

# Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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## Statewide Required Program Performance Measures Beginning in FY'11

The Iowa Legislature passed a state government reorganization bill that was signed into law by Governor Culver on March 10<sup>th</sup>. [SF 2088](#) includes several policy changes to Community Empowerment. One of them charges the Early Childhood Iowa State Board (formerly the Iowa Empowerment Board) with increased transparency and statewide data collection and reporting requirements. It also requires the State Board to establish and enforce statewide performance measures for the programs supported with Early Childhood Iowa funds.

Accountability for results is not new to the Early Childhood Iowa Board. While reporting inputs, outputs, quality/efficiency and outcomes have been a hallmark of Community Empowerment since its inception, in 2008, the State Board set the required performance measures in the area of family support and parent education. Using a required, valid and reliable instrument to measure five outcomes, Community Empowerment can now report some very promising results which are found in the [Secure and Nurturing Families section](#) of the 2009 annual report.

Getting right to work on the new challenge of identifying performance measures for the other Early Childhood Iowa funds, a workgroup was formed consisting of Empowerment Coordinators and state technical assistance team members and local providers. Through a lot of hard work and input from their peers, they provided the State Board a set of recommended performance measures in the areas of direct services, indirect services and local board staff support. At their June 4 meeting the State Board approved their recommendations and all programs funded with Early Childhood Iowa funds will be reporting on these measures beginning July 1, 2010.

During the month of June, the state technical assistance team will be providing training in five regional locations across the state. The purpose is for participants to learn about the required measures and practice the completion of the annual report requirements for funded programs. The targeted audience is funded program providers, Community Empowerment Coordinators and interested local board members.

Reporting data in a consistent way throughout the state will only strengthen the reporting of progress toward the five legislated results for Iowa's young children and families – Healthy Children, Children Ready to Succeed in School, Secure and Nurturing Families, Safe and Supportive Communities and Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments. We look forward to the data that will be shared in the fall of 2011.

*Disclaimer:*  
Many articles in this newsletter are submitted by various entities. The views and opinions contained within may or may not be those of Iowa Community Empowerment.

To add your CEA web site to this list, send a note to [debra.scrowther@iowa.gov](mailto:debra.scrowther@iowa.gov).

**Adair County**

[www.adairpowerment.org](http://www.adairpowerment.org)

**Audubon, Carroll, Greene, Guthrie**

[www.partnerships4families.org/](http://www.partnerships4families.org/)

**Benton County**

[www.bcempowerment.com](http://www.bcempowerment.com)

**Black Hawk**

[www.cedarvalleypromise.org](http://www.cedarvalleypromise.org)

**Boone**

<http://booneempowerment.com/>

**Bremer, Butler, Franklin, Grundy**

[www.together4families.org](http://www.together4families.org)

**Buchanan Delaware Fayette**

[www.bdfempowerment.org](http://www.bdfempowerment.org)

**Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac**

[www.BVCSEmpowerment.com](http://www.BVCSEmpowerment.com)

**Cass Mills Montgomery** [www.boost4families.org](http://www.boost4families.org)

**Cedar** [www.empowercedarco.org](http://www.empowercedarco.org)

**Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth**

[www.empowermentforthekids.org](http://www.empowermentforthekids.org)

**Cherokee, Lyon, Plymouth, Sioux**

<http://nwice.org>

**Clinton, Jackson** [www.cj-empowerment.com](http://www.cj-empowerment.com)

**Dallas**

[www.co.dallas.ia.us/Comm\\_Services/Empowerment.asp](http://www.co.dallas.ia.us/Comm_Services/Empowerment.asp)

**Des Moines/Louisa**

[www.caringcommunityempowerment.org](http://www.caringcommunityempowerment.org)

**Dubuque**

[www.empowerdubuque.org](http://www.empowerdubuque.org)

**Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell**

[www.fmcempowerment.com](http://www.fmcempowerment.com)

**Fremont, Page**

[www.co.page.ia.us/offices/empowerment/index.htm](http://www.co.page.ia.us/offices/empowerment/index.htm)

