- 82% of participating families improve nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and child(ren).

Children Ready to Succeed in School:

- 53 child care providers participated in technical assistance and consultation services
- 88% of child care providers met goals established for quality improvement
- 42 child care providers participated in quality improvement for learning environments
- 40% rated at least a 3 or higher on the QRS
- 32 child care providers participated in child care nurse services
- 93% improved health and safety standards
- 858 children attended quality preschool program due to braiding funding streams with ECI, State 4-year-old preschool, shared vision, and other sources.
- 87% of children demonstrated age appropriate skills

Did you know? Economic experts say mounting evidence shows that investments in early care and education should be considered as an economic development strategy. The High Scope Perry Preschool Project report found that a return to society of more than **\$17** for every \$1 invested in an early care and education program! **For more information, visit:**

www.highscope.org/perrypreschoolstudy

Evidence based family support programs help build pre-literacy skills and improve achievement test scores. Research shows:

- ❖ At age 6, children who participated in a quality program have higher cognitive and vocabulary scores.
- ❖ At age 9, these children have higher grade point averages and achievement test scores in math and reading in first through third grades. For more information, visit www.pewtrust.org

What can you do to help?

- Ask your elected officials to prioritize services to children.
- Volunteer at and/or donate to a program serving children and their families.
- Share this information with others.
- Contact Promise Partners – Pottawattamie County’s Alliance for Children to get involved.

Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Area
Serving Families and Children in
Adams, Ringgold, Taylor and Union Counties in Iowa

Vicki Sickels, Director
807 W. Columbus Street | Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854 | vickisickels@iowatelecom.net

Vision Statement

A Child, Beginning At Birth, Will Be Healthy & Successful.

Mission Statement

We will collaborate as a four county area to enhance the lives of children 0-5 and their families.



Did You Know?

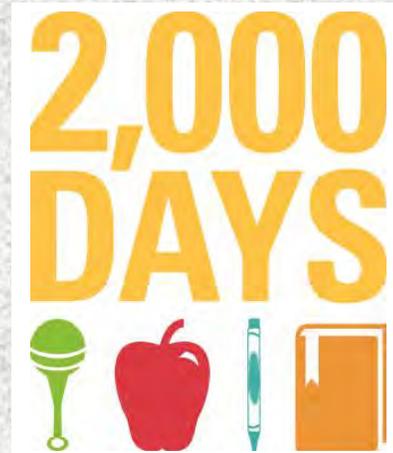
71% of mother's in Iowa with infants are in the
labor force. *Zero to Three*
1500 Childcare/Preschool spaces in the four
county area are listed with CCR&R

**Programs and Activities
Supported**

- Family Support In-Home-Visitation 0 – 5 years
- Preschool Scholarship/Support and Transportation
- Consultation Services for Early Care Environments
- Oral Health - Screenings, Varnish, & Education
- Early Care & Education Provider Development
- Quality Improvement Grants
- Program Coordination
- Needs Assessment

Community Plan Priorities

- Children's growth and development
- Children's education
- Stable and supportive families
- Quality Child Care



There are approximately 2000 days between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first 2000 days of a child's life can be a PROFOUND and LIFELONG impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.

Our Partners

Creative Beginnings Preschool

Creighton Alegent Health Care

Diagonal CSD Early Childhood Programs

Discovery Kids Preschool

East Union Early Childhood Center

Hearts and Hugs Preschool and Day Care

I Think I Can Childcare Center

In-Home Day Care Providers

ISU Extension Adams County

ISU Extension Taylor County

Joyful Sparks Preschool

MATURA Action Corporation

Positive Approach Preschool

Precious People Preschool

Ringgold County Family Resource Center

Ringgold County Public Health

Southwestern Community College

Taylor County Public Health

Tinker Tots Preschool

Trinity Lutheran Preschool



74

of Children able to attend preschool with the help of Tuition Assistance

42% were at or below 100% FPL

34% were 101-150% FPL

24% were 151-200% FPL

92

% of those children demonstrated age appropriate skills

70%

of early learning environments participating in quality improvement had a QRS rating of 3 or higher

1180

visits made to families by our family support programs

85

% of families who improved or maintained healthy, functioning problem solving and communication

70

% of families that increased knowledge about child development and parenting

72

% of families that increased or maintained social supports

85

% of families were connected to additional concrete supports

Early childhood education boosts economic, social mobility

The issue of school preparedness has further relevance as we compete in a world economy increasingly fueled by a knowledge-based workforce. A recent Manpower study showed that 49 percent of employers struggle to fill jobs because too many job seekers lack the right skills. The solution is to close the achievement gap early so that more under-served children enter kindergarten with the vocabulary of their more economically secure peers.

