

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT

Footnotes

Purposes of Act; 98 Acts, ch 1206, §1
Legislative findings and intent; 98 Acts, ch 1206, §12
Chapter transferred from chapter 7I pursuant to Code editor directive; 99 Acts, ch 190, §19, 20

28.1 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "*Community empowerment area*" means a geographic area designated in accordance with this chapter.
2. "*Community empowerment area board*" or "*community board*" means the board for a community empowerment area created in accordance with this chapter.
3. "*Decategorization project*" means a decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding project operated under section 232.188.
4. "*Early care*", "*early care services*", or "*early care system*" means the programs, services, support, or other assistance made available to a parent or other person who is involved with addressing the health and education needs of a child from birth through age five. "*Early care*", "*early care services*", or "*early care system*" includes but is not limited to public and private efforts and formal and informal settings.
5. "*Iowa empowerment board*" or "*Iowa board*" means the Iowa empowerment board created in section 28.3.

98 Acts, ch 1206, §2, 20

C99, §7I.1

99 Acts, ch 190, §1, 19, 20

CS99, §28.1

2005 Acts, ch 148, §1; 2006 Acts, ch 1157, §1

28.2 Purpose and scope.

1. The purpose of creating the community empowerment initiative is to empower individuals and their communities to achieve desired results for improving the quality of life in the communities in this state. It is expected that the empowerment of individuals will strengthen the individuals' sense of responsibility for their neighbors and promote partnerships in order for all to succeed. It is believed that the desired results identified by individuals and their communities, with the support of the state, will be achieved as individuals, governments, and agencies work collaboratively within communities. It is believed that local individuals in local communities working together will identify and implement the best means for attaining the desired results for themselves and their neighbors. The role of the Iowa empowerment board, the state, and local governments is to support and facilitate growth of individual and community responsibility in place of the directive role that the public has come to expect of government.

2. It is intended that through the community empowerment initiative every community in Iowa will develop the capacity and commitment for using local decision making to achieve the following initial set of desired

results:

- a. Healthy children.
- b. Children ready to succeed in school.
- c. Safe and supportive communities.
- d. Secure and nurturing families.
- e. Secure and nurturing early care and education environments.

3. To achieve the initial set of desired results, the initiative's primary focus shall first be on the efforts of the state and communities to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of early care, education, health, and human services provided to families with children from birth through age five years.

4. It is anticipated that the scope of the initiative will expand as additional desired results are identified and agreed upon by communities and the state. It is the intent of the general assembly to identify from time to time the additional desired results in statute.

99 Acts, ch 190, §2, 19, 20; 2005 Acts, ch 148, §2; 2006 Acts, ch 1157, §2, 3

28.3 Iowa empowerment board created.

1. An Iowa empowerment board is created to facilitate state and community efforts involving community empowerment areas, including strategic planning, funding identification, and guidance, and to promote collaboration among state and local early care, education, health, and human services programs.
2. The Iowa board shall consist of twenty-two voting members with sixteen citizen members and six state agency members. The six state agency members shall be the directors of the following departments: economic development, education, human rights, human services, public health, and workforce development. The sixteen citizen members shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate. The governor's appointments of citizen members shall be made in a manner so that each of the state's congressional districts is represented by at least two citizen members and so that all the appointments as a whole reflect the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of the state. The governor's appointees shall be selected from individuals nominated by community empowerment area boards. The nominations shall reflect the range of interests represented on the community boards so that the governor is able to appoint one or more members each for early care, education, health, human services, business, faith, and public interests. At least one of the citizen members shall be a service consumer or the parent of a service consumer. Terms of office of all citizen members are three years. A vacancy on the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.
3. Citizen members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of their duties. Members shall be paid a per diem as specified in section 7E.6.
4. In addition to the voting members, the Iowa board shall include six members of the general assembly with not more than two members from each chamber being from the same political party. The three senators shall be appointed by the majority leader of the senate after consultation with the president of the senate and the minority leader of the senate. The three representatives shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives after consultation with the majority and minority leaders of the house of representatives. Legislative members shall serve in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity. A legislative member is eligible for per diem and expenses as provided in section 2.10.

