

Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Adult, Children and Family Services
 Child Welfare Emergency Services
 Information as of February 2013

SHELTER NAME	Contracted allocated guaranteed payment beds SFY 2013 *	Contracted unallocated non-guaranteed payment beds	Total contracted beds **	Licensed Capacity
American Home Finding Association, Ottumwa	10	3	13	15
Children's Square, Council Bluffs	12	5	17	20
Crittenton Center, Sioux City	16	8	24	27
Foundation 2, Inc., Cedar Rapids	10	1	11	17
Four Oaks, Independence	10	10	20	23
Four Oaks, Iowa City	10	5	15	14
Francis Lauer, Mason City	7	1	8	16
Hillcrest, Dubuque	10	8	18	23
Lutheran Services in Iowa, Waverly	5	3	8	9
Quakerdale, Manning	7	6	13	14
Quakerdale's subcontractor Black Hawk County Youth Shelter	10	3	13	15
Youth and Shelter Services, Ames	10	2	12	15
YESS, Des Moines	39	4	43	60
YFRS -- Forest Ridge Boys, Estherville	6	6	12	45
YFRS -- Forest Ridge Girls, Estherville	7		7	
Youth Shelter Care of No. Central Iowa, Ft. Dodge	10	4	14	20
Totals	178	69	247	333

Average Daily Utilization July - December 2012	168	6	174	333
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* With the funding reduced for SFY 2013, guaranteed beds were reduced resulting in more

or less than a full bed guaranteed per day; the totals here are rounded.

** Total contracted beds equal guaranteed allocated paid regardless of use + the non-guaranteed unallocated offered by contractors and paid for when used.

In addition, CWES contracts permit use up to the licensed capacity if needed.

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Differential Response

February 19, 2013

A Differential Response System provides the ability to respond in diverse ways to screened-in cases of alleged abuse and neglect.

Child Safety remains the primary consideration.

The most serious cases follow the traditional investigative pathway, including an assessment, a “finding” regarding the allegation, and placement of the alleged perpetrator on the child abuse registry when appropriate and services when needed.

Less serious allegations follow a pathway that assesses child safety, family functioning, and then service provision with the family that reduces the risk of further engagement with the formal child welfare system.

In cases where it is first thought the allegations are less serious and it is subsequently determined the safety of the child is in jeopardy, there is a clear path from the FAR (family assessment response) track to the more serious traditional assessment response track.

Twenty-one states have implemented a Differential Response System.

Key findings of States who have implemented:

- Child safety for all children is maintained or enhanced
- Fewer cases enter the formalized child welfare system including the courts
- Family outcomes are enhanced indicating lasting change in family behavior
- Removals and out-of-home placements declined
- Families and workers more satisfied

IOWA PARENT PARTNER APPROACH



The Iowa Parent Partner Approach just completed its fifth full year of implementation. The original four Parent Partner sites have expanded to 20 sites serving 68 counties.

The Parent Partner Approach promotes innovative changes in social work practice. It is unique because Parent Partners are selected based upon their interpersonal skills, successes, and proven abilities to overcome obstacles. Parent Partners have been involved with the Department of Human Services (DHS) due to child protection issues. At one time, their children were removed from their primary care and have since been successfully reunified or child protection issues have been resolved.

Parent Partners provide support to parents who are involved with DHS and are working toward reunification with their children. Parent Partners mentor individuals, celebrate family success and strengths, exemplify advocacy, facilitate trainings and presentations, and collaborate with DHS and child welfare professionals.

As of the reporting period that ended June 30, 2012, there are 119 Parent Partners currently working with 840 families. The cumulative total for five years of implementation reports 248 Parent Partners have worked with 1817 families.

The core training requirement for the Parent Partner Approach is *Building a Better Future (BABF)*. This three day workshop is designed to develop a greater understanding of the child welfare process. The goal of the training is to engage participants in recognizing their own individual and family strengths, and to support them in recognizing the strengths of the families and children they will be assisting to help them move through the system more successfully.

All Parent Partners must complete the BABF training as well as training in Mandatory Reporting, Boundaries and Safety Issues, Family Interaction, and DHS 101 prior to being assigned a family to mentor. Additional training will cover the topics of Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Family Team Meeting Overview, Cultural Competency, and Substance Abuse.

The Parent Partner program expansion was funded in large part with a grant administered by the Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center (MCWIC). The grant allowed systematic addition of new Parent Partner sites over several years with partial funding to support initial coordinator expenses. Ultimately the success of each site will be determined by the local interest in the approach, involvement of families given the opportunity to participate, and a viable plan for sustainability. Based on successful outcomes as well as policy and practice changes, the Parent Partner program will be moving toward statewide implementation.

