

DHLW Early Childhood Area

Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington

Every child will be safe, healthy, and successful

Early Childhood Plan 2015

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Date approved by board: March 17, 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| <u>Section 1: General Information</u> | <u>Page(s)</u> |
|---|-----------------------|
| DHLW Early Childhood Area & Board | 3 |
| Use of the Early Childhood Plan | 4 |
| Vision and Mission | 5 |
| Geographical overview | 5 |
| Demographics | 5 – 14 |
| | |
| <u>Section 2: Community Needs Assessment</u> | |
| Historical perspective | 15 |
| Assessment process | 15 – 18 |
| Priorities and analysis | 19 |
| Indicators and analysis | 20 |
| Trend data matrix | 21 – 25 |
| Strategies of the ECA Board | 26 |
| Process for Awarding Funds | 26 – 27 |
| | |
| <u>Section 3: Fiscal Assessment</u> | |
| Fiscal assessment process | 28 – 29 |
| Fiscal matrix | 30 – 36 |
| | |
| <u>Section 4: Community Collaboration</u> | |
| Community partners and collaborative opportunities | 37 |
| | |
| <u>Section 5: Review and Evaluation</u> | |
| Review and evaluation process | 38 |

Section 1: General Information

DHLW Early Childhood Area & Board

The DHLW Early Childhood Area Board was created in 2015. It is the result of a merger of the Henry/Washington ECA Board and the *Believe In Children* Early Childhood Iowa Area (Des Moines & Louisa Counties). The new 4-county board called DHLW Early Childhood Area will act as the local Early Childhood Iowa Board receiving funds for local programs.

The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) initiative is housed in the Iowa Department of Management and oversees funding that is passed through to 38 local boards serving all 99 counties. ECI suffered significant funding cuts in 2008-2010 and has yet to receive restoration of any lost funds. Local ECI area boards receive allocations based on formulas that take into account the total population of children as well as low income families. Level funding combined with the formula process means that rural areas typically lose funding as opposed to remaining level. It is the goal of the new DHLW Board that by combining efforts in administration of an ECI local area that funds may be saved and re-directed to programs.

The DHLW Board is comprised of members of the former 2-county Boards. The members who agreed to continue serving on the new board work to support trusting relationships and to respect early childhood efforts already in place in the respective counties. The current DHLW Board strives to be geographically balanced and consists of 9 –15 members. Membership must meet requirements as outlined in Iowa Code Chapter 256 I and the DHLW Board bylaws.

The DHLW Board defines its service area by the county boundaries, except where contiguous, and includes school districts where the district office is located within the county boundaries. School districts in the DHLW service area include Burlington, Columbus, Danville, Highland, Louisa-Muscatine, Mediapolis, Mid-Prairie, Morning Sun, Mt. Pleasant, New London, WACO, Wapello, Washington, West Burlington, and Winfield Mt Union. Private schools in the area include; St James School (Washington), Mt. Pleasant Christian School (Mt. Pleasant), Burlington Notre Dame Catholic Elementary and Jr/Sr High (Burlington), and Great River Christian School (Burlington.)

Services and projects funded by the DHLW Board are intended for families with children ages 0-5 residing in Des Moines, Henry, Louisa or Washington County. Agencies and organizations that serve these counties may apply for funding. Relationships and boundaries may be extended beyond the county boundaries in the case of special requests and or circumstances. The DHLW Board maintains open communication and partnerships with neighboring Early Childhood Iowa Area local Boards and engages in collaborative efforts whenever possible.

Policies and practices that were in place for the previous boards will be reviewed and utilized in the new DHLW area as they begin the first year of program funding (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016.) Common practice by each of the former 2-county boards was to work with neighboring ECI local boards to serve families that may reside in one area, but need services in another. Common scenarios include families seeking childcare and/or preschool services where their employment is located as opposed to where they live and in the case of school districts with enrollment split between 2 counties.

Use of the Early Childhood Plan

The purpose of the Early Childhood Plan is to guide and support the activities of the Henry/Washington ECA and *Believe In Children* (Des Moines/Louisa) Early Childhood Iowa Area boards as they merge into one service area with a single 4 - county Board. The plan provides a basis for community understanding and strategies to be implemented with emphasis on collaboration and relationship building to accomplish a successful merge.

The plan is intended to be a one-year merger guide assisting members in developing practices & policies and making funding decisions for the initial year. The DHLW Board recognizes that a transitional period is required to allow for a learning process in conjunction with further assessments and strategic planning. The DHLW Board will incorporate information from the Community Plans that were recently updated and utilized in the previous 2-county areas.

The Early Childhood Plan is considered to be an living document and is updated on a regular basis. Data is updated annually and reviewed prior to the Request for Proposal (RFP) process (see page 26 for detailed information of the RFP process.) Items updated include demographic numbers, indicators, and any significant changes to the culture or early childhood environment.

The priorities are intended to provide general guidance and structure to the decision making of the DHLW Board. They are reviewed annually and revised every 3 – 5 years to coincide with the Levels of Excellence (LOE) process. LOE must be completed by every Early Childhood Iowa Area and includes a comprehensive review of the local Boards operations by the state.

The Early Childhood Plan is intended to be used by anyone who wishes to learn about or get involved with early childhood efforts. Various agencies have used the plan as a part of their own agency assessment as well as outreach efforts to learn of new partners and possible collaborations.

Revisions and updates of the Early Childhood Plan are vetted by the Early Childhood Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of people who receive funds from the DHLW Board and any person who works within the early childhood field or has an interest in it. The committee meets 3-4 times per year. Revisions of the Early Childhood Plan are approved by the DHLW Board and available by request.

A website will be created after official recognition of the merger by the ECI State Board in June 2015. The Early Childhood Plan as well as all informational documents related to the DHLW activities will be posted to the new website and available online by the summer 2015. Current information about the [*Believe in Children*](#) or [Henry/Washington ECA](#) Boards can be found on their individual websites.

Vision and Mission

The vision and mission of the DHLW Early Childhood Area Board were created and adopted during the merger process. The current vision and mission statements of each 2 – county area were reviewed. The vision statement for each board was nearly identical and modeled after the state ECI Board’s vision. Similarities and strengths of the mission statements were identified and incorporated into the new statement. The Early Childhood Advisory Committee reviewed the draft statements and provided feedback to the Board for revisions and additions. The mission statement as identified below will be the guiding principle for Board decisions during the first transitional year.

Vision – Every child beginning at birth will be safe, healthy, and successful.

Mission – The DHLW Early Childhood Area community works together to maximize the status of the health, safety, education and care of children (prenatal through 5 years) and their families.

Geographical Overview

Des Moines, Henry, Louisa & Washington counties are located in southeast Iowa and considered to be a small urban area according to census reports. Families living in the area have reasonable access to retail, grocery, and convenience stores with limited access for those living in the small surrounding towns. Average drive to a larger metropolitan area is approximately 30 minutes. Iowa City and Burlington are typical larger destinations for people living in the rural based small towns. These larger cities offer employment, more variety of shopping, and other resources. Major highways connecting the main cities within each county include Hwy 218, 61, 92, and 34.

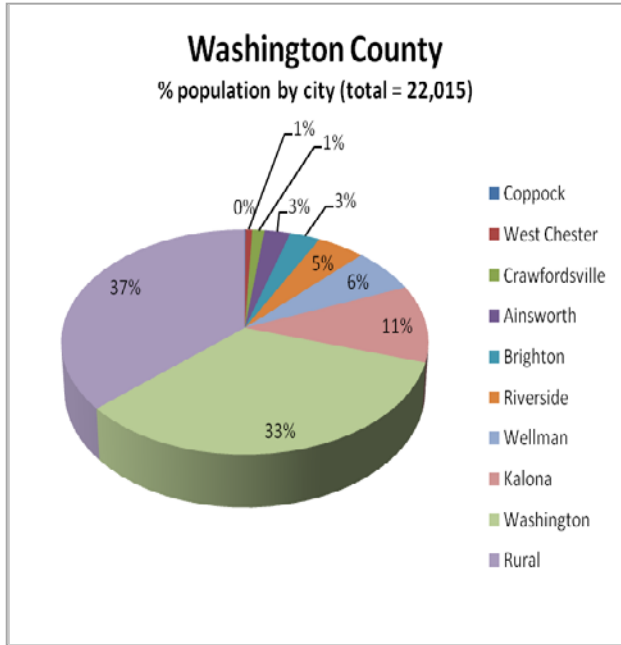
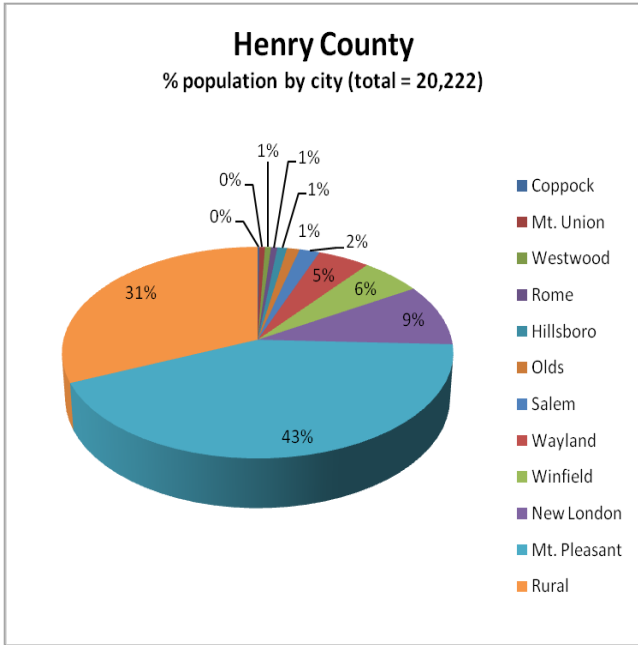
The DHLW Board rotates board meetings among the four counties. Volunteer Board members coming from outlying areas may have a round trip of 100 miles or more depending on the location chosen. The three largest cities include Burlington (Des Moines Co), Mt. Pleasant (Henry Co), and Washington (Washington Co) and make up approximately 45% of the total population of all 4 counties.

