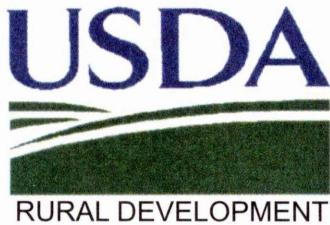


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Head Start

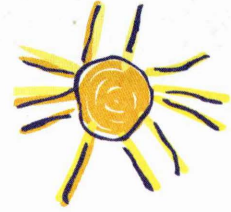


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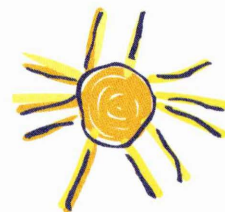
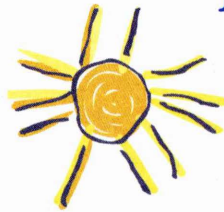


Iowa Child Care
Resource and Referral

November 1999




Iowa Head Start® & Child Care Partnerships



*“Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.”
—Henry Ford*





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Head Start-child care partnerships are a frequent topic of communication in many circles today. Awareness has evolved that partnership strategies help maximize monies and provide all the services necessary for families and children to develop to their full potential. The need for multiple services is especially crucial in the light of welfare reform efforts. As more parents enter the work force, there is an increasing need for full-day full-year traditional and non-traditional services for low-income families. This need has prompted many Iowa programs and communities to design more innovative approaches to providing services for families. Also, the community empowerment movement across the state has raised awareness that creating partnerships is an evolutionary process which will heavily involve communities and schools in the future. By combining Head Start and child care, and joining forces with the Community Empowerment Areas within the state, communities are able to offer high quality seamless programs for children and families.

Head Start-child care combinations can be high quality liaisons that benefit both Head Start and child care. Most importantly, these partnerships meet families' child care needs while providing high quality comprehensive child and family services in accordance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards. We know:

- When Head Start is delivered in quality family or center-based child care settings, the children experience the benefits of positive development, as they do in a center-based Head Start setting;
- When Head Start services and funds were added to child care, the quality of the overall program rose; and
- Several communities have demonstrated that they can successfully link Head Start to existing child care services in large scale programs.

Head Start and child care have much in common: both provide services to young children; both have frequent contact with parents; both work with children who have special needs, the USDA nutrition program, and with the public school system as children transition to kindergarten. Above all, both programs share a commitment to high expectations for all children and families, and the joy of working with young children and their families.

Both Head Start and child care have unique strengths. Child care brings its full-year, full-day experience to the table, and Head Start brings its comprehensive services and Program Performance Standards. We need to put these experiences together in a way that builds on these strengths and accommodates the diversity with the child care system.

Introduction

The structure and focus of publicly-funded child care and Head Start have developed from different histories and missions. Child care developed primarily as a service for parents who needed care for their children in order to work. The resulting programs offered a full day of care that usually coincides with traditional work hours. The child care delivery system is primarily a fee-for-service in which parents act as consumers by purchasing care for their children.

While many child care programs recognize the importance of health and social services for families, most lack the resources to provide them. Child care providers serving low-income families are constrained by low parent fees and limited public funds. The fee structure for child care is heavily based upon the amount that parents can afford to pay, not necessarily the actual cost of providing care. Limited family incomes make it difficult for parent fees alone to finance programs that can provide good quality care, much less include health services, social services, and intensive staff training and support.

Head Start programs, on the other hand, originate from a significantly different mission and funding history. Head Start was developed as a national comprehensive child development and family services program to help young children of low-income families enter school ready to learn and succeed. Toward this goal, Head Start is structured to provide education, health, nutrition, parent involvement, and social services as part of a comprehensive early childhood development program. It is also unique because it offers community residents the opportunity to design, operate, and make decisions about programs that affect their children and families. For the most part, Head Start has been characterized by a part-day educational experience, the availability of health, nutrition, and social services, and a strong role for parents as policymakers and volunteers in the program.

While some programs do not feel their Head Start funding is sufficient to cover the cost of the intensive services that many low-income families need today, the investment per child far exceeds the subsidy available to parents who are receiving publicly-funded child care assistance. Head Start, however, is not able to meet all of the needs of all eligible children and families in the state. In Iowa, only 60% of eligible families with preschool children are able to be served, and only 15% of eligible families are currently served in the Early Head Start program for children ages birth to three.

Ideally, funding levels and program policies would allow *all* early care and education programs serving children of low-income families to enrich their services and meet the full range of needs of all children and families in Iowa. In the absence of such comprehensive policies, many innovative Head Start and child

care partnerships are forging new program designs that offer a combination of early childhood services using three strategies. These strategies are:

- (1) Head Start and Family Child Care linkages;
- (2) Head Start services are provided at a child care center; and
- (3) Head Start expanded to provide full-day, full-year services.

These initiatives combine the strengths of each partner and expand the reach and scope of the services they can offer to children and families.

This report examines the current efforts of several visionary partnerships in Iowa who have been pioneers in bringing Head Start and child care services together for the children in their programs. The partners highlighted in this report include small Head Start agencies, child care centers, and family child care providers, as well as multi-site agencies serving one or more counties. However, because the creation of partnerships is an evolutionary process which will be molded and influenced by the community empowerment movement in Iowa, the unique culture of each community will be reflected upon the programs of the future.



Key Attributes of Highly Effective Services

1990s Version

- 1) They are comprehensive, flexible and responsive.
- 2) They deal with children in their family and school setting; they deal with families as part of communities; they are deeply rooted in the neighborhood.
- 3) They have a long-term, preventive orientation, a clear mission, and continue to evolve over time.
- 4) They operate in settings that support high quality standards; skilled, supportive managers hold staff accountable for achieving shared purposes.
- 5) They operate with enough intensity and perseverance to achieve agreed-upon outcomes.
- 6) They encourage staff to expand the boundaries of their job descriptions to build strong relationships, based on mutual trust and respect, with the individuals, families and professionals with whom they work.
- 7) They recognize the limits of what a single program can accomplish, and therefore link up with other efforts to strengthen children and families, build community and expand economic opportunity.

Reprinted with permission from *Common Purpose: Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods to Rebuild America* by Lisbeth B. Schorr, Doubleday/Anchor 1997

Recognizing the Benefits of Partnerships

Although Head Start-child care partnerships have many challenges to face when coming together, there are also many benefits to be gained from the involvement and combination of resources. A listing of some of the benefits follows.

