

## SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2016

Our Children

Our Future

Our Investment



*Child Care Center supported by Polk County ECI*

### Polk County

- Children under 6 years: **38,942**
- Children living in households with income less than poverty level (\$24,250 for family of 4): **17.6%**
- Children under age 6 with all available parents in workforce: **79.2%**
- Single parent families: **32.3%**

### Iowa

- Children under 6 years: **237,216**
- Children living in households with income less than poverty level (\$24,250 for family of 4): **15%**
- Children under age 6 with all available parents in workforce: **76%**
- Single parent families: **30.8%**

## Strategic Investments & Results

Secure & Nurturing Families	<p><b>Programs &amp; Partners</b>            Healthy Start &amp; Empowerment – Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa            Parent Engagement in Early Learning – Des Moines Public Schools            Family Navigator Learning Circles – Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy Resource Center</p> <p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,088 home visits by family support workers provided to families in their homes</li> <li>• 991 children received home visits and in-home family support</li> <li>• 871 families participated in parent education programs and in-home family support</li> <li>• 96% of families were connected to additional concrete supports</li> <li>• 81% of families improved or maintained healthy family functioning, problem solving and communication</li> <li>• 43% of families improved nurturing and attachment between parents and children</li> <li>• 565 parent education group meetings were provided to families</li> <li>• More than 37 different languages and dialects were spoken by families served</li> </ul>
Safe & Supportive Communities	<p><b>Programs &amp; Partners</b>            Blumenthal Crisis Nursery – Youth Emergency Shelter &amp; Services            Respite Options – Lutheran Services in Iowa</p> <p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 112 children in 72 families experiencing crisis, at risk of neglect/abuse, received short-term respite</li> <li>• 100% of families linked to additional concrete supports and services</li> </ul>

Healthy Children	<p><b>Programs &amp; Partners</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Five – Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa  Lead Poisoning Prevention Program – Polk County Public Health  Smile Squad – Des Moines Health Center  La Clínica de la Esperanza – UnityPoint Health  Bright Futures (Pilot) – Blank Children's Hospital</p> <p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6,342 children were screened for health and developmental concerns</li> <li>• 4,829 children were screened for elevated blood lead levels, and 104 children with elevated lead levels received follow-up treatment including healthy home evaluations</li> <li>• 905 children with developmental and/or health concerns were identified and referred on to with programs, services and resources</li> <li>• 832 children ages 1–5 received dental screening and oral health education; 97% were cavity free</li> <li>• 695 children received dual-language (Spanish) primary and preventative health care; 82% received immunizations on schedule; 100% received developmental screenings</li> </ul>
Children Ready to Succeed in School	<p><b>Programs &amp; Partners</b></p> <p>Preschool programming support for 10 Public School Districts in Polk County:  Ankeny, Bondurant-Farrar, Dallas Center Grimes, Des Moines Public Schools, North Polk, Saydel, Southeast Polk, Urbandale, West Des Moines</p> <p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program support for more than 4,595 children ages 3–4 enrolled in high quality preschool</li> <li>• GOLD Assessment administered three times to students enrolled in SWVPP:</li> <li>• Fall 2015 <b>67.5%</b> children meeting or exceeding Socio-Emotional Widely Held Expectations</li> <li>• By Spring 2016 <b>95.1%</b> children meeting or exceeding Socio-Emotional Widely Held Expectations</li> <li>• Fall 2015 <b>75%</b> children meeting or exceeding Literacy Widely Held Expectations</li> <li>• By Spring 2016 <b>96.7%</b> children meeting or exceeding Literacy Widely Held Expectations</li> </ul>
Secure & Nurturing Early Learning Environments	<p><b>Programs &amp; Partners</b></p> <p>Comprehensive Training Plan – Child Care Resource &amp; Referral  Reach For the Stars – Child Care Resource &amp; Referral  Bridges to Quality – Child Care Resource &amp; Referral  Child Care Consultants &amp; Latino Outreach – Child Care Resource &amp; Referral  Early Childhood Coordinator &amp; Child Care Consultant– Capitol Park Early Learning Center  WAGE\$ – Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children  T.E.A.C.H. – Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children  Child Care Nurse Consultants – Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa  Refugee Child Care Provider and Parent Supports – Lutheran Services in Iowa</p> <p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,022 visits to early learning programs by child care nurse consultants; 98% of programs receiving onsite consultation improved health and safety conditions</li> <li>• 1,914 visits to early learning programs in centers and homes conducted by early childhood child care consultants</li> <li>• 1,322 child care providers participated in professional development and training</li> <li>• 108 child care providers received consultation and mini-grants in order to advance in Iowa's Quality Rating System</li> <li>• 18 licensed child care centers enrolling 1,448 low-income children (over 90% CCA recipients) received needs-based consultation to maintain and improve quality; funding support provided for quality initiatives and available to provide adequate compensation to hire and retain highly qualified classroom teachers and center directors</li> </ul>

**Vision:** Every child will be healthy and successful.

**Mission:** The Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board's mission is to work with community partners to make investments in programming to achieve long-term positive results for children.

