

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Early Childhood Iowa Initiative Family Support and Parent Education

Overview

The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) initiative was established to allow 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 age 0-5. The ECI is administered by the ECI State Board. The ECI State Board promotes a vision for a comprehensive early care, education, health, and human services system in this state. The Board consists of 21 voting members, 15 citizen members, and six state agency members. The six state agency members are the directors or their designees from the following departments: Economic Development Authority, Education, Human Rights, Human Services, Public Health, and Workforce Development. The ECI State Board includes four legislators as nonvoting members. For a more detailed overview of the Early Childhood Iowa Initiative, see the **Budget Unit Brief: Early Childhood Iowa General Aid**.

Family Support and Parent Education

This appropriation is used for family support and parent education programs targeted to families expecting a child or with newborn and infant children through age 5. Family support programs include group-based parent education or home visitation programs that are designed to strengthen protective factors, including parenting skills, increasing parental knowledge of child development, and increasing family functioning and problem-solving skills. A family support program may be used as an early intervention strategy to improve birth outcomes, parental knowledge, family economic success, the home learning environment, family and child involvement with others, and coordination with other community resources. A family support program may have a specific focus on preventing child maltreatment or ensuring children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school.

Since July 1, 2016, 90.0% of state funds expended for family support programs must be evidence-based or promising program models. The remaining 10.0% of funds may be used for innovative program models that do not yet meet the definition of evidence-based or promising programs.

An evidence-based program is a program that is based on scientific evidence demonstrating that the program model is effective. An evidence-based program is to be reviewed on site and compared to program model standards by the model developer or the developer's designee at least once every five years to ensure that the program continues to maintain fidelity with the program model.

A promising program is one that meets all of the following requirements:

- Conforms to a clear, consistent family support model that has been in existence for at least three years.
- Grounded in relevant empirically based knowledge.
- Linked to program-determined outcomes.
- Associated with a national or state organization that either has comprehensive program standards to ensure high-quality service delivery and continuous program quality improvement or the program model has demonstrated success through benchmark outcomes that have achieved significant positive outcomes equivalent to those achieved by program models with published significant and sustained results in a peer-reviewed journal.
- The program has been awarded the Iowa family support credential and has been reviewed on site at least every five years to ensure the program's adherence to the Iowa family support standards approved by the ECI State Board created in Iowa Code section [256I.3](#) or a comparable set of standards. The on-site review is completed by an independent review team that is not associated with the program or the organization administering the program.

More Information

Early Childhood Iowa: <http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/index.html>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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Early Childhood Iowa Initiative - Family Support and Parent Education

Funding

The ECI Family Support and Parent Education effort is funded by a General Fund appropriation. For the period of FY 2010 to FY 2015, the funding averaged \$12.7 million per year. The annual funding has been \$12.4 million since FY 2012.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [256I](#)

[249](#) Iowa Administrative Code

[541](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [9](#)

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