

Results Accountability

Accountability at the state, local and community program delivery level have been a hallmark of Community Empowerment since its inception in 1998.

Essentially state and local policy makers are encouraged to ask the following questions:

- What are the results we want for young children and their families?
- What does data tell us about how the well-being of young children and their families?
- What will work to improve the results?
- How will we know if a specific service, product or activity is working?

Results accountability is about the first two questions. What are the results, or bottom line conditions desired for all the young children and families at the state or community level? Where do we want to go?

The desired results for Community Empowerment, through legislation are:

- Healthy Children
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Safe and Supportive Communities
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

Using data at the statewide and community level, indicators are used to measure progress toward the desired results for all of Iowa's young children and their families. These measures directly or indirectly quantify achievement of a result. In 2000, the Iowa Empowerment Board approved the following indicators to track statewide progress, by result area:

RESULT

STATE INDICATORS

Healthy Children

- Low Birth Weight
- Rate of Immunization by age 2

Children Ready to Succeed in School

- Children entering kindergarten re ready for school

Safe and Supportive Communities

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

Secure and Nurturing Families

- Incidence of Child Abuse
- Teen Birth Rate

Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

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

No one person, organization or program can achieve the desired results. It takes state-local partnerships in planning, budgeting, collaboration and the delivery of services through a comprehensive early care, health and education system.