



**Audubon, Carroll, Greene
and Guthrie Counties**

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa Area

Early Childhood Community Plan

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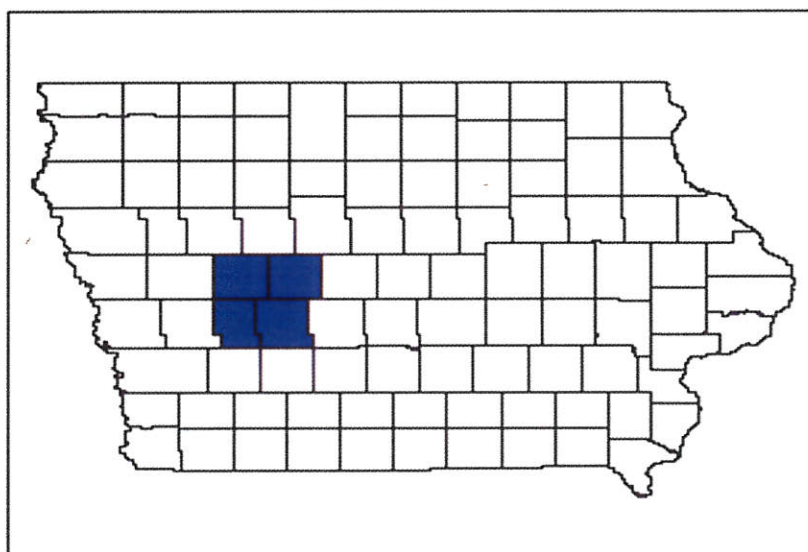
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Section I: Organizational Information

Identification of the Early Childhood Iowa Area (ECIA)

Partnerships 4 Families (P4F) has been a four-county Early Childhood Iowa Area since 1999. The four-county area of Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie located in west central Iowa serves thirteen school districts including: Audubon, Exira-Elk Horn Kimballton, Carroll, Kuemper Catholic, Coon Rapids-Bayard, Glidden-Ralston, IKM -Manning, Greene County(formerly Jefferson-Scranton & East Greene), Paton-Churdan, Guthrie Center, Panorama, Adair-Casey and West Central Valley.

State of Iowa Map



Carroll and Greene counties are situated directly north of Audubon and Guthrie counties in west central Iowa. They create somewhat of a square area in west central Iowa.

All children ages 0-5 and their families living within our four-county ECIA are eligible for services funded by Partnerships 4 Families. Families living outside the counties of our ECIA seeking services are dealt with on a case-by-case basis working the neighboring EICA programs. We always seek to do what is in the best interest of the families.

Vision, Mission and Guiding Principals

The Partnerships 4 Families (P4F) Early Childhood Iowa Area (ECIA) Board after review adopted the state Early Childhood Iowa vision in 2006. We created our own mission statement in 2009 for the area:

- ◆ Vision: *Every child, beginning at birth will be healthy and successful.*
- ◆ Mission: *Partnerships 4 Families utilizes community resources to provide opportunities for families with children ages 0-5 to be healthy and successful.*

P4F has also adopted the following guiding principles in 2006 and still use them to lead our work:

1. P4F believes in quality supports for children ages 0-5 and their families.
2. P4F seeks to educate the families, communities and providers with up-to-date information regarding all aspects of a child's life from ages 0-5. This includes:
 - Ages and stages of child development
 - Current standards of quality child care
 - Health care
 - School readiness
2. P4F supports quality services for children ages 0-5 including:
 - In home visitation programs
 - Child care provider education
 - Preschool assistance programs
 - Parent support and education
 - Screenings that support school readiness
3. P4F continues to support programs that have shown success. We welcome new initiatives that can demonstrate a plan of success supporting our guiding principles and addressing our priority needs.
4. P4F builds community awareness of programs and their value to families for the future of our communities.

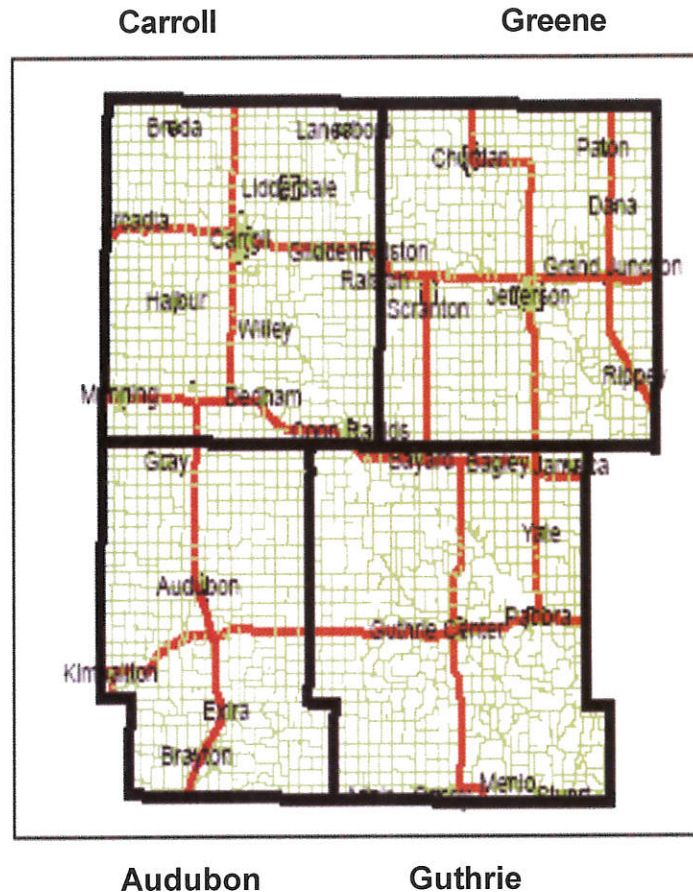
Geographic/Demographic Profile for the Early Childhood Iowa Area

Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties are located in west central Iowa. The county seats include Audubon, Carroll, Jefferson and Guthrie Center. The city of Carroll sits at the crossroads of US Highway 30 and 71 and is the largest community in the four-county area. Iowa Highways 4, 44 and 141 are also thoroughfares within the four counties. The four counties have a land area of 2171.4 square miles and are rural in nature.