Demographics

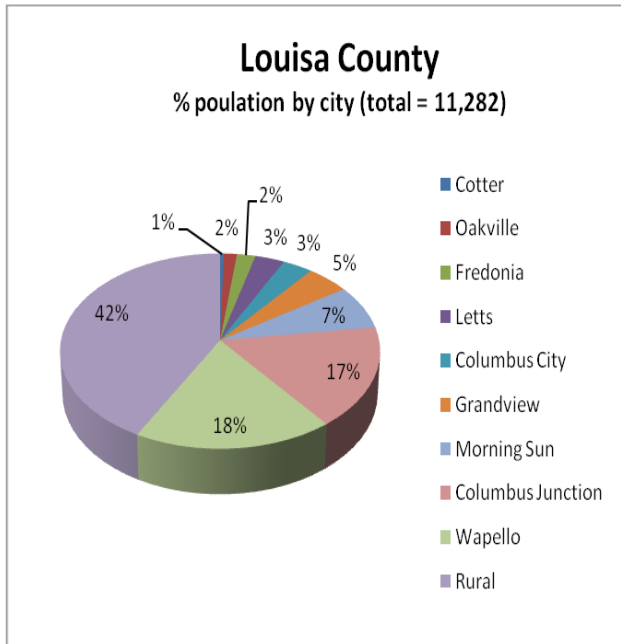
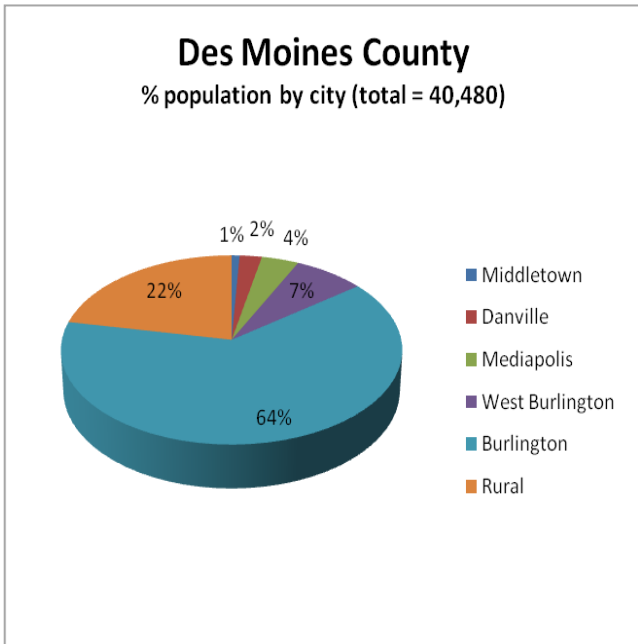
Population –

The population in Henry and Washington Counties is relatively equal with one central larger town. Both counties have one distinct large city that functions as the central point for business and county government along with several small communities. Mt. Pleasant is the largest city in Henry Co housing a population of 8662 (43%) while the city of Washington in Washington Co has a slightly smaller population of 7370 (33%). (Source: US Census, Iowa Data Center, 2013 estimates)

Although both counties have multiple small communities the charts below show that the small towns in Washington County contribute a greater portion to the total. The city of Kalona, contributing to 11% population, is located about 15 minutes south of Iowa City appealing to a large number of families working in Iowa City, but desiring small town living. (Source: US Census, Iowa Data Center, 2013 estimates)

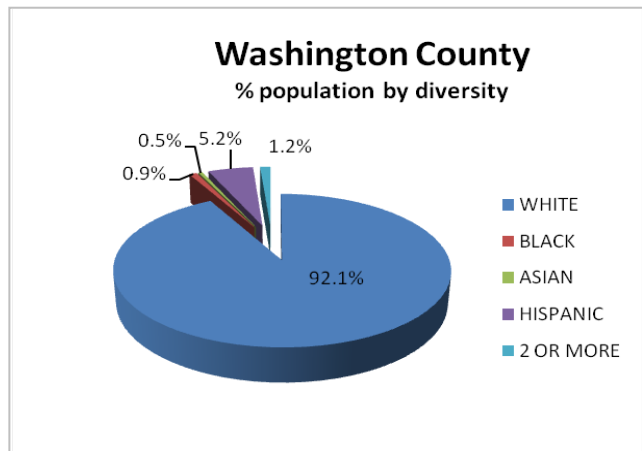
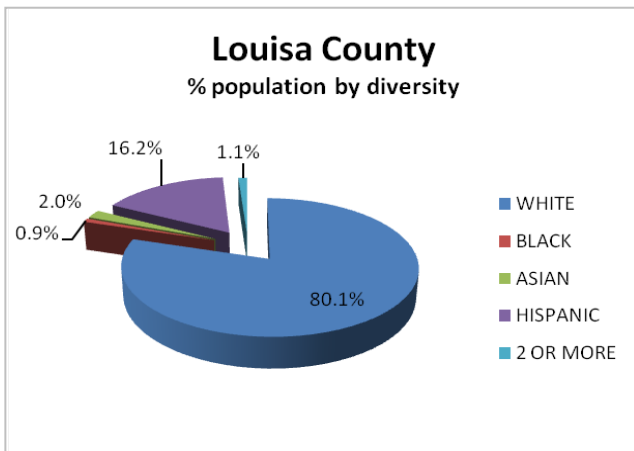
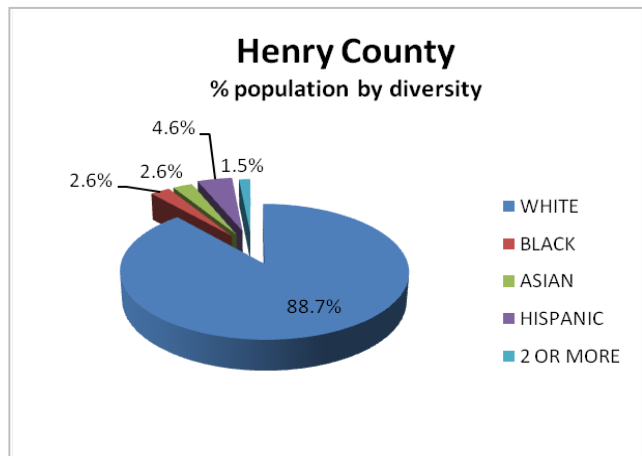
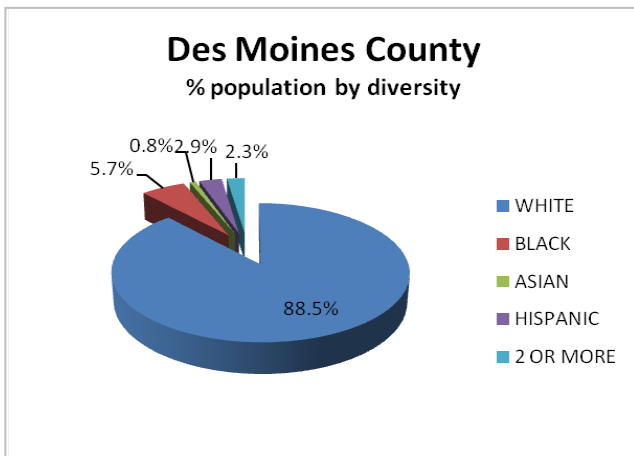


Des Moines County has the largest population of the 4 counties at 40,480, nearly four times as large as Louisa County. Burlington is the largest city and considered to be more of a small metropolitan area with access to a riverfront downtown and a mall. Louisa County residents must travel outside of the county in order to access typical urban amenities such as large grocery stores and shopping. Louisa Co is the most sparse and rural of the four counties. Highway 61 and 92 go through Luisa County. It's about a 30 minute drive to Burlington, Washington, or Muscatine. (Source: US Census, Iowa Data Center, 2013 estimates)



Diversity –

All four counties in the early childhood area are predominantly white with trends toward increasing diversity especially in school age children. The Hispanic population in Louisa County is well above the rate of 5 %. Henry County data shows diversity that includes an Asian population slightly above the Iowa rate of 2.0% while Des Moines County has a Black population of 5.7% as compared to the state at 2.9%. (Source: US Census, Iowa Data Center)

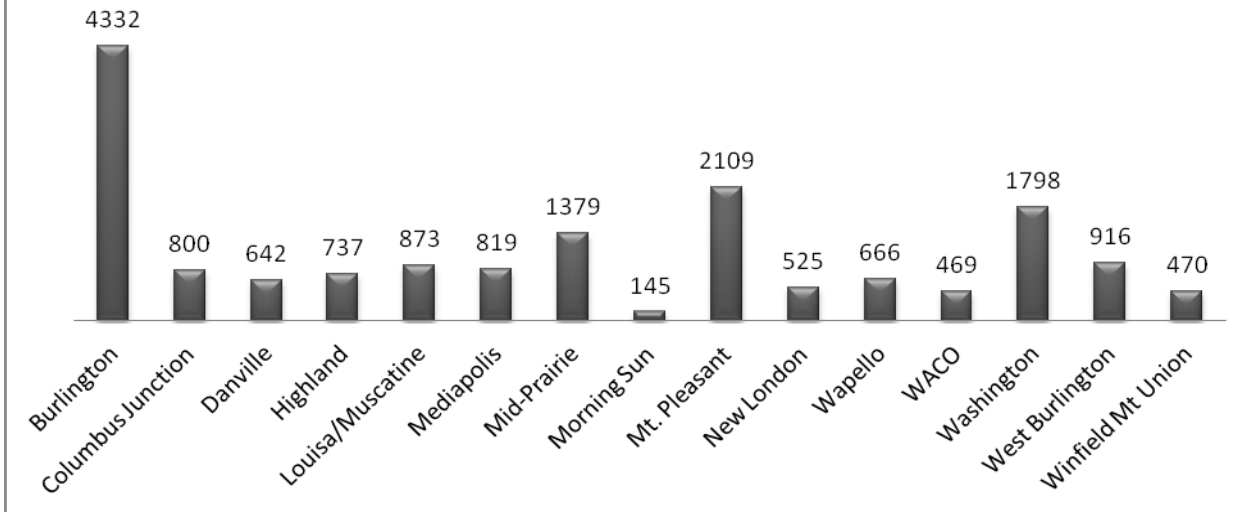


The trends toward more diverse populations are more evident when considering the diversity of enrollment numbers by district. There are 15 schools districts with a central office located in the DHLW Early Childhood Area. Total enrollment of the 15 districts in 2013-2014 was 16,680 children. As shown in the chart on the next page only 4 of the 15 districts have a total enrollment pk-12 that exceeds 1000. Morning Sun is notable as the smallest district with only 145 total children enrolled, but it only serves K-6th. Children in the Morning Sun area move into other districts when starting 7th grade. (Source: Iowa Department of Education, BEDS data)