Cressman Bronson, regional president of PNC Bank of Florida
September 1, 2014, Palm Beach Post

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa



Counties in Area: Scott
Contact for Area: Diane Martens
600 W. 4th Street,
Davenport, Iowa 52801
Phone: 563/326-8221
Fax: 563/328-3224
Diane.Martens@scottcountyiowa.com
www.scottcountyiowa.com

Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Mission: Coordinating and expansion of resources and services in the community to build environments for young children that enable them to be physically healthy, intellectually curious, emotionally sound and socially competent. Led by citizens, this system of public and private entities provides a continuum of seamless services targeted at helping all children reach their full potential.

Community Plan Priorities:

1. Advance healthy physical and mental development of all children, with a priority to at-risk children.
2. Increase access to affordable quality learning environments for all children.
3. Increase awareness regarding the importance of the early years.
4. Increase positive relationships between children and parents.
5. Increase the number of center and home based providers meeting quality standards.

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa recently issued a request for proposal for evidenced based, home visitation services. Genesis proposed offering **Family Connects** in the community. Scott County Kids is now contracted with Genesis to provide this evidenced based service in Scott County.

Family Connects' mission is to increase child well-being by bridging the gap between parent needs and community resources.

Results from interviews with a random, representative sub sample of 549 families at infant age 6-months suggest that random assignment to the [Durham Connects](#) (DC) program (vs. services as usual) was associated with:

- Greater Community Connections: DC families reported 16% more connections to community resources within the past three months.
- Utilization of Higher Quality Child Care: When using center-based care, DC families utilized higher quality care, as rated by the North Carolina 5-Star Child Care Rating System.
- Higher Quality Parenting Behaviors: DC mothers reported significantly more positive parenting behaviors with their infant (e.g., hugging, reading); Blinded research assistants independently rated DC-eligible mothers as providing higher quality parenting (sensitivity to, and acceptance of, the infant).

- Higher Quality Home Environments: Blinded research assistants independently rated DC-eligible families as having higher quality home environments (e.g., safety, books, toys, and learning materials).
- Better Mother Mental Health: DC mothers were 28% less likely to report possible clinical anxiety.
- Reduced Emergency Medical Care for Infants: DC mothers reported 35% less total infant emergency medical care (hospital overnights + emergency department and emergency doctor visits).

Infant Emergency Hospital Emergency Care at Age 12-Months

- Hospital administrative records at infant age 12-months indicate that Durham Connects families had 50% less total emergency medical care utilization (ER visits + hospital overnights) across the first 12 months of life.



- **Supportive guidance** is spelled out in the protocol and provided by home visitors at all visits (e.g., back to sleep, the benefits of tummy time)
- Nurse visitors are trained to provide **systematic education** in response to parent queries and nurse observation in areas of possible difficulties in adapting to the newborn (e.g., breastfeeding, support for “baby blues,” and others)
- The family and nurse plan together for **individualized “connection”** with community resources and services. (Rather than simply providing referrals, the nurse actively connects and links the family with the services.)
- As indicated clinically, the initial home visit can have one or more **follow up visits**/telephone calls to complete the assessments and to ensure linkage to local services and resources. The goal of follow up is to support the community resource linkage but not to become “case management.” Follow up visits also allow for additional assessment of family risk, and more direct intervention, such as weighing the infant having feeding difficulties, continuing to assess postpartum depression, and so forth.
- A direct link between Family Connects and the local Department of Social Services is essential to facilitate the family’s ease of access to and knowledge about eligible benefits, such as Medicaid eligibility, SNAP benefits (food stamps), and others
- Systematic quality assurance is critical and includes: protocol adherence, accurate assessment of family risks and needs, inter-rater reliability in rating the Family Support Matrix, and consumer satisfaction.



Ida & Woodbury County
Early Childhood Iowa
1520 Morningside Avenue
Sioux City, IA 51106
712-222-6391(p); 712-222-6216(f)
khall@siouxlandship.org

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15)

Our Mission: SHIP provides leadership in response to identified community needs and collaboratively provides for the delivery of health, human services, education and public safety in Siouxland.

