

#### Dear Iowans:

Early Childhood Iowa is pleased to share the 2015 annual report. As a volunteer to this effort, I'm proud to play a small part in supporting the programs, services and activities that support our youngest children and their families. As this initiative grows and matures, this report shares information about the results from the cadre of services and system improvements being supported in Iowa's early care, health and education system.

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) is founded on the premise that government and communities can work together so that 'every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful'. ECI coordinates efforts to build a stronger foundation to support the system. Highlights and examples of this year's activities and successes are included in this year's report.

As a nation, we are reminded about the importance of investing early. A child's quality of life and the contributions he or she will make to society can be directly traced to the first few years of life. High quality early education yields higher graduation rates, reduced crime, higher earnings, and better jobs. As a result, economists estimate that every dollar invested in early education produces a 7-10% return on investment through increased personal achievement and social productivity.

There are 38 ECI Areas that cover the entire state. Each area has its own leadership and locally-developed community plan. In those areas, local board members and community partners come together to build a stronger community of services as described in their community plans. In this report, you will see a highlight of the results of their efforts through program performance measures data.

During this year, ECI gathered input, reviewed data from assessments and reports to develop a strategic plan for Early Childhood Iowa. The process supports strengthening of partnerships and working towards common goals and outcomes. The work keeps the greatest needs of our youngest Iowans at

the forefront. Their voices can't be ignored if our state is to be strong in the education, economic and global sectors. The three identified goals are:

• Establish and Promote a Solid Infrastructure to Advance the Early Childhood System

• Ensure Access to High Quality Services for Young Children and their Families

• Build Public Will for Supporting Young Children and their Families

Early Childhood Iowa is ready, able and positioned to help bridge those platforms and build a future generation of Iowans who will stay, work and prosper in this great state. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthy effort.

Jame dans

Joanne Lane, Chairperson
Early Childhood Iowa State Board

# Table of Contents

ECI Overview	4
Results Accountability	6
Family Support	7
Result Pages:	
Healthy Children	8
Children Ready to Succeed in School	10
Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments	12
Safe and Nurturing Families	14
Safe and Supportive Communities	16
Professional Development	18
ECI Admin	19
ECI System	20
Addendum to the Report	21
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# ECI Overview

The vision for Early Childhood Iowa is, "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful." There is no single strategy to make this happen. It takes a system of systems for a child to reach their potential. These individual systems include early care, health and education. The ECI State Board, the ECI Stakeholder Alliance and local ECI Area Boards are charged with developing, supporting and maintaining effective, efficient and integrated systems.

ECI was first approved in legislation in 1998 but was known then as Iowa Community Empowerment. In 2008, state policy makers enacted Early Childhood Iowa for state system development. In 2010 the two initiatives were brought together under the banner of Early Childhood Iowa.

The founding legislation for ECI (then Iowa Community Empowerment) established five results to be achieved at both the state and local level and utilized the Accountable Government Act as the standard for measuring progress toward accountability. A result was defined as "the effect desired for all Iowans." The results described in legislation are:

- Healthy Children
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Safe and Supportive Communities
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

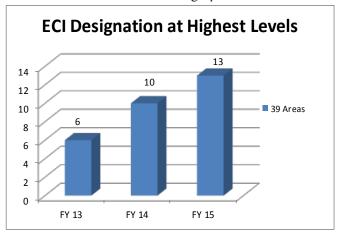
The current reality in Iowa is that programs, polices, and systems are inadequate to do all the work necessary. In order to achieve the results, ECI has undergone a process with over 150 early childhood stakeholders providing input to create a system-wide strategic plan and the goals below focus and will guide their work with limited resources in developing an integrated and quality early childhood system of systems for young children and their families.

The three identified goals are:

- Establish and Promote a Solid Infrastructure to Advance the Early Childhood System
- Ensure Access to High Quality Services for Young Children and their Families
- Build Public Will for Supporting Young Children and their Families

ECI System Activities and Accomplishments to support these goals in FY15 include:

 13 ECIA boards have achieved Quality or Model designations; the two top levels of the Levels of Excellence Rating System.



