



Iowa was in the forefront of supporting parents in their most important role of raising the next generation of Iowans by appropriating state general funds for family support programming as early as 1988. Iowa is fortunate to have a continuum of programming available in every community by blending local, state and federal funds.

Definition of family support

“Family support programs” includes group-based parent education or home visiting programs that are designed to strengthen protective factors, including parenting skills, increasing parental knowledge of child development, and increasing family functioning and problem solving skills. A family support program may be used as an early intervention strategy to improve birth outcomes, parental knowledge, family economic success, the home learning environment, family and child involvement with others, and coordination with other community resources. A family support program may have a specific focus on preventing child maltreatment or ensuring children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school. All Iowa family support programs are offered voluntarily to parents. Parents are not required to participate.

The role of the Iowa Department of Public Health

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) serves as a point of coordination for family support in Iowa. IDPH has provided leadership for the Family Support Leadership Group since 2005. The purpose of the group is to plan, coordinate and deliver high-quality programming across the different models of family support. IDPH works closely with other state partners, private organizations and the federal government to achieve this mission. The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) and the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant provides valuable funding to IDPH to carry out this work.

Limitations

The following is information regarding all family support programs operating in Iowa that use a home visiting service delivery system. Information regarding programs that are not administered by IDPH was gathered by utilizing a variety of external sources. Funding amounts do not include local funds such as united way, donations, foundations, county or city funds that are utilized to fill gaps or expand services. Funding amounts also do not include Medicaid or private health insurance reimbursement for services. Some health serving organizations are able to bill health insurance for a postpartum home visit.

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV)	
Source of Funding	Health Resources Services Administration to IDPH to local contractors
Amount of Funding ¹	\$7,740,642

¹ Amount of funding represents all funding received and is not limited to funding only for the provision of home visiting services. These funds are also used for strengthening and expanding infrastructure building activities.



Geographic Area Served	Home visiting services limited to the following counties: Appanoose, Black Hawk, Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo, Clinton, Des Moines, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lee, Marshall, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Pottawattamie, Scott, Wapello, Webster and Woodbury.	
Target Population	At-risk families who are either prenatal or with a child age zero to age five or kindergarten entry.	
Brief Description	MIECHV provides funding to implement or expand evidence-based home visiting program models in communities that were identified as “at-risk” in a statewide needs assessment based on fifteen risk factors.	
Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success (HOPES) – Healthy Families Iowa		
Source of Funding	State appropriation to IDPH to local contractors	
Amount of Funding	\$734,841	
Geographic Area Served	Home visiting services limited to the following counties: Black Hawk, Buchanan, Clinton, Hamilton, Lee, Muscatine, Polk, Scott, Woodbury.	
Target Population	At-risk families who are either prenatal or with a child age zero to age three. Families must enroll before the child’s three month birthday. Risk status is determined by a standardized risk assessment.	
Brief Description	HOPES provides the Healthy Families America model to at-risk families. Families receive weekly home visits with services tapering off as the family makes progress and demonstrates their ability to remain stable. The primary mission of the program is to prevent child maltreatment by equipping parents with parenting skills and strengthening coping skills.	
Early Childhood Iowa-funded family support		
Source of Funding	State General fund appropriation to local Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) boards	
Amount of Funding ²	\$13,195,527 - FY’ 12 expended	\$13,817,678 - FY’ 13 budgeted
Geographic Area Served	All 99 counties	
Target Population	Families with children 0 – 5. A priority for home visiting programs is to serve families with risk factors such as low income, low educational attainment or a child with special needs.	
Brief Description	Each of the ECI boards makes funding decisions about how to best invest the funds that are awarded to the ECI Area. Iowa Code requires that 60% of the family support funds be invested in home visitation. Local ECI boards choose the program models that best meet the needs of the families in their community.	
Early Head Start (home-based model)		
Source of Funding	Federal funds appropriated directly to local organizations. The state does not have any oversight or administrative functions with this program. .	
Amount of Funding ³	\$6,513,385	
Geographic Area Served ⁴	Limited to the following counties: Allamakee, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Buena	

² Funding amount includes funds expended on group-based parent education programs. Data source: Iowa Department of Management, Early Childhood Iowa Office, November, 2012.