- Increased access to health and social services
- Full-day, full-year care offered for Head Start children
- Ensured continuity of care for children
- Head Start and child care services are expanded in a cost-effective manner and the use of facilities is maximized
- More children are served
- Rural areas are better served
- Economic diversity in early care and education environments is expanded
- Range of settings for Head Start services is offered
- New communities are reached
- More flexible hours of service are provided
- Local early childhood systems are strengthened

Child Care Collaboration Issues

Issues to consider/negotiate/include in contracts:

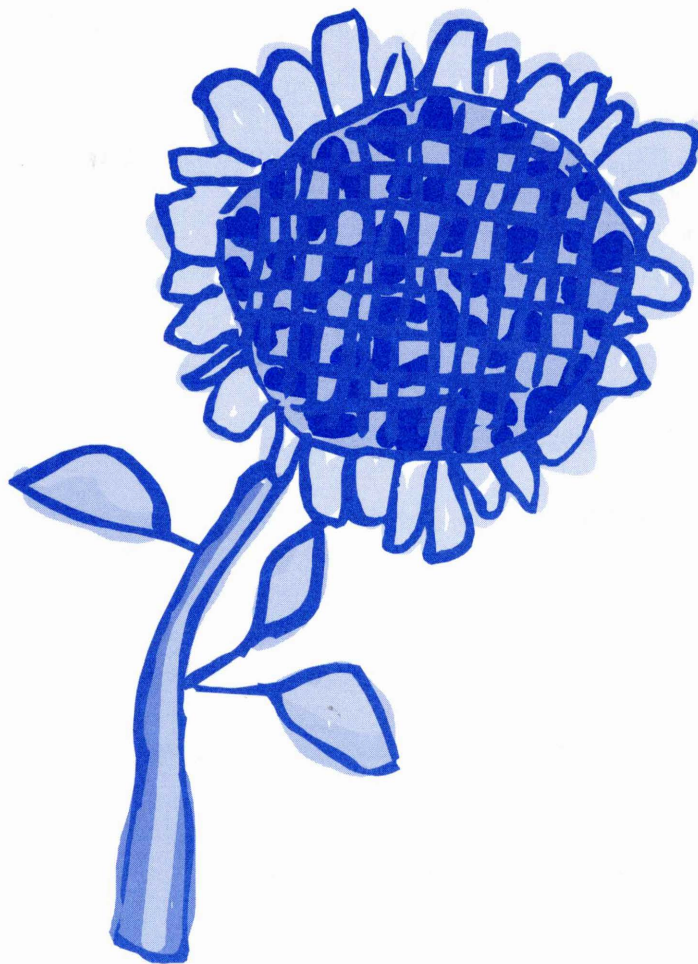
- definition of full-year/full-day, holidays, summer, etc.
- hours to serve children/HS
- transportation
- communication between sites - staff - formal and informal
- quality assurance and monitoring for HS Performance Standards
- program governance - parents as decision-makers

- supervision of non-HS staff
- staff performance issues, (i.e., what if child care employee has issues with a Head Start employee/vice-versa)
- assurance of continuity of a developmentally appropriate program
- provision of health services - who and how supervised
- provision of social services - who and how supervised
- benefits for staff
- inequities of salary
- substitutes
- additional hours for staff for training/meetings
- training - who provides/costs
- training for center child care staff
- training for family child care provider

- facilities: who pays what/ responsible for what: i.e.,
 - rent
 - utilities
 - maintenance
 - custodial
 - telephones
- ownership of major equipment - tables, storage, playground, etc.
- insurance

- collection of parent fees/ method of payment (e.g., cash, check, etc.)
- collection of subsidies-Head Start
- child care collection of subsidies
- cost allocation guidelines
- absences-children/fees for provider
- parents who do not pay fees to child care provider
- late parent pick-ups at child care provider

- procedures for termination of a contract



Active Partnership Program Summaries

Tri-County Child and Family Development Council, Inc. is a single-purpose Head Start and Early Head Start agency which is nestled in the small suburb of Evansdale, a bedroom community east of the diverse metropolitan area of Waterloo. The agency serves the rich culturally diverse city of Waterloo which has recently become home to a large number of Bosnian refugees. In addition to serving the urban county of Black Hawk, the agency also serves the rural counties of Grundy and Buchanan with large populations of low income families living at or below the federal poverty guideline. The child care partners in Waterloo are described below. (See #8 on map on page 23.)

- **Child Care Resource and Referral, Exceptional Persons, Inc.** partners with Head Start and also Early Head Start and provides services and family referrals to Head Start enrolled families.
- **Grin and Grow Child Care, Ltd.** serves 32 Head Start children full-day full-year in a child care setting with a total enrollment of 150. Head Start services are provided to all children in the center.
- **Community United Child Care** provides contract placement education services and nutrition services for 54 Head Start children in a center which serves 200 children. Thirty-two Head Start children are provided wrap-around services, and all children within the setting are offered the same services which are provided to Head Start children.
- **Lily Furgerson Child Development Center** provides 16 children with wrap-around services
- **Hawkeye Community College** provide Early Head Start (EHS) services, wrap-around services for preschoolers, and a program director for EHS.
- **Kidsville Child Development Center** in Independence partners with Tri-County to provide on-site services for 36 children in two Head Start classrooms

All of these partners provide child care services to Head Start enrolled families at no cost. Child care services are provided from 6am- 6pm Monday through Friday for all children. The services are available to families full year. The children served at all locations are ages birth through 5 years of age. Sibling care is available on site.

The major sources of funding for these programs are Head Start grants, and Wrap-Around grants from the Iowa Department of Human Services. Head Start funds the portion of the day when Head Start services are provided.

For more information contact the agency director, Kim Young-Kent at 319-235-0383.

Active Partnership Program Summaries

Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. (MICA) provides full-day, full-year center-based programming in **Marshalltown, Iowa Falls and Grinnell**. The Head Start services are available to families who work at least 28 hours per week, in school full time or a combination of work and school to equal full time status. These programs use state funds, Iowa Shared Visions Child Development Coordinating Council monies and Wrap-Around Child Care grants from the Department of Human Services, to supplement Head Start funds and provide year round, full-day child development programming. All three centers are in operation from 7am – 5 p.m. (hours can be adjusted to meet needs) and are open twelve months of the year. (See #12 on map on page 23.)

MICA's Early Head Start is partnering with the Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Iowa (CCR&R). The Center for Childcare Resources, The Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network and The Nahaska County Extension Services CCR7R to increase training and resources for family child care providers.

Family child care providers agree to become registered, enrolled in CCR&R and The Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), ChildNet certified and, later, accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care. In return, family child care providers receive stipends as they attend trainings, safety and health equipment, access to a toy lending library, books, consultations and additional weekly compensation.

For more information contact the agency director, Kathie Readout at 515-752-7162.

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. (UDMO) in Graettinger serves a large rural area which encompasses 42,000 square miles. Employment is shifting from agriculture due to economic conditions and the current farm crisis. Small manufacturing plants are emerging as key employers. Transportation and medical services are the greatest barrier in establishing services for families in the area. The population is rapidly becoming more diverse and the agency serves growing numbers of Hispanic and Vietnamese children and families.

The UDMO agency serves children and families in two major child care partnerships. The agency has been creative in working with child care within the community in an effort to serve their Early Head Start families. Descriptions of the program are below. (See #2 on map on page 23.)

- **Children's World** in Sheldon has been collaborating with Upper Des Moines for four years serving 21 children all year except Sundays and holidays. The program serves children ages birth through ten years of age and their siblings. Head Start services are offered four full days a week. Funding for services is through parent fees, monies from DHS, and Wrap-Around grants from DHS.

The major partners are **Children's World, AEA 4, Sheldon Community School, Community Economic Development, WIC, and Maternal Child Health**. Other partners include the University of Iowa Child Health Speciality Clinics, DHS, and Public Health.