- The State Board conducted a site visit to the Pottawattamie County ECI area, meeting with local board members, program providers and community partners.
- The ECI Stakeholders Alliance Professional
  Development Component Group and Iowa AEYC
  hosted the Training Coordinators Summit. This
  was a day of collaboration for training coordinators
  across systems to share training plans, roadblocks,
  and strengths. The goal for this day was to encourage
  increased cross-sector collaboration state-wide across
  systems, and within Iowa regions.
- The Stakeholder Alliance, through its Equity Advisory Committee, successfully applied for a technical assistance grant from the BUILD Initiative to support work in developing more diversity in early childhood leadership and workforce, including professional development in supporting racial, cultural and linguistic competence. The grant culminated with a statewide Equity Summit.
- Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral and the ECI Public Engagement Component Group (Parent Engagement Work Group) collaborated to convene early childhood professionals from various agencies and child care providers in Iowa to create materials for parents who are looking to choose quality child care. The goal of this project, Choosing Quality Child Care Core Knowledge, was to take the most important Iowa regulations and best practices of child

care and present them in a way that could be used by any agency to develop educational resources for parents. Early childhood professionals can use the new core



Iowa Association for Infant & Early

Childhood Mental Health

knowledge document to narrow down topics to make selecting child care easier for parents.

- In collaboration with the Iowa Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, ECI provided funding to implement a licensed, competency-based endorsement
  - system that recognizes professionals

with specialized knowledge and skills in early childhood mental health. Developed in Michigan in 2002, this four-tiered endorsement system has been implemented in 26 states, resulting in significant impact on policies, practices, higher education, training and research. It is anticipated that implementation of this standardized system of competencies and endorsement will, in time, enhance the quality of Iowa's mental health delivery system and inform policy and practice change to better support

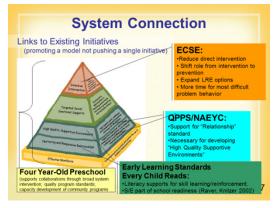
 ECI sponsored a variety of state-wide professional development training sessions and informational opportunities both in person and via webinars throughout the year. Topics included advocacy, child care development block grant reauthorization, meeting facilitation, community impact, and using social media.

young children's healthy mental development.

In FY 2015, the ECI Office began publishing a newsletter, ECI Monday Musings. It is a weekly compilation of information, practical advice, training announcements, and success stories. The content is from early childhood state, federal, research institutes and the private sectors. Monday Musings is intended to disseminate information to Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders and others in a timely fashion. To view editions of ECI Monday Musings visit http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org.

 The State Leadership Team (SLT) for the Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Interventions and

Supports
(EC-PBIS)
became a
committee
of the ECI
Quality
Services and
Programs
Component
group. The
mission



of the EC-PBIS State Leadership Team (SLT) 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. To accomplish the mission, the SLT uses data informed decision making to develop policies, procedures, and tools to ensure:

- o Consistent practice;
- o Quality implementation;
- o Engagement of family and community as critical partners;
- o Continuous improvement; and
- o Implementation sustainability.
- In FY '15, usage of the ECI website included 13,697 users. Of those, 58.78% were new or first-time visitors on the website. Through the fiscal year, there were 84,939 page views (hits).



# Results Accountability

Accountability for results continues to be the hallmark of ECI. The following pages showcase the data collected by ECI.

When looking at this information, it is important to realize that the Early Childhood Iowa initiative is not a program in and of itself. Instead, ECI funds are legislated to support existing local programs and services by filling gaps – most often by allowing additional families/children to be served, or by increasing the quality of the services provided. As the coordinating body within their ECI area, it is the ECI Area Board's responsibility to pull the community together to collectively determine the strengths, gaps and needs of the families and young children served. Ultimately, the board makes funding decisions that will impact the priorities determined through the strategic planning process.

### **Presentation of the Report Data:**

The data within this report is organized by Result area and showcases information at the state level (indicators), as well as local program data.

The presentation of the data utilizes the following sequence:

### **Results**

At its inception in 1998, legislation established five results to be achieved, both statewide and at the local level. ECI (then Community Empowerment) utilized the Accountable Government Act as the standard for measuring progress toward accountability. A result is defined as "the effect desired for all Iowans". The legislated results are:

- Healthy Children
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Safe and Supportive Communities
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

#### **Indicators**

The Early Childhood Iowa State Board collects and reports statewide indicator data to quantify and track progress toward the statewide results. An indicator is "a measure that directly or indirectly quantifies the achievement of a result. It measures the whole population, rather then those served by a specific program. More than one resource, program or service is necessary to improve an indicator and it often requires collaboration to reach the goal."