Land	Audubon	Carroll	Greene	Guthrie	Iowa
Land Area (Sq. Mi.)	443	569	569	591	55,869
Person per Sq. Mi. 2000	15.4	37.6	18.3	19.2	52.4
Person per Sq. Mi. 2010	13.8	36.6	16.4	18.5	54.5

Information taken from 2010 Census Quick Facts

Four-county Map of P4F



POPULATION

The 2010 Census Bureau population for Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie counties was 47,225 or 2% of the state of Iowa. The city of Carroll is the largest city with a population of 10,103, Jefferson (population 4,345) and Audubon (population 2,176) are the next largest. There are six communities within the four counties that have a population between 1,000 and 1,800. They are Coon Rapids, Glidden, Guthrie Center, Manning, Panora and Stuart. These nine communities represent half of the area's population. The remaining half of the population lives in communities of less than a 1,000 people or in the rural areas. The nine most populated communities represent ten of the thirteen school districts in the four-county area.

Following is basic census information as it pertains to children ages 0-5 and their families for each of the counties served. As a four-county area our statistics for child population have remained relatively stable for the past ten years. Some counties may show a slight decrease while others have increased slightly or remained stable. We are fortunate that we have not seen the swings in population either negative or positive as other areas of the state have seen. Much of this is related to the stable economic climate in this area.

Population	Audubon		Carroll		Greene		Guthrie	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
ages 0-5	335	404	1,594	1,464	596	520	773	615
% of Pop. under 5	4.6%	5.5%	5.7%	7.0%	4.9%	5.6%	3.8%	5.6%
Median Age	42	47	42	42.3	45	45.6	43	44.8
Population	6,072	6,119	20,023	20,816	9,468	9,336	11,038	10,954
Rank in State by Pop.	97	97	30	32	80	81	69	69

2010 Census/Iowa Quick Facts

Hispanic Trends in Population

P4F counties continue to have a very low percentage of Hispanic persons living within our area. The percentage change in each county was slightly greater than 0.5%, while the state has increased by only .4%.

County	White	Hispanic 2010	Hispanic Est 2014	Total Population
Audubon	99.5%	0.7%	1.1%	6,830
Carroll	97.9%	1.7%	2.3%	21,421
Greene	97.9%	2.3%	2.9%	10,366
Guthrie	98.4%	2.0%	2.3%	11,353
State	93.0 %	5.2%	5.6%	

Iowa Data Center

Eligibility for Free and Reduced Meals

Eligibility for free and reduced school meals varies within our four counties; Greene County consistently has a higher percentage, while Carroll County continues to be well below the state average. This is a trend that extends to median household income and other factors. Participation continue to increase in the Free/Reduced Meals according to the data. What the data does not show is also the decrease in the number of students in each of these counties

County	Free/Red 2000	Free/Red 2011	Free/Red 2013
Audubon	27.3%	32.8%	34.%
Carroll	25.5%	34.6%	33.9%
Greene	31.4%	48.9%	49.5%
Guthrie	28.6%	36.4%	37%
State	26.5%	38.2%	

Kids Count Data 2014

Median Income

Median income of families living in the four counties is below the state median income. This four-county area has seen cut backs due to the economy but has pockets that have been insulated from major down turns in the economy. We continue to see a trend in Guthrie County residents to commute to the Greater Des Moines area as growth continues on the western edge of West Des Moines. This is a trend the county and schools are watching closely.

County	1999	2005	2010	2014
Audubon	\$37,228	\$38,941	\$42,717	\$50,014
Carroll	\$47,040	\$42,631	\$47,507	\$52,367
Greene	\$41,230	\$39,374	\$43,286	\$49,125
Guthrie	\$43,601	\$42,449	\$50,090	\$49,507
State	\$48,005	\$46,610	\$48,872	

US Census Bureau and ISUE ReCAP

Unemployment

Unemployment rates for the four counties show a range that is reflective of the location of industry in our area. Carroll County has several major employers who have seen minor cuts to their workforce while Audubon County had one small company close and other companies downsize which has greatly affected their smaller workforce. The number of persons working two jobs within the four counties is a concern for family function. This has significant impact on families' well-being as children spend less time with parents who are working multiple jobs to maintain their families' increasing costs.

	County Population	Unemployment rate 7/2006	Unemployment Rate 5/2013	Unemployment 11/2015
Audubon	6,034	3.4%	4.6%	3.2%
Carroll	20,861	2.5%	3.0%	2.1%
Greene	9,285	3.9%	4.6%	2.7%
Guthrie	10,901	3.4%	4.1%	2.8%
State		3.8%	4.6%	3.0%

Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Local Labor Force Data

Children 0-17 Poverty

	Child 0-17 Pop 2000	Living Below Poverty	%	Child 0-17 Pop 2010	Living Below Poverty	%	Child 0-17 Pop 2014	Living Below Poverty	%
Audubon	1661	211	12.7	1314	201	15.3	1196	214	17.99
Carroll	5483	488	8.9	5104	587	11.5	4915	575	11.7
Greene	2492	309	12.4	2119	392	18.5	2021	384	19.0
Guthrie	2533	309	12.2	2575	376	14.6	2425	354	14.6
4 county	12,169	1317		11,112	1556		10,557	1527	
State			10.8			16.2			15.5

DHS 2015

Other demographic facts for the area:

- Teen pregnancy rates have declined to the point that the data is not published due to the low numbers, other than Carroll County at 1.7%. This is a great improvement across our area from four years ago. As an ECI area we have been present in conversations about how to work toward decreasing the number of teen births in Greene County. The P4F area director is a member on the Health Teen Coalitions.
- Carroll County has a full time DHS office, Work Force Development Center, Social Security Office and Regional Housing office. All of the other counties in our area receive the majority of their social services through the Carroll offices.
- Our area has five hospitals however only three have provided obstetric services and delivers babies. Starting in July 2016 we only have one. We are currently seeing major changes in the management of our smaller hospitals.
- In Audubon county there is only one grocery retailer and Guthrie and Greene Counties have two. We find that this leads to discussion regarding nutrition, cost of food and food poverty for families living in small rural towns within the county. Families and child care providers find it hard to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables due to the quality and cost in our smaller retailers.

