
Iowa Head Start and Early Head Start



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Head Start/Early Head Start: An Overview

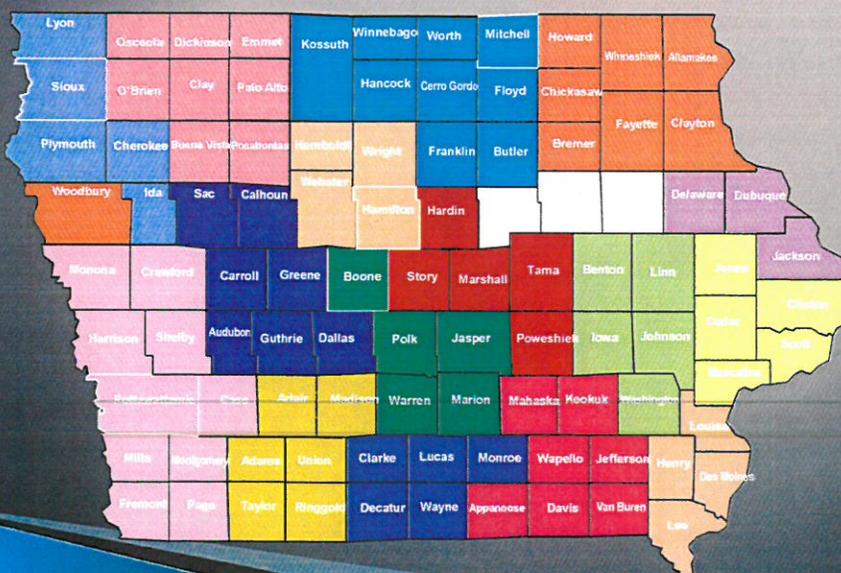
What is Head Start?

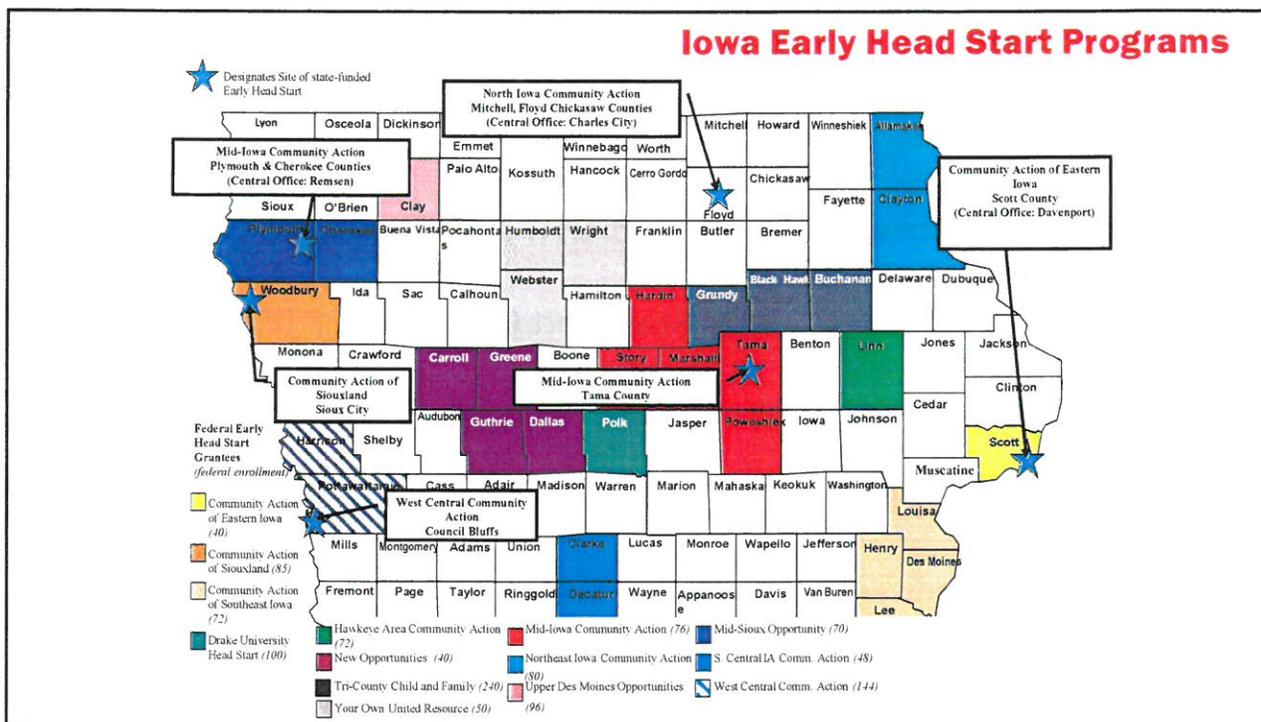


- ▶ 50 years of providing comprehensive services to children and families
- ▶ Promoting school readiness of low-income, at-risk children – Head Start ages 3–5, Early Head Start birth to 3
- ▶ Respecting the culture and language of all



