

Early Childhood Iowa receives funding that is to be used for professional development activities to support and strengthen the comprehensive early childhood system. Input is provided by the ECI Professional Development Component Group regarding needs for the system. Primarily, these funds are applied towards activities that support the entire state and could not happen at a local level.

FY 22

**\$825,030**

state allocation for professional development activities

#### FUNDED PROJECTS

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



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

## INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH

Infant Mental Health Endorsement® (IMH-E®) and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement® (ECMH-E®) are two separate credentials that can be earned by anyone working with, or on behalf of, very young children and their families, with a focus on strengthening and supporting early relationships that are crucial to a child's social and emotional development. Endorsement® signifies that an applicant has acquired knowledge to promote the delivery of high quality, culturally sensitive, relationship- focused services to infants, toddlers, parents, other caregivers and families. During this contract year, Endorsement® and IMH-E® were supported by multiple funding sources, including \$91,150 from the ECI State Professional Development funds.

For the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health report visit:

<https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2023-01/ECI%20Report%202021%20-%202022%20%281%29.pdf>

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

EC-PBIS, the Pyramid Model initiative in Iowa, offers early childhood programs a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to promoting social-emotional development and addressing challenging behaviors among young children. EC-PBIS creates nurturing environments for children equipped with supported staff trained to respond to challenging behaviors. This is all for the goal of fostering positive mental health at a young age. The mission of the EC-PBIS State Leadership Team is to develop the state infrastructure so that all early care, health and education providers successfully implement the Pyramid Model of positive behavior supports with fidelity (\$20,962 ECI State PD funds).

#### FY 22 Highlights:

- Updated and relaunched the EC-PBIS Family Support Modules. A train-the-trainer was held in the spring of 2022 for 27 new trainers across the state.
- HHS provided funding to Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) for two new statewide positions. These positions provide social, emotional, behavioral and mental health support across the CCR&R system.
- The EC-PBIS SLT Administrative Team was invited to do a poster presentation for State Day at the National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior. In addition a number of Iowa educators were accepted to present sessions regarding implementation and communities of practice.
- Iowa joined seven other states to pilot the new Pyramid Model Implementation Data System (PIDS). Eleven programs participated in the first year of the pilot. The PIDS system allows programs to input and analyze data to make meaningful programmatic decisions. In turn, the SLT will be able to make statewide data based decisions to move the work forward.

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

**Project Overview:** Child Care Nurse Consultants (CCNC) are registered nurses who provide visits, consultation, training, and technical assistance to early education and child care businesses to provide information and support regarding health and safety policies, infectious disease prevention, medication management, health of personnel, specific child health or safety issues, and care planning for children with special health needs.

During this contract year, Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) and the Iowa Training Project for Child Care Nurse Consultant Precepting was supported by \$78,977 from the ECI State Professional Development funds.

**For the full FY22 annual report visit** <https://www.idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/128/Healthy-Child-Care-Iowa-Annual-Report-FY2022%20final.pdf>

- 7 CCNCs received Iowa Training Project for Child Care Nurse Consultants precepting by the Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) State Team (based on the National Child Health Consultant Competencies).
- All 34 local CCNCs completed inter-rater reliability Health and Safety Checklist visits with the HCCI State Team.
- 100% of CCNCs with inter-rater reliability of a minimum of 90%.
- This project also supported the Back to Sleep-Tummy to Play Train-the-Trainer even.
- 28 CCNCs and 7 CCR&R trainers (from across the state) attended the in-person event provided by the Iowa SIDS Foundation.

## T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD® IOWA

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

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

During this contract year, T.E.A.C.H. has been supported by multiple funding sources, including \$394,806.37 from the ECI State Professional Development funds.

### FY22 Highlights:

- 468 Associate and Child Development Associate (CDA) Renewal Credits Completed
- 734 Bachelor, Endorsement, and Licensure Renewal Credits Completed
- 1,202 total college credit hours completed
- Total GPA Average: 3.60
- 120 Completed Contracts

**For the full T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA report visit** <http://www.iowaaeyc.org/TEACH%20and%20WAGE%24%202022%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

## IOWA FAMILY SUPPORT CREDENTIAL

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

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

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

### FY 22 Highlights:

- 9 peer reviews conducted.
- 86% of standards found in adherence at the conclusion of the peer review.
- 90% of Iowa counties having at least 1 program participating in the Iowa Family Support Credential.
- 94 hours of Technical Assistance provided.  
This is significantly lower than last fiscal year. However, there were barriers that occurred during this time period such as: the unexpected passing of the IFSC lead/head facilitator, resignation of the supporting IFSC staff & the COVID-19 pandemic.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

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

### FY 22 Highlights:

- 44 public and private stakeholders committed to workgroups addressing specific identified tasks from the ECI Professional Development (PD) Component Group Annual Plan, aligned to the ECI Strategic Plan.
- 19 new individuals expressed interest to join ECI efforts during 2022.
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health career path added in May 2022 to [ecieducationpathway.org](http://ecieducationpathway.org).
- Professional Development Component Group documents and career pathways aligned to NAEYC Early Childhood Educator I, II, and III.