

Child Development Coordinating Council Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2019

This report is submitted to the Governor and General Assembly in accordance with Iowa Code Section 256A.3(8).

Shared Visions Programs are state-funded, high-quality programs for children with risk factors and their families. The Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC), which is comprised of state and local agency representatives, advises and assists the Department of Education regarding the administration and implementation of these programs. The primary risk factor for eligibility is defined as being a member of a low-income family at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for parent support programs and 130 percent for preschool programs. Secondary risk factors include having developmental delays; being born with a biological risk or to a parent under age 18; being in foster care or homeless; residing in a household where a parent or guardian has not completed high school, has been identified as a substance abuser or chronically mentally ill, is illiterate, incarcerated, or an abuser.

Impact of Reduced Funding on Grantees

The following are just a few statements reported by grantees:

- “The program had to decrease the level of family involvement services provided to families. This resulted in the elimination of the Family Partnership Agreement, which assesses the family status and helps families set and attain goals.”
- “Cut from the original grant will be 78 hours of summer programming as well as transportation. Staff will only do one home visit.”
- “Decreased funding restricted the number of group connections that could be offered, resulting in fewer families attending group education meetings.”

*See page 4 for more information.

FY19 STATE FUNDING	Amount
Total Appropriation	\$7,094,641
Shared Visions Parent Support	\$695,401
Shared Visions Preschool	\$6,399,240

**In FY19, grantees experienced another decrease in funds totaling a 17% reduction compared to the original grant awards in FY16.*

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Data shows Shared Visions Programs make an impact on children’s growth and learning (see page 3 for more information). Comprehensive early childhood services vital to children and families who are at risk are provided, and community collaborations offer access to needed resources and services. An example from a current Shared Visions program is below.

“Jessica” came to our Shared Visions program with some serious health conditions. Doctors were concerned about possible brain damage due to a recent episode that resulted in her spending 2 weeks in intensive care on a ventilator. When she joined our classroom, she was developmentally behind in physical, social, language and cognitive development. By the end of her second year, Jessica was meeting age level expectations in large and fine motor skills, social skills and language development. She had also shown growth in cognitive skills and academic skills.

In addition, Jessica’s father suffers from cancer and her mother works two jobs to make ends meet. Having her child enrolled in the Shared Visions classroom and having child care assistance has offered the full-day services needed to allow her to keep both jobs and to take classes to improve her English.

Linn County Child Development Center

SHARED VISIONS PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

“THE HIGHEST RETURNS ARE ACHIEVED WHEN INVESTMENTS START AT BIRTH – 13% FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN CHILDREN WHO COULD OTHERWISE NOT ATTEND A HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAM.”

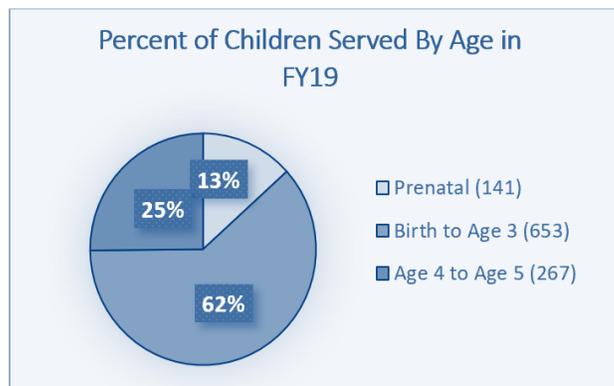
(Heckman, 2019)¹

Shared Visions Parent Support Programs provide services for families with:

- an income below **125 percent of the poverty level**, and
- children with risk factors and **ages birth to five**, with priority given to programs serving families with children ages birth to three.

In FY19, six Shared Visions Parent Support Programs were awarded grants in five counties. All grantees were validated through external evaluation to meet standards of high quality by earning the Iowa Family Support Credential.

Of the **1061 children served**, grantees reported 141 were served prenatally, 653 children from birth to three years old, and 267 children were four to five years of age.



Shared Visions Parent Support Programs also assisted in **identifying children in need of early intervention services** provided through Iowa’s Early ACCESS system.

- A total of **74** children received early intervention/early childhood special education services.
- **55%** of children were identified after program enrollment.