District Enrollment PK-12

2013-2014 school year

Source: Iowa Department of Education

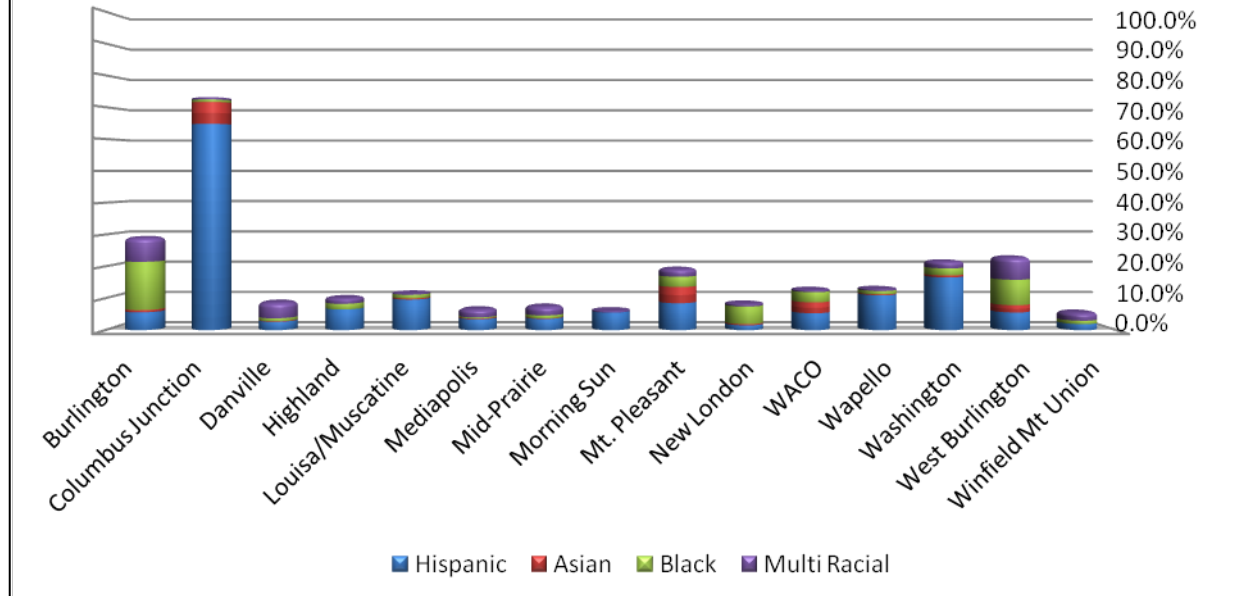


The chart below shows the diversity of the 15 districts. Columbus Junction CSD is the most notable with a 73% enrollment that is Non White. Other districts continue to see steady growth in Hispanic enrollment; Washington at 17%, Wapello at 11%, and Louisa-Muscatine at 10%. Districts with increased diversity may signal greater attention to be paid by the DHLW Board in the area of early literacy.

District Diversity

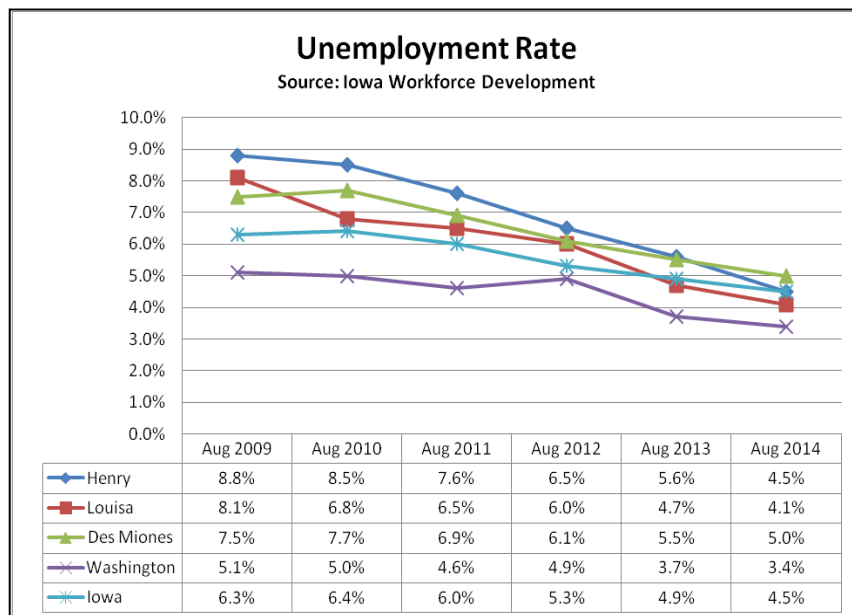
% enrollment by race (non white) 2013-2014

Source: Iowa Department of Education

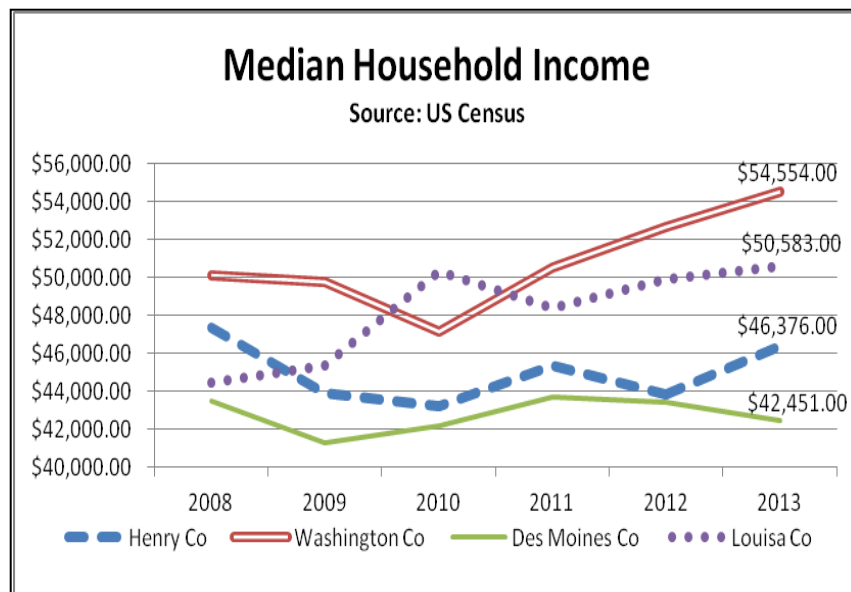


Socio-economic

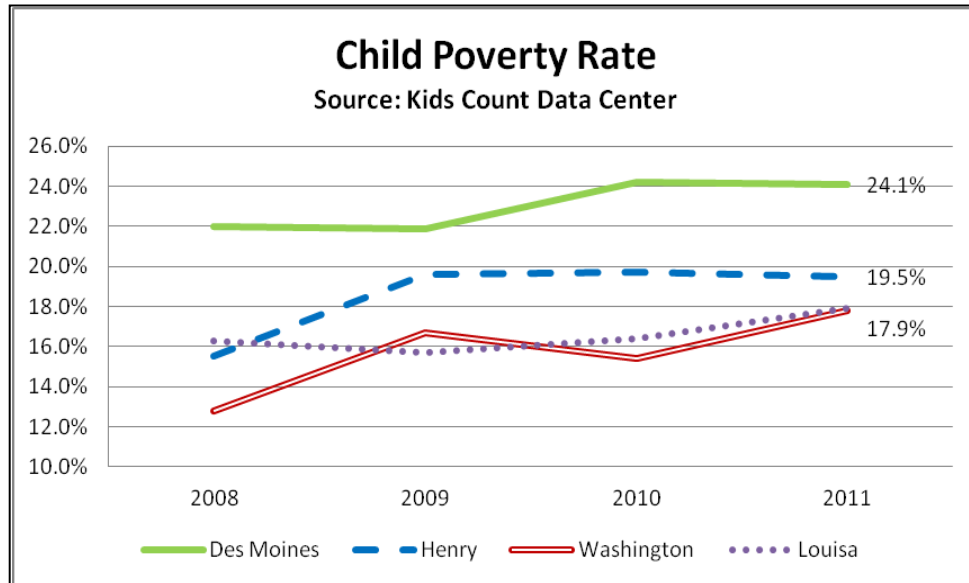
The unemployment rate in all four counties has shown a positive trend over the past 5 years. Des Moines, Henry, and Louisa Counties have unemployment rates that typically exceed the state’s average, but continue to close the gap and move in a good direction. Washington County consistently has a lower than average state unemployment rate. Proximity to Iowa City is a key factor for many people living in Washington Co. Iowa City is a metropolitan area with a healthy job market and only 30 minutes away. Henry County shows the greatest improvement as the unemployment rate has dropped by nearly half, 8.8% in 2009 to 4.5% in 2014. (Source: Iowa Workforce Development)



Despite the positive trends in unemployment Des Moines and Henry Counties still have median household incomes well below those in Louisa and Washington. In 2013 the median household income in Washington County was over \$12,000 more per year than in Des Moines County. Louisa County was the first to rebound after the financial crisis in 2008-2009 with Washington regaining strides in 2011.



Not surprisingly the child poverty rates for the four counties show a chart that is the reverse of what is reflected in the median household income chart. Child poverty rates are overwhelmingly higher in Des Moines County than any of the other three counties. All counties show an increase in child poverty, but Des Moines stands out as an area of concern.



Potential income is significant when considering the cost of childcare and the burden that it may be placing on residents in particular parts of the early childhood area. According to the Iowa Data Center 77% of families in the area have all or the only parent working outside the house. Childcare is a critical component to families maintaining employment and impacting their earning potential.

Although median income is higher in Washington County childcare costs for families in the other counties is not proportionately less expensive. The median income in Washington County is 22% higher than in Des Moines County, but the cost of childcare is only 4% higher for infant care in a home and only 9% higher for infant care in a licensed center. Louisa County residents earn about \$4,000 more per year than a Henry County resident yet Henry County has the most expensive childcare with a weekly cost of \$128.35 for infant care in a home and \$175 for infant care in a licensed center compared to \$119.95 and \$127.50 in Louisa County. Henry County has the most expensive childcare costs and the least number of spaces available in relation to population of children 0-12.

Early Childhood – Demographics and Supporting Data

All programs funded by the DHLW Board are designed to enhance the lives of families with young children 0-5. Identified indicators are monitored regularly as a gauge for how the programs are making an impact on young children. Those specific indicators are explored in greater detail on pages 21-25. The following sets of data are early childhood specific and used as additional information to provide a snapshot of the 0-5 demographic and their families.

