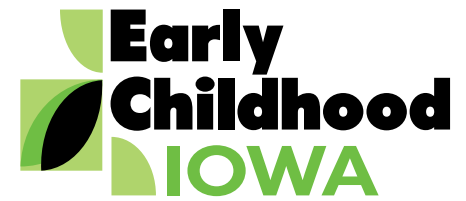


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT 2021



Early Childhood Iowa receives funding that is to be used for professional development activities to support and strengthen the comprehensive early childhood system.

Input is provided by the ECI Professional Development Component Group regarding needs for the system. Primarily, these funds are applied towards activities that support the entire state and could not happen at a local level.



All projects are aligned with the ECI Strategic Plan and support professional development activities across the areas of early learning, family support, health, mental health, and nutrition.

FY 21

\$825,030

state allocation for professional development activities

FUNDED PROJECTS

- Iowa Family Support Credential
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (EC-PBIS)
- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA Scholarships and Child Care WAGE\$IOWA
- Child Care Nurse Consultants
- Overall professional development coordination

REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND IOWA TRAINING PROJECT FOR CHILD CARE NURSE CONSULTANTS (CCNC)

Child Care Nurse Consultants (CCNC) are registered nurses who provide visits, consultation, training, and technical assistance to early childhood care and education providers. Child care and early education businesses contact CCNCs about health and safety policies, infectious disease prevention, medication management, health of personnel, specific child health or safety issues, and care planning for children with special health needs.

The Regional TA Team of experienced CCNCs, the Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) Coordinator and the HCCI Professional Development Nurse Clinician provide support and mentoring to local CCNCs. They also make Quality Rating System (QRS) visits and provide DHS approved training gap filling in counties without CCNC access and precept nurses enrolled in the Iowa Training Project for Child Care Nurse Consultants (ITPCCNC). ITPCCNC is based on the National Training Institute (NTI) for Child Care Health Consultation model and incorporates NTI and Iowa specific materials. During this contract year, technical assistance, mentoring, and the Iowa Training Project for Child Care Nurse Consultant Precepting was supported by multiple funding sources, including \$60,725 from the ECI State Professional Development funds.

For the full FY21 annual report visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/128/FY21%20MCAH%20SPM3%20final%2010052021.pdf>

INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH

Infant Mental Health Endorsement® (IMH-E®) and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement® (ECMH-E®) are two separate credentials that can be earned by anyone working with, or on behalf of, very young children and their families, with a focus on strengthening and supporting early relationships that are crucial to a child's social and emotional development. Endorsement® signifies that an applicant has acquired competencies to promote the delivery of high quality, culturally sensitive, relationship- focused services to infants, toddlers, parents, other caregivers and families. During this contract year, ECMH-E® and IMH-E® were supported by multiple funding sources, including \$70,450 from the ECI State Professional Development funds.

For the full FY21 annual report visit <https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/document/iowa-association-infant-and-early-childhood-mental-health-fy21-annual-report>

T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD® IOWA

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA is a comprehensive, evidence-based scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for Iowa's children.

T.E.A.C.H. supports the professional development of the early and education workforce in the state, contributing to healthy, safe, and quality early learning environments for Iowa's youngest citizens.

During this contract year, T.E.A.C.H. has been supported by multiple funding sources, including \$261,115 from the ECI State Professional Development funds.

For the full T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA report, visit <http://www.iowaaec.org/teach-annual-report.cfm>

CHILD CARE WAGE\$® IOWA

Child Care WAGE\$® IOWA provides education-based financial awards to those in the early care and education workforce in order to improve retention, compensation and education levels of those working with children ages birth to five years old.

WAGE\$ is more than just a wage supplement. Each recipient is paired with a counselor who helps them navigate the WAGE\$ program and encourages their continued education. In addition to those participating in the program, WAGE\$ also serves as an incentive for other staff at qualifying programs to consider increasing their education level and for programs not yet eligible to take steps to increase their level of quality and/or begin serving low-income children.

During this contract year, WAGE\$ has been supported by multiple funding sources, including \$107,500 from the ECI State Professional Development funds.

For the full WAGE\$® IOWA report, visit

<http://www.iowaaeyc.org/teach-annual-report.cfm>

IOWA FAMILY SUPPORT CREDENTIAL

The purpose of the Iowa Family Support Credentialing Program is to improve program quality, provide an outside evaluation perspective and to ensure that family support programs in Iowa represent a deep and abiding commitment to delivering the highest quality services possible to families and children. As the family support initiative continues to grow and expand in our state, quality improvement helps assure that family support will continue to be regarded by the interested public as a quality service, representing a given set of standards.

The Iowa Family Support Credentialing program is intended for programs that do not have access to an external evaluation. The Iowa Family Support Credential is public recognition by the Early Childhood Iowa office and Iowa Department of Public Health that a family support program is following evidence-based practice standards. The Iowa Family Support Credential is awarded to family support programs that complete the peer review process and are found to be in substantial adherence with all of the Iowa Family Support Standards.

The Iowa Family Support Credentialing Program is supported by ECI State Professional Development funds (\$160,000) and the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting funds. A partnership between the ECI State Office and the Iowa Department of Public Health created and supported this program since its inception.

FY21 Highlights

- 13 peer reviews conducted for 16 programs
- 97% of standards found in adherence at conclusion of peer review
- 92% of Iowa counties have at least one program participating in the Iowa Family Support Credential
- 217 hours of technical assistance were provided and all peer reviews for FY21 were conducted virtually

EARLY CHILDHOOD – POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (EC-PBIS)

The mission of the EC-PBIS State Leadership Team is to develop the state infrastructure so that all early care, health and education providers successfully implement the Pyramid Model of positive behavior supports with fidelity (\$30,000 ECI State PD funds). Early Childhood-Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (EC-PBIS), the Pyramid Model initiative in Iowa, offers early childhood programs a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to promoting social-emotional development and addressing challenging behaviors among young children. EC-PBIS creates nurturing environments for children equipped with supported staff trained to respond to challenging behaviors. This is all for the goal of fostering positive mental health at a young age.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

The primary responsibility of coordination is support of the ECI Professional Development (PD) Group annual plan, aligned to the “We are ECI” Strategic Plan 2019-2022. The ECI PD Executive Committee, the PD Early Learning Leadership Team; the PD Health, Mental Health, Nutrition Leadership Team; and coordination with the Family Support Leadership Group meet quarterly to share strategic plan implementation progress with small group meetings frequently throughout the year focused on implementation activities.

FY21 Highlights:

- A revised version of the early childhood care and education career pathway was launched via eceducationpathway.org. Navigate My Pathway: Journey Towards Excellence in an Early Childhood Career provides a pathway to help make decisions about training and education needed to develop a dynamic career in early childhood care and education fields. The pathway content and infrastructure revision was aligned with the National Association for the Education of Young Children’s Early Childhood Education tiers I, II, III. These nationally recognized tiers of educational achievement were a result of NAEYC’s Unifying Framework from the national stakeholder engagement of Power to the Profession.
- The ECI Professional Development component group engaged 85+ stakeholders statewide to develop and adopt the [Iowa Adult Education and Coaching Competencies](#). These competencies define the necessary knowledge and skills for adult educators and technical assistance professionals. These professionals represent a wide range of disciplines and provide support to the Iowa early childhood workforce. Technical assistance professionals adhere to varying regulations and standards within their fields; and work within multiple settings, communities, programs, agencies, and systems throughout the state.

The Iowa Adult Educator and Coaching Competencies support the Early Childhood Iowa cross-system and cross-sector professional development system - with the ultimate goal to provide high quality services to young children and their families.