**HAWC** [www.HAWC-Iowa.com](http://www.HAWC-Iowa.com)

**Hardin** [www.empowerhardin.net](http://www.empowerhardin.net)

**Henry** [www.healthymhenrycounty.org](http://www.healthymhenrycounty.org)

**Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright**

[www.buildingfamilies.net](http://www.buildingfamilies.net)

**Jasper** <http://www.jaspercountyempowerment.org/>

**Johnson**

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

**Lee, VanBuren**

[www.childrenfirstempowerment.org](http://www.childrenfirstempowerment.org)

**Linn**

[www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org](http://www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org)

**Madison** [www.madisoncountyhelp.org](http://www.madisoncountyhelp.org)

**Mahaska, Wapello**

[www.mahaskawapelloempowerment.org](http://www.mahaskawapelloempowerment.org)

**Marshall** [www.youthandviolence.org](http://www.youthandviolence.org)

**Muscatine**

[www.muscatineempowerment.org](http://www.muscatineempowerment.org)

**Palo Alto, Kossuth**

[www.pakempowerment.com](http://www.pakempowerment.com)

**Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster**

[www.linking-families.com](http://www.linking-families.com)

**Polk** [www.hspa.org](http://www.hspa.org)

**Pottawattamie**

[www.promisepartners.info](http://www.promisepartners.info)

**Scott**

[www.scottcountyempowerment.org](http://www.scottcountyempowerment.org)

**Story** [www.storycountyfamily.org](http://www.storycountyfamily.org)

**Tama**

[www.tamacounty.org/empowerment](http://www.tamacounty.org/empowerment)

**Warren**

[www.warrenempowerment.org](http://www.warrenempowerment.org)

**Washington**

[www.washingtoncountyempowerment.org](http://www.washingtoncountyempowerment.org)

**Woodbury** [www.siouxlandship.org](http://www.siouxlandship.org)

## Update April – May 2010

### Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- ECI Public Engagement workgroup –April 1 & May 6
- Early Childhood Workforce Study committee –April 22
- Meet with DE regarding student identifier – April 12
- Levels of Excellence workgroup –April 6, 20 & May 4 & 18
- ECI Professional Development Steering committee –April 8 & May 27
- ECI Co-chair meeting – April 1
- Fiscal Accountability Workgroup – April 1 & May 6
- ECI Congress Planning leadership group – April 6
- Early Childhood Advisory Council workgroup – April 7 & 19
- ECI Co-chairs and SALT transition discussion – April 12
- IEB meeting prep with Rob Grunewald – April 13
- Meet with DE fiscal staff regarding implementation of funding for FY'11 – April 13
- ECI Retreat planning – April 14 & May 5 & 24
- PBS Family Support connection meeting – April 15
- Child Care Facilities for children 0-3 conversation with Zero to Three – April 16
- Required Performance Measures workgroup – April 16 & May 12
- Project THRIVE conference call – April 19
- ECI Governance & Administration workgroup – April 20
- Empowerment and HOPES meeting – April 21
- DHS New Child Care Center rules training – April 22
- Iowans Fit for Life – April 23
- Meeting with DE regarding director duties on IEB and the transition – April 26
- IDPH (ECCS) interviews – April 28
- Early Childhood monitoring procedures planning – April 29
- RBA webinar – April 29
- Meeting with AG's office regarding new legislation – May 5
- ECI Congress Planning – May 11
- ECI Council – May 11
- State Child Care Advisory Council – May 13
- Family Support Leadership Group – May 14
- QRS Oversight workgroup – May 17
- Empowerment Coordinators Statewide Quarterly TA Meeting – May 19
- ECI Diversity Advisory Council – May 21

### Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Ft Dodge, CCR&R and Empowerment joint meeting – April 12
- Muscatine preschool support TA – April 13
- Atlantic, Regional Coordinators meeting – April 15
- Pottawattamie, RBA training – April 16
- Adair, Warren, Dallas, Madison merge meeting – April 19
- Creston, Regional Coordinators meeting – April 19
- Knoxville, RBA training – April 21
- Emmet TA – April 21
- NW Iowa – April 22 & 26
- Jones, merge TA – April 27
- Linn, merge TA – April 27
- Ida, merge TA – April 27
- Des Moines, Louisa annual report template TA – April 27
- Merge meeting with Adair, Dallas, Madison, Warren CEA boards – May 20
- NW Iowa Community Empowerment area board meeting – May 21

## Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

### Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meeting

July 14, 2010  
Rising Sun Church of Christ  
Pleasant Hill

### Iowa AEYC Diversity Event with Louise Derman Sparks

August 21, 2010  
Science Center of Iowa  
[www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org)

### Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting

September 10, 2010  
Iowa Department of Economic  
Development Board Room  
Des Moines

### ECI Council

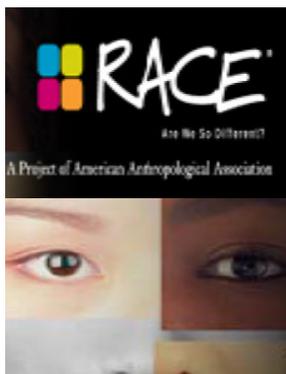
September 14, 2010  
9:00 AM – Noon  
Location to be Determined  
Des Moines Metro  
[www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)

### Iowa's Mosaic Diversity Conference

October 18, 2010  
Scheman Center  
Ames  
[www.iowamosaic.org](http://www.iowamosaic.org)

## Upcoming Events:

### *Celebrate Diversity in the Early Childhood Classroom*



Louise Derman-Sparks, co-author of *Anti-Bias Education*, is headlining a special workshop event at the Science Center of Iowa on August 21, 2010. Sponsored by Iowa AEYC, The Science Center of Iowa, the Donna Harman Lecture Series at University of Northern Iowa, Early Childhood Iowa Diversity Advisory Committee, and the Head Start State Collaboration Office at the Iowa Department of Education, the day will offer five hours of training workshops.

### *Celebrate Diversity Among Young Children: Best Practices for Early Childhood & Primary Classrooms*

is being held in conjunction with a special RACE exhibit offered this summer at the Science Center of Iowa. Participants will have a chance to view the RACE exhibit, and receive lunch and materials including a free copy of the *Anti-Bias Education* book. Training credit, NAC credit, and DMACC CEUs will be offered. Go to [www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org) for registration materials – space is limited.

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### *Project Approach - Fall Teacher Academy*

Sponsored by the Iowa AEYC Des Moines Chapter and the Science Center of Iowa

- **Come connect with other teachers who share your philosophy and value emergent curriculum**
- **Experience professional development in a meaningful way that gives you a chance to implement new things in your classroom over time**
- **Learn how to implement active engaged learning through the Project Approach**

The Project Approach is an engaging and powerful way to teach children how to love learning. Project work motivates children and provides motivation to learn about academic skills such as reading and writing. For young children, it provides an exciting introduction to investigations. Child initiated learning engages children, reduces behavior problems and invigorates classrooms.

**Dr. Judy Harris Helm, co-author of *Young Investigators***, will guide you through doing a project in your own classroom from topic selection to closing activities. During the first 3 sessions, you are guided step-by-step through your first project. You will learn about each phase of the project, receive guidance in planning, and implement the plan in your own classroom.

Each time you return, you will be able to share your project work, discuss implementation issues and receive feedback on your project. The 4th session you will share and celebrate the work of your children where parents are invited to come and see the project completed during the workshop series. (Ages Toddler—Third Grade)

### **Save these Dates! - Featuring Dr. Judy Harris Helm**

*October 14th—Pre-conference Session of Iowa AEYC conference*

*October 26th—4-8pm Evening Session*

*November 16—4-8 pm Evening Session*

*December 5—Open House Celebration of Classroom Projects*

### **Registration Information Coming Soon.**

# ***The Changing Diversity Footprint: Moving from Reflex to Inclusion***

**October 18, 2010  
Scheman Center, Ames IA**



## **About Us**

The **Iowa Mosaic Diversity Conference** is a premiere opportunity providing you a collaborative environment to network, share your expertise, your products, and information with a diverse and enthusiastic market. Our mission is to provide a compelling learning experience fostering and supporting business and leadership in diversity and inclusion.