Total Population 0-5 (2012 Woods and Poole)

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Des Moines Co | 3150 |
| Henry Co | 1415 |
| Louisa Co | 797 |
| Washington Co | 1675 |

Live Births (2013 Iowa Dept of Public Health)

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Des Moines Co | 457 |
| Henry Co | 230 |
| Louisa Co | 121 |
| Washington Co | 304 |

Free and Reduced Lunch Rates - % by District (2013-2014, Iowa Dept of Education BEDS)

| County | District Name | % free & reduced | Rank 1 = highest % of kids on free & reduced lunch |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|---|
| DSM | Burlington | 62.3% | 2 |
| Louisa | Columbus | 74.3% | 1 |
| DSM | Danville | 23.9% | 15 |
| Washington | Highland | 24.9% | 14 |
| Louisa | Louisa-Muscatine | 39.8% | 10 |
| DSM | Mediapolis | 28.7% | 12 |
| Washington | Mid-Prairie | 28.2% | 13 |
| Louisa | Morning Sun | 44.0% | 8 |
| Henry | Mt. Pleasant | 45.8% | 7 |
| Henry | New London | 40.4% | 9 |
| Henry | WACO | 39.5% | 11 |
| Louisa | Wapello | 46.5% | 6 |
| Washington | Washington | 47.2% | 5 |
| DSM | West Burlington | 47.4% | 4 |
| Henry | Winfield Mt union | 48.5% | 3 |

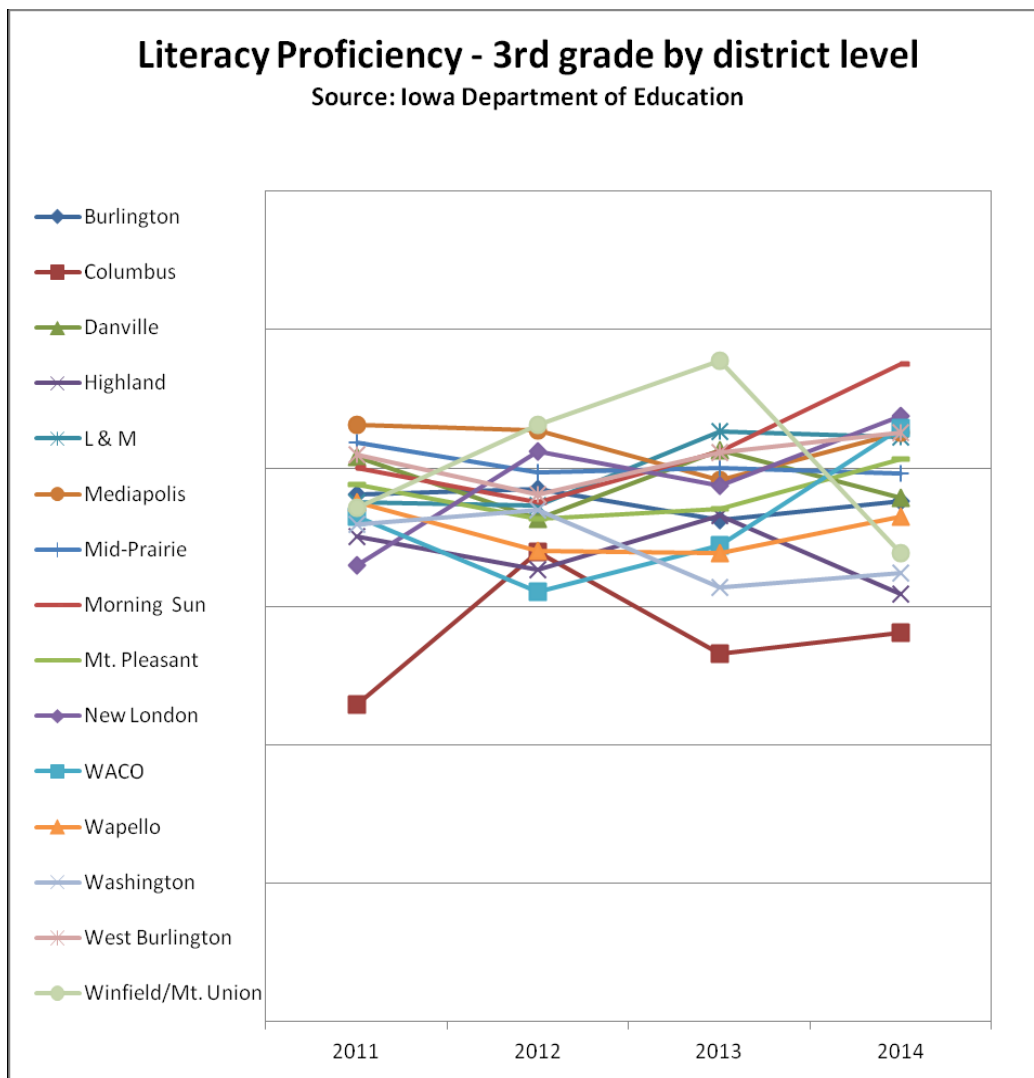
Child Poverty Rate (US Census, Kids Count Data Center)

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Des Moines | 22.0% | 21.9% | 24.2% | 24.1% |
| Henry | 15.5% | 19.6% | 19.7% | 19.5% |
| Washington | 12.8% | 16.7% | 15.4% | 17.8% |
| Louisa | 16.3% | 15.7% | 16.4% | 17.9% |

Early literacy

As discussed earlier there is a trend toward more diversity with increasing Hispanic enrollment in several of the school districts, specifically in the Columbus Junction, Washington, Wapello, and Louisa-Muscatine districts. As a result of these demographic changes and increasing awareness of early literacy the DHLW Board has adopted new indicators for monitoring progress, specifically for literacy. The chart below provides a visual representation of the trend line for the new early literacy indicator. Detailed data and analysis can be found on pages 24-25, but the chart provides a quick view of where each of the districts are scoring in reading proficiency.

The Columbus Junction district is unique with nearly three fourths of its total enrollment comprised on Non White students. This points to a large group of English Language Learners and is evident in the chart below as Columbus Junction stands out at the bottom of the cluster of lines. Winfield Mt. Union district was not identified as having a larger than average diversity population, but it shows a sharp decline in reading proficiency from 2013-2014.



Preschool

Fourteen out of the fifteen school districts participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP). Participation in SVPP means a district offers a minimum of 10 hours per week of no cost preschool to 4 year olds. District participation in the SVPP has substantially improved the overall access of quality preschool for 4 year olds.

Families also have access to Head Start programs in three of the four counties, but they are consolidated into one specific area of the county making transportation a barrier if it is not provided by the program. Henry and Des Moines counties each have two separate Head Start locations; two located in Burlington and two located in Mt. Pleasant. Washington County has only one site located in the city of Washington. Louisa County does not have a Head Start classroom.

Private tuition based preschools are available to families, but with the implementation of no cost 4 year old preschool in the districts many of the faith based private preschools have seen sharp declines in enrollment and struggle to maintain operations. The Early Childhood Board offers tuition scholarships for qualifying families to attend private preschools as long as they meet particular quality standards as set by the Board.

Some school districts have partnered with local private preschools and utilize staff and location as a district based preschool classroom. However, the cost of the private preschool often times outweighs the rate of reimbursement and many have chosen to move toward 3 year old programs only or integrate fully with the district by becoming district staff and district run. As a result of the preschool changes and more access to no cost 4 year old programs tuition assistance programs have shifted toward covering more 3 year olds. Districts have also begun to include or increase 3 year old preschool programs.

According to Child Care Resource & Referral the number of Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) licensed preschools in each county as of July 2014 is:

- 5 – Des Moines County
- 3 – Henry County
- 1 – Louisa County
- 4 – Washington County

Childcare

The labels for childcare providers working with Iowa DHS include; registered, non-registered, licensed, and licensed exempt. The labels currently provide challenges and can be confusing to parents and community members when determining the status of childcare in the community. The *non-registered* label is problematic as it tends to be interpreted as the number of providers who care for kids, but are not participating with Iowa DHS. That definition is common, but false. Both registered and non registered providers are found in the Iowa DHS system.

The total number of providers in all four counties has declined in recent years. The trend for family friend neighbor care appears to be increasing, but it is difficult to document. This type of provider tends to not be aligned with the Iowa DHS and does not meet any requirements attached to the labels noted previously. This scenario poses one of the greater challenges for the Early Childhood Board and professionals seeking to support quality improvements for childcare.

Parents looking for childcare may use the Iowa DHS website and Child Care Resource & Referral to gather a list of names. Challenges with the lists that are obtained from both resources is that they do not come with personal reviews and may not be the most updated information

available. Providers on the DHS list may have stopped caring for children, but have not notified DHS to be removed. Child Care Resource & Referral cannot recommend providers to parents. They are limited to providing information about which providers may have openings for the type of childcare that the parent is requesting. These challenges coupled with overall declining numbers make obtaining childcare difficult for many families in the area. The actual numbers of providers broken down by category are explored further as a Board indicator on page 22.

Another indicator option the DHLW Board may explore as a measure of the childcare climate in the region is the number of providers who are voluntarily participating in the Iowa Quality Rating System (QRS). The QRS provides an opportunity to gauge the efforts of professional development and quality advancement of childcare available to families. Providers receive a rating from 1 = minimal standards met to a 5 = highest level of quality. Similar to the trends of overall registration, QRS participation has declined as well. Providers must complete multiple activities and meet specific criteria to successfully complete a QRS application and obtain a higher rating. According to Iowa DHS there are 21 QRS rated providers in Des Moines County, 5 in Henry County, 5 in Louisa County, and 4 in Washington County. of the 35 total QRS participants 15 are rated at a 3 or higher.

Section 2: Community Needs Assessment

Historical Perspective

The current merger of the two 2-county boards into one is the second merger to take place for Henry and Washington Counties. Des Moines, Louisa and Henry were originally established as an Empowerment Board (previous name for ECI) in 1999, but later split into Des Moines/Louisa and Henry became a single county board. Washington County was the last Empowerment Area to be designated and awarded funds in 2000.

Legislation in 2010 made significant changes to Empowerment, changing the name to Early Childhood Iowa and requiring single counties with a 0-5 population of less than 5000 to merge with a neighbor. Henry and Washington agreed to merge prior to the legislation being formally passed and became a 2-county Early Childhood Area in 2010. Legislation from the 2010 also established a limit of no more than 4 counties per ECI area board. The current merger is expected to be the final consolidation for the boards unless legislation is passed that requires further regionalizing efforts.

Assessment Process

The merger process began with multiple meetings of current board members to determine how the boards would proceed and what steps should be taken to develop the new board in a relatively short amount of time. Each 2-county board had completed recent updates on their Community Plan including completion of various assessments and establishing revised priorities. Activities and assessments completed by the *Believe in Children* (Des Moines/Louisa) Board and the Henry/Washington ECA board included:

- Early Childhood Partner Focus Group & Consensus Building
- Childcare provider survey
- Community survey
- Early Childhood Partner survey
- Community Environment Survey
- Survey for Parents who were currently using early childhood services
- Survey for Parents who were not receiving service
- Community Agency Survey
- Health Care Provider Survey
- Public Officials Survey
- Child Care Provider, Director, and Teacher Survey
- Business and Community Leader Survey

Members of the Board in conjunction with the Early Childhood Advisory Committee agreed that the new DHLW Early Childhood Area plan should be a one year transition plan that incorporates information and conclusions from the previous plans. The DHLW Board will engage in a comprehensive assessment and revisions to priorities in 2016. The transitional one-

year plan and process will allow the Board to engage in relationship building and learn about the programs and dynamics of the new counties in which they are to serve.

In addition to reviewing and incorporating elements of the current Community Plans various other local plans were used as reference and supporting documentation. Additional resources and other plans reviewed included:

- Public Health CHINA HIP
- Community Action of Southeast Iowa
- Head Start
- United Way

Childcare Focus Groups

Community conversation events were held in Washington, Wapello, Burlington, and Mt. Pleasant for the purpose of discussing childcare issues and potential needs in the community. General information was shared about the resources that are currently available and childcare regulations. A total of 29 participants attended the four events. The conversation was informal and guided by a few key questions.