Head Start Programs in Iowa





State Funded Early Head Start Programs

- Six state funded programs
- At least 70 additional children/families served
- All children assessed on social, physical, language and cognitive development while in program

Iowa Head Start Early Head Start 2014 –2015 Program Year

- ▶ Iowa Head Start served 9,114 children (7,010 HS – 1,922 EHS)
- ▶ Iowa has 33 Head Start/Early Head Start Grantees
- ▶ Operate 529 classes in 98 counties
- ▶ Head Start/Early Head Start employs 1,866 persons
- ▶ All Federal funds except \$600,000 state funds for Early Head Start

Head Start Services are Comprehensive

EDUCATION

- ▶ Child development and education
- ▶ Socialization
- ▶ Transitions

HEALTH

- ▶ Determination of child's health status
- ▶ Addressing identified health needs
- ▶ Nutritious meals
- ▶ Mental wellness

Head Start Services are Comprehensive

FAMILY SUPPORT

- ▶ Parent education
- ▶ Home visits
- ▶ Parent involvement in decision-making

SPECIAL NEEDS

- ▶ Disabilities
- ▶ Full inclusion classrooms

PLUS:

- ▶ Staff development
- ▶ Community connections

Eligibility

- ▶ Birth to 3 (EHS)
- ▶ Ages 3–5 (HS)
- ▶ Meet family income guidelines
- ▶ Families receiving public assistance (TANF or SSI)
- ▶ Children in foster care
- ▶ Children who are homeless
- ▶ Other factors are Grantee specific



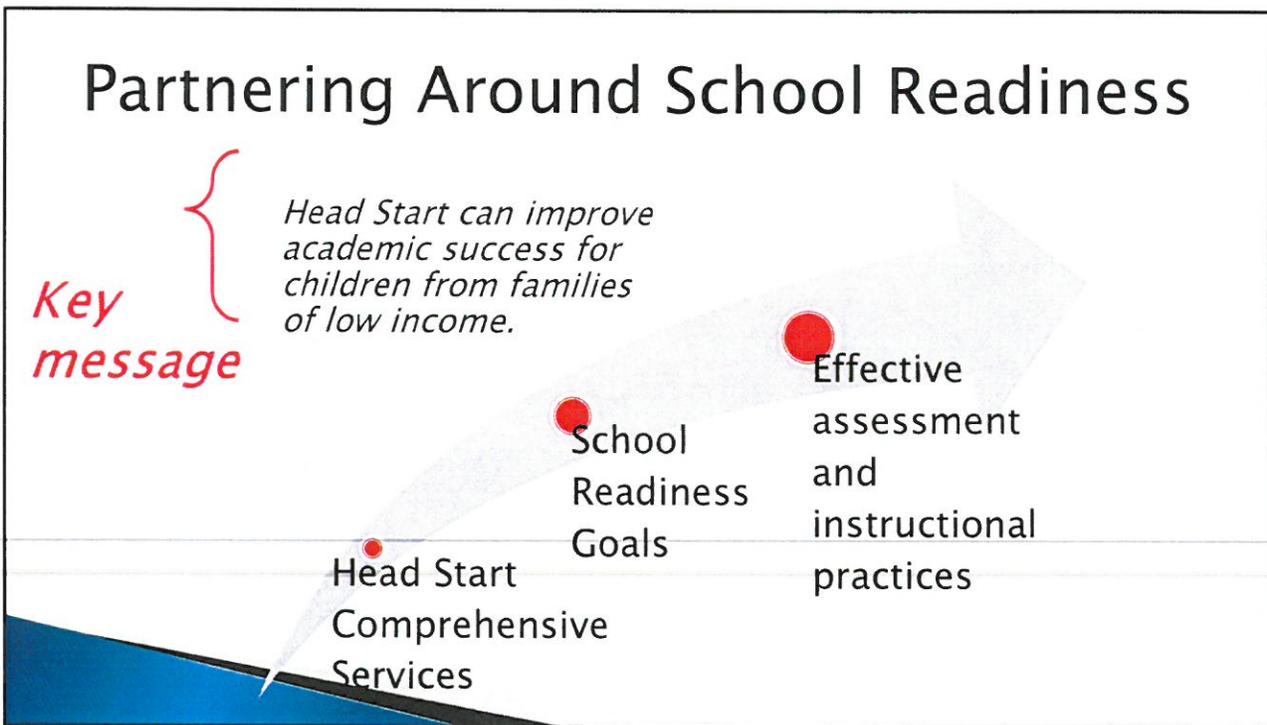
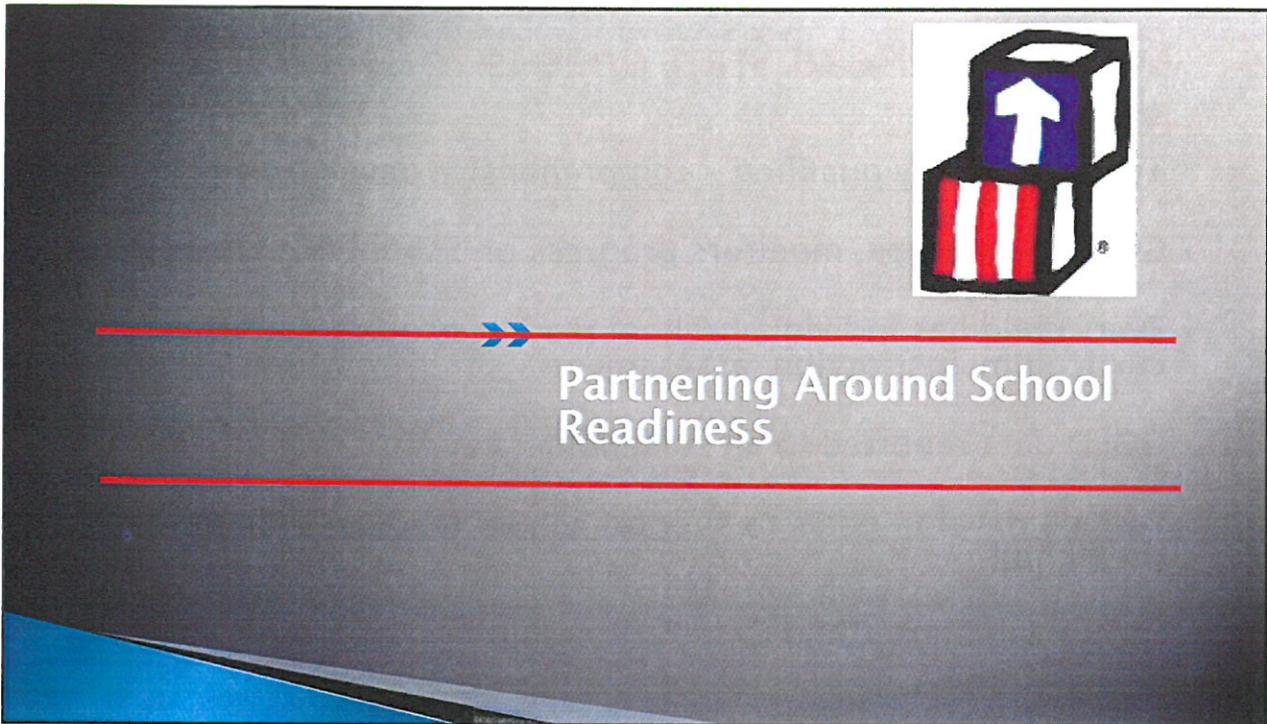
Eligibility