Active Partnership Program Summaries

- **Iowa Lakes Community College Campus Children's Center/Head Start** in Emmetsburg serves 32 children ages birth to three years on a sliding fee scale. The collaboration is located in two of the major towns the Head Start agency serves. Quality programming is supported through the College child care programs. Enrollment priority is given to the children of college students. All of the space needed for the program is donated by the College. The Center is open from 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday all year except on holidays.

The project is funded by Head Start, Iowa Lakes Community College and DHS with WIC, MCH, and Early Head Start also contributing and being major partners. Other partners are the AEA and Public Health.

For more information contact the agency director, Mary Jo Madvig at 712-859-3885.

Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) has been serving families for two years in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City through partnership programs which are coordinated with the "Early Childhood Community Partnership" (ECCP). This project is sponsored by HACAP. The agency has an **Early Head Start** which also requires collaboration with child care to help meet family needs. (See #13 on map on page 23.)

The major source of funding for the ECCP is the Iowa Shared Visions Child Development Coordinating Council programs with Even Start, parent fees, and United Way also contributing. The program serves 250 three and four-year-old children and their families for as much as ten hours a day for 250 days per year.

The partnering program uses Head Start funding to provide care before and after the part day program for low-income families involved in work or attending school/training. Through the monthly meetings of the Early Childhood Community Partnership, information, training and quality issues are addressed. Partners are required to become NAEYC accredited within two years. The group is currently working on developing a mutually agreeable quality monitoring system either through self-assessment or a local peer review process or a combination of the two.

The major partners are: **Cedar Rapids Community Schools** and **Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County**. Other partners include **St. Paul Early Childhood Programs**, **St. Patrick Day Care**, **Jane Boyd Community House**, and **Area Substance Abuse Council/Heart of Iowa**.

For more information contact the agency at 319-366-7631.

Active Partnership Program Summaries

Southeast Iowa Community Action, Inc. in Burlington contracts with family child care providers who serve children qualifying for child care assistance. Family development and health services are provided by Head Start. A program facilitator visits all child care providers weekly to assist with the provision of educational services. Providers are paid for the hours spent during home visits and completing paper work. The project serves Des Moines and Lee Counties and is also serving younger children in their **Early Head Start** project. (See #18 on map on page 23.)

The major partners are **Head Start, R&R, and area family child care providers**. The major sources of funding are Head Start and DHS Child Care Assistance. The project, which serves twenty children, varies the hours of service to meet the needs of the family and the availability of the providers to serve children. The program is operated year round for three- and four-year-old children.

- **Southeast Iowa Community Action Early Head Start** has joined with other agencies: JTPA, Keokuk Area Hospital, Hoerner YMCA, Youth Parent Coalition and Partners in Parenting (Lee Co. Child S.A.F.E.) and others to form a group called Agencies Collaborating Together (A.C.T.). This group will share socializations and group meetings and will meet regularly to ensure participants are receiving services from agencies which are unduplicated and sufficient to meet their needs. A Nest (points for parenting education) and a mentoring program are on the agenda for action by the group.
- **Early Head Start and Henry County C.A.R.E.S.** have formed a collaboration to assist families with parenting and child care issues. Early Head Start staff have also united with County Extension and others to promote child literacy.
- A partnership with Southeastern Community College (SCC), Iowa Wesleyan College (IWC) and Head Start will enable staff to receive an AA degree with a concentration in early childhood. An agreement between SCC and IWC will enable all credits earned at SCC to transfer to IWC's bachelor's degree program.
For more information contact the agency director, Marcia Munford at 319-752-2719.

Active Partnership Program Summaries

South Central Iowa Community Action Program (SCICAP) in Leon serves a very rural five county area in extreme south central Iowa. In addition to being sparsely populated, these counties are among the poorest counties in the state of Iowa with primarily a white and elderly population. The area is constantly searching for ways to attract higher paying jobs since small business is very limited and manufacturing is scarce. The area is looking forward to the time when a riverboat casino will be on West Lake in Osceola since this will provide more opportunity for employment. However, social service agencies do have concerns regarding the potential for additional problems from the gambling venture and the hardship this may force on already stressed families. The community hosts the home of the HyVee grocery store, although the corporate offices have moved from the area in the last few years. (See #16 on map on page 23.)

Even though community resources are somewhat limited, people trust each other and are willing to work together for the betterment of the area. Head Start is a well respected program among families as well as other agencies. SCICAP offers the following child care services for three-and four-year-old children in the counties they serve and have recently been awarded an **Early Head Start** grant, so the need for child care for the families will become even more critical.

- In **Monroe and Wayne Counties** a half day Head Start program is combined with a state funded **Iowa Shared Visions Child Development Coordinating Council** programs to offer full-day and full-year programming. Each site serves 16 children. There is no charge to the families. The center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30am - 4:00pm from the third week in August through the end of July. The first three weeks of August are for home visits and parent orientations. This is a full inclusion program for children with special needs which is in conjunction with the AEA.
- In **Clarke and Lucas Counties** Head Start partners with Wrap-Around services through the **Department of Human Services**. The centers each serve 16 children and are open five days per week for 52 weeks per year. The hours vary depending on the needs of the families. Lucas County is open from 5:30 AM to 6:00 PM while Clarke County is open from 6:00am - 4:00pm. There is no charge to the families.

For more information contact the agency director, Dianne Riley at 515-446-4155.

Iowa East Central T.R.A.I.N. uses federal and state funds to provide full-day full-year child care services for 34 children whose parents are working or going to school full time in an NAEYC accredited center in Bettendorf. The Center is open from 7:00am to 5:00pm and serves children who are three to five years of age. (See #14 on map on page 23.) The services are funded through **Head Start** and the **Department of Education Shared Visions Child Development Coordinating Council**.

For more information contact the agency director, Marian Moore at 319-324-3236.

Active Partnership Program Summaries

West Central Development Corporation serve children and families in two unique partnerships which are described below. (See #10 on map on page 23.)

- **Denison Job Corps Beyond Dreams Child Development Center** in Denison serves 66 children from birth to five years of age and their families from 7:30am - 3:45pm five days a week for 48 weeks a year. There are two programs located within the Solo Parent Dorm on the campus of the Denison Job Corps. One of the two Head Start classrooms serves community children while the other classroom serves both Job Corps students' children and community children. Classrooms, office areas and a parent room are located in the basement of the facility, which includes its own kitchen facilities and an indoor playground.

Head Start renovated a room for 17 children while Job Corps furnished Head Start with one room and all the equipment needed for 13 children. All toddlers from the Denison Job Corps Child Development Center are transitioned into Head Start classrooms each year. The programs collaborate on meals, parenting classes, AEA professionals and medical services at the facility. Outdoor and indoor playground facilities are shared. Job Corps students volunteer on a regular basis as well as serving on Head Start Policy Council and other committees. Head Start also has representation on the Community Relations Council at Job Corps.

- **West Central Development Corporation, Magic Depot, and West Monona Community School** are collaborating to build a facility which will be annexed to the elementary school in Onawa. The Center, which will open in September 1999, will serve 150 children from 6:00am - 6:00pm with child care being offered year round for children ages birth through 12. The facility, which is being funded by the USDA Rural Development Community Service Block Grant, will be the first Head Start/child care project in Iowa to be annexed to a public school and will include a children's library and technology room. These rooms will link the school to the child care facilities and will be used by all partners. Each partner will also have their own area with an outdoor playground being shared.