### **Program Performance Measures**

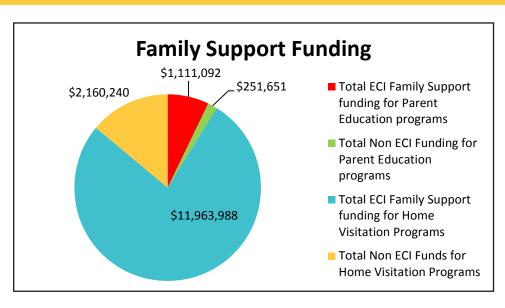
A performance measure "measures the success of a service, product, or activity for the population served". In FY'11, the ECI State Board adopted consistent program measures which are required to be reported by all programs funded with both Early Childhood and School Ready dollars. This information is submitted in the local annual reports submitted to the ECI Office. The data is then compiled and shared from a state perspective in the ECI state annual report.

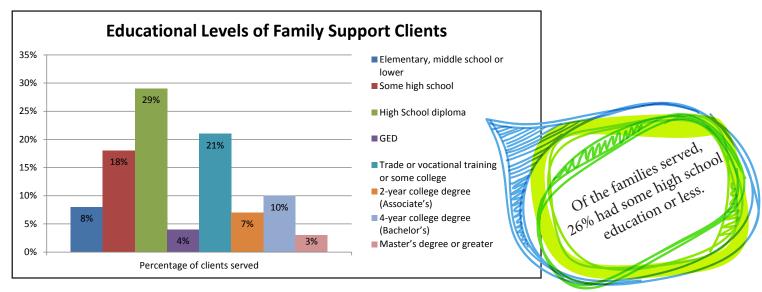
Note: An Executive Summary for each ECI Area can be found on the ECI website at the following link, http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/EC\_resources/annual\_reports/index.html; click on *2015 Annual Report*.

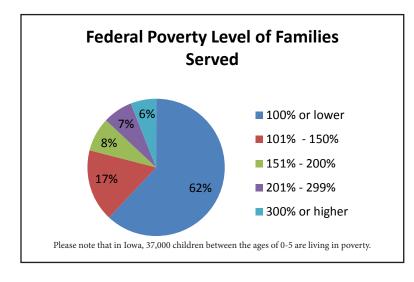


## Family Support

Family support programming includes an array of community-based services designed to enable and empower families by building on individual and family capabilities that support and strengthen parenting capabilities and overall family functioning. One strategy for delivering family support services is through home visiting. Another delivery is through parent education which includes a group-based approach to working with families. Programs use varying delivery methods and can have very different goals e.g., preventing child abuse, school readiness, parent involvement, and advocacy.



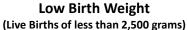


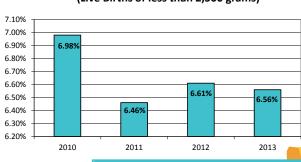


Families, in all the diverse patterns, sizes, creeds, and colors they come in; are the heart and soul of our society. The condition of children's lives largely reflects the well-being of their families. Parents have the greatest impact on their child's development and success, but many need support in learning how to nurture and teach their child. Every day children learn about life and who they are through interactions with and observations of their parents and other primary caregivers.

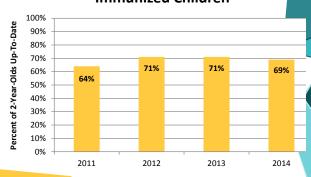
# Legislated Result

## Healthy Children





### **Immunized Children**



## LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

Percent of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health- Vital Statistices

## IMMUNIZED CHILDREN

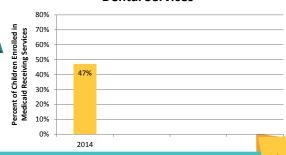
Percent of 2-year-olds with up to-date immunizations

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health- Bureau of Immunization

#### **Dental Services**

State

Indicators



### **DENTAL SERVICES**

Medicaid-enrolled children ages 0-5 who receive denta services

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health via CMS 416 Data

Indicators

> 21 out of the 38 ECI areas supported dental screens

> \$588,678 total funds reported (ECI: \$359,051; Non-ECI: \$229,627)