## **Conference Theme**

This year's theme, "**The Changing Diversity Footprint: Moving from Reflex to Inclusion**" addresses the reality that diversity is here and our footprint has changed. The time has come to get beyond our initial instinctual reactions to difference and move to proactive strategies that build cross-cultural connections, and incorporate the strengths and assets diverse people bring to our communities and organizations.

## **Who Attends**

- Diversity consultants
- Human resource professionals
- Managers, executives, and professionals
- Government managers and employees
- Recruiters
- Healthcare professionals
- Educators
- Police Officers
- Legal professionals
- Non-profit executives
- Small business owners
- Students
- Persons with an interest in Diversity

**For more information, or to register for the event, visit [www.iowamosaic.org](http://www.iowamosaic.org).**

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## Iowa Empowerment Board News

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board was held on June 4, 2010 at Iowa Department of Economic Development in Des Moines. Judy McCoy Davis, board chairperson called the meeting to order and introduced new board members, Alice Atkinson, citizen member from Iowa City and Jerome Mohr, citizen member from Eldridge.

After the approval of the March 2010 meeting minutes, Rob Grunewald, Associate Economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, presented, “The Economic Case for Investments in Young Children”. Specially invited business leaders, as well as board members, were able to take advantage of Rob’s expertise during a short question/answer period following his presentation.

Several updates were provided to the Iowa Empowerment Board including the following: the current work of the Fiscal Accountability Work Group, and a presentation describing the merging of Community Empowerment with Early Childhood Iowa. Handouts were provided.

The IEB took action on the following items which all passed unanimously:

- Adoption of the updated Encumbered Policy which provides further guidance regarding carry-forward funding for early childhood Iowa area boards that merge.
- Further definition of allowable expenditures from the School Ready Quality Improvement funds to support the work of the local board. This will be reflected within Tool II of the Community Empowerment Toolkit.
- Designation of a new area board – Henry, Washington.
- Waiver request from Linn County of the newly legislated family support, home visitation requirement.
- Adoption of Tool FF (Family Support/Parent Education guidance), revised to reflect legislated changes in policy.
- Adoption of the expanded statewide required program performance measures beginning in FY’11.
- Adoption of the Early Childhood Grants Carry Forward Policy which states that any area board with a carry forward amount exceeding 20% at the end of the fiscal year, will receive a letter from the state making them aware of the situation.

Revised bylaws of the Early Childhood Iowa Board were presented for review and will be voted on at the next meeting of the Board. Finally, board members participated in a discussion of the new legislation regarding the boundary criteria of newly formed boards, especially as it relates to the waiver of such a change. Judy McCoy Davis, IEB chairperson, asked that a workgroup be formed to address the waiver process and bring their input and recommendation to the IEB at their next meeting.

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Iowa Board (formerly, Iowa Empowerment Board) will be September 10, 2010 at the Iowa Workforce Center, East 4<sup>th</sup> and Grand in Des Moines.

Meeting minutes can be found in their entirety on the Empowerment web site, [http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/iowa\\_board/b\\_minutes.html](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/iowa_board/b_minutes.html).

**Iowa**  
**AEYC/T.E.A.C.H.**  
**Early Childhood®**  
**IOWA**

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AEYC/T.E.A.C.H. Project Manager  
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[info@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:info@iowaaeyc.org)



## T.E.A.C.H. IOWA Celebrates 1000<sup>th</sup> Participant

As we move into the EIGHTH year of offering T.E.A.C.H. services in Iowa this summer, we are looking back at the successes of our program participants, as dozens have finished early childhood degrees or endorsements, and hundreds have completed their CDA credentials. We are thrilled to announce that this summer, our **1000th T.E.A.C.H. program participant** started on this program! This means that one thousand different child care providers, teachers, and administrators have completed some college coursework towards degrees and credentials. Of those who started college with us in 2003, some of those same people are continuing onward, having completed CDAs and associates' degrees, and are now completing their bachelors' degree level coursework.

