



Johnson County Community Empowerment

Community Plan for Children 0-5

December 2008 Revision



Johnson County Community Plan for Children 0 - 5

The Johnson County Empowerment Board was established to oversee and coordinate collaborative services for children and families in Johnson County. The initial emphasis was to be delivery of services to children age 0-5. The long-term purpose is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services in the areas of education, health, and human services for persons of all ages.

The Johnson County Community Plan for Children 0-5 addresses early childhood environments for children prenatal to age five years. The Plan includes four primary components:

- Children's Health,
- Early Education,
- Parent Education/Family Support, and
- Community Wellness.

The Johnson County Community Plan for Children 0-5 was initially developed from data obtained from needs assessments and information from Mercy Hospital Iowa City, Johnson County Public Health, United Way/JCCOG Community Needs Assessment, Kids Count, Iowa City Community School District, Empowerment Family Support Program contractors' site visits, and United Way grantees. Partners in developing and updating the plan include Iowa City Community School District, Johnson County Council of Governments, Johnson County Decat, Johnson County Empowerment, Johnson County Public Health, MECCA, Mercy Hospital Iowa City, United Way of Johnson County, University of Iowa College of Public Health, and 4Cs Child Care Resource & Referral.

Communities

Johnson County is located in east central Iowa, bordered on the north by Linn County, on the east by Cedar and Muscatine Counties, on the south by Louisa and Washington Counties, and on the west by Iowa County. Johnson County is comprised of 11 formal communities with populations ranging from 250 people to 62,220 people. Within the county, there are two communities with populations over 10,000 people and six communities with populations less than 1,000 people.

Johnson County is served by **10 school districts**. Four of those districts are primarily Johnson County districts: Clear Creek Amana, Iowa City Community, Lone Tree, and Solon. The other six districts have a majority of students from neighboring counties but serve some Johnson County children: College (Linn County), Highland (Washington County), Lisbon (Linn County), Mid-Prairie (Washington County), West Branch (Cedar County), West Liberty (Muscatine County), and Williamsburg (Iowa County). Johnson County is served by Grant Wood AEA 10.

The county is home to the University of Iowa and the Iowa City Kirkwood Community College Learning Center. Other nearby education resources include Cornell College & Coe College. Johnson County is also home to Mercy Hospital Iowa City, the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, and a Veteran's Administration Hospital.

Populations

Johnson County is predominantly white, though many cultures are represented by its citizens. For 10.9% of the population the language spoken at home is not English (compared with 5.8% for Iowa). In 2006, there were an **estimated 7,539 children 5 and under** in Johnson County. In 2006, Johnson County had an estimated **118,038 people** living within its borders.

The population in Johnson County between 2000 and 2006 increased by 6.3%, the second highest increase in the state.

Johnson County is a safe and healthy community in which to learn, work, and live.

Johnson County Community Plan for Children 0 - 5

Johnson County Empowerment

Vision

Johnson County is a safe and healthy community in which to learn, work, and live.

Mission

Johnson County Empowerment will lead the community in removing barriers to a safe and healthy community by: identifying needs in education, health, and human services; maintaining, expanding, and coordinating resources to address those needs; promoting and facilitating collaboration; and evaluating and continuously improving efforts to advance our vision.

Principles

1. Empowerment will advance the vision for all people, including all ages and all income levels.
2. Empowerment will maintain its commitment to birth to 5.
3. Empowerment will maintain, expand, and coordinate resources that support the vision.
4. Empowerment will address identified needs in education, health, and human services.
5. Empowerment will promote and facilitate collaboration.
6. Empowerment will evaluate and continuously improve the Empowerment programs, collaboration effectiveness, and progress toward the vision.

The **Johnson County Community Plan** for early childhood includes four primary components: Children's Health, Early Education, Parent Education/Family Support, and Community Wellness.

Community Work Groups have been designated for the children's health, early education, and parent education/family support components of the Plan to develop and support implementation strategies. Community Wellness is addressed in those Work Groups as well as through partnerships with other community organizations. An Early Childhood Specialist provides consultation and training to families, early education providers, participating staff at family resource centers, Community Work Groups, and the general public.

Priorities in each of the primary component areas include:

Children's Health:

- Health promotion, including healthy nutrition
- Increase accessibility of health insurance for children
- Increase access to quality pediatric health and dental care
- Early identification and treatment of health, development, and behavior concerns

Early Education:

- Increase the availability of quality early education
- Increase the accessibility and affordability of quality early education
- Improve quality in early education

Parent Education & Family Support, supporting families to:

- Strengthen supportive parenting skills
- Enhance parent/child relationships
- Provide safe, stable, nurturing home environments
- Increase healthy informal networks of support
- Utilize appropriate community resources
- Address parental issues of health, mental health, disability, and substance abuse needs

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Community Wellness:

- Build culturally competent systems of care to address the impact of:
 - Multiple languages
 - Multiple cultures
 - Rural issues
- Address family issues such as:
 - Poverty
 - Community safety
 - Transportation

Johnson County Empowerment has the dual goals of achieving measurable results for children and families and the creation of a service delivery system that is integrated, preventive, accessible, and efficient. Our community collaborations provide a crucial foundation for the success of the Johnson County Empowerment area. The Johnson County Empowerment Board works to formalize the existing relationships among the health, education, and human service communities and to coordinate identified agreed-upon community priorities into a comprehensive community plan.

