



Iowa Community Empowerment

Overview

Community Empowerment was established by legislation during the 1998 session in an effort to create a partnership between communities and state government with an emphasis to improve the well-being of families with young children. Community Empowerment Areas enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs on behalf of children, families and other citizens residing in the area.

Purpose / Mission

The purpose of Community Empowerment is to empower individuals and their communities to achieve desired results for improving the quality of life in the communities in this state. It is believed that local individuals in local communities working together will identify and implement the best means for attaining the desired results. The role of the Iowa empowerment board and the State is to support and facilitate growth of individual and community responsibility in place of the directive role that the public has come to expect of government.

By the end of the year 2005, every community in Iowa will have developed the capacity and commitment for achieving these results:

- Healthy Children;
- Children Ready to Succeed in School;
- Safe and Supportive Communities;
- Secure and Nurturing Families; and
- Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments.

Community Empowerment is an example of the most effective role of state government – the role of partner. Community Empowerment leverages local resources; supports local efforts; generates comparison data among areas and focuses on results.

The initiative is provided oversight by the state empowerment board, which includes citizen members appointed by the Governor, the directors of the departments of Education, Public Health, Human Rights, Human Services and ex-officio legislators.

Community Empowerment Areas are collaborative bodies consisting of citizens, elected officials, and representatives of education, health, human services, faith, business and consumers charged with the achievement of desired results for improving the quality of life for young children (0-5 years) and their families.

Empowerment Funding

EARLY CHILDHOOD GRANTS--The state legislature appropriates Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds for community grants to enhance the quality and capacity of child care through:

- Regular child care and provider recruitment;
 - Child care for mildly ill;
 - 2nd and 3rd shift child care;
 - Provider training; and
 - Support registration and licensure.
- ✓ Early Childhood grants are awarded to all Community Empowerment Areas via a formula that is based on the number of FIP cases per county
 - ✓ Community Empowerment Area administrative expenditures are limited to 5 percent
 - ✓ Funds are federal dollars

The funding history:

FY 1999	\$1,610,076
FY 2000	\$3,737,649
FY 2001	\$6,283,632
FY 2002	\$6,283,632
FY 2003	\$6,283,632

SCHOOL READY GRANTS—The state legislature appropriates General Funds (and HITT funds in 02 and 03) for community grants to support comprehensive services for children ages zero through five including:

- Preschool and child care
 - Parent support
 - Family home visitation
 - Parent education
- ✓ School Ready grants are distributed via two methods; 27 areas are based on grant application and 31 areas are based on formula funding
 - ✓ Community Empowerment Areas are encouraged to strive toward 60% of the funding to focus on home visitation and parent support programs
 - ✓ Community Empowerment Areas administrative expenditures are limited to 3 percent
 - ✓ Office of Empowerment is allocated \$200,000
 - ✓ Funds are state dollars
 - ✓ \$1,153,250 from Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust in FY 02 and FY 03

The funding history:

FY 1999	\$5,200,000
FY 2000	\$10,400,000
FY 2001	\$15,600,000
FY 2002	\$15,817,247
FY 2003	\$14,877,962