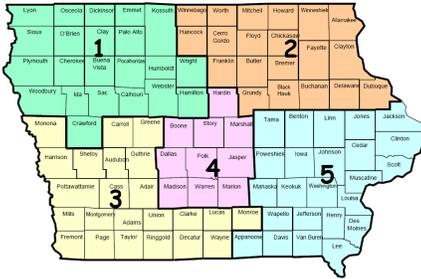
*Our 1000th T.E.A.C.H. program participant is Heidi Weaver from Lenox, who begins her T.E.A.C.H. journey at Southwestern Iowa Community College this summer. Heidi is a registered child development home provider who is at level two (and climbing) on Iowa's Child Care Quality Rating System. Heidi has been providing child care for two years, but already is thinking about making this her profession. She is starting the CDA courses through the community college, and will be on track to earn her credential in 2011. On her application, Heidi states, "I want to help build a strong foundation of learning for our children.....I also want to show my own children that you never stop learning." Heidi and her husband have four children Alex, Cassidy, Johnathan, and Jacob. Heidi shares, "I really appreciate this chance to continue my education. There would be no way without the T.E.A.C.H. program. Thank you for all your help and it is nice to know that there are people in this world that do want to help you out. I am new to all this and Stacie has been an awesome help!" In recognition of being our 1000th T.E.A.C.H. participant, Heidi will receive a free one year membership in Iowa AEYC and a gift basket including a Kaplan Early Learning gift certificate.*

Since 2003, nearly 15,000 college credits have been completed by these one thousand T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood IOWA participants, all of them required credits towards early childhood credentials, degrees, and endorsements at an Iowa college. Nearly 500 people have earned their CDA credentials, 62 have earned associates' degrees, two have completed bachelors' degrees, and sixteen have completed early childhood endorsements. We are so proud of them all!

What's happening next? Just over five hundred people are still currently active with the T.E.A.C.H. program. As T.E.A.C.H. moves into our next fiscal year as of July 1, our funding for the year ahead seems to be roughly equivalent to our current levels. This means that we can continue to support our current T.E.A.C.H. participants, and we are still recruiting new providers and teachers to join our program, to replace those as they graduate. If you know someone who could benefit from our program, encourage them to call us. We are especially seeking staff from Head Start programs and NAEYC accredited centers, or anyone wishing to take college credit classes to earn their CDA credentials.

Visit us at [www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org), or call 800-469-2392.

# Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral



<http://www.iowaccrr.org/>

## CCR&R Invests in PBIS

Program-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PW-PBIS) began as a Department of Education / Head Start collaborative effort to strengthen efforts to better address the social-emotional needs of children in early childhood settings. Additionally, PW-PBIS implemented in preschool classroom settings provided a direct link to long-standing School-Wide PBIS practices.



Upon the recommendations and guidance provided by national consultants affiliated with the Center for Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL), other Iowa early childhood partners were invited to join DE and Head Start in efforts to spread the benefits of PBIS to all early childhood settings. Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) was excited to be given the opportunity to join this effort focused on promoting the social emotional development and school readiness of young children birth to age 5 – working to ensure “*Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful*”.

CCR&R has taken on the challenge of assisting Iowa’s child care providers and businesses in understanding and implementing practices that promote healthy emotional development and resilience in young children, in all child care settings; recognizing that a young child in care full time from birth to entering kindergarten may have spent up to 12,000 hours with a non-parental care giver.

Exactly what has CCR&R participation in Iowa’s PBIS implementation efforts looked like?