5. A community empowerment assistance team or teams of state agency representatives shall be designated to provide technical assistance and other support to community empowerment areas and for the board's efforts to address early care, education, health, and human services. A technical assistance system shall be developed using local representatives of the state agencies represented on the Iowa board and other state agencies and individuals involved with local early care, education, health, and human services.

6. *a.* Staffing services to the Iowa board shall be provided by the state agencies which are represented on the Iowa board and by other state agencies making staffing available to the Iowa board.

b. In addition, a community empowerment office is established as a division of the department of management to provide a center for facilitation, communication, and coordination for community empowerment activities and funding and for improvement of the early care, education, health, and human services systems. Staffing for the community empowerment office shall be provided by a facilitator appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate, and who serves at the pleasure of the governor. A deputy and support staff may be designated, subject to appropriation made for this purpose. The facilitator shall submit reports to the governor, the Iowa board, and the general assembly. The facilitator shall provide primary staffing to the board, coordinate state technical assistance activities and implementation of the technical assistance system, and other communication and coordination functions to move authority and decision-making responsibility from the state to communities and individuals.

7. The director of the department of management shall designate early care staff, as part of the community empowerment initiative, to provide coordination and other support to the state's early care system. The early care staff shall work with the state and local components of the community empowerment initiative, shared visions programs funded under chapter 256A, and other public and private efforts to improve the early care system. The early care staff duties shall include but are not limited to the following:

a. Providing support to the public and private stakeholders who are involved with the early care system, acting to strengthen the early care system, and developing accountability measures for early care efforts.

b. Developing and disseminating accountability measures for assessing the outcomes produced by the department of education, the community empowerment initiative, and other publicly funded efforts to improve early care of young children, including but not limited to shared visions and other programs provided under the auspices of the child development coordinating council, high-quality preschool programs, head start programs, and school ready children grant programs. The initial measures utilized shall be the individual growth and development indicators developed by the early childhood research institute on measuring growth and development or other measures of high quality to be authorized by law.

c. Collecting, interpreting, and redisseminating data collected from the measures for assessing outcomes under paragraph "*b*". Factors subject to interpretation may include area demographics, relative expenditures, collaboration between programs in an area, and other factors impacting the outcomes produced by an individual program.

d. Annually providing information to the governor and general assembly regarding the outcomes produced by individual programs. The information shall be included in the Iowa empowerment board's annual report.

8. The Iowa board may designate an advisory council consisting of representatives from community empowerment area boards.

9. The Iowa board shall elect a chairperson from among the citizen board members and may select other officers from among the citizen board members as determined to be necessary by the board. The board shall meet regularly as determined by the board, upon the call of the board's chairperson, or upon the call of a majority of voting members.

98 Acts, ch 1206, §3, 20

C99, §7I.2

99 Acts, ch 190, §36, 19, 20

CS99, §28.3

2000 Acts, ch 1223, §17; 2004 Acts, ch 1175, §221; 2005 Acts, ch 148, §36; 2005 Acts, ch 179, §109; 2006 Acts, ch 1030, §6; 2006 Acts, ch 1157, §4

Footnotes

Confirmation; §2.32

Early care and child care provider incentives study; early care integration plan; participation in federal head start pilot program to promote coordination of head start, preschool, and child care programs into comprehensive early childhood system; 2005 Acts, ch 148, §17, 18, 22

28.4 Iowa empowerment board duties.

The Iowa board shall perform the following duties:

1. Perform duties relating to community empowerment areas.
2. Manage and coordinate the provision of grant funding and other moneys made available to community empowerment areas by combining all or portions of appropriations or other revenues as authorized by law.
3. Develop advanced community empowerment area arrangements for those community empowerment areas which were formed in transition from a decategorization governance board or which otherwise provide evidence of extensive successful experience in managing services and funding with high levels of community support and input.
4. Identify boards, commissions, committees, and other bodies in state government with overlapping and similar purposes which contribute to redundancy and fragmentation in early care, education, health, and human services programs provided to the public. The board shall also make recommendations and provide an annually updated strategic plan to the governor and general assembly as appropriate for increasing coordination between these bodies, for eliminating bureaucratic duplication, for consolidation where appropriate, for improving the efficiency of working with federally mandated bodies, for integration of services and service quality functions to achieve improved results, and for integration of state-administered funding streams directed to community empowerment areas and other community-based efforts for providing early care, education, health, and human services.
5. Assist with the linkage of child welfare and juvenile justice decategorization projects with community empowerment areas.
6. Coordinate and respond to any requests from a community board relating to any of the following:
 - a. Waiver of existing rules, federal regulation, or amendment of state law, or removal of other barriers.

b. Pooling and redirecting of existing federal, state, or other public or private funds.

c. Seeking of federal waivers.

d. Consolidating community-level committees, planning groups, and other bodies with common memberships formed in response to state requirements.

In coordinating and responding to the requests, the Iowa board shall work with state agencies and submit proposals to the governor and general assembly as necessary to fulfill requests deemed appropriate by the Iowa board.

7. Provide for maximum flexibility and creativity in the designation and administration of the responsibilities and authority of community empowerment areas.

8. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A as necessary for the designation, governance, and oversight of community empowerment areas and the administration of this chapter. The Iowa board shall provide for community board input in the rules adoption process. The rules shall include but are not limited to the following:

a. Indicators of the effectiveness of community empowerment areas, community boards, and the services provided under the auspices of the community boards. The indicators shall be developed with input from community boards and shall build upon the core indicators of effectiveness for the school ready grant program, as described in section 28.8.

b. Minimum standards to further the provision of equal access to services subject to the authority of community boards.

c. Core functions for family support services, parent education programs, and preschool services provided under a school ready children grant.

9. Implement a process for community empowerment areas to identify desired results for improving the quality of life in this state. The process shall allow for consideration of updates, additions, and deletions on a regular basis. The identified desired results shall be submitted to the governor and general assembly.

10. Develop guidelines for recommended coverage and take other actions to assist community empowerment area boards in acquiring necessary insurance or other liability coverage at a reasonable cost. Moneys expended by a community empowerment area board to acquire necessary insurance or other liability coverage shall be considered an administrative cost and implementation expense.

11. *a.* With extensive community involvement, develop and annually update a five-year plan for consolidating, blending, and redistributing state-administered funding streams for children from birth through age five made available to community empowerment area boards.

b. With extensive community involvement, develop and annually update a ten-year plan for consolidating, blending, and redistributing state-administered funding streams for other age groups made available to community empowerment area boards. The focus for the early years of the initial ten-year plan shall be on the efforts of the Iowa board and affected state agencies to facilitate implementation of individual community empowerment area board requests for pooling, consolidating, blending, and redistributing state-administered funding streams for other age groups.

c. Submit plans and plan updates developed under paragraphs "*a*" and "*b*" to the community empowerment areas, the governor, and the general assembly annually in December.

d. The Iowa empowerment board shall regularly make information available identifying community empowerment funding and funding distributed for purposes of the early care system. It is the intent of the general assembly that the community empowerment area boards and the administrators of the early care programs located within the community empowerment areas that are supported by public funding shall fully cooperate with one another in order to avoid duplication, enhance efforts, combine planning, and take other steps to best utilize the funding to meet the needs of the families in the areas. The community empowerment area boards and the program administrators shall annually submit a report concerning such efforts to the community empowerment office. If a community empowerment area is receiving a school ready children grant, this report shall be an addendum to the annual report required under section 28.8. The state community empowerment facilitator shall compile and summarize the reports which shall be submitted to the governor, general assembly, and Iowa board.

12. Integrate statewide quality standards and results indicators adopted by other boards and commissions into the Iowa empowerment board's funding requirements for investments in early care, education, health, and human services.

13. With the assistance of the state departments represented on the Iowa empowerment board and the community empowerment office, develop and implement requirements for community empowerment areas and the state administrators of programs providing early care or early care services to annually report to the public and the early care staff designated pursuant to section 28.3 regarding the results produced by the community empowerment initiative and by the programs. Source data shall also be made available to the early care staff.