- What's important to parents when looking for childcare?
- Are parents getting the information they need to find childcare?
- Are families getting the childcare they need?
- If you could do anything regardless of money in your community to make the ideal community for families with young kids what would it be?

Feedback from all four events were compiled, reviewed and discussed by the DHLW Board, Early Childhood Advisory Committee, and the Southeast Iowa Regional Parent Council. Common issues identified include:

- cost of high quality childcare is too much for families
- lack of crisis/emergency care, nights, and weekend care
- lack of slots – especially infant
- 4yr old preschool program has negatively impacted business for providers
- need parent education about what registration is and quality care
- registration/licensing is important for parents with no informal referral systems
- registration matters, but not necessarily the answer to quality
- transportation barriers
- need resources for providers to attain quality

Parent Summit

Collaboration among the region began several years ago with an event held in Mt. Pleasant. A parent summit was conducted on June 1, 2013 and hosted by Des Moines/Louisa, Henry/Washington, and Lee/Van Buren Early Childhood Area boards. The purpose of the

summit was to get direct feedback from families participating in parent education programs about the services they use, challenges, and ideas for improvements.

Participants in the parent summit worked in small groups based on their ECI Area as well as coming together at the end of the day to discuss regional key issues. Key issues identified for Des Moines, Henry, Louisa and Washington Counties were:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Child Care Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of 24 hr. child care • Quality Child Care • Cost of Child care vs. low income families • Ability to identify the quality of providers once you locate one • Knowing what trainings a provider has had (CPR & first aid). • Lack of consistent pricing for childcare. No way of knowing what the cost should be. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a list of providers who will take children before 6:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. • Work with CCR&R staff to develop more homes who will take children any time of day or night • Create a list of providers who have a quality rating & is reliable and up to date • Promote quality care and provide incentives to child care providers • Make available a list of programs that are available to help with child care costs • Increase community knowledge of childcare (lists of current providers & quality) • Create pricing guide to help parents • Make registration/licensing mandatory (increase quality) |
| <p>Transportation issues:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize local bus system if available • For rural areas explore the services available and also explore how a transportation system could be created and paid for |
| <p>W.I.C. Services</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the program guidelines and explore the idea of allowing selection and amounts of food items that a family might need |
| <p>Title XIX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Mental Health Services for Children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit local providers who will provide mental health services for children |
| <p>Parenting classes – Concerns with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • availability • flexibility of schedule • stigma/perception of participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase flexibility in the hours/time of day classes are offered • Increase classes offered in Washington Co (partnership with ISU Ext) • Increase advertising of classes as a community wide service (reduce stigma – change perception) • Increase comfort level for participants by making sure everyone stays focused and time is not spent as a social hour (Henry Co specific) |
| <p>Activities (parks & recreation) – Concerns with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of year-round events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase activities created for or open to children 0-5 • Increase childcare access at the activity location • Increase flexibility of the activities offered (consider schedule of working parents) |

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of childcare or space to accommodate a child at the activity • Flexibility/scheduling | |
| <p>DHS – concerns with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paperwork – lengthy, confusing, lack of face to face technical support • Long waiting time to receive notification of acceptance • Websites not user friendly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase face to face access for technical support in completing paperwork • Establish a resource that can clearly outline the criteria for service(s) prior to completing paperwork. Create simple and helpful tools. • Increase online access and make websites more user friendly |

A full report of the parent summit activities and results is available upon request. Persons interested in receiving a complete parent summit report may contact the DHLW office @ 319-461-1369.

Southeast Iowa Regional Parent Council

Several members attending the summit agreed to participate in the formation of a regional Parent Council. The Parent Council currently meets in New London approximately 3-4 times per year. The council has a consistent membership of 10-12 parents and covers topics ranging from childcare, family support programs, and transportation issues in the region. The current focus area for the Parent Council is childcare. Priorities and activities the council is working on include:

- Increase the number of providers interested in and actively working toward improving quality
- Increase educational opportunities for parents about quality childcare
- Increase the number of childcare providers in the area and create a usable resource that helps parents find the childcare they need

The Parent Council efforts are supported by partnerships between DHLW Early Childhood Area, Children First (Lee/Van Buren Early Childhood Area), and the Quad County Community Partnerships for the Protection of Children (CCPC.) The CPPC Board supports the Parent Council by providing lunch while the Early Childhood Directors provide facilitation of meetings and project implementation.

Early Childhood Advisory Committee

The committee took the lead in navigating through the current priorities and indicators already well established in the previous 2-county boards and completed a cross walk to identify similarities. The Committee established 3 draft priorities that were reviewed on an ongoing basis as the Board worked through the merger application process.

A survey with a list of indicators was sent to EC Advisory Committee members for input. The results identified a top 5 list of indicators. The results were reviewed by the DHLW board

and expanded on based on the information gleaned from focus groups, data, current programs, and previous priorities. The final list of indicators chosen is explored in detail on page 20.

Priorities and Analysis

The information and results gathered from the various focus groups, previous collaborative events, and review of previous assessments and plans were used to establish priorities for a one year plan. Guiding principles for the priorities include:

- overall focus on **prevention**
- **quality** – needs to be achieved, desired, and recognized
- **access** to all services
- youth involvement – expanding on who is served
- keep priorities as general guidance not a definitive action step

| | Priority | Rationale for Priority |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Increase the availability and accessibility of quality, affordable, and reliable childcare, preschool, and family support related services and networks for children prenatal – 5 years of age. | All three priorities were a combination of previous assessments and priorities as identified in the separate plans of Des Moines/Louisa and Henry/Washington early childhood areas. The Early Childhood Advisory Committee members reviewed and revised the priorities to best support what is needed in the new 4-county area. Similarities and common threads were identified and incorporated. Specific attention was given to the 3 rd priority to define the word <i>healthy</i> . All three priorities are broad based and take into account the categorical limitations of ECI funding. |
| 2 | Enhance parenting and child development knowledge for youth, parents, and early childhood professionals. | |
| 3 | Focus on prevention efforts to keep children safe and healthy. <i>Healthy</i> includes: Medical, dental, mental, physical, vision and nutrition. | |

Indicators and Analysis

The use of additional program specific indicators will be used through the quarterly report process for ECA Board funded programs. Programs will be asked to include an indicator of their choice in the final report. The opportunity for programs to tell their story in their way is critical to enhancing the overall picture and success of services in the area.

| Indicator | Rationale for Selection of Indicator |
|---|--|
| Incidence of child abuse (reported confirmed) | Data was used by both boards prior. Data is reliable and is easy to access. Provides a picture of the safety of children in each county and useable as a marker for nearly all programming. |
| # of teen births | Data was used by both boards prior. Data is reliable and is easy to access. This indicator is connected directly to the priorities for parent education and inclusion of youth. |
| Child poverty rate | Data was used by both boards prior. Data is reliable and is easy to access. Poverty affects all aspects of a child's life therefore the data correlates to all priorities. |
| # of registered, non registered, and licensed providers | Registration and licensure numbers continue to be a strong indicator of the climate of childcare in the area. This indicator correlates to the priority of increasing quality in early care. The data can be broken down by subcategories and reviewed by county. |
| # of childcare spaces available | Reliable source is available to access data. The indicator correlates to efforts to increase access. Provides a snapshot of potential gaps. This indicator is used in conjunction with the # of registered and licensed providers. It would not be effective as a standalone assessment of childcare needs. |
| Early literacy | Early literacy was identified by local early childhood partners as an important and relevant indicator to begin gathering data on. Members the EC Advisory Committee agreed that the data currently available is not ideal. Information will be gathered from Iowa Dept of Ed (district level data) and Iowa Kids Count (County level data) for the initial plan. The EC Advisory Committee will research other options for data collection including, but not limited to information that may be available through the "Gold Assessment" that is now used by all Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program sites. |
| Dental | Dental service gaps continue to be a concern in rural areas. Board members and EC Advisory Committee members both identified dental information as relevant and important to gather. Similar to the early literacy indicators this one poses some challenges in data accessibility. Data will be gathered from Iowa Dept of Public Health regarding Medicaid kids accessing services and kindergarten students. EC Advisory Committee will continue to examine indicators around dental issues and services. Focus will be given to finding data around children who have dental visits by age one and kids who have dental homes. |

Trend Data Matrix

Key for column 2:

A – Children Ready to Succeed in School

B – Healthy Children

C – Secure and Nurturing Families

D – Safe and Supportive Communities

E – Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

County label key – column 3:

DC – Des Moines County

HC – Henry County

LC – Louisa County

WC – Washington County

DHLW EARLY CHILDHOOD AREA INDICATORS

| Henry/Washington ECA Indicators | Link to state indicator A, B, C, D, E | Identify Source of data for each Indicator | Baseline Data (date & numerical value) | Subsequent Year's Data (Trend Line) Identify Year | | | | Goal (numerical value & projected timeline) | Progress Update (Brief Analysis of data) |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Incidence of child abuse | B C D E | Iowa DHS <i>reported</i> <i>confirmed</i> | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | < by 20% by 2016 | Henry, Louisa, and Washington Counties saw an increase in 2011 while it was a significant decline for Des Moines. Several factors contribute to child abuse rates. Fluctuation may happen for a variety of reasons. Increased reports may be the effect of more awareness. Child abuse is a key indicator for the EC health of the community, but should not be analyzed in isolation. Iowa DHS has begun to implement the new Differential Response for families entering the system. The board will begin to examine potential new data sets from DR, such as the # of family assessments completed, to better examine the impacts of child abuse and resources being used to help reduce the number of incidences. | |
| | | | DC – 49 | DC – 36 | DC – 29 | DC – 32 | | | |
| | | | HC – 20 | HC – 32 | HC – 18 | HC – 22 | | | |
| | | | LC – 9 | LC – 16 | LC – 14 | LC – 10 | | | |
| | | | WC – 18 | WC – 20 | WC – 16 | WC – 15 | | | |