Summary

Within this section we have highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of our area. We often find that a strength in one county may be a weakness in our other counties. As a four-county

area we try not to make generalizations about our area. However we have been somewhat insulated from major economic downturns, natural disasters, changes in service delivery systems and state minority population's trends in the past five years. This picture of stability sometimes results in less funding to implement more requirements while still serving a large geographic region.

There are pockets of our area that do have poverty levels higher than the state average when statistics such as Free and Reduced Meals are considered and areas that struggle with inadequate housing for low income families. Population shifts in our area have caused more and more of our rural schools to adopt sharing agreements or merge. The talks will continue and we could see more consolidation in the future.

Use of the Early Childhood Community Plan

The P4F Early Childhood Community Plan was developed with input from families, providers, program administrators and the P4F Board. The P4F Early Childhood Community Plan is available through at the P4F Office and on the P4F website at www.partnerships4families.org. This plan is intended to be utilized by the P4F Board, community partners and any early childhood professionals to move the early care, health and education system forward for the well-being of children ages 0-5 and their families in our four counties. It is the intent to have all of these partners utilize the final product by setting common goals throughout the four-county area.

Section II: Early Childhood Community Needs Assessment

Early Childhood Community Needs Assessment Process

As a joint project P4F and New Opportunities, Head Start developed a survey, that could be utilized by both entities in the Fall of 2015 using Survey Monkey and hard copies for Head Start. We worked off of our prior survey and added items needing addressed by Head Start. P4F released the survey in January of 2016 using only electronic means for gathering input, as a way to compare from previous hard copy/electronic the accessibility of parents to electronic surveys. The survey link was sent out to all early childhood providers, child care centers, preschools and through our newsletters. We had far less response than three year previous with only 149 families completing the survey. We also looked at the survey after Head Start had completed their hard copy disbursement, there were an additional 95 responses but some of those were from counties not covered by P4F.

Early Childhood Community Needs Assessment Analysis

Fourteen areas of concern were noted from families that participated in the survey. They included: money management, time management, child behavior, health issues, relationships, employment, transportation, dental issues, housing, child care-availability and quality, domestic abuse, child abuse, lack of good paying jobs, unable to travel long distance to jobs. At our county Early Childhood Task Force meetings in March 2016 the list of concerns were taken to the small group of providers who grouped and prioritized what they saw as the needs based on the work they do with children, families or child care providers. All four counties saw the same five areas of concern but each county may have ranked them in a different order. Early childhood providers at the ECTF noted that knowledge of child development was the only area of concern that parents did not indicate but early childhood providers sees that as a need.

Process of Focus

4 ECTF	P4F Board
Money-lack of, Transportation, Work, Credit	Building and Connecting our Early Childhood System
Health Care, Dental Care, Insurance	Quality and Accessibility of Child Care
Food, Groceries, Meal Prep, Food Stamps	Reaching Families through Social Media
Housing Costs, Size	
Child Care Availability & Quality	

This information was provided to the P4F Board along with demographic information. The P4F Board recognized that the prescriptiveness of ECI funding does not lend to funding programs to reach all the priorities that were recognized. The Board selected three priorities that encompass priorities that the ECTF summarized from the families. In the case of prioritizing information about child development they felt that knowledge would most influence family function and child behavior. Priorities were also chosen based on what our ECIA could influence over the next 3-5 years with cooperation of our partners. These three priority areas will be:

1. Building and connecting our early childhood system
2. Child care, both the accessibility and quality of care
3. Reaching families through social media

Other Community Assessments Reviewed

P4F area director, program providers and partners participated in the Community Health Needs Assessments and Healthy Improvement Plan (CHNA & HIP) process in all four counties in 2015. Information from these assessments and the goals that came out of that process had similar themes to those addressed during the P4F needs assessment process. An area of emphasis that overlapped most often was the issue of obesity, whether it was child or adult focused. We recognized that often inactivity is an issue in the majority of the families we serve. It is not mentioned as a priority but we do intend to keep this issue a focus when planning family activities in our area.

There was also collaboration and the use of the most recent Head Start/Early Head Start Community Assessment information during our needs assessment process. Head Start personnel participated in our provider survey and Early Childhood Task Force meetings. This allowed their needs to be represented within our needs assessment. The collaboration of using the same survey was also important to note.

Priorities of Partnerships 4 Families ECIA
Analysis of the Information collected to identify priorities

Priority	Rationale for Identification
Quality and accessibility of child care	+Our four-county area has seen a decrease in the number of child care homes over the past 10 years. +Iowa leads the nation in all parents of children ages 0-5 working. +Quality child care has a correlation to child behavior and development. +Changes to the Child Care Development Block Grant
Building and Connecting our Early Childhood System	+Families identified areas of concern regarding daily living needs, we will work to connect those resources to families and build awareness of them. +Correcting child behavior issues begins with building an awareness of appropriate early childhood development and behavior to parents and all other entities that interact with children. +Our areas population is decreasing as our services to families +Networking among providers to come into our rural counties is important in order to know who and where to connect families.
Reaching Families through Social Media regarding Early Childhood services	+Our four-county area has basic services for families but families are often are not accessing them as indicated in parent surveys. + As communication methods change we struggle to link families with available resources. +Our rural population has become more transient and new families don't know how to access services in their new communities. +All of our early childhood partners can assist with this priority.