16.295 children were served

\$36 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

51% screened that needed dental treatment went to a dentist

Dental Services 86% of the children screened were cavity free

8 out of the 38 ECI areas supported general health services

\$229,373 total funds reported (ECI: \$212,105; Non-ECI: \$17,268)

11,774 children were served

\$19 average cost per child, based on funds reported

General Health 31% of children screened that needed follow up/treatment received those services

4 out of the 38 ECI areas supported these services

\$45,771 total funds reported (ECI: \$29,933 Non-ECI: \$15,837)

299 children were served (including prenatal children)

\$153 average cost per child, based on total

83% screened up/treatment, it services

83% Screened up/treatment, it services 83% screened that needed follow up/treatment, received the

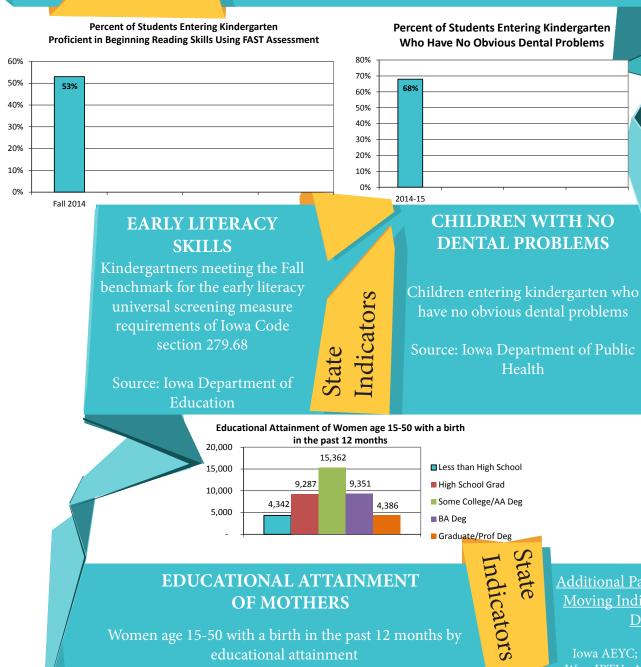
Other Factors Impacting this Result: I-SmileTM; Help Me Grow; ACES; hawk-i Outreach; 1st Five Healthy Mental Development: EDCDT: Title V. Child Health: Deviced of Durale Coving Development.

T-Smile<sup>tM</sup>; Help Me Grow; ACES; **hawk-i** Outreach; 1st Five Healthy Mental Development; Early Hearing Of Purple Crying; Early Hearing Development; EPSDT; Title V Child Health; Period of Purple Crying; Lead Screening. Development; EPSD1; Title V Child Health; Period of Purple Crymg; Early Hearing, Detection and Intervention; Newborn screening; Immunizations; Lead Screening; Immunizations and Intervention; Newborn screening; Immunizations (Lead Screening).

Additional Partners that Assist in Moving Indicators in a Local Public Health; WIC Clinics; IDPH; Child Health Specialty
Clinics: Local Title V. Child Health Agazing Due, Ender Access Local Public Health; WIC Chnics; IDPF; Child Health Specially Clinics; Local Title V Child Health Agencies; DHS; Early ACCESS

## Legislated Result

## Children Ready to Succeed in School



## **OF MOTHERS**

Women age 15-50 with a birth in the past 12 months by educational attainment

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Additional Partners that Assist in Moving Indicators in a Positive **Direction:** 

Way; IPTV; Academy of Pediatricians;

### Other Factors Impacting this Result:

Every Child Reads; Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program; Shared Visions; Raising Readers Learning Centers; Reach Out and Read; Childcare Alliance Response Team (CART); childcare/ preschool wraparound programs; Parents As Teachers; ECI preschool scholarships; Positive Behavior & Intervention Supports; Early Learning Standards

Coordination

Solatship 26 out of the 38 ECI areas supported these services

\$310,617 total funds reported (ECI: \$310,372; Non-ECI: \$245)

79% of children applying for scholarships received it

Reasons a child did receive a scholarship: over income; inadequate funding available; eligible for another program; age ineligible; no longer need; moved out of the specific ECI area