DHLW EARLY CHILDHOOD AREA INDICATORS

| # of teen births | B C | IDPH vital statistics | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | < 1% in each county by 2016 | Teen births in Henry and Washington Counties tend to rise and fall in waves. Higher rates are often times anticipated prior to the data being released because of strong partnerships and coalitions working on youth issues. Rates in Des Moines and Louisa tend to remain fairly steady with Des Moines County showing typically struggling with the highest rate. Des Moines Co also struggles with higher child poverty and unemployment as it typically correlates with ten birth rates. |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | DC – 54 (11.5%) | DC – 50 (10.5%) | DC – 40 (8.5%) | DC – 45 (9.8%) | | |
| | | | LC – 13 (9.7%) | LC – 12 (9.7%) | LC – 11 (8%) | LC – 13 (10.7%) | | |
| | | | WC – 12 (4.3%) | WC – 10 (3.7%) | WC – 19 (6.8%) | WC – 24 (7.9%) | | |
| Child Poverty Rate | A B C | US Census, Kids Count | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | < 2% in each county by 2017 | Research indicates that child poverty rate and teen births may often times be linked. An increase in teen parents would likely lead to an increase in child poverty, however the data shows that despite fluctuations in teen births child poverty in all 4 counties continues to steadily rise. The effects of the economy in general are likely having a greater effect on child poverty. |
| | | | DC – 22% | DC – 21.9% | DC – 24.2% | DC – 24.1% | | |
| | | | HC – 15.5% | HC – 19.6% | HC – 19.7% | HC – 19.5% | | |
| | | | LC – 12.8% | LC – 16.7% | LC – 15.4% | LC – 17.8% | | |
| | | | WC – 16.3% | WC – 15.7% | WC – 16.4% | WC – 17.9% | | |
| # of registered childcare homes | D E | Child Care Resource and Referral | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | > 5% in each county by 2017 | Registered homes in all 4 counties have declined with significant changes in Des Moines and Washington Co. Non registered numbers are similar with the exception of Henry Co that has seen a slight increase. New practices and requirements are expected to be put into practice over the next 2-3 years with the re-authorization of federal funds that impact state practices. Although the expected changes will have an impact on the quality of care available for families it may have a negative impact, especially on the non-registered homes, because more standards and regulations may cause |
| | | | DC – 70 | DC – 73 | DC – 66 | DC – 58 | | |
| | | | HC – 16 | HC – 18 | HC – 20 | HC – 14 | | |
| | | | LC – 5 | LC – 5 | LC – 6 | LC – 4 | | |
| | | | WC – 29 | WC – 25 | WC – 20 | WC – 20 | | |
| # of non registered childcare homes | D E | Child Care Resource and Referral | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | > by 3% in each county by 2017 | |
| | | | DC – 104 | DC – 91 | DC – 77 | DC – 77 | | |
| | | | HC – 17 | HC – 23 | HC – 16 | HC – 19 | | |

DHLW EARLY CHILDHOOD AREA INDICATORS

| | | | LC – 10 | LC – 11 | LC – 10 | LC – 7 | | |
|--|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|--|
| | | | WC – 26 | WC – 15 | WC – 15 | WC – 11 | | those providers to chose to not participate with DHS registration at all. The loss of non-registered providers not only results in a loss of slots, but reduces the number of providers willing to accept children on assistance. |
| # of licensed centers, preschools, & DE operated centers | D E | Child Care Resource and Referral | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | Maintain in DC, LC, and WC > by 1 in HC by 2017 | The number of licensed preschools has shifted due to the development of state wide voluntary preschool. A loss of licensed preschools does not necessarily equal and loss of preschool slots. The focus for the Board is on licensed centers. Henry County is most at need with only 1 licensed center serving the entire county as compared to Washington (similar in population and size) that has 5 centers. Des Moines Co 0 – 5 population is nearly double that of Washington Co, but the number of licensed facilities is only 15% more in DSM Co than in Washington Co. |
| | | | DC – 22 | DC – 21 | DC – 20 | DC – 20 | | |
| | | | HC – 9 | HC – 9 | HC – 9 | HC – 8 | | |
| | | | LC – 7 | LC – 8 | LC – 7 | LC – 7 | | |
| | | | WC – 17 | WC – 15 | WC – 19 | WC – 17 | | |
| # of childcare spaces | D E | Child Care Resource and Referral | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | > 10% in 2 years | Numbers in all four counties continue to decline as reflected by state wide decline. The data is useful in a general overview of slots, but caution is used as it reflects the number that a site is allowed to have not necessarily the number that the site actually serves. |
| | | | DC – 2469 | DC – 2471 | DC – 2501 | DC – 2330 | | |
| | | | HC – 688 | HC – 665 | HC – 658 | HC – 586 | | |
| | | | LC – 507 | LC – 519 | LC – 502 | LC – 491 | | |
| | | | WC – 1124 | WC – 980 | WC – 1143 | WC – 970 | | |
| DENTAL: Medicaid children age 0-5 who received dental services | B | IDPH – EPSDT dental services report | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | Maintain 2013 numbers and increase by 5% in 2016 | All four counties have shown a significant increase in the number of children who received a dental service. The highest jump is noted in Des Moines Co. The success of I- Smile programs and increased awareness along with discussion about the lack of dental care |
| | | | DC – 8.1% | DC – 7.9% | DC – 9.1% | DC – 41.9% | | |
| | | | HC – 23.8% | HC – 26.0% | HC – 24.5% | HC – 51.4% | | |
| | | | LC – 21.6% | LC – 20.5% | LC – 24.7% | LC – 52.2% | | |

DHLW EARLY CHILDHOOD AREA INDICATORS

| | | | WC – 30.6% | WC – 27.1% | WC – 28.2% | WC – 49.2% | | | |
|--|---|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| DENTAL: Children entering Kindergarten with no dental problems | B | IDPH – school dental screening audit report | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | < by 4% by 2016 | for young children especially in rural areas has helped to increase support for getting children the dental services they need. Caution is used when looking at the dental screening report as the data may not be collected uniformly by all school districts. The definition of a screening versus a dental visit must be taken into consideration. Moving forward the board will begin looking at the dental profile of the area including how many dentists are available, and how many will take children on Title 19. | |
| | | | DC – 84% | DC – 87% | DC – 84% | DC – 74% | | | |
| | | | HC – 81% | HC – 87% | HC – 86% | HC – 83% | | | |
| | | | LC – 76% | LC – 74% | LC – 77% | LC – 82% | | | |
| | | | WC – 85% | WC – 83% | WC – 88% | WC – 83% | | | |
| EARLY LITERACY – 4 th grade reading proficiency BY COUNTY | A | Iowa Kids Count | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | < by 4% by 2016 | Overall Luisa and Washington Counties appear to be holding steady while Des Moines and Henry Counties are declining. All four counties experienced a drop in 2012. 2 districts in Henry County recently joined SVPP which should have a positive impact on the literacy rates. The districts that have strong partnerships and connections to the preschool teachers, whether through direct contact by having them in the district building or even indirect by way of community partnerships, are more likely to better assess Kindergarten literacy and make meaningful changes. | |
| | | | DC – 82.7% | DC – 79.9% | DC – 69.8% | DC – 72.9% | | | |
| | | | HC – 81.1% | HC – 80.5% | HC – 74.3% | HC – 74.3% | | | |
| | | | LC – 70.3% | LC – 75% | LC – 60.9% | LC – 70.8% | | | |
| | | | WC – 68.3% | WC – 77.4% | WC – 67.5% | WC – 67.4% | | | |
| EARLY LITERACY – 3 rd grade reading proficiency BY DISTRICT | A | Iowa Dept of Education | | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | All districts at 70% by 2017 | See chart on page 11 for visual representation of figures and analysis on 3 rd grade literacy data. |
| | | | Burlington | 76.10% | 76.97% | 72.52% | 75.25% | | |
| | | | Columbus | 45.76% | 67.80% | 53.15% | 56.25% | | |
| | | | Danville | 81.63% | 72.73% | 82.61% | 75.68% | | |
| | | | Highland | 70.18% | 65.38% | 73.08% | 61.82% | | |
| | | | L & M | 75.00% | 74.58% | 85.25% | 84.48% | | |
| | | | Mediapolis | 86.27% | 85.42% | 78.18% | 85.19% | | |
| | | | Mid-Prairie | 83.70% | 79.38% | 80.00% | 79.28% | | |

DHLW EARLY CHILDHOOD AREA INDICATORS

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| | | | Morning Sun | 80.00% | 75.00% | 82.35% | 95.00% | | |
| | | | Mt. Pleasant | 77.62% | 72.61% | 74.10% | 81.29% | | |
| | | | New London | 65.96% | 82.35% | 77.50% | 87.50% | | |
| | | | WACO | 72.97% | 62.07% | 68.75% | 85.71% | | |
| | | | Wapello | 74.99% | 68.09% | 67.65% | 72.97% | | |
| | | | Washington | 71.79% | 74.00% | 62.73% | 64.91% | | |
| | | | West Burlington | 82.00% | 76.19% | 82.29% | 85.14% | | |
| | | | Winfield/Mt. Union | 74.19% | 86.21% | 95.45% | 67.74% | | |

Strategies of the DHLW Board

The DHLW Board will continue to pull from the strategies and successful projects that have been implemented by the previous 2-county boards during the transition period. Recent accomplishments in the areas include:

- Completion of the credentialing process by the family support programs receiving funding from the Board. The final two programs are expected to successfully complete the peer review process in March and April of 2015.
- Encouragement of and support for the Iowa Quality Rating System. Des Moines/Louisa funds a Child Care Nurse Consultant to help providers complete the required criteria. Henry/Washington funds incentive based programs that specifically reward providers for being actively involved with QRS.
- Establishment of standards for preschool scholarships. Preschools must meet specific standards in order to be able to accept children on preschool scholarships.

Policies and practices of each board have been strengthened and enhanced over the past 3 years as each board independently completed the Levels of Excellence process. These practices will be incorporated into the day to day operations of the DHLW Board and revised to best suit the new board. Goals and strategies of the DHLW Board over the next 18 months include:

1. Establish a presence as the Early Childhood leader
 - a. increase public awareness of the merger through
 - i. press releases and updates to media in all communities
 - ii. host and facilitate EC Advisory committee meetings
 - b. include members from the previous boards as well as recruit new members
2. Engage in learning and understanding of the entire area
 - a. complete a full RFP process spring of 2015 in which all board members review all proposals
 - b. establish a plan for new community assessments that include all four counties
 - c. rotate board meetings and offer multiple opportunities for provider presentations
 - d. establish a professional development plan for board members

Process for Awarding Funds

The Board determines each year the process by which they will award funding. If currently funded programs are operating on contracts that have renewals the Board may chose to not complete a full RFP process. If funding from the state is expected to be reduced or unchanged, then a full RFP process may not be useful or appropriate.

If the Board determines that a full RFP process is warranted, then RFP materials will be released to the public in the spring through media and mass emailing. Completed RFPs are typically received in April and reviewed by a committee of the board. Recommendations are made by the committee to the full board in May or June with contracts to begin July 1st.

The RFP process includes a scoring rubric, detailed application narratives, and a detailed annual operating budget. Priority may be given to currently funded programs showing quality outcomes and maintaining contract compliance. Every effort is made to fund programs that score high and meet a priority of the Board; however circumstances of low funding and restraints of categorical requirements mean that a high scoring RFP may not receive funds.

The DHLW Board has an appeal process available for all applicants. The Board operates with an open door policy and allows for community input at board meetings. A request by a program or applicant to be placed on a Board agenda is considered of high importance and honored whenever possible.