Previous Priorities 2013 and progress:

1. Child care, both the accessibility and quality of care
2. Disbursing resource information to families and community partners
3. Appropriate child development information to parents, early childhood providers and the community

***Community-wide Indicators of the Early Childhood Iowa Area Board
Analysis of the Information collected to identify indicators***

Indicator	Rationale for Selection of Indicator
Low Birth Weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *We have tracked this indicator since our inception as an area. *We choose to continue to track it as we have increased the emphasis of prenatal enrollment in home visitation programs. *It is also an indicator that can addresses prenatal care *We have consistently had a low rate of LBW babies in our area and we do not want to see it increase.
Childhood Immunizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *We have tracked this indicator since the inception of our area. *We choose to continue to track it due to the value in seeing if children in our area are receiving their immunizations at the age appropriate time. *This will indicator if parents are obtaining the basic health care for their children ages 0-2.
Incidence of Child Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *We have tracked this indicator since the inception of our area. *It is a rate we have seen minor changes in and wish to see it decline.
Children in Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *We had not tracked this indicator in the past *We choose to begin tracking it to determine, if transient residents and declining population influence this statistic *It is also an indicator of the economic stability of our counties and the jobs that are available.
Availability of Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *We have tracked this indicator since our inception as an area *The number of slots available are a baseline showing potential availability *Our focus is on registered and licensed child care slots. Non registered and preschools are not included in this indicator. We chose to focus on those slots that are in regulated environments.
Quality Early Learning Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Due to the low quality of child care in Iowa and the need for more quality environments in our area we found it appropriate to begin to track this indicator. *As an area we choose to focus on Quality Child Care and will track if changes are being made to increase the quality. *Our quality standard is evaluating environments that meet the 3-5 level of the Quality Rating System (QRS) This indicator will include any environment that meets the Level 3-5 of the QRS including child care and preschools.

The measure used for the Pre Literacy Skills indicator at the state level is no longer required by the state, P4F decided not to tract this indicator. By adding the indicator of Children Living in Poverty, we will be able to better track trends as our population becomes more transient and our counties experience declining population.

EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA AREA INDICATORS										
Early Childhood Iowa Area Indicators	State Results Linked to the Indicator	Identify Source of each Indicator	Baseline Data (date & numerical value)	Subsequent Year's Data (Trend Line) Identify Year					Goal (numerical value & projected timeline)	Progress Update (Brief Analysis of data)
Low Birth Weight (Percent of babies born who weigh under 2500 grams)	B	Vital Statistics of Iowa	2004 512 live births 25 LBW 4.9%	2009 557 Live 39 LBW 7%	2010 500 Live 39 LBW 8%	2011 529 Live 35 LBW 6.6%	2013 559 Live 37LBW 6.6%	2014 533 Live 34 LBW 6.3%	Decrease rate to 2004 Level of 4.9%	The LBW rate saw a few years with a steady increase; we appreciate seeing the lower rate in 2011 and would like to get back to 2004 rate that matched the state.
Childhood Immunizations (Rate children immunized at a public clinic by age 2)	B	Iowa Dept. of Public Health	2010 76%	2010 75%	2011 71%	2012 76%	2013 74.5%	2014 75.5%	Rate will increase to 80% by 2017	Our public rates are steady but we will continue to educate parents on the importance of immunizations.
Incidence of Child Abuse (Child abuse rate for children 5 and under)	C D E	Iowa Dept. of Human Services	2009 74 Children	2010 71 Childr en	2011 80 Children	2012 78 Children	2013 85 Children	2014 42 Children	Rate will decrease below 65 by 2017	Our goal is no children will experience or be exposed to abuse. We were fortunate that none of the children were involved in a drug- related abuse.
Children in Poverty (children 0-6 living at 100% FPL)	A B C D	American Community Survey, Census/Iowa Kids Count	2010 487 children 14%			15.8%			Rate will decrease	This is a new indicator. We are still researching the availability of yearly data.
Availability of Child Care Slots (Number of slots potentially available for children in a licensed or registered setting- excludes preschool settings)	A E	Child Care Resource & Referral	2009 2000 Slots	2010 2330 child care slots	2011 2246 child care slots	2012 2050 child care slots	2013 1996 child care slots	2014 1768 child care slots	Slots will increase by 10% 20 slots	The number of child care slots continues to decrease in our area. We will investigate why and work with CCR&R and the communities to evaluate if there are an adequate number of slots. Working directly with communities to increase slots.
Quality Early Learning Environments (QRS Rating of 3-5)	A E	Child Care Resource & Referral	2007 0 QRS began in 2006	2010 2	2011 12	2012 10	2013 12	2014 11	Increase number of providers reaching 3-5 on QRS to 15	We will assist CCR&R in motivating child care centers and homes to reach levels 3-5 on the QRS.

State Results:

A – Children Ready to Succeed in School B – Healthy Children C – Secure and Nurturing Families
D – Safe and Supportive Communities E – Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

A larger version of the indicators is available upon request.

Strategies of Partnerships 4 Families

Partnerships 4 Families ECI Strategies

As an ECI area, P4F has always strived to concentrate our efforts on the most effective programs that will influence the lives of young children. We allow our guiding principles (page 4) to lead the work we support. Our most effective strategy is through collaboration and networking that will benefit all early childhood programs in our area.

Supporting Quality Programs

P4F is very proud that our three home visitation programs have received the Iowa Family Support Credential through the re-credential process. Three of our programs received were in the first ten to be awarded in the state, during 2010 and 2011. The P4F Board was supportive and encouraging of the programs throughout the process. The program's success fully implemented the Growing Great Kids curriculum in 2014 and has trained new staff. They continue to do charting through Visit Tracker and came on board with DAISEY in July of 2016. P4F supports all their efforts in providing a quality home visitation program.

