

FY21

**Child Development  
Coordinating Council  
Annual Legislative Report**



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are submitted by the Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) to the Governor and General Assembly in accordance with Iowa Code Section 256A.3(8). In review of the program data and the reported impact from the derecho and pandemic, the CDCC recommends the following:

- Restore programming to full capacity
- Increase access and duration of services for families and children with risk factors to improve child and family outcomes
- Support community partnerships to provide diverse program options to better meet individualized family needs
- Improve services for diverse families and children to address Iowa's growing diversity
- 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

## INTRODUCTION

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Shared Visions Programs are state-funded, high-quality programs for children with risk factors and their families. The CDCC, which is composed of state and local agency representatives, advises and assists the Department of Education regarding the administration and implementation of these programs.

## PRIMARY ELIGIBILITY

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Parent Support Program:

- Families meet 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- Income for a family of three is \$27,450 or less.

Preschool Program:

- Families meeting 130% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- Income for a family of three is \$28,548 or less.

## SECONDARY ELIGIBILITY

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- The child resides 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
- The child has developmental delays, is in foster care, is homeless, is born with a biological risk or with a diagnosed medical disorder, or is born to a parent under age 18

## FY21 STATE FUNDING

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Program	Appropriation
Shared Visions Parent Support Program	\$702,818
Shared Visions Preschool Program	\$6,391,823
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,094,641</b>

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

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Shared Visions Programs make an impact on families and their children's growth and learning. Comprehensive early childhood services, which are vital to children and families who are at risk, are provided. In addition, community collaborations offer access to needed resources and services. One mother's experience with a Shared Visions program is below.

*A parent educator worked with a new mother to complete the regular developmental screenings on her child and helped identify some possible delays. The parent educator provided activities to build the child's gross motor development and recommended Early Intervention services. Early ACCESS completed an evaluation and recommended intervention services for the child and the mother agreed to those services. At the suggestion of the parent educator, the mother also applied for childcare assistance and explored additional community support.*

*Operation Threshold Inc. Family Support Program Staff*

## SHARED VISIONS PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

FY21 was year one of a five-year grant cycle. Five Shared Visions Parent Support Programs were awarded grants to provide services in six counties. Priority was given to programs supporting families with children ages birth to three years.

### SERVICES IN FY21

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- Served 539 families
- Conducted 2,849 home visits
- Offered 1,473 group-based parent education meetings

Note: *Reported totals may also include services supported through additional funding sources.*

### SERVICES OFFERED

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A variety of services are available to help families access available resources.



### IN-KIND SUPPORT

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Grantees reported a total of \$429,837 as in-kind support during the FY21 grant year. These additional funds were used to maintain quality programming and cover the expenses such as salaries, parent education, and other services not covered by the grant. Sources of in-kind varied and included community support, federal dollars, and other state funding sources. This was a 61% match to the total state appropriation.

## UNFORESEEN IMPACT TO GRANTEES DUE TO DERECHO AND PANDEMIC

Grantees reported the following in response to the derecho and pandemic:

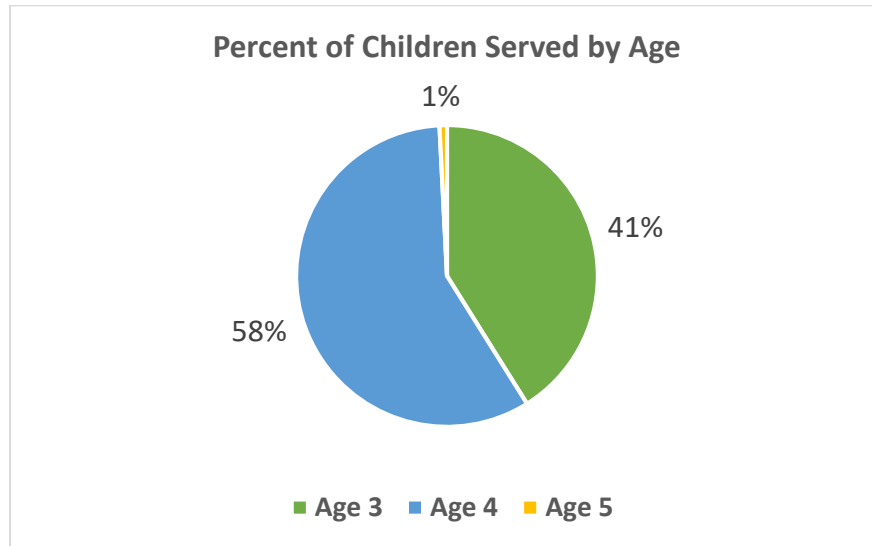
- Trauma experienced by staff and families
- Various barriers to accessing services in the community
- Tasked with providing virtual services
- Increased need for mental health services
- Developed drop off strategies of materials, food, and supplies to families
- Decreased family participation
- Reduction in wait lists

