



Boone County Empowerment Area

“Every Child in Boone County Will Be Healthy and Successful”

Counties in Area: Boone County

Contact for Area: Julie Nash Coordinator,
Boone County Empowerment Area
900 W 3rd St
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515-433-4892
Fax: 515-432-2084
Email: jnash@dhs.state.ia.us

The Boone County Empowerment Area will strive to develop a seamless and integrated early childhood care and education system that promotes collaborative partnerships to leverage resources, is accessible to all and results in health and success for the children of Boone County.

Community Empowerment Area Identified Priorities:

Family Support and Parent Education

Pregnant and post partum women and their families receive outreach and screening and support services. All families with children 0-5 receive family support and parent education opportunities.

Quality Preschool

Children 3-5 have access to affordable and quality pre schools which provide safe environments and quality learning/development experiences

Quality Childcare

Children 0-5 have access to high quality, affordable early childhood environments.

Community Indicator(s)	
Rate of low birth weight	Children entering Kindergarten who have had a preschool experience
Women reporting use of drug, alcohol and or tobacco use during pregnancy	# Child care providers and spaces
Women receiving prenatal care	Preschools and Child Care centers participating in quality improvement initiatives
Teen birth rate	# Children screened for school readiness
Child Abuse rate	Child Poverty Rate

How we are collaborating to impact the priorities: The Boone County Empowerment Board has fully integrated the structure change of implementing the use of small work groups to address Board business. This structure has provided the opportunity for individuals from the board and the community advisory partners who have expertise in the area of early childhood to bring to the table a wealth of knowledge and work history serving families and children in Boone County.

One of the focuses for the Board has been to continue to develop these work groups that focus on quality initiatives around; 1) Family Support and Parent Education, 2) Child Care Provider Support and Professional Development, 3) Quality Preschool, and, 4) Board Processes/Functions. A Board member sits on, and co-chairs, at least one primary quality initiative work group. Several Board members also have made the commitment to sit on a second work group. An integral part of these work groups are the representatives from the services that have contracts with Empowerment as well as additional stakeholders who are considered Community Advisory members. The participation on the community advisory team is an open process. The tasks of the work groups are to assess specific priority issues and develop long-range, outcome-based strategies to impact the identified priorities and identify service gaps and best practice modalities. All proposals for services/programs must come through a work group to utilize Empowerment funding. These small groups also provide networking opportunities to share information within the private/non-profit sectors and a means to look for ways to blend resources.

Identify services/programs funded by Community Empowerment:

Early Childhood Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap Around Childcare • Preschool Scholarships • Preschool Support for the following School Districts: Ogden, Untied Community, SE Webster Grand • Child Care Provider Training and Networking • Administrative Support
School Ready Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Futures – Pre and Post Natal Care Project and Family Development and Home Visitation Project • Family Advocate for Families with Preschool aged children- • Building Blocks Preschool- 100% BCEA funded preschool classroom based on Head Start • Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators- TEACH scholarships • Early Childhood system development, service development and implementation planning, Board Administration, Coordination • Storks Nest • Boone Community CARES-
Quality Improvement Funds:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care Nurse Consultant • Early Childhood and Preschool Specialist • Quality Improvement and Incentive Program for Preschool and Childcare Providers

Building Blocks Preschool Program

Key Identified Need/Priority: A Quality Preschool Education Experience and full day care will be available for low income working families.

Measurable Goal: 95% of children will show an increase in preschool skills as shown on the Classroom Report.

Why is this important: The Boone County Empowerment Area believes that it is essential that children from all families have access to affordable, quality preschool programs. As was initiated with Governor Vilsack's Leadership Agenda that included continuous improvement of education, Boone County Empowerment is focused on supporting our local school districts as they prepare to apply for the state preschool funding. Three school districts within Boone County did apply for the state funding last year, one school district, Untied Community, did receive the grant funding. The goal of BCEA is to form partnerships with each school district in the county to offer guidance, support and resources to achieve the common goal of all children being ready to succeed in school. BCEA is committed to supporting the efforts of each school district as they develop their collaborative partnerships to meet this common vision.

Building Blocks Preschool is a model preschool program within Boone County. It was collaboratively developed through partnerships with the Boone County School District, Drake Head Start and Boone County Empowerment Board 7 years ago. Building Blocks is the only all day preschool program with wrap around childcare available within the county. Thus this program provides a very special opportunity within the community for children who come from at risk families who are in need of a quality all day program for their child.

State Result Linkage: Children Ready to Succeed in School Secure & Nurturing Child Care Environments

Key Community Indicator(s): **Building Blocks Preschool**

- o Children entering Kindergarten are assessed as school ready
- o Increase family support to address risk indicators of % of children with both parents working,
- o % of children living in single parent household w/ working parent and child poverty rate

Service, Product or Activity to impact the Key Need/Priority: **Building Blocks Preschool: To provide a comprehensive state licensed preschool experience for 18 children from low-income families in Boone County.**

Performance Measure(s) (Baseline and trend information)	FY2004	FY2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Provide a comprehensive state licensed preschool experience for 18 children from low income families in Boone County	18 children served	18 children served	18 children served	18 children served
95% of children will show an increase in preschool skills as shown on the IGDI (The Individual Growth and Developmental Indicator) given 3 times per year	96%	93%	94%	88%

Building Blocks Data:

School Day:

13 at-risk children with no previous preschool experience attended a 30/hr. per week preschool program. (4 children attended H.S. last year and 2 children attended private PS 5 hrs per week.)

Provided 166 student days

Assessment:

IGDI, checklists, observations, Get Ready to Read

Assessment Tool

On IGDI's: (3rd Admin.)

Alliteration 11=>50%

Blending 13=>50%

Rhyming 6=>50%

88% of students showed growth over time

Attendance

90.1% attendance rate

17 => 90%

7 > 95%

Parental Involvement:

- 97% attended conferences-2 Parent-Teacher Conf. 18 families-1 conference via phone
- 1 Family income increased to above 200% of poverty due to marriage.
- 397 Weekly Parent Child Activities were completed and Parent Surveys returned 65% (Children received 73 free books; 1 for every 5 activities completed)
- 90% of parent evaluations were positive
- 83% of parents indicate their child's interest in letters, letter sounds and reading has increased throughout the year

Additional Services:

Speech services for 3

18 vision screens—3 ref., 1

Quality Improvement Plan:

Completion of the nurse Consultant portion of the QRS is for a level 3 rating. In 2008.

Obtain a level 5 rating in the following two years.