IDENTIFYING NEEDS

Johnson County Empowerment utilizes many sources of information in determining availability and needs of services in Johnson County. Those sources include needs assessments conducted by the Iowa City Community School District, Johnson County Public Health, Mercy Hospital Iowa City, and United Way/JCCOG. Information from Kids Count, Empowerment Family Support Program contractors' site visits, the Iowa City School District's Early Childhood Task Force, and United Way grantees feedback is also utilized. Johnson County Empowerment also solicits feedback from community agencies regarding available resources, perceived community and agency needs, and anecdotal information from families regarding the availability, accessibility, and quality of services.

Current Resources and Identified Needs:

Children's Health

Children's Health Priorities

- Health promotion, including healthy nutrition
- Increase accessibility of health insurance for children
- Increase access to quality pediatric health and dental care
- Early identification and treatment of health, development, and behavior concerns

Children's Health Resources

Nutritional program for Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) clinic

Child Health and Dental clinics through Johnson County Public Health

Healthy Kids Community Care school-based health clinics

Mobile health clinics through University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Free Medical Clinic with Dick Parrott Free Dental Clinic

I-Smile dental program through Johnson County Public Health

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner home visiting for pregnant and parenting teens

Children's Health Insurance Outreach Coordinator to increase enrollment in hawk-i and Medicaid

Johnson County Public Health's Healthy Child Care Iowa Child Care Nurse Consultant provides support services to licensed and registered child care facilities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, prevent child injuries, develop health emergency protocols, help with medication, and care for children with special health needs. This support is provided through completion of the Injury Prevention Checklist, the Child Record Review, and the Health and Safety Assessment.

University of Iowa College of Dentistry

MECCA Safety Village

Grant Wood AEA hearing, speech, vision, and developmental screenings through Child Check and at individual child care centers

Iowa Kidsight vision screening program that goes into child care programs to provide vision screening

Johnson County has greater rates of child immunization and prenatal care than the state average (96.6% v 94.3% and 91.5% v 86.0% respectively).

Johnson County has lower rates of teen births than the state average (1.0% v 3.2%).

Children's Health Needs

While there are adequate health care services available in the community, at issue is the ability of all families to be able to access health services regardless of income, lack of insurance or immigration status. Also at issue is the appropriateness of these resources for the pediatric population.

There are health outcome disparities among populations based on race/ethnicity, age, and income.

Johnson County has a higher rate of infant mortality than the state average (5.6 v 5.1).

Johnson County's low birth weight percentage is the same as that of the state average (6.9%).

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Early Education

Early Education Priorities

- Increase the availability of quality early education
- Increase the accessibility and affordability of quality early education
- Improve quality in early education

Early Education Resources

809 children age 0-5 years received State Child Care Assistance during FY08, averaging 410 children per month

Head Start classrooms in Iowa City/Coralville (15 classrooms, 276 children in 2006-2007)

Shared Visions classrooms in Iowa City/Coralville/Hills (5 classrooms, 104 children in 2006-2007)

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program classrooms in Iowa City/Coralville (3 classrooms, 44 children in 2007-2008)

Even Start classrooms in Iowa City UPDATE 1

Additional supported early education classrooms:

6 classrooms serving 72 children through State Child Care Assistance, Promise Jobs, Empowerment UPDATE 2

Respite 20-25 children with Shared Visions/other reimbursement

Rural preschools in Hills, Lone Tree, North Liberty, Solon, and Tiffin.

Home Ties Emergency Child Care (4 classrooms serving 33 children in 2007-2008)

Preschoolers Reaching Educational Potential: PREP (summer school readiness program)

DHS Wraparound grants for ICCSD Hills and HACAP Shared Visions programs

80 licensed child care centers (May 2008) with a capacity for 4,736 children

5 licensed preschools (May 2008) with a capacity for 134 children

203 registered child development homes (July 2008) with a capacity for 1,838 children

4% of Child Development Homes demonstrate quality through QRS and/or NAFCC (9/203)

15% of Child Development Homes participate in some sort of quality demonstration program, i.e. QRS, NAFCC, FCCERS (30/203) No data on ChildNet, CDA, or PITC

9 Child Development Homes participating in QRS; 2 at Level 3, 4, or 5

0 Child Development Homes are NAFCC Accredited

23 Child Development Homes have been evaluated with the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS)

16% of Child Care Centers demonstrate quality through QRS and/or NAEYC (14/85)

35% of Child Care Centers participate in some sort of quality demonstration program, i.e. QRS, NAEYC, IQPPS, Head Start, Shared Visions (30/85)

10 Child Care Centers participating in QRS; 4 at Level 3, 4, or 4

4 Child Care Centers are NAEYC accredited

14 additional Child Care Centers are participating Iowa's Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS)

4 programs meet Head Start Program Standards (2 are included with NAEYC and 1 additional with IQPPS)

1 additional Shared Visions classroom not represented elsewhere

Resource Libraries through 4Cs and Hawkeye Area Child Care Provider Network (HACCPN)

Parent Referral services through 4Cs and HACCPN

Home Provider mentoring through HACCPN and 4Cs

Professional Development for early education providers through 4Cs, HACCPN, and IAEYC

Provider Professional Development Stipends through Empowerment

Childcare Alliance Resource Team – Johnson County (CART-JC) provides support, consultation and education to address challenging behaviors in the classroom

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Early Education Needs

No Head Start availability outside of Iowa City/Coralville.