98 Acts, ch 1206, §4, 20

C99, §7I.3

99 Acts, ch 190, §79, 19, 20

CS99, §28.4

2001 Acts, ch 106, §1, 4; 2003 Acts, ch 44, §19; 2004 Acts, ch 1086, §11; 2005 Acts, ch 148, §79; 2005 Acts, ch 179, §110; 2006 Acts, ch 1010, §15; 2006 Acts, ch 1030, §7; 2006 Acts, ch 1157, §57

28.5 Community empowerment areas.

1. The purpose of a community empowerment area is to enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving early care, education, health, and human services programs on behalf of the children, families, and other citizens residing in the area. Leadership functions may include but are not limited to strategic planning for and oversight and managing of such programs and the funding made available to the community empowerment area for such programs from federal, state, local, and private sources. The initial focus of the purpose is to improve results for families with young children.

2. Each county and school district in the state shall have the option of participating in a community empowerment area. A community empowerment area shall be designated by using existing school district and county boundaries to the extent possible.

3. The designation of a community empowerment area and the creation of a community empowerment area board are subject to the approval of the Iowa empowerment board. Criteria used by the Iowa empowerment board in approving the designation of a community empowerment area shall include but are not limited to the existence of a large enough geographic area and population to efficiently and effectively administer the

responsibilities and authority of the community empowerment area. The Iowa empowerment board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing procedures for the initial designation of community empowerment areas and for later changing the initially designated areas.

98 Acts, ch 1206, §5, 20

C99, §7I.4

99 Acts, ch 190, §19, 20

CS99, §28.5

2005 Acts, ch 148, §10

28.6 Community empowerment area boards created.

1. *a.* Community empowerment area functions shall be performed under the authority of a community empowerment area board. A majority of the members of a community board shall be elected officials and members of the public who are not employed by a provider of services to or for the community board. At least one member shall be a service consumer or the parent of a service consumer. Terms of office of community board members shall be not more than three years and the terms shall be staggered. The membership of a community empowerment area board shall include members with early care, education, health, human services, business, faith, and public interests.

b. If a disagreement arises within a community empowerment area regarding the interests represented on the community board, board decisions, or other disputes that cannot be locally resolved, upon request, state or regional technical assistance may be provided to assist the area in resolving the disagreement.

2. A community board may designate representatives of service providers or public agency staff to provide technical assistance to the community board.

3. A community board may designate a professional advisory council consisting of persons employed by or otherwise paid to represent an entity listed in subsection 1 or other provider of service.

4. The community board shall elect a chairperson from among the members who are citizens, elected officials, or volunteers.

5. A community empowerment area board is a unit of local government for purposes of chapter 670, relating to tort liability of governmental subdivisions. For purposes of implementing a formal organizational structure, a community empowerment board may utilize recommended guidelines and bylaws established for this purpose by the Iowa board. All meetings of a community empowerment area board or any committee or other body established by a community board at which public business is discussed or formal action taken shall comply with the requirements of chapter 21. A community board shall maintain its records in accordance with chapter 22.

98 Acts, ch 1206, §6, 20

C99, §7I.5

99 Acts, ch 190, §10, 11, 19, 20; 99 Acts, ch 192, §33

CS99, §28.6

28.7 Community empowerment area board responsibilities and authority.

1. A community empowerment area board shall do the following:

a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in section 28E.2, a community action agency as defined in section 216A.91, an area education agency established under section 273.2, or a nonprofit corporation, to be the fiscal agent for grant moneys and for other moneys administered by the community board.

b. Administer community empowerment grant moneys available from the state to the community board as provided by law and other federal, state, local, and private moneys made available to the community board. Eligibility for receipt of community empowerment grant moneys shall be limited to those community boards that have developed an approved school ready children grant plan in accordance with this chapter. A community board may apply to the Iowa empowerment board to receive as a community empowerment grant those moneys which would otherwise only be available within the geographic area through categorical funding sources or programs.

c. If a community empowerment area includes a decategorization project, coordinate planning and budgeting with the decategorization governing board. By mutual agreement between the community board and the decategorization governance board, the community board may assume the duties of the decategorization governance board or the decategorization governance board may continue as a committee of the community board.

d. Assume other responsibilities established by law or administrative rule.