Services offered focus on multiple areas including:



SERVICES IN FY19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served 808 families with 1061 children • Conducted 6,277 home visits • Offered 3,799 group-based parent education meetings <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">*Reported totals for home visits and group-based parent education meetings also include services supported through additional funding sources.</p>
Services Needed
<p>186 eligible families remained on a waiting list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal to 23% of total families served

Grantees reported a total of **\$457,450** as in-kind support during the FY19 grant year. These additional funds were used to maintain quality programming and cover the costs of items such as salaries, parent education, and other services not covered by the grant. Sources of in-kind varied and included community supports, federal dollars, and other state funding sources. This is a **66% match** to the total grant.

SHARED VISIONS PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

“**BENEFITS OF EARLY EDUCATION WERE FOUND TO PERSIST FOR YEARS, BOLSTERING GRADUATION, REDUCING RETENTION, AND REDUCING SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENTS.**”

(Walsh, 2017)²

Providing high quality, comprehensive services to children with risk factors is a distinguishing characteristic of Shared Visions Preschool Programs. Eligible children are:

- members of a family with an income below **130 percent of the poverty level**, or identified as having **other risk factors**, and
- **ages three to five years.**

SERVICES IN FY19

- **67** grants awarded across **37** counties
- Enrolled **1,299** children; **94%** qualified based on income level
- **13%** of children received early childhood education services through an IEP, **44%** were identified after enrollment
- **100%** of grantees maintained accreditation through NAEYC, the national standard of highest quality for early childhood programs

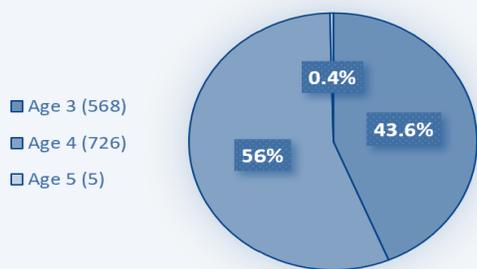
SERVICES NEEDED

652 eligible children remained on a waiting list

- **Increase of 21%** from the previous year
- Equal to **50%** of total enrollment

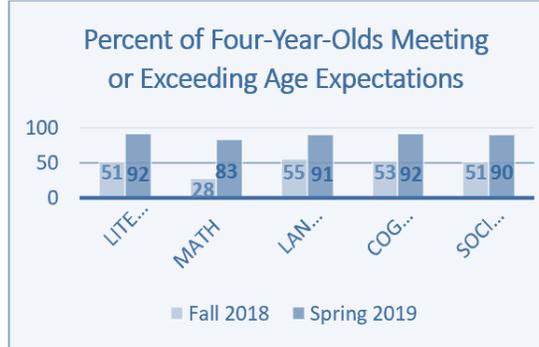
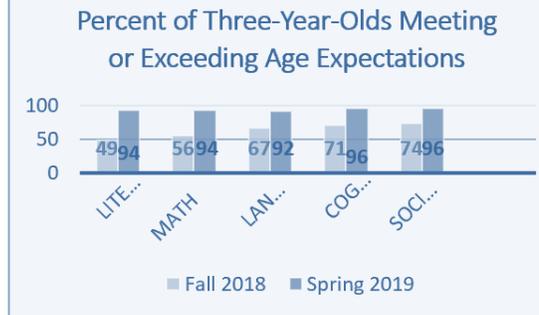
Of the total children enrolled, 568 were age three, 726 were age four, and 5 were age five.

Percent of Children Served By Age



During FY19, children’s knowledge, skills, and behaviors met the range of expected growth. Additionally, the **percent of children meeting or exceeding expectations greatly increased** over the course of the year.