We have also supported all our area preschools, public, private and Head Start in the implementation of Creative Curriculum and the GOLD assessment. We continued to offer classes to support their efforts in full implementation utilizing the Coaching to Fidelity book that was provided to preschools. Three of our private preschools obtained a three or higher QRS rating in 2016.

With a shift to more child care center based child care in our area, P4F has changed the focus of our Child Care Project to center-based consultation. Through consultation and support to our centers our area has not only maintained centers that were open prior to 2015 but also provided support to three other centers that opened. The quality of our centers has been enhanced with this direct support but our centers struggle to keep staff which is a major barrier to applying for higher ratings on the QRS.

Capacity to Address Results

The P4F Board strives to address the priorities set within our community plan. As an area we have made great strides in increasing the quality of our programs as referenced above that reach young children and their families. With limited funding we concentrate our efforts on programing that is most effective for the area that we serve.

Our area's most successful way to reach our goals is through collaboration. The EC programs in our area all have limited resources and are willing to work together to benefit the children and families they serve. This collaboration has influenced our past results and will continue to do so in the future.

Missing Pieces to Achieving a Successful Early Childhood System

As an ECI area the greatest need is more funding for programing. With more funding we could serve more families, provide more screenings and support our child care environments in implementing higher quality practices.

Moving the Early Childhood System Forward within P4F

In order to move our system forward we will:

- Support our current early childhood programs in continuing and improving the quality effort they have achieved.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of our funded programs through bi annual reporting.
- Work collaboratively with all early childhood providers to make research based information available to all families about early childhood development.
- Develop working relationships with communities regarding the importance of child care and the quality of the child care.
- Continue to prioritize the Early Childhood Task Force (ECTF) meetings that lead to positive collaboration.
- Provide opportunities for new P4F Board members to learn in depth about ECI, the legislative requirements and our early childhood system

The ECIA Board's Process for Awarding Funds

Procedure for allocation of Early Childhood Iowa funding in the Partnerships 4 Families area is as follows:

Funding Cycle

- In February receive approval from P4F Board regarding release of funding. Determine parameters for accepting new programs and allocation process. (This timeline can vary if P4F did not conduct a board meeting.)
- In March release application, announcement is made through newspapers, P4F newsletter and the P4F website.
- In May applications are due
 - Area Director distributes applications to Board members.
 - P4F Board members evaluate applications based on funding guidelines and priorities of our area.
 - P4F Board makes funding recommendations and announcement
 - Applicants are invited to attend the meeting.
 - All decisions of the P4F Board are final and no appeals are allowed.
- Contracts are issued when a state contract is made available.

On Going Contracting Procedures

Monitoring (contract requirements – fiscal and performance)
Performance review (reviewing performance measure data)
Non-Compliance with Contract Requirements
Monitor Expenditure of Funds

Examples of the application, the Board instructions and the contract are available upon request.

Section III: Fiscal Assessment

P4F ECIA Fiscal Assessment Process

P4F Board began the process of a fiscal assessment in November 2015. The decision was made to do it at that time to accommodate our state and federal funded programs in reporting their year-end for FY15 whether that is their federal or state fiscal year end. A letter was drafted by board members, signed by both our board chair and area director and sent to all early childhood providers in our four counties. Due to the nature of our rural area we have very few providers of service and many of them cover the same four counties P4F serves. If providers had not returned the information by January of 2016 an email was sent seeking the information electronically. We had fewer responses in 2016 but the majority of early childhood providers that offer a direct service did respond.

This was the second time that P4F has been able to gather financial data regarding State Wide Voluntary Preschool Programs (SWVPP). It continues to amaze us how many dollars funnel into our area to support 4 year old programs. The amount of funding our child care centers are receiving in the form of county sources, grants and donations shows great support from the public in some of our counties. This information continues to be used when communities investigate expanding child care in their communities. We will continue to use this information as we increase the awareness within our communities regarding the necessity for outside funding in order to keep preschool and child care centers sustainable.

Due to the small amount of ECI funding received in our four counties and the prescriptiveness of the funding, we are unable to utilize the fiscal assessment information for any funding decisions. We will use this information to educate the counties, communities' foundations, and others regarding the need for funding in our area in order to offer more than the basic services to children and families.

The fiscal assessment fails to show how collaboration happens within funding streams. For example, funding from three sources may go to the funding of one staff position. When multiple sources are pulled together, it may require one person to report to three funders. The quality of service being provided may decrease as personnel are pulled in many directions. As federal funding has decreased in our area, our federally funded programs are often still required to serve the same number of children or families. The fiscal assessment only reveals a small piece of the picture.

All funding represented in our assessment was targeted for children ages 0-5 although we know some programs serve other children.

ECIA FISCAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS & COLLABORATION (Conducted January 2016)
 (Codes for identifying sources of funding: Federal Funding =F, State Funding=S, Local Funding=L, Private Funding=P, ECI Local Funding=E)
 (Code for identifying counties served: A-Audubon, C-Carroll, Gr-Greene, and Gu-Guthrie)