The facility will include two Head Start classrooms and a new kitchen facility. The Head Start children will be served by the Magic Depot Child Care Center when they are not in Head Start classes. This project will enable parents with children from ages birth through 12 to make one stop for complete child care from 6:00am - 6:00pm without the worry of transportation from one location to the other throughout the day.

- **Glenwood Head Start** has teamed with **Glenwood Public Community Schools** to offer a classroom housed on the Glenwood State Hospital School campus. This Head Start classroom is located in the same facility as Building Bridges Learning Center, which is a part of the Glenwood School system. Head Start will

Active Partnership Program Summaries

have children in attendance five days each week, 6 hours each day. Nutritional services will be catered from another Head Start classroom within the same city. Head Start and Building Bridges will share outside playground facilities.

- **West Central Development Corporation Head Start and Beach Academy Day Care Center** in Missouri Valley have partnered to utilize the same facility. The Beach Academy Day Care Center is licensed for a total of 92 children, ages infant through 12 years. Head Start occupies one classroom in the facility which provides the Head Start parents with the convenience of having quality child care available to all the children in their family while making only one drop-off stop.

For more information contact the agency director, Janice Nielsen at 712-886-5218.

North Iowa Community Action Organization uses Head Start funds combined with a state wrap-around grant from the Department of Human Services to provide child care for 32 children three to five years of age in Mason City and Floyd County. The programs run 246 days a year from 6:30am to 6:00pm in Mason City and from 9:00am – 4:00pm in Floyd County. The agency is also involved in a unique broad-based area collaboration called Project Child Care. (See #3 on map on page 23.)

- **Project Child Care** is an innovative partnership between the **North Iowa Community Action Organization, Area Education Agency #2**, and the **North Central Community School District**. Also included in the partnership are area colleges, public health agencies, parents, other schools, and the Department of Human Services.

Beginning in the fall of 1999 the Project, located in Manly, will begin serving a total of 30 children. Twenty will be eligible Head Start families or children with special health care needs. The remaining slots will be reserved for children of the community. Children ages three to five will be served for the full year from 6:00 am – 6:00pm the first year of operation. Infants and toddlers will be provided full year service for the same number of hours starting the second year.

Area Education Agency #2 is the major source of funding for this project with other contributors being Head Start, special education, and parent fees.

For more information contact the agency director, Dianne Casto at 515-423-5406.

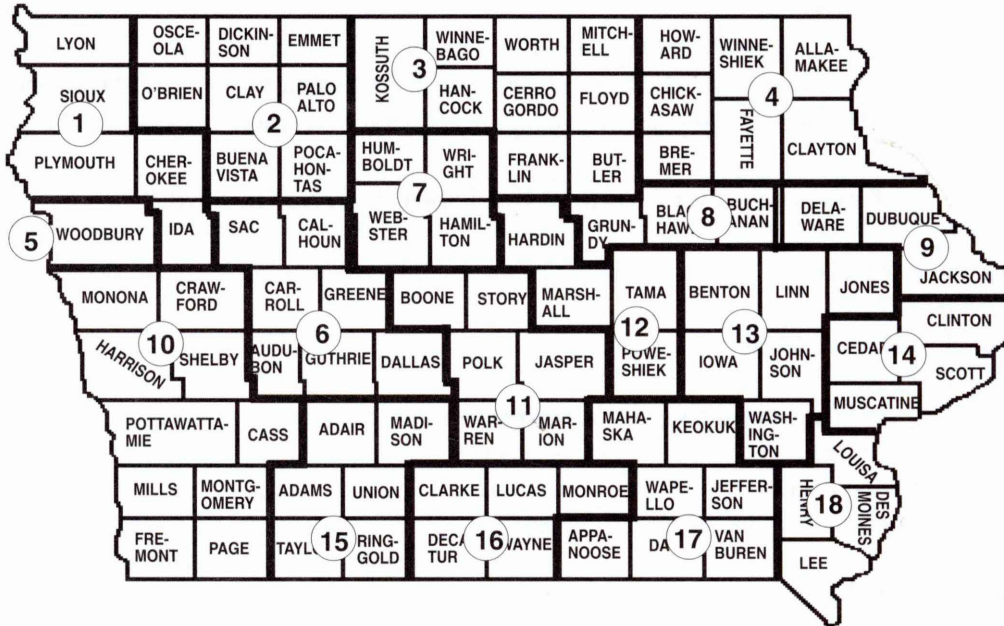


Resources

*On the following pages you will find a listing of various resources.
We hope they will be of assistance.*



Iowa Head Start Association



<p>1. Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. 418 Marion Remsen, IA 50150 (712) 786-2001 — FAX: (712) 786-3250</p> <p>2. Upper Des Moines Opportunities, Inc. 101 Robins Ave, Box 519 Graettinger, IA 51342 (712) 859-3885 — FAX: (712) 859-3892</p> <p>3. North Iowa Comm. Act. Org. 300-15th St. N.E., P.O. Box 1627 Mason City, IA 50401 (515) 423-5406 — FAX: (515) 423-0994</p> <p>4. Northeast Iowa Comm. Act. Corp. P.O. Box 487 Decorah, IA 52101 (319) 382-8436 — FAX: (319) 382-9854</p> <p>5. Woodbury County Comm. Act. Agency 2700 Leech Avenue Sioux City, IA 51106 (712) 274-1610 — FAX: (712) 274-0368</p> <p>6. Community Opportunities, Inc. 603 West 8th Street Carroll, IA 51401 (712) 792-9268 — FAX: (712) 792-5723</p> <p>7. Your Own United Resources, Inc. 3611 Maple Drive Fort Dodge, IA 50501 (515) 573-2882 — FAX: (515) 955-6994</p> <p>8. Tri-County Head Start P.O. Box 3338 Evansdale, IA 50707 (319) 235-0383, Ext. 4 — FAX: (319) 235-0384</p>	<p>9. Operation New View Head Start 1473 Central Dubuque, IA 52001 (319) 556-5130 — FAX: (319) 556-4402</p> <p>10. West Central Development Corporation 204 Oak St., P.O. Box 128 Moorhead, IA 51558 (712) 886-5218 — FAX (712) 886-5460</p> <p>11. Drake University Head Start 3206 University Des Moines, IA 50311 (515) 271-1854 — FAX: (515) 271-2199</p> <p>12. Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. 1001 S. 18th Avenue Marshalltown, IA 50158 (515) 752-7162 — FAX: (515) 752-9724</p> <p>13. Hawkeye Area Comm. Act. Prog., Inc. 5560 6th Street SW P.O. Box 789 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406 (319) 366-7631 — FAX: (319) 366-0776</p> <p>14. IA East Central TRAIN 2804 Eastern Avenue Davenport, IA 52803 (319) 324-3236 — FAX: (319) 324-9552</p> <p>15. Matura Action Corporation 203 West Adams Street Creston, IA 50801 (515) 782-8431 — FAX: (515) 782-6287</p>	<p>16. South Central Iowa Comm. Act. Agency 1403 NW Church Leon, IA 50144 (515) 446-4155 — FAX: (515) 446-3392</p> <p>17. Southern Iowa Economic Dev. Association 226 W. Main, Box 658 Ottumwa, IA 52501 (515) 682-8741 — FAX: (515) 682-2026</p> <p>18. Southeast Iowa Community Action Agency 2850 Mt. Pleasant Street, Suite 108 Burlington, IA 52601-2001 (319) 752-2719 — FAX: (319) 753-0687</p> <p>Iowa Department of Education Ms. Anita Varme, Coordinator Head Start Collaboration Project Grimes State Office Building Des Moines, IA 50319-0146 (515) 242-6024 — FAX: (515) 242-6019</p>
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Iowa Head Start Fact Sheet

Head Start is a federal program for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers designed 35 years ago for children and their families living in poverty. Designed with foresight and creative thinking, Head Start has helped families break the cycle of poverty by providing services and education in the areas of physical, dental, and emotional health, parent education and involvement, nutrition, and child development. While Head Start considers all areas of the child's development, the program places special emphasis on school readiness.

