



A partnership between communities and the state to improve the well-being of families with young children.

Purpose

Community Empowerment is to empower individuals and their communities to achieve desired results to improve the quality of life for children, 0-5, and their families.

How it works

- The Iowa Empowerment Board supports state and community partnerships and promotes collaboration between education, health and human services
- 58 community empowerment boards representing all 99 counties
- **School Ready Grants** provide comprehensive services for:
 - Preschool and child care
 - Parent support
 - Home visitation
 - Parent education
 - Professional Development
- **Early Childhood Grants** 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
 - Support registration and licensure
- An interagency team from the Departments of Economic Development, Education, Human Rights, Human Services, Management and Public Health supports the state and community boards

Investments

- **School Ready Grants**

FY 2002	\$15,617,247
FY 2003	\$14,677,958
FY 2004	\$15,339,844
FY 2005	\$15,344,844
FY 2006	\$25,634,842

- **Early Childhood Grants**

FY 2002	\$6,283,632
FY 2003	\$6,279,725
FY 2004	\$7,261,647
FY 2005	\$7,259,000
FY 2006	\$7,250,000

Achieving Results

By the end of the year 2005, every Empowerment Area 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
- Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

Key Indicators and Trends

Healthy Children

- Low Birth Weight
- Rate of Immunization by age 2

Children Ready for School

- Children Entering Kindergarten are Ready for School

Safe and Nurturing Families

- Incidence of Child Abuse
- Teen Birth Rate

Safe and Supportive Communities

- Serious Crime
- Juvenile Arrests
- Poverty Level
- Employment Rate

Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

- Child Abuse in a Child Care Setting
- Availability of Child Care

Statewide Collaborations

- Early Care, Health and Education Congress
- Day on the Hill Activities
- Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders
- Promoting Early Learning Standards and Quality Child Care Rating System

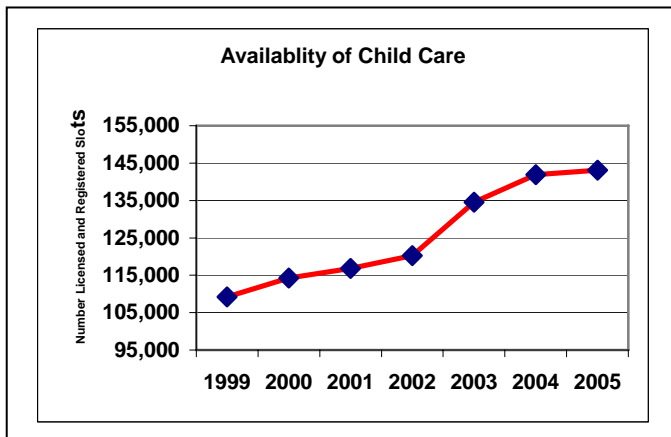
Local Collaborations (EC Grants)

- \$2,223,790 child care capacity building
- \$2,194,970 NAEYC accreditation QRS/QPPS support
- \$393,124 Infant/ext. hour care
- \$1,108,024 Home/Health Consultants
- \$185,596 Head Start support
- \$832,608 Professional Development
- (\$3,021,209 for CC R&R Support)

Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

State Indicators

- Child Abuse in a Child Care Setting
- Availability of Child Care



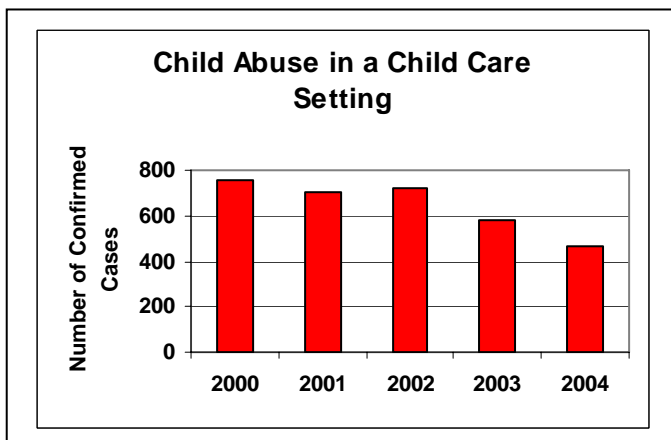
Research shows that high quality early care environments are positively related to children's later language, math, and behavior skills. Empowerment early childhood funds are targeted for specific quality enhancement activities. Technical assistance through training and mentoring helps child care providers deliver better care and education. Through Community Empowerment efforts, the numbers of centers, teachers, and family child care providers who participate in quality improvement activities have increased.

A Local Example of Quality Improvement

Audubon, Carroll, Guthrie, Greene Empowerment Area - Quality Child Care

The Partnerships 4 Families (P4F) Empowerment Area - Audubon, Carroll, Guthrie & Greene Counties - identified the improvement of quality childcare as one of their priorities based on their community plan. With the support of a Child Care Consultant, Child Care Home Evaluation Specialist, and incentives to home child care providers, P4F has been able to produce the following outcomes in FY'05:

- 15% increase of child care slots in registered homes or centers
- 100% of registered child development homes receive spot checks to determine compliance with DHS registration requirements. 43 providers were 95-100% with the DHS checklist
- 1092 children are being cared for in homes that are meeting 85% or more of the DHS Child Development Home Registration requirements
- 236 additional registered slots were available for families to access quality child care.



Also Note:

- Iowa ranks 3rd in the nation at 71% for the percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the workforce. (UC Census – 2004 Community Survey)
- 19.66% of Iowa's 3 and 4 year olds attended an accredited preschool or one meeting Head Start performance standards in 2004-2005. This was an increase from 18.55% the previous year. (Iowa Department of Education)