> 18 out of the 38 ECI areas supported transportation services

\$343,607 total funds reported (ECI: \$286,028; Non-ECI: \$57,579)

677 children were provided transportation services

\$507 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

88% of the days preschool was offered that children were able to attend because of this service

Transportation

ition Assistance 36 out of the 38 ECI areas supported this service

> \$7,619,778 total funds reported (ECI: \$2,908,237; Non-ECI: \$4,711,541)

3,449 Children received tuition assistance/ scholarships

\$2,209 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

> 85% of children demonstrated age appropriate skills

21 out of the 38 ECI areas supported these services

\$3,470,365total funds reported
(ECI: \$2,096,385; Non-ECI: \$1,373,980)

1,980 children were served

\$1,752 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

88% of children served demonstrated age appropriate skills

4 out of the 38 ECI areas supported stand alone literacy programs

\$41,351 total funds reported (ECI: \$33,151; Non-ECI: \$8,200)

1,150 children were served

\$5 average cost per child, based on funds reported

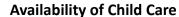
95% of parents report an increase in reading to their child each day

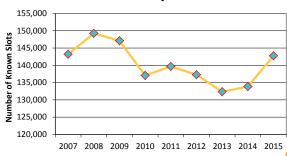
> 97% of parents report an increase of talking with their child about new words in stories

11

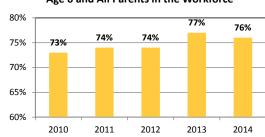
# Legislated Result

# Secure & Nurturing Early Learning Environments





Percent of Households with Children under Age 6 and All Parents in the Workforce



## AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Number of licensed and registered child care slots

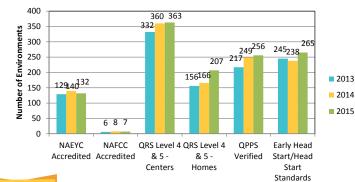
Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

### **WORKING PARENTS**

Percent of households with children under age 6 and all parents in the workforce

Source: American Community

### **Quality Early Learning Environments**



In October of 2014, the US Congress passed reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant. This legislation increases state requirements in supporting low-income families who rely on child care assistance to access child care. These requirements move the child care system to be more child focused, family friendly and fair to child care providers. There are a number of requirements the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), as the lead agency, will need to implement. The DHS reached out to ECI, through Component Groups and Committees, to provide input and suggestion on how to design the needed changes in child care. The ECI Stakeholders Alliance is very supportive of the changes and will advocate for the implementation.

# QUALITY EARLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) or NAFCC (National Association of Family Child Care) accredited

of Young Children) or NAFCC (National Association of Family Child Care) accredited and/or meet Head Start program performance standards, and/or verified QPPS sites, and/or have achieved QRS level 4-5.

Source: Early Childhood Iowa

4 out of the 38 ECI areas supported crisis care services

\$278,894 total funds reported (ECI: \$254,894; Non-ECI: \$24,000)

425 children were served

\$656 average cost per child, based on total funds reported

> 100% of parents reported they were connected to new support

Quality Improved ality 38 ECI areas supported activities to improve quality through support of the Quality Rating System (QRS)

\$1,551,868 total funds reported (ECI: \$1,295,948; Non-ECI: \$255,921)

39% of the 1,007 early care and education programs that were supported rated at least a level 3 in Iowa's QRS

31 out of the 38 ECI areas supported this assist early lear (preschool areas supported this service to assist early learning environments (preschools, child care centers, home

\$1,243,524 total funds reported (ECI: \$1,172,320; Non-ECI: \$71,204)

84% of children with special needs had a health care plan

> 89% of participants improved health and safety in their early learning environments

4 out of the 38 ECI areas supported Wage\$

\$111,305 total funds reported (ECI: \$85,660; Non-ECI: \$25,646)

55 Wage\$ recipients

93% of recipients retained employment in **Early Learning Programming** 

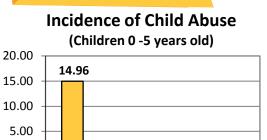
> \$2,024 average cost per recipient, based on total funds reported