Facts about Iowa Preschool Head Start Programs in 1998-99

Enrollment

Number of grantee and delegate agencies	21
Number of counties served	98
Total number of children enrolled	6,563

Total number of children receiving Child Development Services

Children receiving individualized child development services	6,563
Center-based classes operated	365
Children receiving special education or related services	925

Total number of children receiving Health Services

Children receiving medical exams	6,599
Children receiving dental exams	6,104
Children receiving medical treatment	1,946
Children receiving dental treatment	1,680
Children who received up-to-date immunizations	5,914
Children who received professional mental health services	918
Children receiving nutrition service	all

Total number of families involved in Family Partnerships

Families served	5,818
Family Partnership agreements	6,578
Parents who volunteered in the program	6,119
Families receiving literacy or employment training	1,258

Community Partnerships

Formal written agreements with school districts	81
Community members who volunteered in the program	4,933

Head Start Personnel and Staffing

Education staff employee	715
Total staff employed	1,151

Facts about Iowa "Early" Head Start Programs

Funding and Enrollment

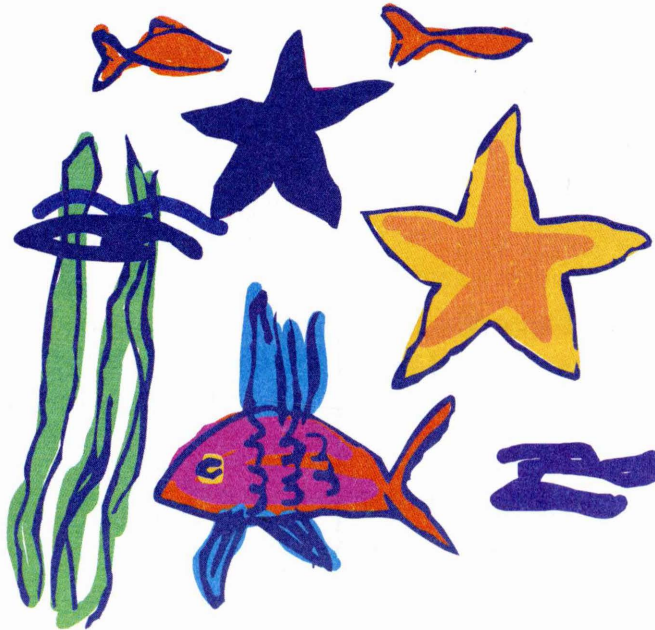
Number of grantee agencies	13
Number of counties to be served	24
Planned enrollment within 1 year	711

Child Care Resource and Referral

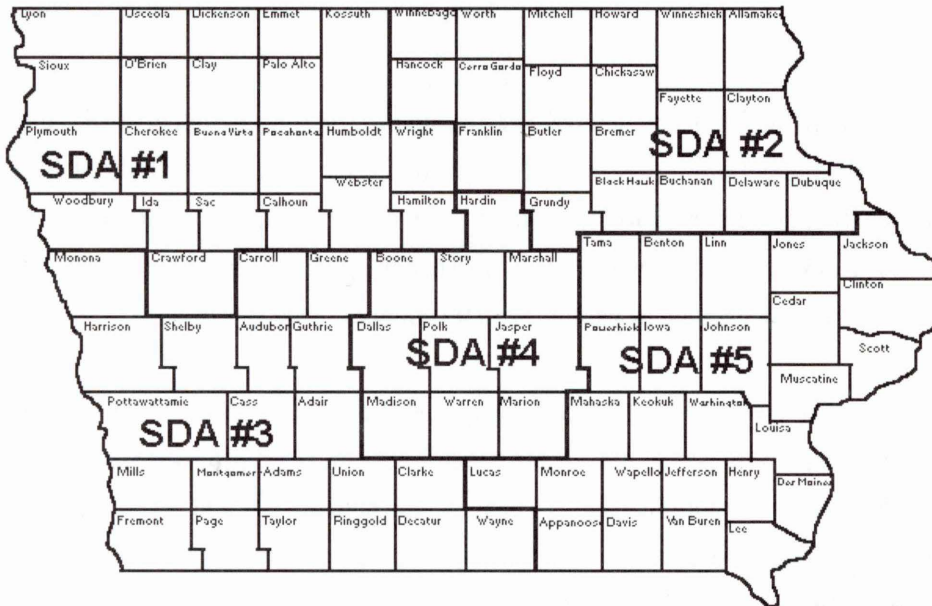
The mission of Child Care Resource and Referral System is to provide services and programs that make child care work for families. Core services actively respond to community needs for affordable and accessible top quality child care by providing resources, education and advocacy for children, parents, child caregivers and employers. This system was established in 1991 to improve child care services and expand the supply of care demanded by parents in all 99 counties.

CCR&R services increase the supply and improve the quality of child care; train parents on how to choose quality care and how to access subsidy assistance; train child care providers; coordinate all available training resources; support databases which include both full-day and part-day child care/early education options for parents; support five Child Care Health Consultants at each CCR&R lead agency; and support Head Start - Child Care partnerships.

For more information, contact the lead agency serving your region listed on the following page.



Child Care Resource and Referral



CCR&R Lead Agency 1

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.
418 Marion Street, PO Box 390
Remsen, Iowa 51060

Mary Ahlers, Lead Agency Director
Phone: 800-859-2025 or 712-786-2001
Fax: 712-786-3250
E-mail: mjahlers@nwidt.com

CCR&R Lead Agency 2

Exceptional Persons, Inc.
760 Ansborough Avenue, PO Box 4090
Waterloo, Iowa 50704

Joanne Lane, Lead Agency Directory
Phone: 800-475-0804 or 319-233-0804
Fax: 319-274-8841
E-mail: jlane@kca.net

CCR&R Lead Agency 3

West Central Development Corporation
611 Court Street, PO Box 709
Harlan, Iowa 51537

Glenna Thompsen, Director
Phone: 800-945-9778 or 712-755-7381
Fax: 712-755-7827
E-mail: gthompsen@harlannet.com

CCR&R Lead Agency 4

Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Iowa
1200 University, Suite H
City View Plaza
Des Moines, IA 50314

Karen King, Lead Agency Director
Phone: 800-722-7619 or 515-286-3536
Fax: 515-283-9293
E-mail: kking@co.polk.ia.us

CCR&R Lead Agency 5

Iowa East Central T.R.A.I.N.
Community Child Resource and Referral Center
2804 Eastern Avenue
Davenport, IA 52803

Mary Jo Huddleston, Manager
Phone: 800-369-3778 or 319-324-1302
Fax: 319-324-7736
E-mail: maryjo@revealed.net

QUILT-Quality in Linking Together

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) recognizes that successful early education partnerships enhance quality and expand services for low-income children and their families. Such partnerships maximize the effective use of funds, ensure continuity of services for children, and better meet the needs of working families. Recently, the Child Care and Head Start Bureaus advanced their commitment to supporting partnerships at the local, state, tribal, territorial, regional, and national levels by launching a new training and technical assistance (T/TA) initiative, *Quality in Linking Together: Early Education Partnerships* - the QUILT.

