

## **28.9 Iowa empowerment fund.**

1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the state treasury. The moneys in the Iowa empowerment fund are not subject to section 8.33 and shall not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or otherwise encumbered except as provided by law. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa empowerment fund shall be credited to the fund.
2. A school ready children grants account is created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the authority of the director of the department of education. Moneys credited to the account shall be distributed by the department of education in the form of grants to community empowerment areas pursuant to criteria established by the Iowa board in accordance with law.
3.
  - a.* An early childhood programs grant account is created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the authority of the director of human services. Moneys credited to the account are appropriated to and shall be distributed by the department of human services in the form of grants to community empowerment areas pursuant to criteria established by the Iowa board in accordance with law. The criteria shall include but are not limited to a requirement that a community empowerment area must be designated by the Iowa board in accordance with section 28.5, in order to be eligible to receive an early childhood programs grant.
  - b.* The maximum funding amount a community empowerment area is eligible to receive from the early childhood programs grant account for a fiscal year shall be determined by applying the area's percentage of the state's average monthly family investment program population in the preceding fiscal year to the total amount credited to the account for the fiscal year.
  - c.* A community empowerment area receiving funding from the early childhood programs grant account shall comply with any federal reporting requirements associated with the use of that funding and other results and reporting requirements established by the Iowa empowerment board. The department of human services shall provide technical assistance in identifying and meeting the federal requirements. The availability of funding provided from the account is subject to changes in federal requirements and amendments to Iowa law.
  - d.* The moneys distributed from the early childhood programs grant account shall be used by community empowerment areas for the purposes of enhancing quality child care capacity in support of parent capability to obtain or retain employment. The moneys shall be used with a primary emphasis on low-income families and children from birth to five years of age. Moneys shall be provided in a flexible manner and shall be used to implement strategies identified by the community empowerment area to achieve such purposes. The department of human services may use a portion of the funding appropriated to the department under this subsection for provision of technical assistance and other support to community empowerment areas developing and implementing strategies with grant moneys distributed from the account.
  - e.* Moneys from a federal block grant that are credited to the early childhood programs grant account but are not distributed to a community empowerment area or otherwise remain unobligated or unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall revert to the fund created in section 8.41 to be available for appropriation by the general assembly in a subsequent fiscal year.
4. Beginning July 1, 1999, unless a different amount is authorized by law, up to three percent, not to exceed sixty thousand dollars, of the school ready children grant moneys distributed under the auspices of the Iowa board to a community empowerment area board may be used by the community board for administrative costs and other implementation expenses.

98 Acts, ch 1206, §9, 20

C99, §7I.8

99 Acts, ch 190, §14, 15, 19, 20

CS99, §28.9

2005 Acts, ch 175, §56