Early Childhood Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Preschool and Early Learning

- * SHIP's Early Childhood Iowa funds helped 128 children aged 0-5, from 121 low-income families, gain access to 15 high quality preschool and child care programs through scholarship assistance
- * The average cost per scholarship was \$1,678
- * 87% of these children displayed age appropriate skills by the end of the year

Family Support Programs

- * SHIP's Early Childhood Iowa funds served 565 children aged 0-5 from 412 at-risk families through 5 family support programs (4 of which are nationally accredited, 1 of which is a state-accredited Family Resource Center)
- * 76% of the families completing these programs reported that they improved healthy functioning, problem-solving and communication as a result of being a program participant

Story of Success

Crittenton Center's Resource Center staff received a referral to begin working with a family who had previously been turned into Child Protective Services with allegations of child abuse. The children were removed from the home when the allegations of physical abuse against the children by the father were founded by DHS. Staff met with the children's mother in the home and did parenting classes. During the last session, the mother told her worker that after all of the education, she knew she had to leave her husband in order to get the children back, and keep them safe. The mom did take action – she moved into her own place and her children were returned to her. Mom and the children are currently in family therapy. Without the parenting classes, this mother might not have had the education to make this vital decision for her family.

Services, programs and activities we support:

- * Quality Preschool and Child Care Scholarships to Low-Income Families
- * On-site Quality Child Care Center for Teenage Parents obtaining a High School Diploma
- * On-site Quality Child Care Center for Women in Drug/Alcohol treatment and Housing
- * Evidence-Based, Nationally Accredited In-Home Family Support Programs for At-Risk families
- * Full-time I-Smile Oral Health Collaborative Program to Provide Screenings and Fluoride Varnishes to Children aged 0-5
- * State-Accredited Family Resource Center with In-Home visits and Parenting Classes
- * Quality Improvement and Health & Safety Mini-Grants to aid Child Care and Preschool Providers (In-Home and Center-Based) move up in the Iowa Quality Rating System (QRS)
- * Annual Kids Fest Health Fair for Ida County Children & Families
- * Professional Development for Early Childhood providers in Ida & Woodbury Counties
- * Western Iowa Tech Community College Early Childhood Education Scholarships for Child Care Providers working in Ida or Woodbury County

Promoting Oral Health to Children & Families

SHIP's Early Childhood Iowa funds have supported the Oral Health Program at Siouxland District Health since SHIP was designated an Early Childhood Iowa area in 1999. Now called the I-Smile Oral Health Program, the program provides dental screenings and fluoride varnishes, as well as dental health education to children 0-5 at child care centers, preschools and kindergarten registrations in Ida and Woodbury Counties. This year, 1,112 children were served. Of those 1,112, nearly 312 needed follow-up dental care. 68% of those children were later seen by a dentist. 72% of the children screened were cavity-free. The total average cost for these screenings is very low: only \$66.22 per child.

Siouxland Human Investment Partnership is committed to increasing the quality and accessibility of services for families with young children. SHIP has been able to do this through collaboration with dozens of quality Early Childhood Programs including:





Counties in Area: Bremer, Butler, Franklin & Grundy
Contact for Area: Shawna Lebeck, T4F Project Coordinator
Address: 713 Elm Street, PO Box 306, Allison, IA 50602
Phone: 319-267-2594 **Fax:** 319-267-2413
E-Mail: slebeck@dhs.state.ia.us
Website: together4families.org

VISION: The vision of Together 4 Families is to create collaborative communities that promote child safety, health and overall well-being for children, as well as nurturing and quality learning environments.

MISSION: The mission of Together 4 Families is to provide the opportunity for community members to identify strengths and needs of families with children ages 0-18. Together 4 Families will identify ways to fill gaps in services and maximize resources to support families and children who reside in or are in a school district within Bremer, Butler, Franklin or Grundy Counties.

SUCCESS STORY

In May of 2015, Faith Lutheran Preschool and Childcare Center in Shell Rock (Butler County) achieved Quality Rating System (QRS) Level 5. Faith Lutheran has been in operation since 1982 and has been working to improve their quality of service while progressing through QRS, with the assistance of Child Care Resource and Referral. The director of the center, Mila Smith, said, “Children deserve the best experience we can offer and with this achievement, our families have the assurance that providing a quality program in a Christian setting is of the utmost importance to us. The hard work, dedication, and passion of our staff is recognized by receiving the highest rating for licensed preschools and child care centers.”

Did you know?

The 2005 Iowa Legislature supported the creation of a voluntary quality rating system for child care providers. In doing so, the QRS is designed to:

- Make providers aware of the many paths and steps they can take to improve the quality of care provided to children.
- Offer parents another resource in evaluating and selecting a child care provider.
- Give local communities, businesses, organizations, and funders a “menu” of activities, training, and support they can offer to child care providers right in their own communities.

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- ❖ Without Early Childhood Iowa coordination and financial resources many of the programs and services to support families with young children would not be available in Bremer, Butler, Franklin and Grundy Counties.