Information: Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Executive Director Barb Bremner: [bbremner@unitedwaydm.org](mailto:bbremner@unitedwaydm.org)





POLK COUNTY  
EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

Polk County Early Childhood Iowa  
Annual Report  
State Fiscal Year 2016  
July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

**Name of Early Childhood Area: Polk County Early Childhood Iowa**

**Assurances:**

I hereby affirm and certify that:

1. The information in this annual report is accurate, to the best of my knowledge.
2. The Board reviewed all indicator data, trends and analysis during this fiscal year.
3. The local ECI Board has conducted an annual review of the ECI Area Director contract.
4. The Community Plan was reviewed by the ECI Area Board during this fiscal year.
5. This Annual Report was approved by ECI Area Board prior to submittal.

**For items 2-5 above, an ECIA board must be able to provide proof through supportive documentation upon request.**

Signature of ECI Board Chairperson

09/01/16

Date

Matt Knoll

ECI Chairperson's Name (print or type)



FY2016 Early Childhood Iowa Local Board Composition																			
Name of Early Childhood Area:		Polk County Early Childhood Iowa																	
Number/Range of Board Members Required in Bylaws:				15-20				Total Number of Voting Board Members that served during the year:								21			
Number of Board Members (board size) on June 30, 2016:				18				Total # of hours voting board members spent at board meetings:								210 hours			
Instructions: List all members of the ECI board during the fiscal year. List all current board members at the top of the table, followed by members that vacated board positions. If additional rows are needed, add above the "Total # Members possible for the meeting" row.																			
Name/Office	Gender (M/F)	Employer	Representation (throughout the fiscal year)	Term Information			Board Vacancies	Meeting Attendance (place an X in the box if the member was present)											
				Date member joined the board	Term #	Date Term Ends		Date member vacated the board	26-Aug-15	23-Sep-15	28-Oct-15	18-Nov-15	16-Dec-15	27-Jan-16	24-Feb-16	23-Mar-16	27-Apr-16	25-May-16	22-Jun-16
Matt Knoll	M	Wells Fargo Private Bank	Chair	1/24/2013	1	6/30/2018		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sam Carrell	M	Carrell Strategies		7/1/2013	2	6/30/2019			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marvin DeJear	M	Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families	Required human services	2/28/2013	1	6/30/2017		X				X	X	X				X	X
Nick Dial	M	Benzoni Law Office		8/26/2015	P	6/30/2017				X				X	X				
Cindy Elsbernd	F	KidStrong	Required education	3/1/2012	2	6/30/2018		X	X	X		X	X	X				X	X
Jem Gong-Browne	F	Principal Financial	Required business	7/1/2014	1	6/30/2019			X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Claudia Hawkins	F	Financial Advisor	Required faith	6/1/2011	2	6/30/2017			X	X				X					X
Bryan Huggins	M	Shiffler Associates		7/1/2014	1	6/30/2019		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Natali Justiniano Pahl	F	The Principal Financial Group		6/1/2011	2	6/30/2017		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Josh Mandelbaum	M	Environmental Law & Policy Center	Required consumer (parent)	10/28/2016	P	6/30/2017						X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Judy McCoy Davis	F	JMD Consulting		7/1/2012	2	6/30/2018			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kimberly Peterson	F	Westminster Presbyterian Preschool		7/1/2014	1	6/30/2018		X									X		
Joyce Pingel	F	Kum & Go Corp.		6/1/2011	2	6/30/2017		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X
Shane Schulte	M	Wells Fargo Home Mortgage		1/24/2013	1	6/30/2018		X	X			X		X	X			X	X
Georgia Sheriff	F	Character Counts in Iowa		2/28/2013	1	6/30/2017		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Craig Sieverding	M	Davis Brown Law Firm	Required health	8/27/2014	1	6/30/2017			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tom Slater	M	State Public Policy Group		1/24/2013	1	6/30/2018		X	X		X	X		X			X	X	X
JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon	F	Retired, DHS	Required Early Care	7/1/2013	2	6/30/2019		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rocio Hermosillo	F	Bankers Trust	Vice Chair	7/1/2014	1	6/30/2018	3/24/2016	X	X			X							
Mike Bandstra	M	Attorney, Private Practice		7/1/2013	1	6/30/2016	3/16/2016												X
Kevin McCarthy	M	IA Attorney General		7/1/2014	1	6/30/2017	9/23/2015												
									26-Aug-15	23-Sep-15	28-Oct-15	18-Nov-15	16-Dec-15	27-Jan-16	24-Feb-16	23-Mar-16	27-Apr-16	25-May-16	22-Jun-16
Dave Arens	M		Ex-Officio - State		1	2016		X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Brook Rosenberg	M		Ex-Officio- State		1	2015		X											X
Terry Harrmann	M	began 4/2015	Ex-Officio- State		1	2015		X			X								
Total # Voting Members possible for meeting									19	20	19	20	20	20	20	19	18	18	18
Total # Voting Members attending meeting									12	14	10	10	14	11	16	12	12	15	15
% Voting Members attending meeting									63%	70%	53%	50%	70%	55%	80%	63%	67%	83%	83%
Quorum Met - Enter Y (yes) or N (no)			10 of 11 meetings met quorum						Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Meetings 1.5 hours. Term P indicates filling a partial term prior to beginning first term. See Polk County ECI Bylaws for details.																			

