



Early Childhood Iowa

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) is an alliance of stakeholders in early care, health, and education that affect children age 0 to 5 in the State of Iowa. Its purpose is to support the development and integration of an early care, health, and education system for Iowa. All activities of the system are aligned around a common vision for Iowa.

ECI Stakeholders:

The purpose of the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders is to be a catalyst in the development of Iowa's comprehensive, integrated early care, health, and education system.

Membership is open to anyone self-identifying as a "stakeholder" in Iowa's early care, health and education system. Individuals seeking membership should agree to the vision for an early care, health and education system in Iowa and to the principles and core beliefs of the ECI Stakeholders.

The structure of ECI includes six system component groups that describe the necessary elements of an effective and comprehensive early care, health and education system. Membership in each component group is open to anyone with an interest in one of the six component areas.

Roles & Responsibilities of the Six Component Groups:

Governance, Planning, and Administration

Group Responsibility:

- ★ To design and oversee the implementation of governance, planning, and administrative structures within the early care, health and education system
- ★ To develop a plan to create an infrastructure for the smooth functioning of the ECI Stakeholders
- ★ To plan and implement activities that support the professional development of ECI Stakeholders in the area of systems development and cultural competence

Professional Development

Group Responsibility:

- ★ To determine the professional development system that is needed for the early care, health, and education system in order to support the ECI strategic plan
- ★ To promote the integration of a professional development system with current initiatives that support the delivery of quality services to children and their families. The component work group advises the system in areas such as Early Learning Standards, Quality Rating System.
- ★ To advise ECI regarding a statewide infrastructure that systematically supports quality professional development.

Public Engagement

Group Responsibility:

- ★ To partner with community, government, and business entities to foster commitment to Iowa's Early Care, Health, and Education System
- ★ To increase advocacy for supportive child and family policies
- ★ To support parents as effective consumers of early childhood services.

Every child beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful

Quality Services and Programs

Group Responsibility:

- ★ To expand early learning environments and opportunities, with attention to those meeting a minimum desired level of quality
- ★ To create and maintain links with entities that support the development and improvement of services at a local, state and regional level
- ★ To incorporate evidence-based knowledge for early care and education, family support programs, health services and other programs and services that serve young children and their families

Resources and Funding

Group Responsibility:

- ★ To identify the costs and financing structure of a high quality the early care, health and education system and secure potential revenue sources
- ★ To provide the core stakeholders with an annual plan to seek funding to expand and better fund a unified system of early care, health and education
- ★ To partner with other entities in seeking funding to expand and more adequately fund prioritized activities of the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholder Group

Results Accountability

Group Responsibility:

- ★ To define appropriate results and indicators, and serve as a clearinghouse for consistent definitions of result and performance measures among programs
- ★ To serve as a clearinghouse for national, state and regional data using existing data bases and publications to assure consistency in demographic and indicator data
- ★ To serve in a consultative capacity to provide feedback on proposed results indicators and service, product, activity performance measures, including definitions, collection methods and reporting formats.

More Information:

For more information about Early Childhood Iowa or to become involved in the activities of ECI, contact:

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You can also find additional information on our Web site at: www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

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