

4 R Kids Program and Service Committee
Friday May 2, 2025
9:00 A.M.
By Zoom

Attendance

Nancy Hopkins, Nancy Krause, Wendy Sawyer, Colleen Strohmaier, and Debra Schrader were in attendance.

Housekeeping *(information)*

Overview of the grant renewal process was reviewed. Conflict of interest was discussed, there was no conflict of interest noted by committee members that would impact recommendations. Board member Hopkins will be the reporter for the board meeting May 15, 2025. Director Schrader will draft the minutes for the meeting.

FY25 3rd Quarter reports *(information)*

The committee reviewed the 3rd quarter reports. There were no major concerns with the reports. Also, a separate report on Thrive activities were reviewed.

- All contractors' quarterly reports were submitted timely, by April 15, 2025.
- There were 14 quarterly reports reviewed by the committee that represented multiple ECI service types.
- There is no follow-up needed with contracts.
- The majority of the programs appear to be on track or close to on track for benchmark targets except for one home visitation program.
- 61% of school ready funds have been expended; 68% of the early childhood funds have been expended; on target is 75%. There is no concern with rate of spending.
- 32% of federal ARPA funds have been expended on the Thrive initiative.
- Notes of interest include the following:
 - One family support program has a 90% home visitation completion rate.
 - 100% of family support programs enrolled new families that meet the 80% criteria set by the 4 R Kids board and all three family support programs meet the 75% state enrollment criteria.
 - One family support program has a waiting list due to language barriers.
- A copy of the 1st Quarter progress report is located at www.4rkids-eci.org.

FY25 Funding Plan *(recommendation)*

Due to the Iowa legislature not acting on the ECI bill, it was difficult to plan for FY26, so only a budget and benchmarks were requested on April 28th from contractors. Due to legislative constraints, there was no time for a competitive request for proposal process as in years past. Contractors were requested to build their budgets utilizing the same funding amounts that were awarded at the beginning of the 2025 fiscal year. The state ECI office provided draft allocations on May 1, 2025 utilizing a new formula that the state ECI board approved for implementation for FY26 ECI areas. The categorical funds have changed to; family support, discretionary, community collaboration and administration. The 4 R Kids ECI area will have an 8.45% reduction or \$104,310 reduction in funding compared to FY25; the FY26 draft allocation is \$1,130,362. ECI areas will no longer fund Child Care Resource & Referral services and Child Care Nurse Consultant Services, in FY25 this amount was a total of \$140,000. Additionally, the state ECI board is slated to take action June 6, 2025 regarding service types that are allowed to be funded. Professional development for child care providers is slated to be removed from the menu. If that happens the Quality Improvement Project may need to be modified.

The following are recommendations for FY26 programming pending FY25 carryover, state allocations, state program criteria, 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area board approval, Early Childhood Iowa office approval and Department of Health and Human Services approval.

FY26 Draft Funding Plan			
Agency	Program	Budget	Benchmarks
Short Years Partnership	Parents as Teachers	\$275,500 (\$30,000 ICAP)	1100 home visits 90 families 4.4 FTE staff
Lutheran Services in Iowa	Healthy Families America	\$176,031	720 home visits 46 families 2.75 FTE
Southwestern Community College	Parents as Teachers	\$114,711 (\$14,000 ICAP)	325 home visits 22 families 1.35 FTE
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Coordination	\$93,464	1 FTE staff
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Tuition Scholarships	\$138,330	100 children
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Transportation	\$2,650	5 children
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Dental Screenings	\$12,720	200 screenings
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Professional Development	\$5,512	25 preschool providers
Dallas County ISU Extension	Child Care Training	\$97,584	40 trainings 40 personal visits 1 FTE staff
Dallas County ISU Extension	Child Care Mini Grants	\$15,900	10 child care providers
Dallas County ISU Extension	Infant & Early Childhood Mental H	\$53,000	80 child care providers & home visitors
Dallas County ISU Extension	Child Care Stay Bonuses	\$28,977	4 child care centers
CIJDC	Fiscal Agent Fees	\$11,000	NA
CIJDC	Board Expenses	\$15,000	NA
CIJDC	ECI Director	\$112,738	1 FTE
CIJDC	ECI Director Expenses	\$17,300	NA

Additional Comments

- The FY26 budget has an estimated \$35,670 unallocated funding and it will be reserved to assist with needs as they arise during the year.
- A process will continue to be in place for contractors to request additional funds in the event there are emerging needs during the FY26 fiscal year.
- The funding plan may be in need of changes if the state ECI board eliminates certain service types.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.