There is limited availability of quality early education outside of Iowa City/Coralville:

- no Head Start
- no Shared Visions except in Hills
- no Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs

There is limited availability of quality early education programs that accept State Child Care Assistance.

Quality programs that do accept State Child Care Assistance (SCCA) often offer limited SCCA 'slots' and those 'slots' are often full.

The 2008 capacity of regulated child care slots is 25% of the potential need. This is based on 2000 census data that 69.4% of children ages 0-6 have all parents in the work force; 2006 estimates of 7,539 children age 0-5 years; and 1,294 regulated child care slots in 2008. This estimates a need for 5,232 child care slots for children age 0-5.

Staff turnover in early education is high and therefore continuity of children's care is compromised.

Staff qualifications and training are inadequate in some preschool and child care programs.

There are few affordable, reliable measures of quality in child development homes.

There is little external incentive for early education programs to improve quality. UPDATE 4

Challenging student behaviors are resulting in an increase in the number of day care and preschool center child abuse reports. UPDATE 5

Early childhood service providers report an increased need for professional development training in social, emotional and behavioral needs of children. UPDATE 6

Early education training is an ongoing need because of staff turnover.

Access to professional support staff with expertise in social, emotional and behavior needs of children is limited for observing children, developing a positive behavior support plan, training staff and monitoring implementation. UPDATE 7

Child care assistance funding for families who advance to just above income eligibility for State Child Care Assistance.

Parent Education/Family Support

Parent Education/Family Support Priorities

Supporting families to:

- Strengthen supportive parenting skills
- Enhance parent/child relationships
- Provide safe, stable, nurturing home environments
- Increase healthy informal networks of support
- Utilize appropriate community resources
- Address parental issues of health, mental health, disability, and substance abuse needs

Parent Education/Family Support Resources

Home Visiting funded through Empowerment (~155 families per month) and Even Start

-of those 155 Empowerment families, 15 are specifically identified as Spanish-speaking

Head Start funded parent education programs (4 programs, 244 children in 2004-2005)

Shared Visions funded parent education programs (2 programs, 60 families in 2004-2005)

Family Resource Centers in 10 Iowa City Community Schools

Even Start funded parent education programs (1 program serving 40 families in 2007-2008) UPDATE 1

Empowerment funded programs:

2 parenting classes per year in 2 rural areas (Hills, Lone Tree, North Liberty, Solon, or Tiffin)

Teen parent programs (support group and parent class)

Support group for Spanish-speaking families with a child age 0-5 with a disability

Parent Education and Family Literacy groups for Spanish-speaking families

Partners In Parenting for families experiencing substance abuse

2 Parent Education programs in Iowa City

1 Parent Education program in Coralville

Family Books program in Hills

Play Group in North Liberty

MECCA transitional housing for families includes specialized services to meet needs of women who are pregnant and/or have children while participating in substance abuse treatment

Nest of Johnson County

FaDSS home visiting; includes partnership with Empowerment

Parent Education/Family Support Needs

There is a lack of availability of parent education/family support programs in rural areas.

There is a lack of availability of parent education/family support to families whose first language is not English. UPDATE 8

There is no comprehensive strategy to identify families whose children do not receive center or home day care or preschool.

Mental health insurance coverage is not always available to children who have been abused.

Children with behavioral needs may go undiagnosed or treated due to lack of available services.

Services tend to be directed at either the child or the family, but don't often encompass the needs of all family members.

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Resources for Spanish-speaking families (See Update 8)

Home visitation through NCJC for 15 families per month

ICCSD preschool scholarships for 4 children at Mann Elementary

School Ready Scholarships for 4 children

Childcare scholarships for children whose parents are attending English Language Learners (ELL) classes

Parent Education workshops through NCJC

Parent and Child Time (PACT) early literacy groups through NCJC

Manantial support group for families of children with disabilities through The Arc

General Early Childhood Needs

There is a fragmentation of responsibilities for early childhood services and programs due to an array of program opportunities from a variety of public, private and school providers, multiple categorical funding streams for programs, and a division of responsibilities among numerous early childhood service providers (public education, DHS, county and city supported providers, mental health, public health, AEA, Empowerment).

Achievement and service gaps based upon demographics such as poverty and ethnicity that contribute to students' readiness to learn when they enter kindergarten.

Existing service programs for children are under funded.

There is a lack of public awareness of the issues around early childhood.