**Name of Early Childhood Area: Polk County Early Childhood Iowa**

Iowa Code chapter 256I requires that local ECIA boards report progress toward and achievement of desired results identified in the Community Plan. Provide a narrative of the ECIA's progress in the last year towards the priorities and strategies identified in the most recent Community Plan. Success and/or challenges to meeting the ECIA goals may also be included.

The 2015 population of Polk County, estimated to be 459,862, has grown each year since 1900. Polk County continues to experience growth in diversity, particularly among its youngest residents. From 2000 to 2015 Polk County populations experienced these rates of growth by race and ethnicity:

- Hispanic +132.3%
- Asian +103.8%
- Black +74%
- White +21.8
- Total +24.9%

The growth of our population is also a growth of the number of children living in poverty. The number of K-12 students qualifying for Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) has increased steadily since 2000, and during school year 2015/16 included 45% of students across the county. In Iowa's largest school district, Des Moines Independent Schools, 75.1% of 31,609 students were eligible for FRPL. Polk County's estimated population under age 6 is 38,942, and 17.6% of these children live in poverty (100% or below of the Federal Poverty Level which in 2015 was \$24,250 for a family of 4).

There are 9 school districts in Polk County; within these districts more than 112 languages other than English are the primary language spoken in students' homes. The linguistic diversity of our population poses challenges for providers, requiring access to translators of many different languages and dialects. The ethnic and cultural diversity within our population requires providers to develop practices to ensure services are culturally and linguistically competent and equally accessible to all children and families. Additionally, cultural differences regarding the roles of parents, families and early education must be considered in outreach efforts and communication with families. Polk County's large refugee population is extremely under-supported, arriving in our community with high needs. Recent refugee and immigrant families often live in underserved neighborhoods, creating additional barriers to accessing needed services.

As with rural ECI areas, transportation continues to be a huge barrier for low-income families. Lack of access to services, including enrolling in preschool, is an issue that continually arises in communication with community partners and families. Affordable housing is often not located near public transportation lines. Large-scale subsidized apartment complexes have been built in the metro area, often without consideration of the needs of these low-income families for access to transportation, schools and other necessary services.

Polk County is fortunate to be the location of a variety of human and health services. However, there are long waiting lists for children seeking the care of health specialists. There are too few health professionals in early childhood mental health. There are far too few pediatric dentists who will serve children with Medicaid coverage. The reality of the current funding of SWVPP preschool at .5 per pupil means public school districts struggle to provide mental health and behavioral interventions needed by students in increasing numbers.

The Polk County ECI Board meets annually with funded programs to discuss the program data on performance measures and to look longitudinally at the outcomes and impacts of each program. This review and discussion with funded programs encourages efficient and focused efforts to meet community needs. The Board also meets with service providers and recipients of services to discuss the challenges facing our youngest children and their families and to search for creative solutions. The Board to meet with the great and diverse needs of our community while struggling with the constraints and consequences of flat funding since 2008 of Early Childhood Iowa.

