
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2018

Board Meeting. The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) State Board met on September 7, 2018, in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Board saw a presentation on the recently released [Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed \(ALICE\) Report by the United Way](#). This report focuses on children and families who are above the federal poverty line but are unlikely to be able to afford a basic budget on the families' income. The report estimates that 25.0% of Iowans fall into this category, in which the family adults are working full-time and are above the poverty level but are unable to create savings or deal with large expenses without going into debt. The study shows that the number of individuals qualifying as ALICE has increased in recent years, most likely due to wage stagnation, while the cost of the basic needs budget (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, technology, and taxes) has increased significantly.

The Board also saw a presentation on the national certification exam for family support workers, which Iowa participated helped develop. The assessment is still in early implementation in Iowa, and the Board chose to create an ad hoc committee to review and make recommendations regarding the exam.

Early Childhood Iowa staff led the Board in a review of the ECI draft strategic plan, which is going through its final revisions and is expected to be adopted in January 2019.

Representatives from the Siouxland Human Investment Partnership (SHIP) and Ida Woodbury ECI area presented on the [Prime Age to Engage](#) campaign, which is focused on supporting families in increasing early literacy skills.

Early Childhood Iowa staff updated the Board on the upcoming [Iowa Early Childhood Systems Summit](#) in October, which is open to all registrants.

The next meeting is November 1-2 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and will consist of both a site visit and the regular ECI Board meeting.

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