Community Wellness Priorities

- Building culturally competent systems of care to address the impact of:
 - Multiple languages
 - Multiple cultures
 - Rural issues
- Addressing family issues such as:
 - Poverty
 - Community safety
 - Transportation

Overall Community Needs

Transportation: only Iowa City/Coralville has public transportation

Affordable housing: in Johnson County the median home value is 160% of state median value; rent is 120% of state rent; yet median household income is only 101% of state

There are currently **2600 eligible households waiting for Section 8** housing assistance in Johnson County. The wait time is 2 years. One reason is that there is a 100% occupancy rate and a low turn-over rate. (Iowa City Housing)

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UPDATE: Changing Needs 2005 – 2008

- 1. NCJC had a brief period of no Even Start funds, then funds were reinstated in FY 2008, though at a greatly reduced amount. This means that there are now 23 fewer early education classrooms serving 10 fewer low income children. There are also fewer parent education opportunities.*
- 2. The Early Learning Opportunities Act Grant (Johnson County Early Learning Initiative – JCELI) ended and funding is no longer available in the community. This means there is now 1 fewer childcare classroom serving 16 fewer low income children. There are also 40 fewer families receiving home visiting services each month and 3 fewer parent education opportunities.*
- 3. The State of Iowa has created the Iowa Quality Rating System – a 5-level system to evaluate the quality in early childhood environments, both home-based and center-based.*
- 4. The Iowa Quality Rating System (QRS) has been developed to help to quantify quality in early education settings, both home-based and center-based.*
- 5. Challenging student behaviors are resulting in an increase in the number of day care and preschool center child abuse reports. The CART-JC program (Childcare Alliance Response Team – Johnson County) began in 2006 to provide intense intervention to keep 3-5 year old children in childcare in spite of behavioral challenges. Program provides direct intervention with the child, family, and early childhood program as well as consultation to the program regarding how overall programming impacts child behavior and supports social/emotional development.*
- 6. Early childhood service providers report an increased need for professional development training in social, emotional and behavioral needs of children. The Above & Beyond educational program began in 2006 as an educational series that addresses issues of social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of young children.*
- 7. Access to professional support staff with expertise in social, emotional and behavior needs of children is limited for observing children, developing a positive behavior support plan, training staff and monitoring implementation. PALS (Positive Attachment and Learning to Succeed) training was provided for both classroom teachers and professional support staff to enhance expertise in social, emotional, and behavioral needs of children.*
- 8. There is a lack of availability of parent education/family support to families whose first language is not English. The Arc of Johnson County facilitates a support group for Spanish-speaking families who have a child age 0-5 with a disability. NCJC offers one parent education class and one PACT (Parents And Children Together) early literacy group for Spanish-speaking families.*
- 9. During FY2009, ICCSD received a federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant. A portion of this grant is to be used to expand the Parents As Teachers home visitation program to families with children 0-5.*

ACHIEVING RESULTS

The Johnson County Empowerment Board has identified the following desired **Community Empowerment Results** for Empowerment programs:

Improved health of children
Increased quality in child care settings
Increased availability of affordable, quality care
All children will begin school ready to learn
Prevention of child abuse and neglect

Community Empowerment Results will be measured through the monitoring of identified

Local Indicators:

1. Number of children enrolled in state health insurance programs
2. Number of confirmed child abuse reports
3. Number and percent of early education environments meeting quality standards (NAEYC, NAFCC, QRS)
4. Percent of kindergarten students who attend preschool
5. Number of regulated child care programs (DHS licensed centers, DHS registered homes, 4Cs listed homes)
6. Number of regulated child care slots (licensed, registered, and listed)

Program Effectiveness will be measured with a variety of **Core Indicators of Performance**, including:

1. Percent of children who maintain or gain protective factors as measured on DECA
2. Number of child development homes newly registered with DHS and newly listed with 4Cs
3. Number of child development homes and licensed centers listed with 4Cs
4. Percentage of 4Cs providers also registered with DHS
5. Percent of child development homes that make improvement in one or more areas of the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS)
6. Improvement in child care providers' knowledge, attitude, and behavior regarding
 - child development
 - guidance and discipline
 - curriculum and program development
 - health and safety
 - professionalism and business practices
7. Creation of new licensed and/or registered child care slots
8. Rate of low birth weight births to participating teen mothers
9. Teen birth rate of participants
10. Number of children newly enrolled in state health insurance programs
11. Rate of re-entry into foster care system
12. Improvement in families' knowledge, attitude, and behavior regarding
 - child development
 - guidance and discipline
 - parenting styles and techniques
 - early reading
 - health care
 - parent-child interactions
 - building social support and decreasing stress
 - identifying needed resources

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Plan for evaluating and reporting progress

Evaluating Programs

- program outcomes are identified in three ways: 1) utilization of state required performance measures; 2) programs themselves identify planned outcomes in program proposals and 3) the Evaluation Committee of the Empowerment Board identifies common measures based on overall Empowerment grant goals
- programs submit quarterly reports, reporting on Core Indicators of Performance
- programs submit final reports, reporting on Core Indicators of Performance and state required performance measures
- Work Groups review quarterly and final reports
- program reports are utilized in reporting outcomes to the state on an annual basis
- based on report information, contracting agencies receive feedback from the work groups

Evaluating Overall Grant Effectiveness

- annual review of the Local Indicators as part of the annual report process
- Evaluation Committee reviews progress toward goals regarding Local Indicators
- Board and Evaluation Committee review appropriateness and relevance of Local Indicators and make changes in response to changing community trends

Evaluating Effectiveness of Board

- a Partners Survey is sent to Empowerment partners to assess community opinions of Empowerment functioning and effectiveness
- Board effectiveness surveys are distributed and collected annually
- Board evaluation is conducted as part of the on-going strategic planning of the Board, with one- and five-year goals being set

COMMUNITY COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Johnson County Empowerment is working with community partners towards the creation of a central point of contact for early childhood service planning.