This new project is also a model for partnership for it links three organizations to lead the QUILT: Community Development Institute (CDI) in Denver, Colorado; Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) in Newton, Massachusetts; and the National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC) in Vienna, Virginia. In the initial planning phase, the QUILT project will engage with state, tribal, and regional leaders to develop a strategic approach that supports and fosters early education partnerships on the local level.

In addition, the QUILT will:

- collect, develop, and disseminate descriptive information on partnership structures and collaborative strategies;
- develop training materials and publications providing guidance and fiscal strategies to promote partnerships among early education programs;
- provide assistance to ACF staffs, T/TA providers, and other regional, state, tribal, territorial, and local leaders in their efforts to build strategic alliances that enhance partnerships among early education providers;
- deliver on-site technical assistance for Head Start, Child Care, Prekindergarten, and other early education providers through QUILT staff, a pool of expert consultants nationwide, and the T/TA systems; and
- conduct national and regional training, forums, and meetings for early education staffs that encourage and advance partnering.

The QUILT has launched a toll-free technical assistance hotline, 1-877-to-QUILT/1-877-867-8458, staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) and a QUILT Web site (www.QUILT.org).

For further information, contact CDI at 1-303-369-8706, NCCIC at 1-800-616-2242 or EDC at 1-617-618-2347

Iowa Rural Development Child Care Initiative

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service and its Community Facility Division has an initiative for the financing of early childhood care and education facilities in rural communities. In Iowa, we like to refer to these facilities as "Family Resource Centers" because of the multiple programming that may be offered in any one of these facilities. A community may elect to support multiple programs such as child care, HEADSTART, preschool, area education agency (AEA) programs for special needs children, migrant worker programs, family education and counseling services, adult day care or other community identified family needs. To meet these goals, we feel the following key points are important for early childhood and education facilities.

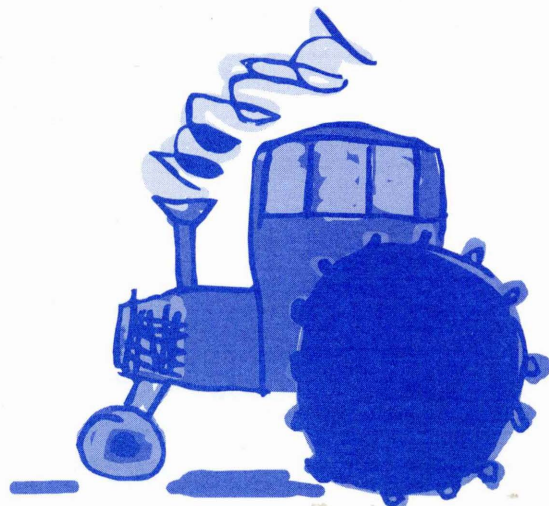
- **Broad Based Community Participation.** The initial meeting needs to include in the planning and organizational discussion the following key participants; the city, county, school district, economic development corporation, hospital, major employers, early childhood providers, interested parents and other representatives so that all can contribute and understand the needs of early childhood programming and facilities.
- **Early Childhood Facility Planning Discussion.** It is our recommendation that discussion include the present and needed early childhood programming and facilities within the community. This discussion needs to explore where programs can work together and the potential of several organizations occupying the same facility. A facilitator from outside the community is encouraged to lead this discussion.
- **Key Consultants & Advisors assisting with the Facility Development.** USDA Rural Development staff, Iowa DHS staff, Head Start, AEAs, Architectural Services, Financial Consultant, Iowa State University Extension Service Family Specialist, Child Care Resource & Referral representatives, Council of Governments and other representatives relating to special services that may be planned.
- **Financial Resources.** Significant financial resources include the USDA Rural Development, Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) administering the CDBG program, private contributors, foundations, community fund raisers, city, county, and in kind services from public bodies, nonprofit groups, businesses and individuals. In Iowa to date, our agency has financed 28 projects for \$ 7,568,000 and our major partner over the past several years has been IDED administering the CDBG program with 21 projects for \$5,834,752. Both our agencies have 8 preapplications on hand for FY 2000 with requests of \$2,090,000 and \$2,620,000 respectfully. The program success has substantially increased interest from rural areas.

Iowa Rural Development Child Care Initiative

- **Outreach & Partners for Early Childhood Needs.** Over the last five years we have worked with partners within the Iowa Rural Development Council to bring about awareness and discussions of solutions for communities. In 1998 we and our partners held 11 regional information meetings for providers, community leaders, and elected officials concerning early childhood issues. The discussion included home, private, and community services where we all support one another to meet community needs. Each year we have supported the state wide Iowa Early Childhood Care and Education Congress as financial partners and presenters. Through the Iowa Rural Development Council, we were a key financial supporter of the Iowa State University Extension Service as they developed a four book series on the planning and development of community child care facilities .
- **Ongoing Issues and Challenges.** When a new facility opens its doors, the real challenge begins to attain long term operational and financial viability. The hiring and keeping of well trained key staff is always a challenge. Low pay, few benefits and long hours contribute to high staff burnout and turnover. Communities are starting to recognize that these key positions may need to come under the same employment structure as public body and health care facility employees as to benefits and salaries. We are starting to see some communities recognize this need. To accomplish this it may mean subsidized revenues from such sources as businesses and governmental units so that quality service can be maintained.