Priorities and Strategies of the Polk County ECI Board:

### **Healthy Children**

**Priority:** Underserved and at-risk children have access to health and dental care.

#### **Strategies:**

- Support clinics and programs that provide health and dental care to under-served.
- Identify pediatric dentists in Polk County and determine if they accept Medicaid. Develop action plan to increase numbers of pediatric dentists who will accept Medicaid.
- Provide hearing, vision and dental screenings at all Coalition child care centers.
- Support public awareness of resources available for uninsured children.
- Encourage VNS to promote their Care for Kids program that transports children with Medicaid through creative venues (radio, billboard, clinics).
- Post information about the Care for Kids program at all coalition child care centers.
- Identify and collaborate with community serving the 0-5 population.

**Priority:** All children are fully immunized by age 2.

**Strategies:**

- Ensure family support programs provide information about immunizations (in many languages).
- Promote public awareness efforts of importance of immunizations (in many languages).
- Support clinics and programs that serve at-risk populations.
- Collaborate with Polk County Public Health to create action plan to address immunization rates.

**Priority:** Increase number of women who begin prenatal care in the first trimester.

**Strategies:**

- Support home visiting programs that provide perinatal support and perinatal depression screening and referral.
- Promote public awareness efforts of importance prenatal care (in many languages).
- Contact Iowa Barriers to Prenatal Care to inform action plan.

**Children Ready to Succeed in School**

**Priority:** Increase availability and accessibility to preschool for all children.

**Strategies:**

- Advocate for restoration of ECI funds to 2008 levels so more at-risk children can be enrolled.
- Build public awareness that transportation is a barrier for 4-year-olds to experience high quality preschool.
- Continue to support public and private efforts to transport children to preschool.
- Support outreach efforts to educate parents about importance of high quality preschool experience.

**Priority:** Increase support for assessment and support of mental health and behavioral interventions for children in preschool classrooms.

**Strategies:**

- Advocate for restoration of preschool funding from .5 to .6 for public school districts.
- Encourage collaboration of family support programs and preschool programs.

**Priority:** Increase enrollment of at-risk children in quality preschool.

**Strategies:**

- Build on the success of the preschool transportation pilot; document the outcomes for children with preschool experience and use to advocate and create public awareness.



- Build public awareness that transportation is a barrier for at-risk 4-year-olds to experience high quality preschool.
- Continue to support public and private efforts to transport at-risk children to preschool.
- Support preschool program outreach efforts to at-risk populations.

**Priority:** Increase parent/guardian knowledge and ability to prepare children for Kindergarten success.

**Strategies:**

- Educate parents on value of quality programs and what school readiness means through efforts such as the school readiness Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar (English and Spanish).
- Identify family literacy efforts to support.
- Support literacy events held by partners in the community.
- Provide books and reading strategy information for children and their families to use at home.

**Safe and Supportive Communities**

**Priority:** Increase community-based support for families with young children.

**Strategies:**

- Communicate with 2-1-1 to ensure comprehensive resources and programs for young children are included in information provided.
- Promote community referral access, including 2-1-1 and centralized intake with VNS.
- Document existing directories or sources of resources for families and identify gaps.
- Identify existing formal and informal community supports.
- Increase informal community and neighborhood networks to support all children.

**Priority:** Encourage family-friendly workforce policies.

**Strategies:**

- Identify and promote family-friendly workplace policies and practices.
- Recognize employers for family-friendly policies and practices.
- Recognize employers providing high quality child care for employees.

**Priority:** Increase low-cost and no-cost community activities and events for young children and their families.

**Strategies:**

- Collaborate with organizers of community and neighborhood events to promote activities for families with young children ages 0-5.
- Include resources and parenting information at community-held events.



### **Secure and Nurturing Families**

**Priority:** Increase opportunities for development of positive relationships between children and parents.

**Strategies:**

- Support public awareness of healthy bonding and attachment.
- Support parent education programs, including affirmative parenting classes.
- Support home visiting family support programs.

**Priority:** Increase opportunities for parents to learn about healthy child development and parenting.

**Strategies:**

- Encourage Early Childhood Iowa to identify statewide public awareness messages.
- Collaborate with providers of child care and early education to deliver parenting programs.
- Seek ways to coordinate communication of community service providers and resources to parents.

**Priority:** Increase the number of families who have the resources they need to provide a safe and stable home for their children.

**Strategies:**

- Collaborate with community programs and agencies serving families to provide resources and connections.
- Identify supports for single parents.
- Support wage and training for child care work force.
- Collaborate with workforce training to incorporate planning tools for parents to set goals for their families and children.
- Support public awareness efforts regarding the cost of living for families and the cliff effect on working families receiving assistance.