Currently, the **Johnson County Empowerment Board** strives to provide that coordination of services for children from 0 through 5. The Empowerment Board includes broad representation from the community and Empowerment Board members participate on various planning groups including the Iowa City Community Schools Early Childhood Task Force, United Way's Success By Six planning group, Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Decat planning committee, Prevent Child Abuse Johnson County, the Johnson County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Iowa City Housing Authority Program Coordinating Committee.

Johnson County Empowerment is actively involved in efforts to provide formal communication and broad coordination of all community planning efforts. Current participants in this effort include Youth Development, Juvenile Crime Prevention, Decat, United Way, Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and Johnson County Council of Governments.

Current and planned collaborations

Current collaborations

Johnson County Empowerment has been an active partner in assisting local school districts to apply for Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds. We will continue to assist those districts in applying until all districts have received funding. Once funding is received, Johnson County Empowerment is a partner in maximizing the impact of those funds and reaching children in need of preschool services. Johnson County Empowerment has made funding available for wraparound services and assists in braiding local funding for more comprehensive early education services.

Effectiveness of current collaborative efforts

Johnson County Empowerment is seen as a leader in the area of early childhood in Johnson County. Johnson County Empowerment is included as a partner in many community planning initiatives, including those that do not directly impact children 0-5. Specifically, Johnson County Empowerment has participated in the Youth Development Grant through the Family & Youth Services Bureau. This grant will end in September 2008.

The Youth Development Grant has resulted in the formalization of the Johnson County Youth Development Task Force. The task force builds on the capacity of all current youth development planning initiatives (20 have been identified) and helps them work together under a single framework. All partners agree to use the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Results Framework to organize youth (ages 6 to 24) development planning efforts, including Johnson County Empowerment as we expand our focus to include children ages 6 to 24 in our activities. While this activity does not directly affect children 0-5, the collaboration building strengthens Empowerment's presence in the community and has been a foundation for increased partnerships between Iowa City Community Schools and Empowerment regarding issues for children 0-5.

In January 2005, the Empowerment Board sent a survey to its current and potential community partners reflecting items included in the Redesignation materials regarding "Community Partners, Communication, and Commitment". The mailing list of current and potential partners included the superintendents of 4 school districts, mayors and councils of 11 cities, 13 grantees, and 2 public libraries as well as other agencies and organizations. Of 51 surveys sent, 31 were returned. Survey results indicate that 74% of respondents know Johnson County Empowerment's vision and mission. Of those, 100% support that vision and mission. Eighty-five percent of respondents see Johnson County

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Empowerment as a leader in the community for children 0-5 and their families and 89% indicated that education and information are available from Johnson County Empowerment. Seventy-three percent said that the majority of stakeholders for children 0-5 years old and their families from the community have been engaged in local Empowerment and 88% say that the local early childhood community partners have reached a level of mutual respect, understanding, and trust. Seventy-six percent of respondents indicate that Johnson County Empowerment engages in marketing and child advocacy activities to build public/community awareness.

Planned Collaborations

Johnson County Empowerment will be collaborating with United Way and other community partners to conduct a more comprehensive, community-wide needs assessment. This collaboration was begun during Spring 2008, but has been delayed because of a need to focus resources on flood recovery efforts.

FUNDING

Availability of Funds

Programs for children 0 through 5 in the Johnson County Empowerment area are provided through the availability of a number of funding sources.

Federal funds include the Early Childhood (TANF) grant, Child Health funding, Early Access, Early Childhood Professional Development, Head Start, IDEA Special Education, Immunization funding, Maternal Health, Transitional Living Grant, and WIC funds.

State funds include the School Ready grant, Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Care Block Grant, Community Partnership to Protect Children, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Child Care Resource & Referral, Even Start, Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS), DHS hawk-i funds, I-Smile, Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP), Iowa's Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) funds, Medicaid, Shared Visions Preschool and Parent Support grants, State Child Care Assistance (SCCA), and Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.

Local funds are provided through Johnson County and United Way of Johnson County as well as private donations to the agencies from the community.

Collaboration and Coordination

As much as possible, funds are used collaboratively to provide necessary services to children. Grantee agencies combine 59% (\$705,930.10/1,194,065.64) of Empowerment funds with other funds for programs. Administrative costs are 3% of the budget, while 97% of funds are used for services.

Federal Empowerment funds are -

- used in conjunction with other state and federal funds to wrap part-day, part-year State Child Care Assistance and/or Head Start funding into full-day, full-year care.
- combined with Shared Visions Preschool funds to provide full-day care to children in a school-based preschool. Shared Visions funds the core preschool and Empowerment funds the before-and-after school component.
- combined with local Johnson County dollars to provide staff time to assist with the coordination of planning and services in Johnson County.