AGENCY AND ORGANIZATION SERVICES

Agency/ Organization	Location	Type of Service Provided	Number of Child/Fam Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Sources of Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Audubon Co Public Health	Audubon Co	Immunization	93 Children	\$6793	F S	Collaboration
Carroll Co Public Health	Carroll Co	Immunization	131 Children	\$16,904	F S	Collaboration
Carroll Co Public Health	Carroll Co	H.O.P.E.S.	93 Children 60 Families	\$101,583	ECI	Collaboration
Carroll Co Public Health	Carroll Co	Nest	26 Children	\$16,904	L P	Collaboration
Carroll Co Public Health	Carroll Co	Home Health	150 Children	\$32,000	F S	Collaboration
Greene Co M C Public Health	Greene Co	H.O.P.E.S.	72 Families	\$85,969	ECI L	Collaboration
Greene Co M C Public Health	Greene Co	H.O.P.E.S. ful Beginnings	14 Families	\$1325	P	Collaboration
Greene Co M C Public Health	Greene Co	Immunization	559 Children	\$10,026	S P	Collaboration
Greene Co M C Public Health	Greene Co	Maternal Child Health	584 Children	\$40,985	F	Collaboration
Guthrie Co Public Health	Guthrie Co	H.O.P.E.S.	Children Families	Did not respond	ECI	Collaboration
Guthrie Co Public Health	Guthrie Co	Immunization		Did not respond	S	Collaboration
Guthrie Co Public Health	Guthrie Co	Nest	Families	Did not respond	P	Collaboration
Decat	A C Gr Gu	CPPC/Parenting	80 Children	\$8,050	F S	Collaboration
Decat	A C Gr Gu	Parenting	12 Families	\$4999	S	Collaboration
West Central CAA	A C Gr Gu	CCR&R	2211 Children	\$42,602	F S	Collaboration
New Opportunities	A C Gu	Child & Adult Care Food Program	335 Children	\$186,800	F	Collaboration
New Opportunities	A C Gr Gu	WIC	622 Children	\$173,100	F	Collaboration
New Opportunities	A C Gr Gu	Head Start	119 Children	\$814,000	F	Collaboration

Agency/ Organization	Location	Type of Service Provided	Number of Child/Fam Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Sources of Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
New Opportunities	A C Gr Gu	Early Head Start	16 Children	\$208,024	F	Collaboration
New Opportunities	A C Gu	1 st Five	18 Children	\$33,100	F	Collaboration
New Opportunities	A C Gu	i-Smile	957 Children	\$55,100	F S	Collaboration
New Opportunities	A C Gr Gu	CACFP Head Start	61 Children	\$28,000	F	Collaboration
New Opportunities	A C Gu	Maternal Child Health	1136 Children	\$33,100	F	Collaboration
New Opportunities	A C Gr Gu	Childhood Lead	717 Children	\$22,734	S	Collaboration
Family Resource Center	A C Gr Gu	PCA Iowa Respite & Sexual Abuse Programs	115 Children	\$52,000	S, L	Collaboration
Family Resource Center	A C Gr Gu	Waiver Services	30 Children	\$30,000	Federal	Collaboration

EARLY CARE ENVIRONMENTS

Preschools	Location	Type of Service Provided	Number of Children Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Sources of Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Adair Casey CSD	Gu & Adair	SWVPP	17	\$41,899	S	Communication
Audubon CSD	A	SWVPP	33	\$93,467	S	Collaboration
Carroll CSD (Kuemper also)	C	SWVPP	182	\$551,133	S	Collaboration
Coon Rapids Bayard CSD	A C Gr Gu	SWVPP	32	\$109,582	S	Collaboration
Guthrie Center CSD	Gu	SWVPP	31	\$83,789	S	Collaboration
IKM Manning CSD	A C & Crawford	SWVPP	34	\$128,920	S	Collaboration
Greene County	Gr	SWVPP	74	\$273,955	S	Collaboration
Panorama	Gu	SWVPP	28	\$128,920	S	Collaboration
Paton-Churdan	Gr	SWVPP	10	\$51,568	S	Collaboration
West Central Valley CSD	Gu, A, Dallas	SWVPP	5656	\$208,000	S	Collaboration
Exira-EHK	A	SWVPP	25	\$64,460	S	Collaboration

Licensed Child Care Centers	Location	Type of Service Provided	Number of Children Served	Yearly Estimated Funding from Sources other than Families	Identified Sources of Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Breda Child Care Center	Breda	Child Care	*	*	L P	Collaboration
Carroll Area CCC & Preschool	Carroll	Child Care	*	*	L P	Collaboration

Licensed Child Care Centers	Location	Type of Service Provided	Number of Children Served	Yearly Estimated Funding from Sources other than Families	Identified Sources of Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Greene County Early Learning Center	Jefferson	Child Care	100 Children	\$77,438	S L P	Collaboration
Kid Zone	Guthrie Center	Child Care	*	*	L P	Collaboration
Little Panther Daycare & Preschool	Panorama	Child Care	54	\$21,260	L P	Collaboration
Manning Child Care Center	Manning	Child Care	105	\$68,900	L P	Collaboration
Children's Nest	Audubon	Child Care	None served in FY15			

*did not report

LIBRARIES

The 18 libraries in our area provided educational opportunities to families of young children. A couple received grants specifically for young children programs but all find it hard to establish how much of their funding directly targets children 0-5. But we recognize them as a key entity in our area.

What it tells us:

The data provides us a snapshot of some funding that comes into our area. When comparing figures from our previous collection of fiscal data we saw no drastic increases in funding only small increases and often no increase. The most useful piece of data that is collected comes from the child care centers. We have used their information to show that the centers in our area rely on outside support to maintain their buildings and programs.

Section IV: Community Collaboration

Collaborative and Networking Opportunities (Board focus)

P4F Board Members Outreach

As a four-county area, P4F Board members have not jointly conducted a community collaborative effort. Individual Board Members have done an excellent job of promoting early childhood. Following are a few examples:

- As a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer and State ECI Board member this previous board member promoted the value of home visitation to community members and legislators.
- A board member assisted in a kick off meeting to discuss the need for additional child care in Audubon County. He encouraged other business representatives to attend. .
- When a private preschool lost its director a P4F Board member joined in the conversation about searching for a replacement that would meet the qualifications.
- Another Board member is a leading organizer in the Toddler Fest in Greene County, conducts story time at her local library and in the past has taken story time to the homes of the child care providers.
- Board members support efforts in their communities that strengthen families.

The P4F Board members have done a wonderful job of being advocates in their communities. As we bring on new board members we will continue to encourage them to be involved in their communities and be a voice for quality early childhood services.