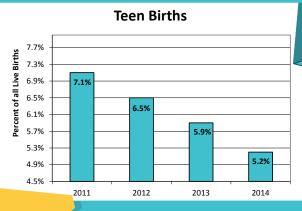
Other Factors Impacting this Result: Healthy Child Care Iowa; I-Consult

Additional Partners that Assist in Moving Indicators in a CCR&R; T.E.A.C.H. Iowa; Head Start; IDPH; ISU Extension

# Legislated Result

## Safe and Nurturing Families





## INCIDENCE OF CHILD ABUSE

Incidence of confirmed child abuse for children 5 years old and under

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

### **TEEN BIRTHS**

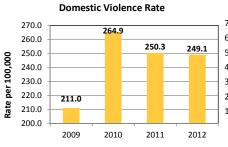
Percent of all births to mothers under age 20

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

# Percent of Accredited Family Support Programs in Iowa 80% 60% 40%

2013

2014

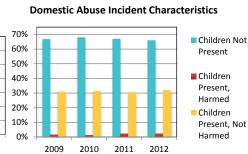


ndicators

State

2015

Indicators



## ACCREDITED FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN IOWA

39%

2012

20%

0%

Programs demonstrating adherence to quality standards as determined by an external review

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RATE

Domestic abuse rate and domestic abuse rate where children were present

Source: Iowa Department of Public Safety

Rate per 1,000

0.00

2014

2 out of the 38 ECI areas supported resource libraries

\$2,000 total funds reported (ECI: \$2,000; Non-ECI: \$0)

100% of parcipants increased their knowledge of early ResourceLibi childhood growth and development

Family Support

38 out of the 38 ECI areas supported family support services

\$20,645,981 total funds reported (ECI: \$13,944,634; Non-ECI: \$6,701,347)

58% of the families have a primary caregiver with a high school diploma or less education

42% of the families served are married

28% of the primary caregivers are non-Caucasian

## Iowa Family Support Credential

The Iowa Family Support Credentialing program is a quality improvement framework for family support programs. Technical assistance is provided to enrolled programs to improve practice and to demonstrate adherence to the Iowa Family Support Standards.

Programs complete a self-evaluation with the assistance of their technical assistance mentor to evaluate their adherence to the standards. The results of the selfevaluation formulate the quality improvement plan. A peer review is scheduled when the program determines that they are in adherence in both policy and practice to all of the 139 standards. The peer review team carefully reviews all assessment materials, interviews key stakeholders, observes activities, and reviews family files to determine if the program is in adherence to the standards. A certificate of achievement and recognition is awarded to the program by the state once a program is found to be in complete adherence to the Iowa Family Support Standards.

Evidence-based/Promising Practice Priority: In order to implement the legislative intent stated in sections 135.106 and 256I.9, that priority for home visitation program funding be given to programs using evidenced-based or promising models for home visitation, the legislation states that by FY '16, 90 percent of state funds expended for home visiting programs are for evidence-based or promising program models. As of FY '15, Iowa is at 85.77% towards meeting this requirement.

There are now a total of 86 programs that have received the credential either through the standard method (70) or alternate method (16). During the year, 47 programs received technical assistance to move forward with meeting the criteria. Currently 94% of Iowa Counties have at least one program participating in the credential process.

# Legislated Result

# Safe and Supportive Communities



Source: Iowa Department of Public Safety

Odinated Intake

Co. Co. Co. 7 out of the 38 ECI areas supported a Coordinated Intake project

\$114,223 total funds reported (ECI: \$86,083; Non-ECI: \$28,140)

52% of families that received referrals enrolled in the program, or service

Checks 2 our areas & Checks 2 out of the 38 ECI areas supported car seat safety checks

\$2,210 total funds reported (ECI: \$2,210; Non-ECI: \$0)

30 children were served

\$73.67 average cost per child, based on the total funds reported

40% of the car seats were properly installed prior to the safety checks, as reported by the car seat safety technician

runds reported; Non-ECI: \$500)