OUTCOMES



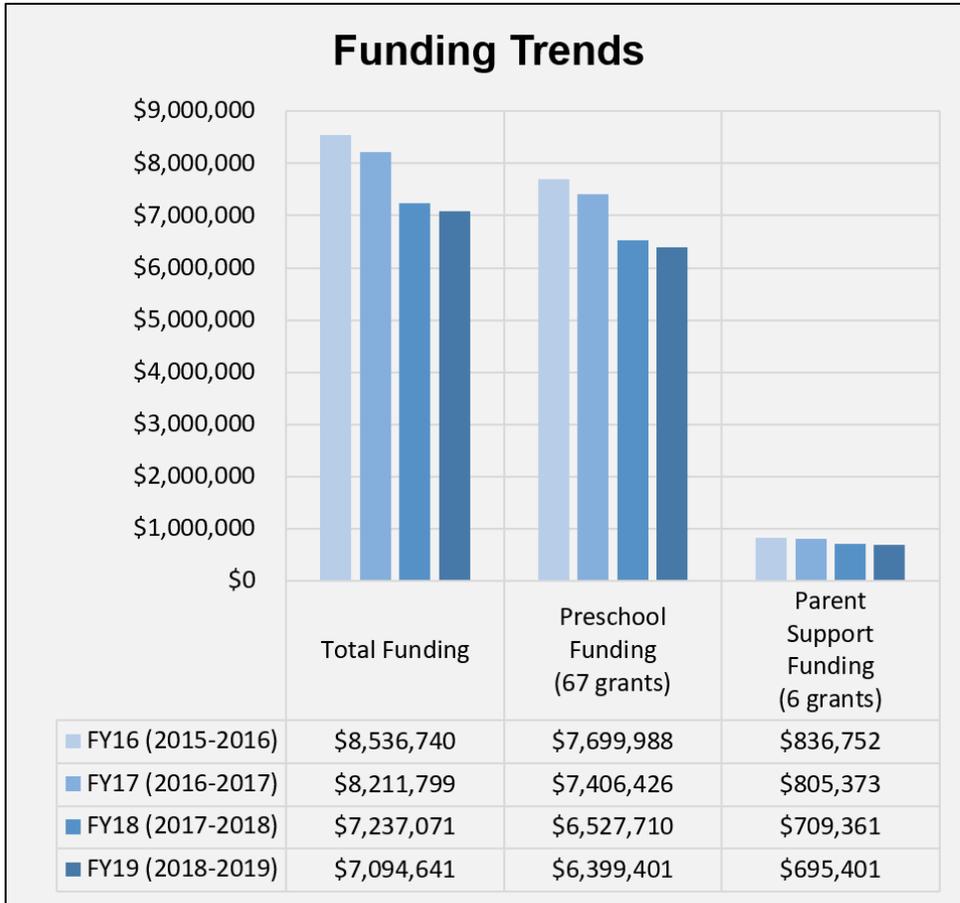
Most children received **seven or more hours** of programming per day due to collaborative relationships in the community which included extended preschool services or wrap-around child care.

Enrollment By Hours Per Day



Grantees reported **\$3,763,733** as in-kind support used to support costs not covered by the grant during the FY19 grant year. These additional funds supported items such as salaries and benefits, instructional supplies, equipment, operational costs, and staff training. Sources of in-kind were vast and included community donations, federal dollars, and other state funding. This is a **59% match** to the total grant.

FUNDING TRENDS



IMPACT OF REDUCED FUNDING

- Waiting lists increased by 21% in one year
- Fewer children and families who are at risk receiving services
- Loss of positions or reduction in staff hours and salaries
- Reduced number of hours and days of service
- Fewer comprehensive services such as transportation, parent education, and community referrals
- Fewer funds for instructional materials and equipment
- Fewer opportunities for professional learning and staff training

RECOMMENDATIONS

In review of the program data and the reported impact from reduced funding, the Child Development Coordinating Council recommends the following:

- Restore programming to full capacity as aligned with the original grant awards.
- Increase access and duration of services for families and children with risk factors to improve child and family outcomes.
- Create opportunities for mixed-delivery programs to meet family and community needs.
- Improve services for diverse families and children to address Iowa's growing diversity.
- Maintain accreditation status in order to enhance overall program quality.
- Increase administrative capacity and awareness for leadership and advocacy in early childhood programming and services.
- Strengthen Area Education Agencies' connections to support all types of programs.

¹ Heckman, J. (2019). *Perry Preschool: Intergenerational Effects Research Summary*. Retrieved from [The Heckman Equation website](#).

² Walsh, B. (2017, November). *The Lasting Payoff of Early Education*. Retrieved from the [Harvard Graduate School of Education website](#).