### **Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments**

**Priority:** Increase the number of high quality early care and education environments for all children.

**Strategies:**

- Identify funding to promote Iowa's Quality Rating System to parents and providers.
- Collaborate with CCR&R to provide provider incentives for participation in QRS system.
- Create public awareness of quality standards and resources to locate quality child care.
- Promote children's health and safety in early learning environments by supporting child care nurse consultants.

**Priority:** Increase accessibility and affordability of high quality early care and education environments for all children.

**Strategies:**

- Advocate for raising the income eligibility level for child care assistance.
- Create public awareness of the cliff effect on families.
- Advocate for raising the Child Care Assistance reimbursement rate for providers.
- Collaborate with CCR&R to incentivize registration of home providers.

**Priority:** Increase parent awareness of brain development and developmental needs of young children.

**Strategies:**

- Develop links to parent resources on the Polk County ECI web site.
- Identify no cost programs that parents can enroll in to receive daily parenting skills texts.
- Sponsor affirmative parenting classes.
- Include brain development and healthy development information during community events.
- Identify parent-to-parent and other models of parent support.

Indicators were selected by the Polk County ECI Board during the process of creating *the Polk County ECI Community Plan 2015* (see page 37 of *Community Plan 2015* for description of process). As with the Board Priorities and Strategies these indicators are organized by the 5 ECI Results Areas:

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

Polk County ECI Indicators have been updated with all available data. The updating of data is a year-round process as data becomes available. The following chart of indicators is a tool used by the Polk County ECI Board throughout the fiscal year as the Board discusses and reviews community needs and program outcomes and challenges.

	Polk County								Iowa			
Healthy Children	2000	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2000	2010	2013	2014
2-year-olds up-to-date on immunizations	84.4%	87%	73%	66%	74%	73%	70%		85.9%		71%	69%
Children under 18 years with health insurance Hawk-I (CHIP), Medicaid, Private	94.3%	95.8%	95%	96.9%	96.8%	96.1%	97.3%		94.0%	96%	95.9%	96.8%
Mothers Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester	88.8%	70.7%	77.8%	85.2%	85.4%	85.3%			87.1%	75.5%	84.1%	
Children Ready to Succeed in School	2000	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2000	2010	2013	
Children ages 3-4 enrolled in nursery/preschool	47.1%	46.7%	48.1%	48.1%	45.4%					48%	47%	
Kindergarteners proficient in age-appropriate literacy skills on entry to Kindergarten	2014-15 1 <sup>st</sup> year valid data available.						51%					54%
4-year old children demonstrating age-appropriate socio-emotional skills (GOLD Assessment) at end of preschool - meeting or exceeding	2014-15 1 <sup>st</sup> year valid data available.						SY14-15: 95.3%	SY15-16: 95.1%				
4-year old children demonstrating age-appropriate literacy skills (GOLD Assessment) - meeting or exceeding	2014-15 1 <sup>st</sup> year valid data available.						SY14-15: 97.4%	SY15-16: 96.7%				
Safe & Supportive Communities	2000	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2000	2010	2013	2014
Child abuse/neglect of children ages 0-5			1.9%	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	1.7% *see note				2.6%	1.5% * see note
Children ages 0-4 receiving food and nutrition services for WIC	22.1%	22.2%	24.3%	23.7%	22.6%	21.8%			28.2% *2003		25.5%	
Families receiving FIP financial assistance	2.1%	1.4%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%			1.8%	1.5%	1.3%	
Secure & Nurturing Families	2000	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2000	2010	2013	2014
Teen births ages 15-19	4.8%	4.2%	3.4%	3.3%	2.6%	2.6%			3.4%	2.9%	2.2%	
Children living in household headed by single parent	27.6%	29.9%	31.4%	29.6%	29.9%	31.0%			24.9%	30.6%	29.8%	30.3%
Children under age 6 with all available parents in workforce	75.4% *2005	76.1%	78.7%	72.5%	70.8%	79.2%			69.9% *2005	76%	77.0%	*76%
Secure & Nurturing Early Learning Environments	2000	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		2000	2010	2013	2014
Child care programs at a level 3, 4 or 5 on Iowa's QRS	NA	24	78	45	57	45	54		Not Available	537 *2011	584	558
Registered home child care providers	731	813	812	810	730	736	659		Not Available	4,588 *2011	3,651	3,464
Number of registered/licensed available child care slots listed	19,653	22,826	22,914	23,260	22,524	22,852	22,517		Not Available	139,413 *2011	133,841	127,774
Population under 6 years	2000	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		2000	2010	2013	2014
	33,334	40,268	39,122	38,357	38,756	38,835	38,942		189,276	241,531	236,196	236,256
	Polk County								Iowa			