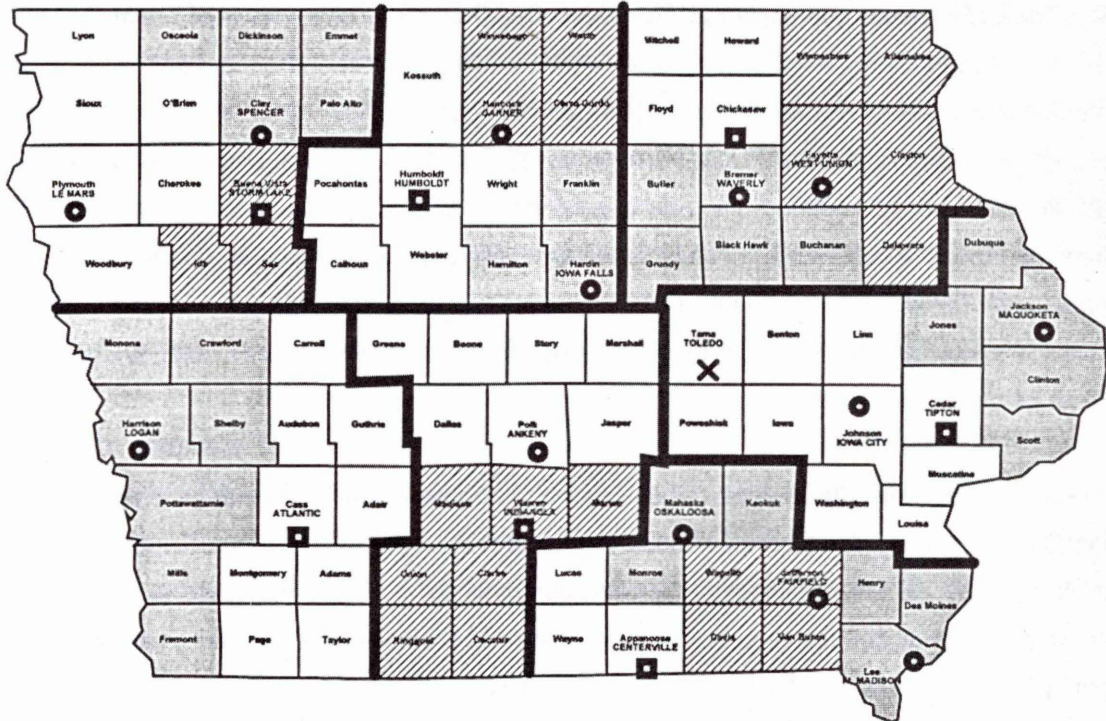
For more information please contact:

Dorman Otte
USDA Rural Development
873 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-284-4152
dorman.otte@ia.usda.gov



Iowa USDA Rural Development

IOWA



LOCAL OFFICE
 X SATELLITE OFFICE
 AREA / LOCAL OFFICE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 State Office - Rural Utilities & Community Facilities
 873 Federal Building, 210 Walnut
 Des Moines, IA 50309
 Phone (515) 284-4152 FAX (515) 284-4859

7/6/99

AREA OFFICES

Storm Lake Area Office 1619 North Lake, P.O. Box 1107 Storm Lake, IA 50588-1107	(712)732-1851
Humboldt Area Office 725 N 13th St., P.O. Box 189 Humboldt, IA 50548-0189	(515)332-4411
New Hampton Area Office 420 West Milwaukee, P.O. Box 430 New Hampton, IA 50659-0430	(515)394-3183
Tipton Area Office 205 W. South St., Suite 1 Tipton, IA 52772-0466	(319)886-6006
Centerville Area Office 421 N. 10th Street, Suite 2 Centerville, IA 52544-1701	(515)856-8026
Indianola Area Office 909 East 2nd Ave., Suite C Indianola, IA 50125-2812	(515)961-5365
Atlantic Area Office 511 West 7th St., P.O. Box 405 Atlantic, IA 50022-0405	(712)243-2107

LOCAL OFFICES

LeMars	(712)546-5149
Spencer	(712)262-3173
Storm Lake	
Gamer	(515)923-2853
Humboldt	(515)332-2042
Iowa Falls	(515)648-5181
New Hampton	
Waverly	(319)352-1715
West Union	(319)422-3839
Iowa City	(319)351-8865
Maquoketa	(319)652-6731
Tipton	
Toledo	(515)484-3317
Centerville	
Fairfield	(515)472-6556
Fort Madison	(319)372-4378
Oskaloosa	(515)673-3476
Ankeny	(515)964-4770
Indianola	(515)961-7473
Atlantic	
Logan	(712)644-2993

Contact any of these offices for additional information regarding Rural Utilities Services, Rural Housing Services, Rural Business and Industry or other essential Community Facilities Programs.

Iowa Rural Development Child Care Facilities

Why are community based child care facilities needed?

Many rural communities lack adequate child care providers to meet the needs of parents in the workforce with young children.

Who benefits from reliable quality child care programs?

1. **Children** from having access to a licensed child care center operated by qualified staff to meet early childhood needs.
2. **Parents** from the opportunity to enter the workforce to earn sufficient income to obtain an acceptable standard of living.
3. **Employers** from a workforce whose productivity is not impaired by unstable child care arrangements.
4. **Community** from maintaining their population base by keeping young families who might otherwise have to move to a larger community to obtain similar services.

What is the USDA Rural Development role in the development of child care facilities?

USDA Rural Development can play a significant role in the rural development of the State of Iowa and the improvement of the quality of life for rural communities through the financing of early childhood facilities when other credit is not available. But an integrated approach by Federal, State and Local agencies is essential to meet the early childhood needs for all rural families.

Where can additional information be obtained?

Any USDA Rural Development Local Office can provide basic information about Rural Development Programs financing but specific information and preapplication packets are available from Rural Development Area Offices.

When should USDA Rural Development become involved in planning a child care project?

USDA Rural Development should be contacted as soon as it appears likely that Rural Development financing will be needed to obtain current guidelines and requirements for child care facilities including:

1. Community support
2. Organizational structure
3. Operational history
4. Child care needs assessment
5. Architect selection
6. Site selection
7. Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report evaluating all the alternatives
8. Financial Feasibility Study

How can Community Leaders promote child care in their communities?

Contact any present licensed child care operations to obtain their evaluation of child care program needs. If there appears to be a potential need for additional child care capacity, then contact major employers, school board and superintendent, city council and mayor, and the county board of supervisors to determine their interest and support for improving and/or expanding child care facilities. If there appears to be a consensus of support, then arrange a meeting of community leadership with the USDA Rural Development Area and state office staff to further explore a potential project.

Iowa USDA Rural Development

Community Programs Financing

USDA Rural Development is authorized to provide financial assistance for public use facilities to primarily serve rural residents and communities. For water and waste disposal facilities, the “rural area” will not include any area in any city with a population in excess of 10,000. For other essential community facilities, the “rural area” will not include any area in any city with a population in excess of 20,000.

Who May Receive Assistance?

USDA Rural Development funds are available for public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special purpose districts. Nonprofit corporations with significant ties with the local rural communities may also receive loan assistance when public body financing is not practicable and adequate plans for loan repayments are made.

In addition, applicants must:

- be unable to obtain funds from other sources at reasonable rates and terms.
- be financially sound and able to organize and manage the facility effectively.
- base the project on revenues, fees or other satisfactory sources of income sufficient to pay for operation & maintenance, to retire the indebtedness and to fund required reserves.

How May Funds Be Used?

- Loan and grant funds may be used to construct or improve rural community water and waste disposal systems.
- Loan funds may be used to construct, or improve other essential community facilities for health care, public safety and public services. These facilities should be of modest design, size and cost essential to the successful operation of the facilities.
- Health care facilities include hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, medical clinics, sheltered workshops and group homes for developmentally disabled children and adults. Essential equipment may also be purchased for these facilities.
- Public safety facilities include fire stations, fire trucks and rescue equipment.
- Public service facilities include child care centers, senior citizen centers, community buildings, libraries, industrial parks, fairgrounds and other type of community facilities serving rural community residents.

What Are the Terms?

The maximum term on all loans is 40 years. However, no repayment period will exceed any statutory limitation on the organization's borrowing authority nor exceed the estimated useful life of the improvement or facility to be financed.