Section 3: Fiscal Assessment

Fiscal Assessment Process

Every Early Childhood Iowa Area Board is required by Iowa code to complete a fiscal assessment. A variety of methods are used to gather the information found in the charts on the following pages. Amounts shown were either identified by the agency, reported on the agency's website or accessible through state level websites and data resources. The DHLW Board is not responsible for the accuracy of funding amounts as reported by the agency. Inquires about a specific program should be directed to the organization that operates the program identified.

The process for gathering information included emails, letters, and phone calls. A matrix along with instructions and an explanation of why the DHLW Board is asking for the information is sent to any agency/organization that may provide a service to families with young children. Most agencies are contacted by email. Some letters are sent to smaller organizations and private childcare providers. If no information is received a repeat email or phone call may be used to attempt to gather the data. Agencies and organizations contacted are not required to respond. General practice of the DHLW Early childhood Area office is to consider a non response to a second attempt as a desire by the organization to not share the information.

Although the matrix offers a general view of the services and funding flowing into the community to support children all data should be reviewed with an understanding of challenges and margins for error. Gaps in the data occur with programs that chose to not respond to requests for information. Program numbers and data cannot be compared with identical timeframes. Programs operate on a variety of calendars. Some may be reporting funds for a calendar year while others are reporting for the state fiscal year (July thru June.)

Several services are operated by regional agencies and serve numerous counties. Information for these services offers a fiscal picture that is larger than the local area served by the DHLW Board. A service area including rural, urban, & metropolitan counties will have a greater percentage of funding going to larger populated cities. Although Henry and Washington Counties are considered small urban areas in Iowa many of the surrounding counties served by the regional agencies include cities with significantly larger populations. Louisa County is exceptionally rural with a low population and although identified on some large area programs the actual amount of funds moving into the County may be minimal.

The range in ages served also poses a challenge in comparing programs and funding amounts. Several programs serve children and families well beyond the age of 5 years. A program serving 0-18 does not indicate that a child 0-5 was actually served with the funding.

Taking into consideration the challenges within the data the DHLW Board uses the information as reference for potential gaps or areas of interest. A program seeking funds from the DHLW Board is not denied nor funded based on the perception of a gap or excess as it appears in the matrix. In the event that a requested service may appear to have other options more information would be gathered and the included in all conversations with the DHLW Board and the applicant.

Use of the Fiscal Matrix

The matrix is updated every 3-5 years coinciding with the Levels of Excellence process. Updates to this section of the plan may be done more often if a notable shift in funding or new program is identified. The DHLW Board uses funding information to support learning and decision making where appropriate. Items considered in reviewing the fiscal matrix include:

- Identify disparities among programs and counties
- Identify possible duplication
- Identify possible collaborations to enhance efficiency
- Identify significant increasing or decreasing trends

The last column of the matrix identifies the perceived level of collaboration between the ECA Board and the organization listed. Collaborative level based on the following definitions:

- *Communication* – There is a process for the exchange of information and common understanding.
- *Contribution* – There are mutual exchanges through which partners help each other by providing some of the resources and support needed to reach their independent goals.
- *Coordination* – There is a deliberate, joint, often formalized relationship among partners involving communication, planning and division of roles, and longer term goals.
- *Cooperation* – There is a defined relationship in which partners plan together, negotiate mutual roles and share resources to achieve joint goals.
- *Collaboration* – Partners engage in a process through which they constructively build an interdependent system which includes a common mission, comprehensive communication and planning, pooled resources, and shared risks and products.

Fiscal Matrix

- (Codes for identifying sources of funding: Federal Funding =F, State Funding=S, Local Funding=L, Private Funding=P, ECI Local Funding=E)
- Yearly funding does not imply that every program is reporting on the exact same timeframe. Availability of information and operational timeframe affect the amount reported. Estimated yearly funding should be considered a 12 month span within 2012-2014 timeframe.

| Organization | Program | Service Area By county | Ages of Children Served | Numbers Served | Funding Type | Estimated yearly funding | Level of Collaboration |
|--|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS | | | | | | | |
| Louisa Co Public Health | Newborn Family Support | Louisa | 0-3months | 1 | S | \$2,000 | Cooperation |
| | Immunization | Louisa | 0-8 | 215 | S | \$40,000 | |
| Des Moines Co Public Health | MIECHV | Des Moines | Prenatal -5 | 25 | F | \$81,000 | Collaboration |
| | Newborn home visitor | Des Moines & Louisa | 0-3 | 50 | E | \$39,000 | |
| | Immunization | Des Moines | 0-18 | 1500 | S & F | \$21,424 | |
| | Coordinated Intake | Des Moines & Louisa | 0-5 | 100 | S & E | \$3,118 | |
| | Lead | Des Moines | 1-6 | 20 | S | \$2,885 | |
| Trinity Muscatine Public Health | Child Health | Louisa | 0-21 | Number varies | S | \$16,700 | Collaboration |
| | Hawk-I | Louisa | 0-19 | Number varies | S | \$3,350 | |
| | I – Smile Coordination | Louisa | 0-14 | Number varies | S | \$19,620 | |
| | First Five | Louisa | 0-5 | Unknown | S | \$20,000 | |
| | Dental Program | Louisa | 0-5 | 183 | E | \$15,000 | |
| | CCNC | Louisa | 0-5 | 36 sites | E | \$11,700 | |
| | Lee Co Public Health | Maternal health | Des Moines | 0-21 | 50 | S & F | |
| Child Health | | Des Moines | 0-12 | 6000+ | S & F | \$49,340 | |
| Maternal Infant home visiting | | Des Moines & Lee | 0-5 | 74 | F | \$320,000 | |
| First Five | | Des Moines, Van Buren, Lee, Jefferson, & Davis | 0-5 | Unknown | S | \$87,845 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| | Hawk-I | Des Moines, Van Buren, Lee, Jefferson, & Davis | 0-19 | Unknown | S | \$6,330 | |
| | I smile | Des Moines | 0-21 | Range 2400-2500 | S | \$65,000 | |
| | CCNC | Des Moines | 0-5 | 67 sites | E | \$27,555 | |
| | Dental Program | Des Moines | 0-5 | 469 | E | \$15,000 | |
| Washington Co Public Health | Maternal Child Health | Henry & Washington | 0-21 | 600 | S F | \$110,000 | Collaboration |
| | Immunization | Washington | 0-18 | 1100 | S F | \$12,000 | |
| | The Family Connection | Henry & Washington | 0-5 | 350 | E | \$272,000 | |
| | Fluoride Varnish | Henry & Washington | 3-5 | 450 | E | \$12,000 | |
| Henry Co Community Health | Lead screening | Henry | 0-5 | 460 | S | \$6,750 | Contribution |
| | Immunizations | Henry | 0-18 | 1770 | F S | \$21,000 | |
| | Newborn Home Visitor Program | Henry | 0 | 150 | S L | \$12,000 | |
| Community Action of Eastern Iowa | Childcare Resource & Referral | 19 counties including Henry & Washington | 0-13 | 3278 | F | \$1,207,003 | Cooperation |
| Community Action of Southeast Iowa | Head start | Henry, Lee, Louisa, Des Moines | 3-5 | 272 | S | \$75,558 | Collaboration |
| | | | | | E | \$13,000 | |
| | | | | | F | \$2,235,417 | |
| | Early Head Start | Henry, Lee, Louisa, Des Moines | 0-3 | 62 | F | \$872,310 | |
| | CACFP | Henry | 0-12 | 378 | F | \$71,399 | |
| | WIC | Henry, Lee, Louisa, Des Moines | prenatal-5 | 4518 | F | \$3,229,715 | |
| | FaDDS | Henry, Lee, Louisa, Des Moines | 0-18 | 263 | F | \$294,000 | |
| CACFP | Henry, Lee, Louisa, Des Moines | 0-5 | 1275 | F | \$687,680 | | |
| | Family Support PAT | Louisa, Des | 0-5 | 25 | E | \$48,716 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|------|-------------------------|-----|-----------|---------------|
| | | Moines | | | | | |
| | Preschool Learning Coordinator | Louisa, Des Moines | 3-5 | 365 | E | \$34,394 | |
| | Childcare Voucher | Louisa, Des Moines | 0-5 | 5 | E | \$4,000 | |
| | Preschool Scholarship | Louisa, Des Moines | 3-5 | 34 | E | \$44,200 | |
| | Childcare Consultation & Professional Development | Henry, Lee, Louisa, Des Moines | 0-5 | 216 childcare providers | E | \$66,854 | |
| Prevent Child Abuse Council | PCAI grant | Des Moines | 0-18 | 752 | S | \$20,580 | Collaboration |
| Prevent Child Abuse Council | PCAI grant | Louisa | 0-18 | 198 | S | \$13,000 | Collaboration |
| Johnson County Public Health | WIC | Washington, Johnson, Iowa, and Cedar (Washington Co numbers only) | 0-5 | 323 | F | \$43,800 | Contribution |
| Hawkeye Area Community Action Program | Head Start | Washington | 3-5 | 36 | F | \$282,312 | Cooperation |
| | Head start wrap around | Washington | 3-5 | 16 | S L | \$88,920 | |
| Tyson Foods | Clinical pastoral Counseling for Employees and families | Louisa | All | 600 | P | NA | Communication |
| Eastern Iowa College | Childcare Professional Development | Louisa & Des Moines | 0-5 | | E | \$4,000 | Collaboration |
| Lutheran Services of Iowa | HOPES | Des Moines & Louisa | 0-5 | 9 | E | \$42,105 | Collaboration |
| Young House Family Services | In home Services | Des Moines & Louisa | 4-5 | 12 | E | \$28,458 | Collaboration |
| Louisa – Muscatine CSD | PAT | School district only | 0-5 | 14 | E | \$17,643 | Collaboration |
| The Nest | Family Support | Des Moines | 0-5 | 61 | E | \$32,380 | Collaboration |
| The Stork’s Nest | Family support | Louisa | 0-5 | 82 | E | \$45,127 | Collaboration |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------|
| Louisa co ISU Extension | Food & Nutrition | Louisa | 0-10 | | S & L | \$14,000 | Collaboration |
| | Training – Eating smart being active | Louisa | 4-18 | | S & L | \$3,700 | |
| | Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention | Louisa | Teens | | S & L | \$4,000 | |
| | 4H | Louisa | < 10yrs | | S & L | \$12,000 | |
| ISU Extension | Food and Nutrition | Des Moines | 0-10 | 75 | F, S, L | \$48,000 | Coordination |
| | 4H | Des Moines | 6-18 | 150 | L | \$40,000 | |
| | Parent Education | Des Moines | 0-5 | 100 | L | \$20,000 | |
| | After school | Des Moines | 5-12 | 25 | L | \$2,000 | |
| | Childcare Training | Des Moines | 0-12 | 50 | L | \$5,000 | |
| Henry Co ISU Extension | Parent Circle group classes | Henry | 0-5 | 60 | S | \$6,450 | Cooperation |
| | Family Nutrition Program | Henry | 0-10 | 60 families 100 children | F L | \$25,000 \$9,000 | |
| | CBCAP | Henry | 0-5 | 60 | F | \$12,512 | |
| DHS - Washington | Family Investment Program | Washington | All | 202 | F | \$25,048 | Communication |
| | Child Care Assistance | Washington | | | | | |
| DHS - Henry | Family Investment Program | Henry | All | 231 | F | \$31,416 | Communication |
| | Child Care Assistance | Henry | | | | | |
| Decat | CPPC | Washington, Jefferson, Keokuk, Van Buren | 0-18 | NA | S | \$29,689 | Collaboration |
| Decat | Child welfare | Washington, Jefferson, Keokuk, Van Buren | 0-18 | | S F | \$120,666 | Collaboration |
| Decat | CPPC | Henry, Lee, Des Moines, Louisa | 0-18 | NA | S | \$20,000 | Collaboration |
| 4Cs | Childcare consultation | Washington | 0-5 | 60 childcare providers | E | \$22,076 | Collaboration |
| Washington Co Safe | None reported | | | | | | Contribution |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------|------------------|---------------|
| Coalition | | | | | | | |
| MECCA | None reported | | | | | | Contribution |
| Fellowship Cup | | | | | | | |
| Healthy Henry Co Communities | Healthy Halloween Walk | Henry | 0-18 | 230 | L P | \$600 | Collaboration |
| Healthy Henry Co Communities | Boot Camp for New Dads | Henry | 0 | 30 | L | \$2,000 | |
| LIBRARIES | | | | | | | |
| Salem Public Library | Summer Reading Program | Salem | 2-9 | 25 | P | \$300 | Communication |
| Washington Public Library | Outreach to preschools and daycares | Washington | 18mos - 5 | 218 | L | \$1,530 | Communication |
| | Story time Wee Read | Washington | 18mos - 5 | 124 | L | \$1,350 | |
| | Summer Reading | Washington | 18mos – 5 K-5th | 225 130 | L L | \$225 \$1,500 | |
| | Dog Days of Summer | Washington | all | 23 | L | \$41 | |
| Mt. Pleasant Public Library | Story hour | Mt. Pleasant | 0-6 | 400 | L | minimal | Communication |
| Kalona Public Library | Story time | Kalona/Riverside | 1-5 | 37 | L | Unknown | Communication |
| | Toddler time | Kalona/Riverside/Wellman | 0-3 | 8 families | P | \$200 | |
| | Early Out Movies | Kalona | 5-12 | 45 | L | Unknown | |
| | Summer Reading Program | Kalona/Riverside/Wellman | 0-15 | 175 kids | L P | \$400 | |
| SCHOOL DISTRICTS | | | | | | | |
| Burlington | Preschool | Des Moines | 4 | 225 | S | \$584,556 | Cooperation |
| Danville | Preschool | Des Moines | 4 | 32 | S | \$110,178 | |
| Morning Sun | Preschool | Louisa | 4 | 20 | S | \$45,908 | |
| Wapello | Preschool | Louisa | 4 | | S | \$64,271 | |
| Louisa – Muscatine | Preschool | Louisa | 4 | 58 | S | \$128,541 | |
| Columbus Junction | Preschool | Louisa | 4 | 57 | S | \$156,086 | |
| Mediapolis | Preschool | Des Moines | 4 | 11 | S | 0 | |
| West Burlington | Preschool | Des Moines | 4 | | S | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|--|-----|-----------|---------------|
| New London CSD | Preschool | Henry | 4 | 0 | S | 0 | Communication |
| Winfield Mt Union CSD | Statewide voluntary Preschool | Henry | 4 | 34 | S | \$96,900 | Cooperation |
| | Preschool – 3 yr old tuition based | Henry | 3 | 2 | E | \$1,530 | Cooperation |
| WACO CSD | Statewide voluntary Preschool | Henry & Washington | 4 | 34 | S | \$88,755 | Cooperation |
| Mt Pleasant CSD | Statewide Voluntary Preschool | Henry | 4 | New program – funding information available FY14 | | | Cooperation |
| Mid Prairie CSD | Statewide voluntary Preschool | Washington & Johnson | 4 | 90 | S | \$312,171 | Collaboration |
| | Preschool – 3 yr old tuition based | Washington & Johnson | 3 | 9 | P | \$8,100 | |
| Highland CSD | Statewide voluntary Preschool | Washington | 4 | 59 | S | \$113,239 | Cooperation |
| | Preschool – 3 yr old tuition based | Washington | 3 | 1 | E | \$945 | |
| Washington CSD | Statewide voluntary Preschool | Washington | 4 | 129 | S | \$278,506 | Cooperation |
| | Preschool – 3 yr old tuition based | Washington | 3 | 2 | E | \$1,425 | |
| PRIVATE SCHOOLS | | | | | | | |
| St James School | Preschool | Washington | | | | | Communication |
| Great River Christian School | Preschool | Des Moines | | | | | Communication |
| Burlington Notre Dame Elementary | Preschool | Des Moines | | | | | Communication |
| Mt Pleasant Christian School | Preschool | Henry | | | | | Communication |
| EARLY CARE ENVIRONMENTS | | | | | | | |
| Kingdom Kids Preschool | Preschool (SVPP) | Washington | 4 | 17 | S | \$58,000 | Communication |
| First Baptist Preschool | Preschool | Washington | 3 & 5 | 5 | E | \$5,175 | Coordination |
| | | | 3-5 | | S P | \$20,980 | |
| Washington Preschool | Preschool | Washington | 3 | 2 | E | \$1,710 | Coordination |
| YMCA – Washington | Preschool & licensed childcare | Washington | 0-12 | | | | Communication |
| Grasshopper Green | Preschool | Henry | 3-5 | 19 | E | \$18,620 | Coordination |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------|--|-------------|---|----------|---------------|
| | | | 3-5 | 50 | P | \$17,000 | |
| Danville CSD | Childcare assistance | Des Moines | 3-5 | 15 | E | \$30,000 | Collaboration |
| Colonel's Kids Daycare | Childcare Assistance | Louisa | 0-2 | 12 | E | \$27,000 | Collaboration |
| Grow N Glow Preschool | Preschool | Henry | 3-5 | 12 | E | \$10,045 | Coordination |
| Son Shine Preschool | Preschool | Henry | 3-5 | 13 | E | \$9,330 | Communication |
| Little Bees Christian Preschool | Preschool | Henry | New site opened Sept 2013 – funding information available for FY14 | | | | collaboration |
| Sunrise Childcare | Licensed childcare | Washington | 0-12 | No response | | | Communication |
| Kids Corral | Licensed childcare | Washington | 0-12 | | | | Communication |
| Kids Country Club | Licensed childcare | Washington | 0-12 | | | | Communication |
| New London Childcare Center | Licensed childcare | Henry | 0-12 | | | | Communication |