State Empowerment grant funds are-

- used as matching funds to wrap part-time Head Start funding into full-day, full-year care.
- used as matching funds for the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP) grant. Funds from State Empowerment, ICAPP, and United Way were combined to provide a parent education and support program to families that include young children with disabilities.
- combined with Department of Human Services hawk-i outreach funds to hire a half-time Children's Health Insurance Outreach Coordinator.
- combined with Johnson County funds to provide no-cost emergency child care to families who are homeless or near-homeless.
- combined with Even Start funds to provide child care for children while their parents participate in Even Start funded ESL or GED classes.
- used as matching funds for the federal Transitional Living Grant. Funds provide Pediatric Nurse Practitioner home visiting for pregnant and newly parenting teens.
- combined with local Johnson County dollars to provide staff time to assist with the coordination of planning and services in Johnson County.
- combined with Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program dollars to provide comprehensive early education for four-year-old children

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Additional public and private funding sources coming in to the Empowerment area

Decat

Youth Development - utilized for services for youth ages 6 to 24

Juvenile Crime Prevention

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children - utilized to support Family Team Meetings

**Table 1
Grants by Funding Source (Fiscal Year 2008)**

<u>Federal</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
Empowerment Early Childhood Grant (TANF)	Empowerment School Ready Grant	
Child Health	Child Health	Child Health
Immunization	Immunization	Immunization
Maternal Health	Maternal Health	Maternal Health
WIC		WIC
	Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention	
	Healthy And Well Kids in Iowa (hawk-i)	
	I-Smile	I-Smile
	Medicaid	
Early Access	Early Access	
Early Childhood Professional Development	Early Childhood Professional Development	
Head Start	Child Care Block Grant (CCBG)	County Child Care Funding
IDEA Special Education	Early Childhood Consultant	
	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	
	Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)	
	Even Start	
	Every Child Reads	
	Iowa's Quality Preschool Program Standards	
	Shared Visions Preschool	
	State Child Care Assistance (SCCA)	
	Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP)	
	Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS)	
Transitional Living Program Grant	Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP)	
Community Partnership to Protect Children	Community Partnership to Protect Children (CPPC)	United Way of Johnson County
	Shared Visions Parent Support	
	University of Iowa	

**Table 2
Coordination of Other Funds with Empowerment Funds (Fiscal Year 2008)**

Other Grant Funds:	Empowerment Grant		
	Federal	State	Local
Federal			
Head Start	Empowerment program grant	Empowerment matching funds	
Transitional Living Program		Empowerment matching funds	
State			
Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program Grant		Empowerment matching funds and program grant	United Way program grant
DHS hawk-i outreach		Empowerment program grant	
Even Start		Empowerment program grant	
State Child Care Assistance	Empowerment program grant	Empowerment program grant	
Shared Visions Preschools	Empowerment Program grants		
Statewide Voluntary Preschool		Empowerment program grant	
Local			
Johnson County Home Ties grant		Empowerment program grant	
Johnson County planning dollars	Empowerment planning grant	Empowerment planning grant	

**Table 3
Coordination of Empowerment Grant funds with Other Funding Sources (Fiscal Year 2008)**

<u>Empowerment Funds</u>	<u>Other Grant Sources</u>		
	Federal	State	Local
Federal Empowerment dollars (TANF grant)	Head Start wraparound		
		State Child Care Assistance wraparound	
		Shared Visions Preschools grants and wraparound	
			Community planning and service coordination (Johnson County)
State Empowerment dollars (School Ready grant)			
	Transitional Living Program matching funds	Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program matching funds and program grants	Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program program grants
		DHS hawk-i outreach funds	
	Head Start matching funds	Even Start program grants	Home Ties Child Care program grants (Johnson County)
		Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program	
		State Child Care Assistance wraparound	Community planning and service coordination (Johnson County)

**Table 4
Anticipated Funding Amounts coming in to the Empowerment Area (Fiscal Year 2009)
Federal Funds**

<u>Funding Name</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>FY09 estimate</u>	<u>Anticipated # of children/families served</u>	<u>Gaps/Needs</u>
Child Health	federal state county	\$386,710	5112 children 2840 families	Car seats – child safety seat loan program, training for certification
Early Access	federal state	\$348,690 \$179,256	Includes 7 county AEA region	
Early Childhood Professional Development	federal ECSE State Dept. of Ed.	\$41,221 \$79,519	Includes 7 county AEA region	Need continuing professional development funding to AEAs to support additional Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs with community partners & Early Childhood Special Education staff in implementing high quality early childhood programming regionally
Head Start	federal HHS	\$2,092,376	236 children	Need for full-day, full-year service
IDEA Special Education (preschool ages 3-5)	federal	\$329,150	Includes 7 county AEA region	
Immunization	federal state county	\$80,403	872 children 436 families	Supplies, postage, printing, salaries, administration
Maternal Health	federal state county	\$65,810	200 families (antepartum)	Training to assist non-English speaking clients
Safe Schools, Healthy Students	federal	\$107,330	50 children 50 families 2750 children 1195 families	
Transitional Living Program Grant	federal	\$200,000	10 children	
Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Nutritional Program	federal county	\$438,193	2750 children 1195 families	Incentives, grocery or restaurant vouchers, professional development
Child Care Block Grant (CCBG)	state Iowa DHS (federal pass-thru)	\$372,750	126 children	Need for full-day, full-year service
Community Partnership to Protect Children (CPPC)	Federal state DHS	\$1,125 \$375	5 children 3 families (for children 0-5)	