What Are the Interest Rates?

Interest rates for new loans are set each quarter. The interest rate charged is determined by the median household income for the community.

What Other Financing May Be Considered?

Other government and local applicant funding may be used in conjunction with the financing of various community facilities.

What Security is Required?

Bonds or notes must provide adequate security to protect the interest of the U.S. Government. A mortgage may be taken on the organization's facilities when state laws permit.

Grants - Water and Waste Disposal Systems

Grant funds may be available for a portion of the eligible project development costs when the Median Household Income (MHI) of the service area is below the statewide nonmetropolitan MHI.

The United States Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

USDA Rural Development Guaranteed Loans

Community Programs Guaranteed Loans United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development

The USDA Rural Development through the Community Facilities programs is authorized to guarantee loans made by eligible lenders to borrowers which may be public bodies or nonprofit organizations in rural areas and in towns of up to 20,000 for developing essential community facilities. Applicants must be unable to obtain the loan at reasonable rates and terms from a private or cooperative lender without the guarantee.

“Essential Community Facilities” includes:

Health Care Facilities

- Hospitals and equipment
- Nursing homes and equipment
- Medical or dental clinics
- Group homes and work-activity centers for the developmentally disabled children and adults.

Public Safety Facilities

- Fire stations, trucks, apparatus and equipment
- Rescue squad buildings, ambulances and equipment

Public Service Facilities

- Child care centers
- Senior citizen centers
- Community buildings and libraries
- Industrial parks and fairgrounds

Eligible lenders may be:

- A bank or savings and loan
- A mortgage company that is part of a bank holding company
- Farm Credit System Banks
- An insurance company regulated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners
- Others as approved by the USDA Rural Development Administrator

USDA Rural Development Guaranteed Loans

USDA Rural Development may guarantee up to 90 percent of loss of principal and interest on a loan. Normally guarantees will not exceed 80 percent unless extraordinary circumstances exist.

What purposes are ineligible?

Examples for which guarantees cannot be issued include but are not limited to the following:

- Projects involving tax-exempt notes or bonds
- Loans made by federal or state agencies
- On-site utility systems or business and industrial buildings in connection with an industrial site
- Facilities primarily for recreational purposes
- Facilities that are not modest in size, design, or cost
- Loan finders fees

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Definitions/Terms

Area Education Agency (AEA) – There are 15 AEAs in Iowa. They serve as intermediary education service units linking the Department of Education and local school districts, training institutions and other agencies that serve children and families. Each agency employs one full-time or part-time early childhood consultant to provide technical assistance at the local level for programs serving children from birth through eight years of age. ***For more information, contact Carlene Lodemeier at 515-281-8423, or e-mail at carlene.lodemeier@ed.state.ia.us.***

Child Development Coordinating Council – The Council is a multi-agency group established legislatively in 1988 to advocate for Iowa's children and to administer model child development programs for young children at-risk. The Council administers the Department of Education Shared Visions Child Development Coordinating Council programs for children at-risk from ages birth – 5. ***For more information, contact Donna Eggleston at 515-281-3999, or e-mail at donna.eggleston@ed.state.ia.us.***

Community Empowerment – In 1988 Community Empowerment Area legislation provided funding to designated communities for initiatives that increase the quality of child care, or which assist the family in obtaining or maintaining employment, education or training. The Iowa Community Empowerment initiative is to create a partnership between communities and state government with the initial emphasis to improve the well being of families with young children from ages birth to five. ***For more information, contact Donna Eggleston at 515-281-3999, or e-mail at donna.eggleston@ed.state.ia.us.***

Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork - The NetWork was established as a 501(c)(3) to bring together agencies and organizations interested in improving child care and early education services in Iowa. ***For more information, contact Marla Sheffler at 515-883-1206, or e-mail at icceen@dwx.com***

Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral - Child Care Resource and Referral provides services to parents, providers and the community. The services provided include assisting parents in choosing child care to meet their priorities; maintaining and increasing the quality of child care and serving as a support to providers; increasing interest in child care and providing a structure for child care planning. ***For more information contact Marla Sheffler at 515-883-1206, or e-mail at icceen@dwx.com***

Head Start Program Performance Standards - Since the 1970s, the program performance standards have played a central role in the Head Start program. The program performance standards provide a standard and definition of quality services for organizations nationwide that administer Head Start. They serve as training guides for staff and parents on the key elements of quality, provide a structure to the program that has served as a catalyst for program development and professional education and training in the preschool field, and provide the regulatory structure for the monitoring and enforcement of quality standards in Head Start. They were completely revised in 1996 to reflect the changes in society which have occurred through the years. ***For more information or to receive a copy of the Head Start Program Performance Standards, contact Anita Varne at 515-242-6024, or e-mail at anita.varne@ed.state.ia.us***

Definitions/Terms

Shared Visions Child Development Coordinating Council programs – The 114 programs which are administered by the Child Development Coordinating Council are located in public schools, Head Start agencies, and nonprofit agencies and serve children ages 3 – 5 years old. The programs must meet accreditation standards and provide age appropriate activities for the students. These programs are often called At-Risk or Child Development Coordinating Council preschools. *For more information, contact Donna Eggleston at 515-281-3999, or e-mail at donna.eggleston@ed.state.ia.us*

Shared Visions Parent Support Programs - These programs are often called the Birth to Three Projects. There are twelve scattered across the state in AEAs, Head Start, or public schools. They provide educational and support services to parents and children from birth through age three. *For more information, contact Anita Varne at 515-242-6024, or e-mail at anita.varne@ed.state.ia.us.*

State Child Day Care Advisory Council - The Council functions as a key advisory body to the Department of Human Services on child care and other related issues. The Council is comprised of not more than thirty-five members from rural and urban areas across the state. *Mary Jo Huddleston is the chair of the Council and may be contacted at 319-324-1302, or e-mail at maryjo@revealed.net*

Wrap-Around Grants – The grants provide funding for child care to children enrolled in Title I Preschools, Area Education Agency Early Childhood Special Education Preschools, Head Start or the Department of Education Shared Visions Child Development Coordinating Council programs. Care is provided before and after the regular program. The grants are funded from the Child Care and Development Fund through the Department of Human Services. *For more information about these grants, contact Jody Caswell 515-281-6212, or e-mail at jcaswel@dhs.state.ia.us*

Acronyms Used in the Document

SCDCAC – State Child Day Care Advisory Council

DHS – Department of Human Services

DE – Department of Education

DPH – Department of Public Health

WIC – Women, Infants, and Children

MCH – Maternal and Child Health

AEA – Area Education Agency

CCR&R – Child Care Resource and Referral

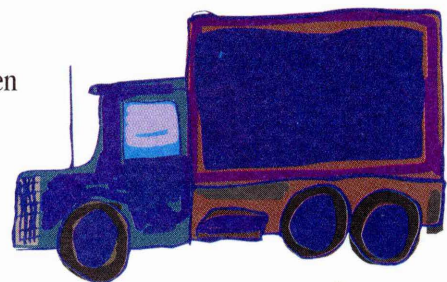
NAEYC – National Association for the Education of Young Children

IAEYC – Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

CDCC – Child Development Coordinating Council

ECSE – Early Childhood Special Education

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture



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