Section 4: Community Collaboration

Community Partners & Collaborative Opportunities

The early childhood community in all four counties consists of a network of people and agencies consistently attending committees, boards, and workgroups. Each county shares similarities in the early childhood structure and the types of agencies at the table. Common committees and agencies include:

- Public Health (county level)
- Decategorization Boards
- Community Partnerships for the Protection of Children (CPPC) boards
- Prevent Child Abuse Councils
- Department of Human Services (county level)
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Community Action Programs
- Area Education Agencies
- ISU Extension
- School districts

The local Early Childhood Boards that have served the four counties for over a decade have established numerous long-term relationships with agencies providing consistent services to families, young children, and childcare providers. These agencies collaborate directly with the Early Childhood Board through involvement with the Early Childhood Advisory Committee or contracting for services. They share common goals and offer professional early childhood expertise that is valued by the DHLW Board. Members involved include:

- Washington County Public Health
- Henry County ISU Extension
- Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
- Community Action of Southeast Iowa
- Des Moines County Public Health
- Louisa County Storks nest
- Louisa County ISU Extension
- The nest of Des Moines County
- Louisa - Muscatine PAT
- Lutheran Services of Iowa – Muscatine
- Trinity Muscatine Public Health
- Colonel's Kids Childcare Center
- Danville Early Learning Center
- Grant Wood AEA
- 4Cs
- Childcare Resource and Referral region 5
- Danville, Mt. Pleasant, Mid-Prairie, Highland, Washington, Winfield Mt Union, & WACO community school districts
- Grasshopper Green Preschool

- Little Bees Christian Preschool
- First Baptist Preschool (Washington)

Some of the key collaborative partnerships include those agencies that help support efforts in the area of health and safety in early care environments. Specific areas of interest to the board include:

- prevention of the spread of infectious diseases and child injuries
- health emergency protocols
- medication administration
- care for children with special needs

Partnerships with local Public Health agencies, Child Care Resource & Referral, Community Action of Southeast Iowa, and 4Cs are critical to success of health and safety efforts. These agencies provide the face to face interaction and training to childcare environments. The staff who work directly with childcare providers are key to ensuring that proper health standards are implemented. Both the Des Moines/Louisa and Henry/Washington Early Childhood Area Boards contract with these agencies and rely on their expertise to support health and safety efforts.

The merger of the Des Moines/Louisa and Henry/Washington Boards offers an entirely new collaborative opportunity for board members and early childhood agencies. The new 4-county area includes 15 school districts, 3 Area Education Agencies, 2 Community Action agencies, and 3 Maternal Child Health agencies. The DHLW Board has an opportunity for new partnerships and to expand the support system for early childhood efforts in the area.

Section 5: Review & Evaluation

The DHLW Board will work over the next year to establish a variety of systems and practices to continually review and evaluate progress. Ad hoc committees will review the board bylaws, early childhood plan, and policy & procedure manual on an annual basis ensuring that the Board's operational activities are updated and on target with current early childhood issues.

DHLW Board members will complete an annual self assessment survey providing them with feedback and information to consider when revising policies or making changes in practice. A survey with similar questions will be distributed to all identified partners. The DHLW Board will use the responses and information from the partners to compare against their own perception of progress and guidance for changes in practices.

Priorities and indicator data will be incorporated into the Request for Proposal process. Programs seeking funding from the DHLW Board will be required to identify one or more priority that will be impacted by the service to be provided. Programs awarded funding will be monitored on a regular basis through quarterly reports, presentations to the DHLW Board, onsite monitoring, and monthly billing.

All programs funded by the DHLW Board will be required to provide data on state mandated performance measures. Although the state required measures have supported efforts to share an overall success story of Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) they are not necessarily comprehensive enough for a local board to evaluate the funded program. All locally funded programs are encouraged to include additional data and stories in the quarterly reports. Additional information may include program specific indicators, success stories, and challenges. All program data will be combined into a single annual report submitted to the state ECI office in September. Reports and publications for DHLW Early Childhood Area may be requested through the local office and will be made available online once the merger is approved and a new website is launched.