

Safe and Supportive Communities Local Performance Measures



Polk County Empowerment (Human Services Planning Alliance)

Local Identified Need/Priority: To ensure the availability and streamline accessibility of high quality child care for low income and subsidized children.

Goal: Increase high quality preschool capacity and increase utilization by at-risk children in seven (7) targeted centers

Local Performance Measure: Number of families served
 Number of centers working toward NAEYC accreditation
 Number of accredited centers
 Number of child care workers completing Child Development Associate course work

Strategies: Streamlined accessibility for parents eligible for subsidized childcare. Polk County maintained a centralized intake process that allows for the coordination of childcare funds from Polk County, City of Des Moines, Empowerment, and United Way.

Stabilization of 7 inner city childcare centers (Targeted Childcare Centers) by paying the gap between the market price for center-based care and the State (DHS) reimbursement rate. Stabilization funds are being used by the targeted centers to help maintain their current capacity and increase their enrollment.

Support for NAEYC Accreditation & CDA training for 7 inner city childcare centers (Targeted Childcare Centers). ITERS and ECERS were performed by ISU extension in each classroom. As a results of these quality improvement plans and professional development action plans are being developed at each center. Funds are used for NAEYC accreditation expenses, staff tuition for higher education, CDA scholarships & substitute teachers. United Way of Central Iowa Early Childhood Initiative, Bank of America, Safe and Stable Schools, and Polk County matched Empowerment funds to support this initiative.

Number of Families	Number of Centers Working Toward Accreditation	Number of Accredited Centers	Number of Child Care Workers Completing CDA
697 families	5 Centers working toward accreditation 7 centers completed self study	3 centers have accredited classrooms	64 child care workers have received their CDA

Caring CommUNITY (Des Moines and Louisa Counties)



Local Identified Need/Priority: Availability of quality child care/preschool and age appropriate parenting education

Goal: Increase the number of children living between 140-185% of poverty who have a quality child care or preschool experience

Increase the number of providers with training
 Increase the number of parents who participate in parent education

Local Performance Measure:

Number of children attending child care or preschool with Empowerment funding support

Number of childcare and preschool providers trained with Empowerment funding

Number of parents participating in parent education with Empowerment funding

Strategies: A collaborative effort of private and public human serves agencies, public health, child care resources and referral and the schools. Grants to child care and preschools are provided to build their capacity to give under-served children access to early childhood education environment and for staff training. Parent education is provided through partnerships with Extension, child care centers and preschools, the Nest Program and a library. To assist children in being prepared for school, help parents maintain employment and to provide nurturing homes.