³ Amount of funding was provided by the home-based Early Head Start programs to IDPH, November 2012 and is based on FY’ 2013.

⁴ Service locations were provided by the home-based Early Head Start programs to IDPH, November 2012.



	Vista, Carroll, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Dallas, Decatur, Emmet, Fremont, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Linn, Marshall, Mills, Mitchell, Montgomery, Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Story, Tama, Webster, Woodbury and Wright.
Target Population	Prenatal mothers or families with a child up to age 3. Families must be at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.
Brief Description	The home-based Early Head Start program provides weekly home visitation to enrolled families. The home visitor provides comprehensive services to families. The <i>Head Start Program Performance Standards</i> identify the range of services that the program must arrange for or provide to enrolled families, including screening and ongoing assessment of child development; medical, dental, and mental health services; child development and education; and family partnerships that focus on setting goals and identifying the responsibilities, timetables, and strategies for achieving those goals.
Family Development and Self Sufficiency (FaDSS) program	
Source of Funding	State and Federal to the Iowa Department of Human Services to Department of Human Rights to local contractors
Amount of Funding ⁵	\$5,342,834 – FY'12
Geographic Area Served	All 99 counties
Target Population	Families receiving Family Investment Program (FIP) benefits that have multiple barriers to achieving self sufficiency
Brief Description	The FaDSS program provides two home visits per month to enrolled families. FaDSS provides services that promote, empower, and nurture families towards economic and emotional self-sufficiency. The foundation of FaDSS is regular home visits with families, using a strength-based approach. Core services include support, goal setting, and assessment.
Shared Visions Parent Support	
Source of Funding	State to Department of Education to local contractors
Amount of Funding ⁶	\$590,637
Geographic Area Served	Limited to the following counties: Clay, Des Moines, Dickinson, Emmet, Fayette, Kossuth, Linn, Muscatine, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Polk, Pottawattamie,
Target Population	At-risk families with children 0 – 3 at or below 130% of the federal poverty level.
Brief Description	Provides home visitation or group-based parent education to at risk parents.
Child Abuse Prevention Home Visiting	
Source of Funding	Federal to State to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa to local prevention councils
Amount of Funding ⁷	\$323,864

⁵ Amount of funding was located on the Iowa FaDSS website, www.iowafadss.org, downloaded on April 2013.

⁶ Amount of funding was provided by the Iowa Department of Education to IDPH, November 2012 and is based on FY' 2013 contracts.



Geographic Area Served ⁸	Programming available in the following counties: Adair, Cass, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Delaware, Dickinson, Emmet, Floyd, Fremont, Harrison, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Kossuth, Mills, Mitchell, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Palo Alto, Sac, Shelby, Union, Van Buren and Washington.
Target Population	Families with children 0 - 5
Brief Description	Prevention councils may provide financial support to group-based parent education or home visiting programs. Typically in Iowa these funds are used to blend with larger funding streams to increase the reach of programs already being funded such as ECI-funded family support programs.
Healthy Start	
Source of Funding	Health Resources Service Administration (federal) to local contractor
Amount of Funding	\$900,000
Geographic Area Served	Polk County
Target Population	Pregnant women living in at-risk neighborhoods
Brief Description	The Healthy Start program is an initiative mandated to reduce the rate of infant mortality and improve perinatal outcomes through grants to project areas with high annual rates of infant mortality. All Healthy Start projects provide the following core services: direct outreach and client recruitment, health education, case management, depression screening and referral, and interconceptional care services to for all participants.
Project LAUNCH – Nurse Family Partnership	
Source of Funding	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to IDPH to local contractor
Amount of Funding	\$222,232
Geographic Area Served	Zip codes within the city of Des Moines
Target Population	At-risk, first-time mothers. Must be enrolled prior to their 28 th week of pregnancy through the baby’s second birthday.
Brief Description	Partners a bachelor’s prepared registered nurse to work with new mothers in their home on child development, parenting, economic self-sufficiency and health. Services are voluntary.

⁷ Amount of funding was derived from Early Childhood Iowa annual reports, FY’ 12. This information was reported by the programs and was not verified by IDPH. This only includes funding for home visiting programs.

⁸ This information was derived from the Early Childhood Iowa annual reports, FY ’12. This information was reported by the programs and was not verified by IDPH. All funded programs had additional sources of financial support