Public

Promi 6 out of the 38 ECI areas supported public awareness activities in their

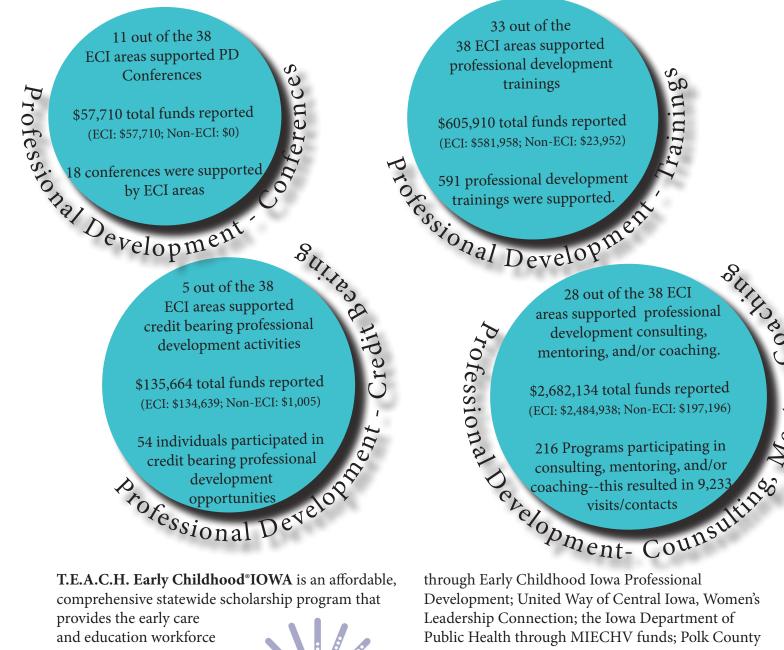
\$79,170 total funds reported (ECI: \$78,670; Non-ECI: \$500)

Other Factors Impacting this Result: Promise Jobs; Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Funds; Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program

Additional Partners that Assist in Moving Indicators in a

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children; DHS; IDPH; Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

## Professional Development



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®IOWA is an affordable, comprehensive statewide scholarship program that

provides the early care and education workforce with an opportunity to attain college coursework, credentials, and degrees in early childhood education without going into debt. T.E.A.C.H. scholarships address key issues in child



care of under-education, poor compensation, and high turnover while supporting high quality early learning environments for Iowa's youngest citizens.

Funding for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA comes in part from the Iowa Department of Human Services through federal funding from the Child Care Development Fund; Iowa Department of Management through Early Childhood Iowa Professional Development; United Way of Central Iowa, Women's Leadership Connection; the Iowa Department of Public Health through MIECHV funds; Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Area; and the child care programs who co-sponsor a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA is a successful strategy supporting the result areas of Early Childhood Iowa.

Child Care WAGE\$® IOWA provides education-based

financial supplements to early care and education providers to incentivize retention within their child care program as well as continued college education.

**Child Care WAGEŚ** IOWA

This program aims to increase retention, education, and compensation for the early childhood workforce. During FY '15, WAGE\$ served 10 counties in Iowa.

### Local System Development- ECI Area Boards:

- Administer funding to invest in early childhood programming to support young children and their families
- Build community commitment to reach the ECI Legislated Results
- Develop a community plan that is adopted by various early childhood partners in the community



### **Local Boards**

- Administrative Staff \$2,069,069
- Total ECIA Board Expenses (non-staff) \$254,526
- Board Liability Insurance \$64,070
- Fiscal Agent Fees \$242,622
- Audit Expenses \$102,950



## State System Development (ECI State Office and State Technical Assistance Team):

- Support and coordinate with the ECI State Board to move the early care, health and education systems forward.
- Support and coordinate the ECI Stakeholders Alliance
- Oversee the development of a high quality early childhood system
- Implementation of the ECI initiative
- Provide leadership and facilitation, communication and coordination of initiative activities and funding for the ECI Area boards

### **State Office**

- 2 FTEs (salary and benefits) + 7 months of previous staff person and a portion of time for clerical support \$326,485
- Office Expense: (includes individual office space rental, equipment, phone lines, conference phone lines, supplies, computers and IT services, printing, LOE items for model areas, etc.) - \$22,000
- Travel Expenses Board Members \$8,050
- Travel Expenses for ECI Office and state car \$7,200