Iowa has learned from similar programs in California and Kentucky. Their research shows that:

- *children* of parents who had a parent advocate to support them during reunification experienced fewer placement moves, spent less overall time in foster care, and had higher rates of reunification with their parents and fewer exits to adoption.
- *families* who had a parent advocate reported feeling supported and informed about the child welfare system, empowered to take control of their circumstances and make needed changes in their lives to increase skills and self-sufficiency.
- *caseworkers* identified reduced anxiety and increased understanding among parents who had the support of a parent advocate.

PARENT PARTNER QUICK STATS

October 2011 – September 2012

Parent Partners helped parents directly in the past year

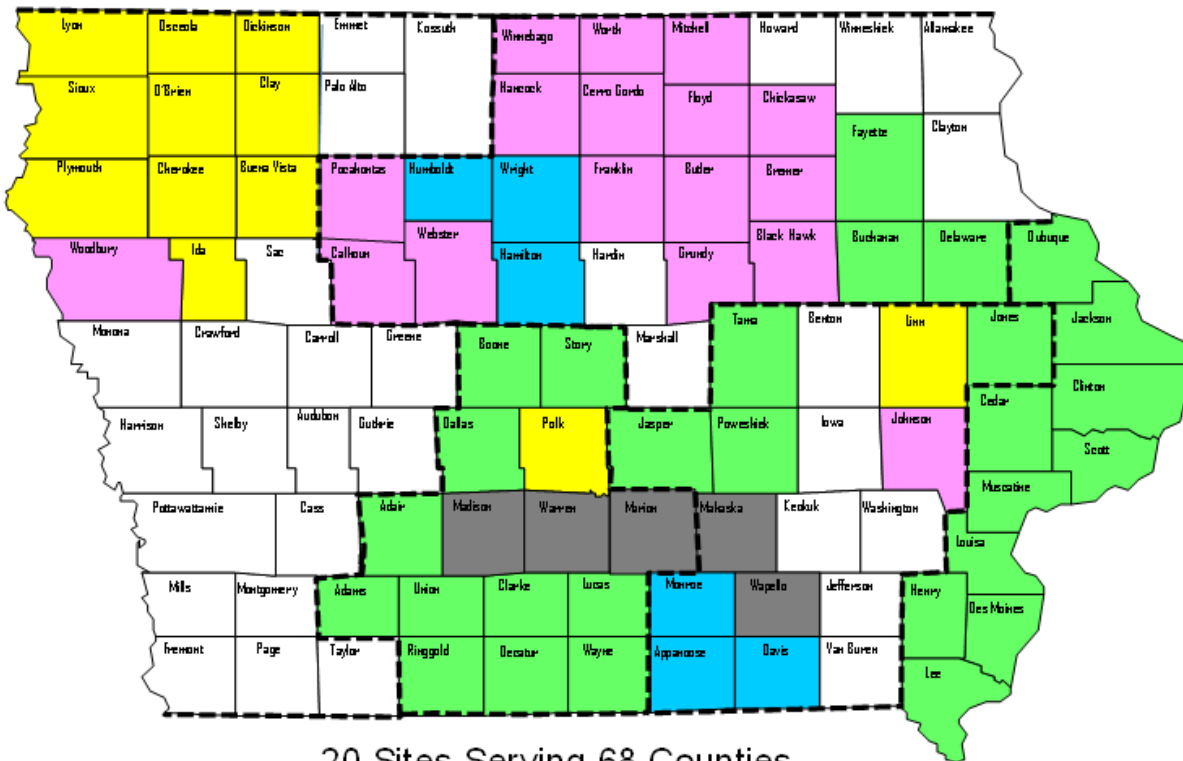
- 1238 families served during the course of the year
- Number of times specific services were provided to families:
 - Family Team Meeting – 1172
 - support family at court – 2642
 - accompany parent to counseling session – 759
 - help family access needed services – 6290
 - support parent before/during/after visitation – 2064
 - face-to-face and other contact with family – 63,191

Parent Partners helped DHS and their communities in the past year

- DHS new worker training – 10 Parent Partners involved in 3 trainings
- Committees related to child welfare – 610 participants in 15 state and 299 local meetings
- CPPC meetings and activities – 725 participants in state and local activities
- Speaking engagements and other activities to raise awareness – 497 participants in 22 state and 255 local events
- Meetings, trainings and activities – 2625 participants in 7 national, 25 state, and 589 local events

Note: reporting procedures for these activities changed during the year to capture more detail, so activity is likely greater than indicated.

PARENT PARTNER EXPANSION



20 Sites Serving 68 Counties

2007 Original Sites	2008 – 2009 Additional Sites	2010 January MCWIC Expansion	2010 August MCWIC Expansion	2011 MCWIC Expansion
4 sites	2 sites	5 sites	2 sites	7 sites
12 counties	5 counties	17 counties	6 counties	28 counties