TOGETHER 4 FAMILIES COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Community Collaboration and Coordination (Safe and Supportive Communities)
2. Home visitation, Parent Education and Family Support Services (Healthy Children, Secure & Nurturing Families, Safe and Supportive Communities)
3. Quality Preschool Programming Opportunities and Support Services (Children Ready to Succeed in School)
4. Quality Early Care and Education Services and Supports (Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments)

TOGETHER 4 FAMILIES-EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDED PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Early Childhood Fund	<p>Child Care Consultant builds capacity by recruiting child care providers and improves quality through the promotion of registration with improvement supports and professional development.</p> <p>Professional Development provides early care providers with opportunities to attend trainings that will enhance and increase the quality of care. (Combination of Early Childhood & School Ready Funding)</p>
School Ready Fund	<p>Child Care Nurse Consultant provides consultation and training in regard to health and safety issues for registered and licensed child care providers.</p> <p>Community Coordination enhances a comprehensive and integrated early care and education system at the local level.</p> <p>Coordinated Intake provides a single point of entry into early childhood services in Grundy County, while also linking families with appropriate family support and parent education services.</p> <p>Early Childhood Liaison administers preschool tuition scholarships and works with preschools to promote quality programs. Provides assistance with board support and community planning.</p> <p>Enhancement Grants for child care and early learning environments to purchase incentive items to assist them in meeting or maintaining quality standards.</p> <p>Families Together II home visitation service enhances and improves parent knowledge and skills to reduce child abuse and neglect, while promoting the overall health and well-being of the family.</p> <p>Family Nest group based parenting program designed to increase parent knowledge and skills through educational opportunities, goal setting and other community supports.</p> <p>Homes with Healthy Children (HHC) home visitation service that focuses on child safety, health, school readiness, parent-child interaction and family coping skills.</p> <p>Partners for Healthy Families research based, home visitation program that provides child development knowledge and parenting support.</p> <p>Preschool Tuition Scholarships to support low-income families and children.</p> <p>Transportation Assistance provides partial mileage reimbursement, to families with children attending Head Start, when transportation is the barrier that would prevent them from attending.</p>

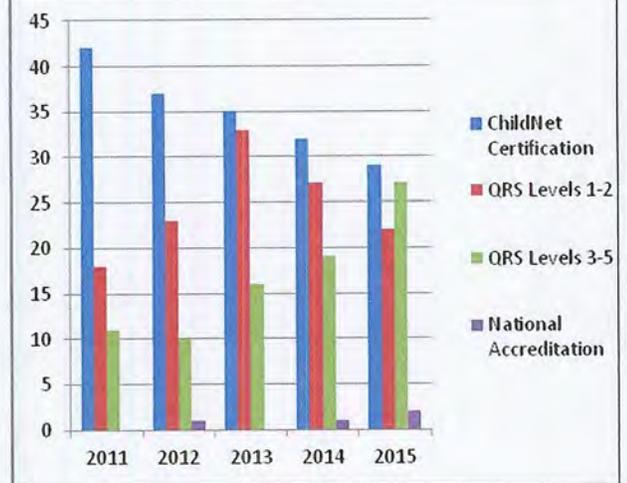
How do we measure our progress? Child Care Quality Indicators (T4F AREA)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
ChildNet Certification	42	37	35	32	29
QRS Levels 1-2	18	23	33	27	22
QRS Levels 3-5	11	10	16	19	27
National Accreditation	0	1	0	1	2

Analysis of the Data/ Factors affecting the data:

Together 4 Families initially focused on increasing the quantity of child care available throughout the area. Over time, the quantity increased substantially. As the quantity increased, the emphasis began to shift to focusing on increasing the quality of the care. Home child care providers have been encouraged to become registered. And, home child care providers, child care centers, and preschools have all been encouraged to participate in QRS. The homes, centers, and preschools have been able to access support through Child Care Resource and Referral to assist them with registration, training, and increasing the quality of their services. Early Childhood Iowa funding has been utilized to contract with Child Care Resource and Referral to make supportive services available at the local level.

**Chart Details: While the number of ChildNet Certifications has decreased over the years, the number of programs participating at the higher levels of QRS (3-5) and in National Accreditation have increased. Programs participating in QRS (1-2) did increase initially, but have decreased in recent years due to the programs moving to the higher QRS levels.*



What can you do to help?

- Participate in community planning.
- Advocate and educate on behalf of families with young children.
- Volunteer your time or resources.

Others within our community working on similar issues:

Decategorization, Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, County Planning Groups-Child Abuse Prevention Councils, Civic Groups and Organizations, Child and Family Service Providers, School Districts, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, and Families.