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Table 4 CONTINUED

**Anticipated Funding Amounts coming in to the Empowerment Area (Fiscal Year 2009)
State Funds**

<u>Funding Name</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>FY09 estimate</u>	<u>Anticipated # of children/families served</u>	<u>Gaps/Needs</u>
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention	state DHS	\$8,618	25 children 25 families	
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	state	\$366,400	456 children in home care	
CACFP	state	\$36,000	145 children in center care	At Home Ties reimburses only 2 meals, one snack OR two snacks, one meal; must maintain 25% of SCCA to receive
Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)	state	\$73,538	12,000 families 2,500 child care providers	
Early Childhood Consultant	state Dept. of Ed.	\$20,832		
Even Start	state Dept. of Ed.	\$96,000	50 children 40 families	Child care funding
Every Child Reads early childhood professional development	state Empowerment	\$4,518	This is statewide training.	
Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS)	state	\$34,989	20 children 20 families	
Healthy And Well Kids in Iowa (hawk-i)	state county	\$14,718	75 children 38 families 350 children outreach	Salaries, social worker Supports staff for outreach
I-Smile	state county	\$56,245	2,058 children 894 families	Clinic furniture/fixtures for expanded space
Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP)	state	\$7,000	25 children 25 families	
Iowa's Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) Technical Assistance and Verification	state Empowerment	\$20,672	This info is for the 7 county AEA region, not specific to Johnson County.	Need continuous State Funding like FY '09 Early Childhood professional Development to AEAs provide support for this on-going work with IQPPS. Need funding for additional IQPPS Verifiers funded for training and site visits to build capacity region and state-wide.

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Table 4 CONTINUED
Anticipated Funding Amounts coming in to the Empowerment Area (Fiscal Year 2009)
State and Local Funds

<u>Funding Name</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>FY09 estimate</u>	<u>Anticipated # of children/families served</u>	<u>Gaps/Needs</u>
Medicaid	state	\$38,000	70 children 65 families	Under-reimbursement
Shared Visions Preschool	state Dept. of Ed	\$356,436	84 children	Need for full-day, full-year service
Shared Visions Parent Support	state Dept. of Ed.	\$102,715	75 children 75 families	
State Child Care Assistance (SCCA)	state Dept. of Human Services	\$111,800 (for only 2 centers- unable to get county-wide figures)	26 children in 2 centers (county-wide 809 children 0-5 and 382 school-age)	Not enough available slots in JC; reimbursement does not match tuition, therefore budgets are not met
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP)	state Dept. of Ed.	\$146,863	44 children	Need to serve more families; in only 1 school district
University of Iowa	state	\$23,800	1060 UI families	
Johnson County	county	\$80,000	44 children childcare 15 children health services	Cannot afford child care
United Way of Johnson County	local	\$242,261	Greater than 201 children 240 families	United Way of Johnson County does not generally fund specific programs, but rather supports the general operating budgets of these agencies that offer programs and services specifically targeting early childhood.



ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS OF JOHNSON COUNTY

Communities in Johnson County

Coralville
Hills
Iowa City
Lone Tree
North Liberty
Oxford
Shueyville
Solon
Swisher
Tiffin
University Heights
and a subdivision of West Branch

Cultural Diversity

The racial make up of Johnson County is:

90.1% White;
4.1% Asian;
2.9% Black or African American;
1.5% Two or more races;
1.0% Other; and
0.3% American Indian or Alaska Native;
NA Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (too small to report).

4.6% of Johnson County's population are not US citizens

For 10.5% of the population the language spoken at home is not English (compared with 5.8% for Iowa)

2003-2004 Johnson County had **225 English Language Learners**, representing **25 different languages**, enrolled in school.

Young Children

In **2001**, there were **6423 children under 5 years** in Johnson County. This comprises 5.8% of the population. Birth to five populations range from 4.65% in Iowa City to 9.3% in North Liberty.

In **2006**, there were an **estimated 118,038 people** living in Johnson County, with an estimated **7,539 children 5 and under** (Woods and Poole). This brings the 0-5 population to 6.4% of the county population.

In Johnson County, **69.4% of children age 0 - 6 have all parents in the work force** (US Census 2000).

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Health

In Johnson County, 11.3% of residents have no health insurance (2001)

In April 2006, 330 children were enrolled in hawk-i, representing 45% of the enrollment goal.

In 2001, there were 1,036 children under the age of 5 enrolled in Medicaid, representing 16% of the 0-4 population.

In 2003, the teen birth rate was 3.4 per 1,000 population 15-17 years

In 2004, 4.1% of live births were to teens (12-19).

Early Education

7% of Johnson County child care centers are NAEYC accredited (6/08)

Percentage of children ages 3-5 enrolled in public or private nursery school or preschool in Johnson County (CLIKS)

1990 56.5%

2000 52.8%

In 2007-2008 there were 80 licensed child care centers, 5 licensed preschools, and 203 registered child development homes. In these programs, there were available 1,294 child care slots for children age 0-5 years. There were an estimated 7,539 children age 0-5 years in Johnson County in 2006.

Parent Education/Family Support

Of Johnson County families with children under age 5:

10.4% of were **living in poverty** (2000 US Census)

24.4% were living **below 185% of poverty** (2000 US Census)

2003 estimates (Woods & Poole) are that there are 1,776 children 5 and under living below 185% of poverty, representing 22%.

