

349—1.5 (28) Community empowerment central office.

1.5(1) Structure. The office of empowerment shall be established as a division of the department of management to provide a center for facilitation, communication and coordination for the community empowerment process, associated activities and funding.

1.5(2) Staff shall include a facilitator who is 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. Staff shall be provided by state agencies represented on the Iowa board and by additional state agencies which make staff available.

1.5(3) Responsibility. The central office of empowerment and state empowerment team shall:

- a.* Provide primary staffing to the Iowa board.
- b.* Coordinate state technical assistance activities.
- c.* Implement a technical assistance system. The technical assistance system:
 - (1) Utilizes local representatives of state agencies represented on the Iowa board.
 - (2) Utilizes other state agencies and individuals involved with empowerment areas.
- d.* Communicate and coordinate functions.
- e.* Increase state- and local-level collaboration.
- f.* Provide coordination and other support to the state's early care system.
- g.* Move authority and decision-making responsibility from the state to communities.
- h.* Compile an annual report to the governor and general assembly on Iowa board activity and policy development, state-level indicators toward desired results and the empowerment area's collaboration process, local indicators and performance measures. The annual report will include progress to avoid duplication, enhance efforts, combine planning and best utilize identified funding to meet the needs of the children and their families in the empowerment areas.
- i.* Work with the state and local components of the community empowerment initiative and other public and private efforts to improve the early care system.
- j.* Provide support to the public and private stakeholders who are involved with the early care system, acting to strengthen the early care system and develop accountability measures for early care efforts.
- k.* Develop and disseminate 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. 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 authorized by law.
- l.* Collect, interpret, and disseminate data gathered from the measures for assessing outcomes under paragraph "j." 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.
- m.* Annually provide information to the governor and general assembly regarding the outcomes produced by individual programs. The information shall be included in the Iowa board's annual report.

1.5(4) Technical assistance. Funds will be allocated to support the central office of empowerment.

a. Technical assistance shall be provided continuously as well as upon request at the state and community level by the state empowerment team and appropriate local providers.

b. State or regional technical assistance may be provided, upon request, to assist in the resolution of a disagreement arising in empowerment areas or community boards.