P4F Area Director Outreach

On behalf of the P4F Board, the P4F Area Director is an integral part of the outreach in our area. The P4F Area Director:

- Attends human resource coalition meetings in all four counties where human service providers network for the benefit of the citizens of that county. The Area Director has given presentations to these coalitions to provide an in-depth look at ECI.
- Works closely with the DCAT and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children's (CPPC) coordinator who covers all four counties as Communities 4 Children. Jointly the ECI, DCAT and CPPS work to ensure that there is not duplication of funding to programs and assists in promoting funded programs. The P4F newsletter includes the DCAT meetings and announcements.
- Assists the local Prevent Child Abuse agency (Family Resource Center) in promoting the Parent Time Out and Crisis Child Care that they offer to families in our area. During April P4F also assists in promoting Prevent Child Abuse month.
- Has had little collaboration with community foundations in our area directly. P4F has encouraged programs and child care centers to apply to the foundations for funding and assisted in the development of grants or writing support letters for programs. As a rural area none of our four counties has a foundation that is very

- visible other than when they award the state allocated funding.
- Is developing a relationship with the new United Way director in Carroll. This is the only United Way in our four counties and only covers the community of Carroll. Although they are looking at expanding in the future. The United Way allocated just under \$60,000 in Carroll last year.
- Was an integral partner in representing the P4F Board when our local public health agencies conducted their Community Health Needs Assessments and wrote their Health Improvement Plans (CHNA-HIP) in 2015 to ensure that the needs of young children were represented

Community Partners Networking *(Community Focus)*

Collaboration is the key to our Early Childhood Iowa Area. Without collaboration we would not have the strong early childhood system that currently exists in our four counties. Whether it is working together for reunification of a child, quality child care or the overall development of a child we can offer many examples of how our area has worked together over the years to meet the needs of the children and families.

Early Childhood Task Force and Early Childhood Brochures

Our Early Childhood Task Force (ECTF) community meetings have become a cornerstone for area when regarding collaboration. Each of our four counties has an ECTF meeting three times a year. The meetings take place at 4:00 PM or 1:00 PM in the summer to accommodate the preschool teachers, AEA staff, child care center directors and any early childhood provider or advocate for children. P4F funded programs are required to attend. The meetings provide for networking, ECI updates and current early childhood events. They are also utilized to provide input to the P4F Board on local needs.

A collaborative brochure was developed for each of our counties as a result of the ECTF community meetings. Within the brochures Child Care, Preschools and Early Childhood Services are highlighted with agency contact information. The one sheet brochure was intended to give families of young children a quick reference for all early childhood services in a county. Members of the ECTF are tasked with updating the brochure each fall; P4F provides funding for the printing of the brochure and makes it available on our website. We would like to distribute it more widely but find that printing costs hinder the efforts.

Community Collaborations that Benefit Families

- ❖ H.O.P.E.S. Carroll County has advocated for families through the Family Team Meeting process. The team consists of the child's parents, additional family members, foster parents, DHS staff including the DHS Supervisor, attorneys for parents as well as the guardian ad litem, CASA volunteer, Family Team Meeting Facilitator, and the H.O.P.E.S. Family Support Worker. A family team meeting provides a great collaborative effort as all the players in a child's life come together to work for that child's best interest.

- ❖ H.O.P.E.S. in Greene County recently found a new collaboration with Genesis Development, an agency that works with persons with disabilities. When it was discovered that they had mutual clients, Genesis and H.O.P.E.S. collaborated to serve the families with strength based services. It is a unique collaboration and one that benefits the children and parents greatly.
- ❖ H.O.P.E.S. Guthrie County has been serving a child with Down's Syndrome and other agencies involved include Early ACCESS and Early Head Start. The needs of the family are high but each agency involved has taken on a role to assist the family. An informal coordinated system has developed and is assisting this family in meeting the needs of their child.
- ❖ In October 2010, Greene County Medical Center Public Health began sub-contracting with Webster County Public Health as a Title V Maternal Child Health provider. Greene County has always had a strong family home visitation program, and with the MCH grant they were able to provide a continuum of care for the families they serve. A seamless system of care was provided to the families that were eligible for MCH and participating in the H.O.P.E.S. program, in cooperation with medical homes.
- ❖ The four H.O.P.E.S. programs meet quarterly for training and networking opportunities. Each county is responsible for one of the trainings and works with the P4F area director to set the agenda. Current state initiatives are covered at these meetings. This allows all staff to learn of new initiatives and implementation processes.

Community Collaborations that involved Child Care

- ❖ Prior to 2012 if a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) from our area wished to attend a chapter meeting they would have to travel to Fort Dodge, Sioux City or Council Bluffs. Iowa AEYC was approached by members to see if we could develop a west central Iowa chapter. The request was approved in July of 2012 and a kick off meeting was held in September. In the past year meetings have been held every other month. The current goals of the chapter is to increase the membership in NAEYC and the networking opportunities for early childhood providers in Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie and Sac counties. In 2016 the Chapter is being redirected with hopes to increase the professional activities of the Chapter.
- ❖ The Child Care Project began Child Care Center Director collaborative meetings in 2008. Staff from Child Care Project, P4F Area Director, Child Care Resource and Referral and Child Care Center Directors began meeting at a different child care center quarterly. The agenda is completely driven by the directors and is dependent on current issues at the centers or the state level. The meetings have allowed a networking support system to develop among the directors. The sharing of information is extended to the staff at the centers.
- ❖ As a four-county area we had a system in place to support our early care environments so that the spread of infectious diseases and child injuries were prevented, health emergency protocols were developed, and assistance with medication and the care for children with special health needs was provided. Due to system changes, we now lack funding to specifically fund any services that are directed at these needs. Currently there is not a child care nurse consultant that is

assigned to our area. We rely on the Child Care Resource and Referral health consultant and the local public health nurses to answer the questions of our local providers and fulfill our state requirement.