2. A community board may do any of the following:

a. Designate one or more committees for oversight of grant moneys awarded to the community empowerment area.

b. Function as a coordinating body for services offered by different entities directed to similar purposes within the community empowerment area.

c. Develop neighborhood bodies for community-level input to the community board and implementation of services.

98 Acts, ch 1206, §7, 20

C99, §7I.6

99 Acts, ch 190, §12, 19, 20

CS99, §28.7

2001 Acts, ch 106, §2, 4

28.8 School ready children grant program establishment and administration.

1. The departments of education, human services, and public health shall jointly develop and promote a school ready children grant program which shall provide for all of the following components:

a. Identify the indicators that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the school ready children grants,

including the amount of early intellectual stimulation of very young children, the basic skill levels of students entering school, the health status of children, the incidence of child abuse and neglect, the level of parental involvement with their children, and the degree of quality of and accessibility to child care.

b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used for determining the readiness of a community empowerment area for administering school ready children grants.

c. Provide for technical assistance concerning funding sources, program design, and other pertinent areas.

2. The program developed and components identified under subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall provide maximum flexibility to grantees for the use of the grant moneys included in a school ready children grant.

3. A school ready children grant shall, at a minimum, be used to provide the following:

a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary school as determined by the community board and specified in the grant plan developed in accordance with this section.

b. Family support services and parent education programs promoted to parents of children from birth through five years of age. The services and programs shall be offered in a flexible manner to accommodate the varying schedules, meeting place requirements, and other needs of working parents. Family support services shall include but are not limited to home visitation. After a community empowerment area board has committed the portion of school ready grant funding that is designated or authorized by law to be used or set aside for a particular purpose, the community board shall commit approximately sixty percent of the remainder to family support services and parent education programs targeted to families with children who are newborn through age five.

c. A comprehensive school ready children grant plan developed by a community board for providing services for children from birth through five years of age including but not limited to child development services, child care services, training child care providers to encourage early intellectual stimulation of very young children, children's health and safety services, assessment services to identify chemically exposed infants and children, family support services, and parent education programs. At a minimum, the plan shall do all of the following:

(1) Describe community needs for children from birth through five years of age as identified through ongoing assessments.

(2) Describe the current and desired levels of community coordination of services for children from birth through five years of age, including the involvement and specific responsibilities of all related organizations and entities.

(3) Identify all federal, state, local, and private funding sources available in the community empowerment area that will be used to provide services to children from birth through five years of age.

(4) Describe how funding sources will be used collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can be combined to provide necessary services to children.

(5) Identify the results the community board expects to achieve through implementation of the school ready children grant program, and identify community-specific quantifiable performance indicators to be reported in the annual report.

4. The community board shall submit an annual report on the effectiveness of the grant program in

addressing school readiness and children's health and safety needs to the Iowa empowerment board and to the local governing bodies. The annual report shall indicate the effectiveness of the community board in achieving state and locally determined goals.

5. *a.* A school ready children grant shall be awarded to a community board for a three-year period, with annual payments made to the community board. The Iowa empowerment board may grant an extension from the award date and any application deadlines based upon the award date, to allow for a later implementation date in the initial year in which a community board submits a comprehensive school ready grant plan to the Iowa empowerment board. However, receipt of continued funding is subject to submission of the required annual report and the Iowa board's determination that the community board is measuring, through the use of performance and results indicators developed by the Iowa board with input from community boards, progress toward and is achieving the desired results identified in the grant plan. If progress is not measured through the use of performance and results indicators toward achieving the identified results, the Iowa board may request a plan of corrective action, withhold any increase in funding, or withdraw grant funding.

b. The Iowa board shall distribute school ready children grant moneys to community boards with approved comprehensive school ready children grant plans based upon a determination of readiness of the community empowerment area to effectively utilize the moneys, with the grant moneys being adjusted for other federal and state grant moneys to be received by the area for services to children from birth through five years of age.

c. A community board's readiness shall be ascertained by evidence of successful collaboration among public or private early care, education, health, or human services interests or a documented program design evincing a strong likelihood of leading to a successful collaboration between these interests. Other criteria which may be used by the Iowa board to ascertain readiness and to determine funding amounts include one or more of the following:

(1) Experience or other evidence of capacity to successfully implement the services in the plan.