*Two years ago, a single father with three children under the age of five was referred to our program. He was unemployed and was unsure how to access resources. A parent navigator (PN) began providing services, helping him apply for federal assistance and teaching him how to manage his finances. Once the family found stability, the PN helped the father to set up health exams for the children. The exams indicated two of the three children needed glasses and one child needed daily medications. After noticing the limited vocabulary of the youngest children, the PN also recommended contacting Early ACCESS, which confirmed the need for early intervention services. The family is now managing their health, living in a new apartment, and the children are registered for school.*

*EMBARC, Family Support Program Staff*

## SHARED VISIONS PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

FY21 was year one of a five-year grant cycle. A total of 49 grants were awarded across 37 counties to provide high quality, comprehensive services to children with risk factors who are ages 3-5 years.

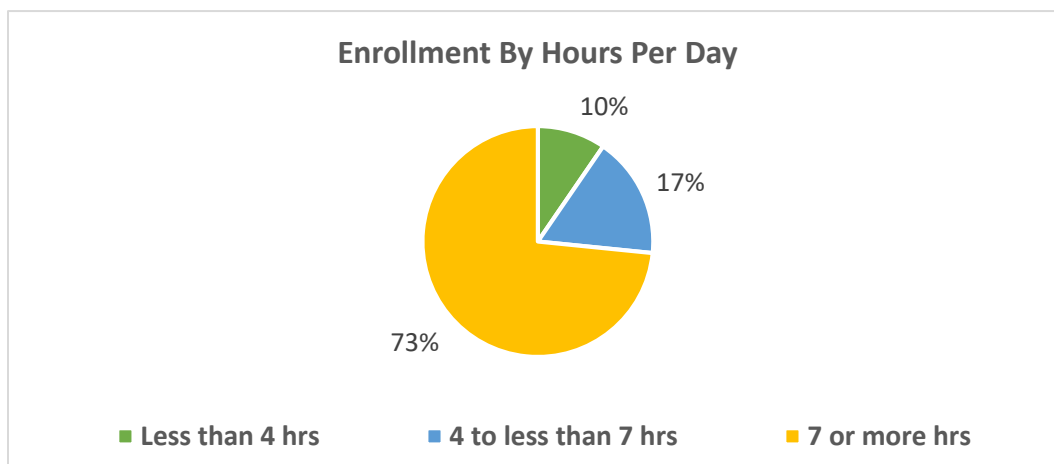


### SERVICES IN FY21

- 876 children served; 94% qualified based on income level
- 16% of children received early childhood education services through an IEP, with almost half being identified after program enrollment.