With a **female householder with no husband present, 40.8% were below the poverty level** (US Census 2000)

In 2007 there were **312 confirmed abused children** in Johnson County, of those children 51.3% (160) were age 5 years or younger.

Housing

Johnson County is the **most housing cost-burdened county in the state of Iowa**; almost half of all renters in Johnson County spend more than a third of their income on housing costs. (Johnson County Housing Trust Fund 2003)

Housing costs in Johnson County (2000):

Median value is 160% of state median value

Rent is 120% of state rent

Yet median household income is only 101% of state

Housing costs have increased 71% between 1990 and 2000

Rent as percent of household revenue is 30.5 for Johnson County and 23.2 for Iowa

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Other

47.6% of population has 4 or more years college; compared to 21.2% statewide (CLIKS)

In 2000, 45.1% of total earnings come from Government; compared with 15.9% of state (reflects University level of employment) (CLIKS)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN

During **1997-1998**, an **Infant-Toddler Work Group** convened that included representatives from local agencies serving young children and advocates for children. Throughout the process, input and feedback was solicited from local citizens and service consumers. Approximately fifty people attended a public hearing, hosted by an Empowerment Steering Committee on August 10, 1998. Several recommendations were developed by consensus and utilized in developing the original Community Plan which was the basis for the Empowerment Grant Application in 1998.

Between **1999** and **2002**, the **Johnson County Empowerment Board** engaged in continuous informal updating of the Community Plan. The Board utilized information from community needs assessments, feedback from Empowerment grantees, input from community and Board members, and emerging trends to be responsive to changing community needs.

In **2003**, an **Ad Hoc Committee** of the Empowerment Board was formed to facilitate the Board's formal strategic planning. The Committee consisted of representatives from Mercy Hospital Iowa City, University of Iowa College of Public Health, Johnson County Public Health, MECCA, Johnson County Empowerment Chairperson, Johnson County Council of Governments, United Way of Johnson County, and Iowa City Community School District.

The Ad Hoc Committee utilized needs assessments and information from Mercy Hospital Iowa City, Johnson County Public Health, United Way/JCCOG Community Needs Assessment, Kids Count, Iowa City Community School District, Empowerment Family Support Program contractors' site visits, and United Way grantees. Through this process, the Empowerment Board's vision and mission were updated, current strengths and challenges identified, and an updated environmental scan conducted. New goals and objectives were developed and strategies identified.

During **2004-2005** the **Empowerment Board** continued the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. Community Plan was updated. The Empowerment Board is currently identifying resources needed and developing one-year objectives. The final step will be evaluation, though the entire process is on-going.

In **2004** the **Iowa City Community School District (ICCS)** convened an **Early Childhood Task Force** consisting of representatives from ICCSD, Johnson County Empowerment, University of Iowa Early Childhood Program, Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, United Action for Youth, Grant Wood Area Education Agency, The Gazette, HACCPN, and a Parent Representative. The Task Force also relied on information from local experts from Johnson County Public Health, Johnson County Department of Human Services, 4Cs Child Care Resource & Referral, and University of Iowa College of Public Health. The Task Force developed a list of recommendations that reflect community needs and are supported by the work of Governor Vilsack's Iowa Learns Council, the Urban Education Network, Child and Family Policy Center, and National Education Goals. The findings of the Task Force are incorporated in the Community Plan.

During **2005**, Johnson County Empowerment began work alongside United Way of Johnson County, Iowa City Community School District, Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, and 4Cs Child Care Resource & Referral on the Success By Six initiative. This initiative includes collaborative planning among the community agencies as well as the development of a coordinated public awareness/parent education campaign utilizing the "Born Learning" materials. This initiative is now called the **Starting Smart** collaboration.

Between 2005 and 2008, the plan was continuously revised and updated as new needs emerged and existing resources changed.

In 2007, the Empowerment Ad Hoc Committee was reconvened to update and revise the Community Plan. The Committee consisted of representatives from Iowa City Community School District, Johnson County Council of Governments, Johnson County Decat, Johnson County Empowerment, Johnson

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County Public Health, MECCA, Mercy Hospital Iowa City, United Way of Johnson County, University of Iowa College of Public Health, and 4Cs Child Care Resource & Referral. In Spring 2008, a Community Needs Survey was conducted. Families and professionals were asked to identify their priorities for children age 0-5 and their families. The results of those surveys were incorporated into the revised plan.

August 1, 2002 Board Planning Session

May 1, 2003 Priorities approved

October 2, 2003 Changed local indicators

November 6, 2003 Vision & Mission approved

March 4, 2004 Issues of significant community impact adopted

March 3, 2005 Agreement to completely revise Community Plan

April 7, 2005 Approved Community Plan Outline and Sections I, II, IV, and VIII

September 7, 2005 Community Plan Approved by Board

March 25, 2006 Planning Retreat

January 4, 2007 Funding Priorities Reaffirmed by Board

September 20, 2007 Reviewed during Board Orientation Retreat

January 10, 2008 Funding Priorities Reaffirmed by Board

July 10, 2008 Results of Community Needs Survey and Ad Hoc Committee recommendations to change Community Plan Priorities presented to Board

September 4, 2008 Revised Community Plan Approved by Board

December 4, 2008 Revised Community Plan Approved by Board