- Train-the-Trainer - CCR&R staff and instructors from across the state have attended each of the two DE sponsored events, focused both on Preschool and Infant-Toddler PBIS.
- Provider Training Opportunities – CCR&R trainers have offered several 18 and 24 hours training series for child care providers, both in partnership with AEA trainers and through CCR&R facilitated efforts.
- Center Directors’ PBS Orientation – in cooperation with DE, one day-long PBIS orientation training for child care program directors has been offered in each of the five CCR&R Regions.
- CCR&R Consultation Staff – approximately 120 CCR&R staff state-wide has received 18 hours of PBS training to enable them to offer consultation and technical assistance to child care providers as providers work to implement PBIS strategies.
- PBIS: Consultation for Implementation – scheduled for June: two training webinars developed by Iowa State University staff for CCR&R consultants. The goal: staff prepared to support child care providers in implementation of PBIS techniques and strategies that fit well within Iowa’s multiple child care environments.

*Editor’s Note: In early May 2010, the Department of Education received a letter from the Assistant General Counsel of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) expressing concern about the Department using the acronym of PBS for Positive Behavior Support. As a result of this concern, both School Wide (SW) and Program Wide (PW) will be using the acronym PBIS which stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.*

## Iowa Career Access Point



**For additional information about Iowa Career Access Points, please visit**

**<http://www.iowaworkforce.org/icap/index.html>, or**

**Contact Kristi Judkins, ICAP Coordinator**

**515-281-8994,**

**[kristi.judkins@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:kristi.judkins@iwd.iowa.gov).**

## Iowa Career Access Points-Connecting Communities to One-Stop Resources

*Submitted by: Kristi Judkins, ICAP Coordinator, Iowa Workforce Development*

Success, it has been said, occurs at the intersection of preparation and opportunity. For some, employment opportunity may not appear within reach. Physical location, unfamiliarity with systems, services offering assistance, and stress of unemployment may all stand as challenges between individuals and the information necessary to affect change in their situation. Local One-Stop Career Centers (a.k.a. Iowa Workforce Centers) offer high-value, no-charge assistance to job seekers every week. However, location, transportation, circumstances, and work schedules may prohibit individuals from taking advantage of the job search and supportive services offered at the Career Centers. Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), through its One-Stop Centers, recognizes this and wants to increase a person's ability to access fundamental resources which will help them achieve success.

Iowa Career Access Points (ICAPs) are the bridge to get residents connected. It has been established that community-oriented organizations, in general, have a strong bond in their neighborhood and are centrally situated; eliminating several barriers. And, as much as individuals need access to career opportunities, businesses need access to human capital. Career Access Points can potentially play a valuable role in the development and sustenance of "talent pipelines" that are crucial to successful businesses and the broader regional economic development. The ICAP is a unique resource to help customers become self-sufficient. It is a network like no other. It brings together Workforce development partners, faith-based organizations, community organizations, businesses and government agencies. So in essence, ICAPs are faith-based (FB) or community-based organizations (CBO), where people can go in their own neighborhoods or communities to look for jobs, assisted by trained FB or CBO staff and volunteers who are equipped to provide one-on-one assistance and guidance to job seekers; some who may be uncomfortable using the computer to search for employment opportunities and related services, or unable and reluctant to go to the Workforce Center for help.

In order to build bridges, construction needs to happen and focus needs to be given to the project. That is why there is a concentrated effort within IWD to coordinate and assemble opportunities that will bring more ICAPs to the state. It includes developing new locations, and solidifying partnerships with the State Library and local level libraries, as well as collaborating with Strengthen Rural Iowa (Iowa's Center for Faith-Based Community Initiatives) a group working to build capacity in non-profit organizations. These initial endeavors will grow the number of ICAPs from 5 to 15 by September 2010. Currently, the Forest City and Lake Mills libraries are ICAPs. In Council Bluffs, Heartland Family Service (MOHM's Place) and Sequels Thrift Store (Hope Net Ministries) are home to ICAPs. Ottumwa has the Ottumwa Crisis Center. Plans are now underway for additional sites in the following cities and organizations:

- Columbus Junction Community Development Center
- Welcome We Help, Inc., Corydon
- Jericho Transitional Learning Center, Fairfield
- United Way of Mahaska County, Oskaloosa
- Ottumwa Community Outreach Ministry
- Fort Madison YMCA
- Zion United Church of Christ, Burlington
- The Fellowship Cup, Mt. Pleasant
- Tri-State Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- Welcome We Lift, Indianola
- Neveln Center, Ankeny

Workforce Centers co-locate agencies involved in employment and training, but ICAPs bring an added feature. They offer services to the community not accessible

from the Workforce Centers like meals, scholarships, utility assistance, child care, or housing options. As sites get up and going, all will provide computers to allow people to look for work, and many others will use the collaborative “benefit bank” service model. This means more individuals, families, and communities will have access to employment assistance, better-quality jobs and wages, and state and federal benefits and tax credits through DHS’s on-line application system (OASIS) or VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), just to name a few.

Getting connected to the Workforce Center isn’t always easy, so a critical piece to the ICAP process is the relationship that will occur between ICAP sites and local Workforce Center ICAP teams. These teams have been developed to act as the liaison between the ICAP site and the Workforce Center in order to streamline the referral process for residents. The goal of ICAP is to eliminate apprehensions but also bring an added dimension for residents typically disconnected from One-Stop resources and services. Adding Access Points will connect more people to information, and enable them to make informed decisions about their future.

**To find out more about the work of Strengthen Rural Iowa, go to <http://www.strengthenruraliowa.org/>**

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**Iowa Department of Public Health | Oral Health Bureau**

**I-Smile™: Protecting the oral health of Iowa children since 2006**

1-866-SMILE-15 | [www.ismiledentalhome.org](http://www.ismiledentalhome.org)

**PEW Report**

In the report released by The PEW Center on the States, all fifty states and the District of Columbia were assessed and graded on the children’s oral health status. Their report assessed how well each state employed eight proven policy approaches to ensure dental health and access to care for children. These policies included preventative measures (such as sealants and fluoridation), expanded access to Medicaid, and innovative workforce models.

Iowa and five other states merited “A” grades from the PEW Center. However, the report found overall that two-thirds of the states are doing a poor job, and one in five children is without dental care. Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia received a grade of “C” or below, and notably, nine of those states earned an “F” grade.

Along with its partnerships with local Empowerment boards, the Iowa Department of Public Health – Oral Health Bureau attributes the state’s high grade in part to the I-Smile™ Dental Home Initiative. Prevention and the access to proper dental care for children are major priorities within the I-Smile™ program, and its efforts have resulted in positive advancements for the state. However despite this success and the recognition by the PEW Center, the Oral Health Bureau understands there are still many gaps in oral health preventive care and treatment for Iowa’s children and will continue its work against this silent epidemic.

To read the full report, visit the PEW Web site at: [www.pewcenteronthestates.org/costofdelay](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/costofdelay)

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**Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)**



**New Parent Resource Available from the CDC**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched Parent Portal, an encyclopedic website with links to information from all areas of CDC. "The portal is a source for credible, accurate information in helping parents raise healthy kids and provide a safe home and community," according to the CDC.

Some of the many sections hold information about pregnancy, children's topics by age range, and issues of concern to parents arranged in alphabetical order. The widely varied topics include autism signs, body piercing, lice, school violence, and travel vaccinations.

Another section has information on topics targeted to health-care professionals and researchers, including subjects such as child abuse prevention, a brain injury toolkit for physicians, a parent training guide, and information on the effects of childhood stress.

Quick links go to developmental milestones and safety in the home, among other subjects. Other resources list product recalls, market withdrawals, and safety alerts.

Users can subscribe to receive email updates and RSS feeds. Podcasts are also accessible. Visit the portal on the CDC site: [www.cdc.gov/parents](http://www.cdc.gov/parents).

*Iowa's Early Childhood Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.*