- ▶ Grantees may serve up to 35% of enrollment over income (between 100–130% of poverty; plus 10% over-income.)
- ▶ 10% must be children with disabilities



Monitoring and Oversight

- ▶ Every classroom and every service monitored monthly
- ▶ Stringent, frequent local and Federal monitoring (using valid, reliable instruments) with high stakes
- ▶ Annually updated agency goals and strategic plan
- ▶ Every teacher assessed
- ▶ Governing board and Policy Council review all aspects of programming



Everything Head Start does is for school readiness...!

- ▶ Teachers highly qualified – comprehensive development
- ▶ Grantee develops, monitors progress on School Readiness Goals
- ▶ Every child has individual school readiness goals that drives curriculum, instruction, assessment
- ▶ GOLD data reported to all stakeholders
- ▶ Parents develop goals to support school readiness, advocate for their child

Early Head Start–Child Care Partnership

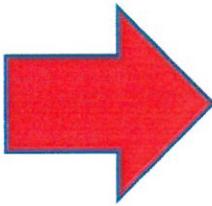


Partnering Around Family Engagement

Partnering Around Family Engagement

Key message

Head Start has the most comprehensive and successful approach to engaging families of any educational program in the state.



Head Start addresses family engagement by embracing differences among families and engaging them in concrete decision making that affects the well-being of their child.

Why is family engagement important?

- ▶ Parents are their child's first teachers
- ▶ In order to support their child, family needs should be addressed
- ▶ Successful school readiness comes from parents who understand their role in supporting their child's education (in preschool & beyond)
- ▶ Future educational success happens when families continue to have their needs met and they are engaged in their child's school activities



Partnering Around School Success

How can Head Start and school districts partner for school success?

- ▶ Partner with district early childhood programs
 - Collaborative enrollment
 - Shared programming (HS and PreK)
 - Blended classrooms
- ▶ Joint professional development
 - EC-PBIS, Cultural Competence, Planned Language Approach
- ▶ Cooperation during transition
 - sharing data, records, assessment information
 - continuum of family involvement

Head Start is unique... it provides children a high quality educational experience and requires:

- ⇒ Parent and community engagement in decision making and program governance on Policy Council
- ⇒ Emphasis on the role of families as their child's first teacher
- ⇒ Community partnerships
- ⇒ Ongoing agency monitoring and self-assessment in all areas (human resources, fiscal, educational, comprehensive services)

