

Shared Visions Family Support Grants

Program Name and DE Consultant	Shared Visions, Family Education and Support Grants
Children/Families served (Birth to 5-year-olds)	Penny Milburn, Shared Visions Program Coordinator 1,545 Children ages 0-5 421 on a waiting list
Target Audience	Children and their families with income below 130% poverty threshold and at-risk factors.
Program Purpose	Family support programs ensure the delivery of quality, family-centered comprehensive early childhood services.
Program Description	Family support and prevention programs which focus on: parenting skills, child growth and development, building of self-concept, nutrition, positive guidance techniques, family resource management, parent literacy, and how to access the array of supportive services from a network of agencies that are available to families with young children who are at risk. 25 Parent Educators and approximately 4 associates.
Identifiable Indicators of Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Healthy children▪ Self sufficient families▪ Safe and supportive communities▪ Secure and nurturing families
Results (outcomes achieved)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increased levels of family self-sufficiency▪ Increased healthy development as evidenced by 100% of the children being fully immunized and receiving developmental screening.▪ Reduced levels of family violence▪ Approximately 37,000 hours of services were provided to meet family needs including individual consultation, play groups, parent groups, home visits, and coordination with community agencies.
DE role and Collaborative Efforts	DE administers grants and works with the Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) to determine quality indicators that support high quality. DE provides technical assistance to the grantees related to curriculum, and administration.

Even Start Family Literacy Program

Program Name and DE Consultant	Even Start Family Literacy Program Tom Rendon, Even Start State Coordinator
Children/Families served (Birth to 5-year-olds)	In 2005-06 Even Start served 244 low-income families in 9 programs across Iowa; including 318 children and 257 adults.
Target Audience	Even Start provides a comprehensive family literacy program to low-income families seeking to increase their education and parenting skills. Children from birth to age 8 years are eligible for services with the full participation of their families.
Program Purpose	Even Start programs are a partnership between local school districts and non-profit agencies. They seek to increase literacy through adult education, parenting skills, family literacy development, and early childhood education.
Program Description	Even Start Family Literacy programs serve low-income families and their children from birth to age 8 years old. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 4 components to Even Start: Parenting Education, Family and Child Interactive Literacy Time, Adult Education and Early Childhood Education.• 50% of the families are English Language Learners.• 50% of the families are native English speakers.
Identifiable Indicators of Quality	Even Start has Indicators of Quality for Programs, Children, Adults and Families. Programs must make sufficient progress in each component based upon their documented yearly reports for continuation funding.
Results (Outcomes achieved)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 228 of 244 (93%) of the families live below the federal poverty level.• Adult education is offered an average of 94 hours a month.• Early Childhood education is offered an average of 66 hours for infants; and 93 hours to preschool children.• 100% of the children receive a screening.• Parenting education is offered an average of 27 hours a month in Even Start programs.• 61% of the Even Start staff holds a 4-year college degree.• An additional 18% of the paraprofessional staff holds an AA.
DE role and Collaborative Effort	Oversee coordination and implementation of the competitive grants to local entities.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Program Name and DE Consultant	Head Start, Tom Rendon—State Collaboration Office
Children /Families Served (Birth to 5-year-olds)	9,462 children (birth-5 years) [PIR 2006] 8,986 families Early Head Start also serves 227 pregnant women
Target Audience	Children at 100% federal poverty level and at-risk factors or children with special needs (up to 10% of total enrollment; actual percentage is 13%). (Head Start serves 75% of eligible children.)
Program Purpose	To serve the child development needs of preschool children (birth through age five) and their low-income families.
Program Description	18 Head Start Programs 13 Early Head Start Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers: 487• Assistant teachers: 551
Identifiable Indicators of Quality	Head Start Performance Standards http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/performance/
DE role and Collaborative Efforts	Houses and manages Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office (\$125,000 annual grant through Head Start). Head Start State Collaboration Office supports the development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships at the State level to ensure the coordination of Head Start services with health care, welfare, child care, education and community service activities, family literacy services, services to homeless families, and activities relating to children with disabilities.

Early ACCESS

Program Name and DE Consultant	Early ACCESS (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C) Julie Curry, Early ACCESS State Coordinator
Children/Families served (Birth to 5-years-old) Target Audience	2932 according to October 20, 2006 Count (not a year-end cumulative count). Infants and toddlers with conditions and developmental delays and their families.
Program Purpose	The purpose of this program is for families and staff to work together in identifying, coordinating and providing needed early intervention services that will help the family assist their infant or toddler with special needs to grow and develop.
Program Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early ACCESS is a partnership between families with young children, birth to age three, and providers from the Departments of Education, Public Health, and Human Services, and the Child Health Specialty Clinics as well as other early childhood, special needs and family organizations.• The Department of Education serves as the Lead Agency of this interagency system. The Early ACCESS system is an organizational structure that coordinates a number of specialized and typical services across public and private agency lines.• Iowa has 11 Early ACCESS regions. The AEA Directors of Special Education serve as Regional Grantee Administrators, and they have one Regional Liaison who assists with the coordination of the regional system and serves as a liaison to the State.• Each region has a pool of service coordinators from partnering agencies to assign to each child/family referred to EA. The service coordinator assists the family in accessing all needed public and private services and resources across agency lines.• The above agencies work together to assure the provision of 17 early intervention services at no cost to families as defined in the Administrative Rules for Early ACCESS. No one agency provides all 17 services.• The Early ACCESS system also serves as the method for implementing the state birth mandate for special education to eligible children birth to 3.• There are 413 part to full time Service Coordinators across the state (caseloads vary significantly).• Family participation in Early ACCESS is voluntary.
Identifiable Indicators of Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSP's who demonstrate improved A) Positive social-emotional skills; B) Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills including early language/communication; and C) Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs. Data available 2007.• Percent of families who report that early intervention services have helped the family: A) Know their rights; B) Effectively communicate their children's needs; and C) Help their children develop and learn. Data available 2007.
Results (outcomes achieved)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased percentage of identified eligible children ages B-3 during 2000 to 2005 respectively: 1.3%, 1.5%, 1.8%, 2.0%, 2.12% and 2.3%. The goal is to serve 2.5% of children, ages birth to three by 2011.• Services provided in natural environments during 2006 include: 92.17% home; 3.87% in settings designed for typically developing children; 3.96%

in other settings.

- Children who exited from Early ACCESS 2005-06: Completed IFSP goals before age 3 = 25.7% of all children who exited EA. 70.4% of children who exited EA at age 3 were eligible for special education services (IDEA Part B).

DE role and Collaborative Efforts

DE has general supervision responsibilities as Lead Agency of this interagency effort to provide and coordinate quality early intervention services. An important function of the DE's role is to facilitate the relationships needed to provide a coordinated infrastructure for a community-based system of services. Important partners with whom Early ACCESS state staff have relationships include:

- State and local representatives of Signatory Agencies [Departments of Human Services and Public Health and Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC)];
- Area Education Agencies (e.g. Directors of Special Education, EA Regional Liaisons/Coordinators, Early Childhood Special Education, and others);
- Early Head Start;
- Shared Vision's Family Support Programs;
- Empowerment colleagues;
- Family organizations and advocates;
- University of Iowa medical and health services;
- Public and private hospitals;
- Physician associations;
- Child care support and provider agencies;
- Empowerment sponsored home visiting programs and
- Those programs that serve children ages 3-5 [Local School Districts; Head Start; Shared Vision Preschools; Empowerment sponsored preschool programs, etc].