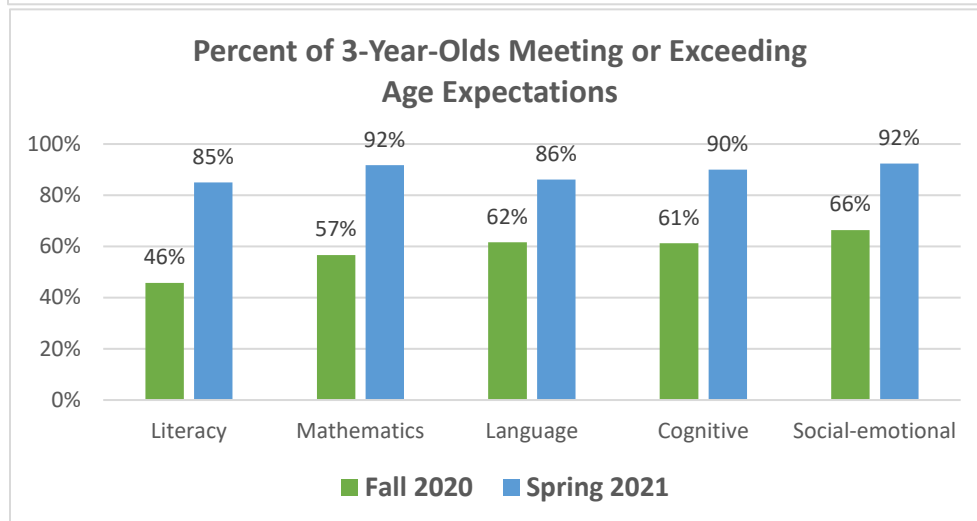
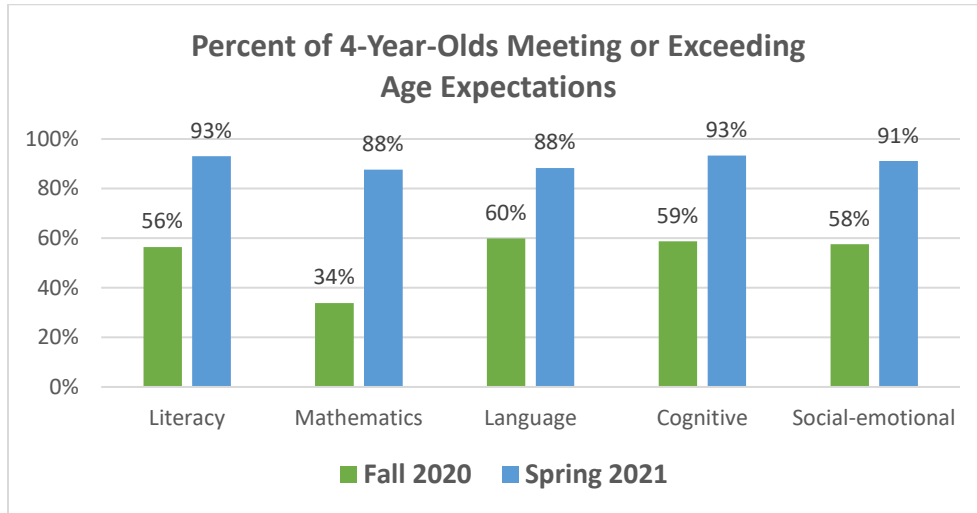
### PROGRAMMING AND ENROLLMENT HOURS

Most children received seven or more hours of programming per day due to collaborative relationships in the community. This included extended preschool services or wrap-around child care, in addition to the Shared Visions Preschool Program.



## ASSESSMENT

During FY21 children's knowledge, skills, and behaviors met the range of expected growth. Additionally, the percent of children who met or exceeded expectations greatly increased over the course of the year. Data was retrieved from Teaching Strategies GOLD®, an ongoing observational system for assessing children.





## IN-KIND SUPPORT

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Grantees reported \$5,010,745 as in-kind support used to support expenses not covered by the grant such as salaries, operational costs, and staff training. Sources of in-kind were vast and included community donations, federal dollars, and other state funding. This is more than a 78% match to the total state appropriation.

## UNFORESEEN IMPACT TO GRANTEES DUE TO DERECHO AND PANDEMIC

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Grantees reported the following actions in response to the derecho and pandemic:

- Provide in person services with a variety of mitigation efforts
- Balance a combination of in person **and** virtual lessons each day
- Ensure virtual access for families with internet and technology services
- Limit in-person class enrollment, families opting to keep children at home
- Delay start of school programs for the year, close classrooms due to the high rate of exposure
- Respond to staff, children, and families experiencing various levels of trauma
- Increase focus on connecting families to community resources

*A child entered the Shared Visions preschool program knowing few English words. Her teacher was able to partner with our ELL program for strategies and teaching techniques. With the programming and model then being used in the classroom, the child was immersed in the English language. With the supports mentioned, the child's English grew to the point of her speaking in full sentences, interacting with peers regularly, and asking questions of adults.*

*Council Bluffs Community School District, Shared Visions Preschool Staff*