- ❖ **Child Care Expansion**-The Child Care Project Early Childhood Advisor has guided area directors in the development of a new center or expansion of one. The following time line is an example of what must take place for a centers license.--A licensed child care center must complete many steps before they are issued a license and given permission to open. The floor plans of the building must be completed by a licensed architect and submitted to the State Fire Marshalls office where they approve the plans prior to any remodeling beginning. During the building or remodeling of the center, The Board of Directors and Child Care Center Director work on the checklist of items that need to be submitted for initial licensure with the licensing consultant from the Department of Human Services. The licensing consultant will come out for an initial inspection and give the center to permission to open without a license only after the fire marshal has come out and inspected and given them permission to occupy. The licensing consultant has 120 days to complete a licensing visit to the center.---The collaboration that takes place for all pieces to align is a testament to the dedication of the centers and staff.

Community Collaborations that involved Preschool

- ❖ Four school districts in our area have a shared program with Head Start. The sharing arrangement is unique in each of the school districts depending on the needs and number of children served. These sharing arrangements grew when schools applied for the State Wide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) through the Department of Education. One of the four programs also offers a three year old program where P4F offers tuition assistance. Through blending of funding the schools are able to serve more children and offer full day programing.
- ❖ P4F Preschool Support in collaboration with Head Start has provided a wealth of training on Creative Curriculum and the GOLD Assessment in the past four years. These trainings have allowed programs in our area to receive quality information without traveling to Des Moines. Programs were also offered a coach to assist them in implementation of the curriculum and assessment. This model has allowed for Creative Curriculum to be more fully implemented at our area preschools. Trainings were always open to school districts, Head Start, and private preschools in our four counties.

Future Collaborative Plans

Housing, Utility and Food Assistance Programs

As a result of the needs assessment we found that families would benefit knowing about opportunities to stretch the family income. We will be taking the approach of educating our early childhood providers of all the assistance programs for housing, utility and food resources, so that they will be able to assist families more adequately through awareness of such programs. Supporting young children means supporting their

families.

Coordinated Intake for Home Visitation

Discussions took place regarding Coordinated Intake for home visitation to assess how families are being served with the three different home visitation services in our counties which include: H.O.P.E.S., Early Head Start and FaDSS (Families Developing Self Sufficiency). It was decided to utilize the state coordinated intake with the local ECI director being a contact for any referrals. This has fulfilled the need but is always being looked at. Head Start recently changed their intake process and the coordinator is working closely with the P4F director to place families who are referred locally.

Continued Development of West Central Iowa AEYC

As mentioned previously a new chapter of Iowa AEYC was recently formed in our area. It is a goal to continue the growth and collaborative efforts of the chapter. The P4F and the Buena Vista, Crawford and Sac ECI area directors have been instrumental in moving this forward and will continue to work collaboratively to develop the chapter for the NAEYC members in our area.

Early Childhood Professionals

The P4F area has experienced a large number of retirements of early childhood professionals in the past three years in all four of our counties. Long term Head Start staffs, AEA, preschool teachers, public health nurses have all retired and taken years of knowledge with them. We realize that we need to be proactive in including the new staff at our Early Childhood Task Force meetings and involve them in local collaborative meetings. The P4F area director will take a lead on welcoming new professionals and provide local resource materials to them.

Social Media Collaboration

Connecting with families means connecting via social media, P4F will work collaboratively with our early childhood partners to assist in reaching families through social media. We will also watch what is being developed at the state level that could be implemented locally.

Continuation of Current Collaboration

After 18 years as a four-county Empowerment and ECI area we have been fortunate to develop many collaborative efforts and find that they are the cornerstones to serving the children and families in our area. While we recognize there are still collaborative efforts to be made, it is also important to nourish and respect all those that we currently have in place. We will continue to work as an area to serve children and families to ensure that "Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful."

Section V: Review and Evaluation

P4F conducts a three prong approach to review and evaluate the early childhood system with which we are entrusted. The three prongs consist of evaluation of the community plan, evaluation of the funded programs and evaluation of the P4F Board.

Evaluation of the P4F Early Childhood Community Plan

The P4F Board conducts a review of the Early Childhood Community Plan every year with input from the Early Childhood Task Force members in all four counties. As a multi county area we have always respected this local input in decision making and evaluation of our system's efforts. Review includes assessing goals and focus areas. At least every other year a SWOT analysis is done at the Early Childhood Task Force meetings.

New P4F Board members are provided with a copy of the P4F Early Childhood Community Plan during new member orientation.

A full evaluation of our area has been conducted every 3-4 years to completely update the P4F Early Childhood Community Plan. Readers can refer back to the section on Needs Assessment for detail on this process.

Evaluation of Funded Programs

The P4F Board seeks input from the programs that they fund both in report form and in person. Programs submit a semiannual and annual written report that is provided to the full board. Program goals are tracked and evaluated for effectiveness. Due to the small number of programs we are able to fund, we have always taken this evaluation directly to the board. The annual report that is submitted to the Early Childhood Iowa office is also evaluated by the Board. Required program performance measure data is evaluated and tracked. All of this information assists in decision making for funding, focus areas and area wide efforts as we collaborate with community partners.

Each year funded programs are invited to a P4F Board meeting to present an update on their progress. A different focus of the programs is presented each year so board members gain a comprehensive understanding of the programs. Board members often comment that these presentations provide the best understanding of the programs. Occasionally community partners are invited to present information that directly affects the efforts of the area.

Evaluation of the Board

The P4F internal evaluation consisting of their roles, responsibilities and the operational activities is conducted through a yearly survey of the board members by the board members and the community. Comments received from this evaluation assists in directing the work of the board throughout the year. Professional development is incorporated into the P4F Board meetings.

Contact Information

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