(2) Local public and private funding and other resources committed to implementation of the plan.

(3) Adequacy of plans for commitment of local funding and other resources for implementation of the plan.

d. The Iowa board's provisions for distribution of school ready grant moneys shall take into account contingencies for possible increases and decreases in the provision of state and local funding in future fiscal years which may be used for purposes of school ready children grants and for early childhood programs grants and for differences in local capacity for program implementation and provision of local funding. In developing these provisions, the Iowa board shall consider equity concerns; options for making capacity adjustments by restricting grant amounts based on service population size groupings to accommodate small, medium, and large population groupings; and options for making adjustments to accommodate varying amounts of time and assistance needed for implementation, such as extending the grant period to more than one year.

e. The Iowa empowerment board shall identify and apply limitations on the carryforward of school ready children grant funding. The limitations shall address an unusually high percentage of a grant being carried forward, the number of years a grant has been carried forward which shall not exceed three years, and other objective criteria. The limitations shall make allowances for special circumstances such as the carryforward of funding that is designated for a particular purpose and is scheduled in the grant plan. The board may provide for redistribution or other redirection of the funding that meets the criteria.

6. The priorities for school ready children grant funds shall include providing preschool services on a voluntary basis to children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary school, training child care providers and others to encourage early intellectual stimulation of very young children, and offering family support services and parent education programs on a voluntary basis to parents of children from birth through

five years of age. The grant funds also may be used to provide other services to children from birth through five years of age as specified in the comprehensive school ready children grant plan.

98 Acts, ch 1206, §8, 20

C99, §7I.7

99 Acts, ch 190, §13, 1820; 99 Acts, ch 192, §33

CS99, §28.8

2005 Acts, ch 148, §1214; 2006 Acts, ch 1157, §811

28.9 Iowa empowerment fund.

1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the state treasury. The moneys credited to the Iowa empowerment fund are not subject to section 8.33 and moneys in the fund 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. Unless a different amount is authorized by law, up to three percent 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.
4.
 - 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.

5. A community empowerment gifts and grants account is created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the authority of the department of management. The account shall consist of gift or grant moneys obtained from any source, including but not limited to the federal government. Moneys credited to the account are appropriated to the department of management to be used for the community empowerment-related purposes for which the moneys were received.

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; 2006 Acts, ch 1157, §1214

28.10 Early care internet webpage.

1. The Iowa empowerment board shall provide for the operation of an internet webpage for purposes of widely distributing early care information provided by the departments represented on the board and the public and private agencies addressing the early care system.

2. Information provided on the internet webpage shall include but is not limited to all of the following:

a. The early learning standards for children ages three to five proposed by the early learning standards group created pursuant to federal child care and development block grant requirements and with assistance from the Iowa child care and early education network, department of education, department of human services, Iowa head start association, and Iowa state university of science and technology, as prepared with consideration of the standards and recommendations issued by the United States department of education regarding early childhood cognitive development and learning and preschool and research-based standards for high-quality early care, including but not limited to the practices identified by the institute of education sciences of the United States department of education. As early learning standards are identified in law, the proposed standards posted on the webpage shall be replaced with the standards identified in law.

b. A link to a special webpage directed to parents, including parent-specific information on early care, information regarding the early childhood development credits under section 422.12C, and links to other resources available on the internet and from other sources.

c. Program standards for early care that have been approved by state agencies.

d. A single point of contact for use by a parent in accessing the community empowerment area programs and early care programs that are available in the parent's area.

3. The Iowa empowerment board shall include information regarding the extent and frequency of usage of the

webpage or webpages in the board's annual report to the governor and general assembly.

2005 Acts, ch 148, §15