

## **Community Empowerment Areas and Boards**

Community Empowerment Areas enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services on behalf of children, families and other citizens residing in the area. The focus is to improve results for families with young children.

There are 58 Community Empowerment Areas statewide representing all 99 counties. Each area has a citizen-led board to support activities that promote collaboration and develop early care, health and education systems in the community for young children and their families.

A majority of the local board members are citizens/elected officials. Board members include representatives from business, faith, consumer, human services, education, and health.

The Community Empowerment Area Boards are responsible for:

- Bylaws for their operation and structure,
- Implementation of a Community Plan,
- Awarding funds for local services for children 0-5 and their families,
- Education and communication on the vital importance of the 0-5 age group in the community,
- Reach out to private, as well as public organizations in the community to include in the collaborative, and
- Build community commitment to reach the Community Empowerment Results.