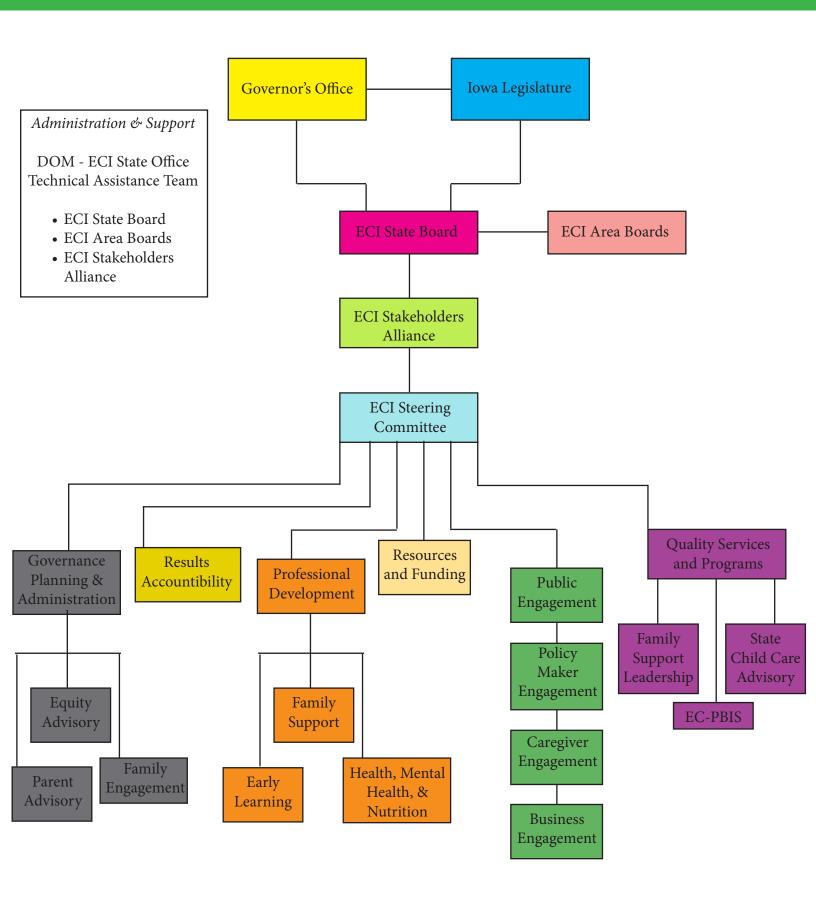
StateOffice Total: \$363,735

### State TA Team

In addition to the State Office:

- DHS utilizes \$50,000 (.5 FTE) of the Early Childhood funding
- IDPH contributes a .25 FTE to the ECI TA Team
- DE contributes a .5 FTE to the ECI TA Team

## ECI System



# Addendum

The following supportive documents can be accessed by visiting the FY15 Annual Report link on the official ECI website, http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/EC\_resources/annual\_reports/index.html:

Early Childhood Iowa Indicator Trend Data

ECI Area Overview

ECI State Board Membership

ECI Timeline through 2015

ECI History of the Early Childhood Fund

ECI History of the School Ready Fund

**ECI Funding Summary** 

EC-PBIS Annual Report

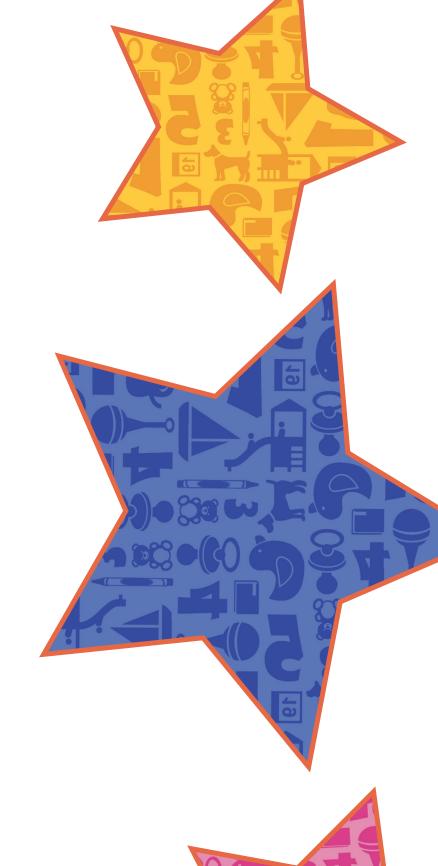
FY '15 Family Support Data

State Child Care Advisory Committee Update

ECI Professional Development Update









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