




**Early Childhood Iowa Area Board
FY2025 Annual Report**



Early Childhood Iowa FY25 Annual Report Overview

Overview of the Early Childhood Iowa Initiative

Empowerment now called Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) was established in 1998. (ECI) is a statewide initiative housed within the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that unites public and private agencies, organizations, and stakeholders under one common vision, “Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.” Currently there are 34 ECI boards that serve all 99 counties in Iowa.

Early Childhood Iowa exists to help develop the capacity and commitment for using local, informed decision-making to achieve desired results for Iowa's youngest children and their families. Research has demonstrated, “the first three years of life are a critical period for the human brain’s development.” Furthermore, 90% of a human’s brain is developed in the first five years of their life.

Overview of Local Early Childhood Iowa Boards

HHS requires local ECI Area Boards to fund a menu of service types and to collect state program performance measures from programs, additionally local ECI Area Boards may also require local performance measures to be collected. Performance measures provide a way for local ECI boards to review and determine the level of service provided and assist with funding decisions. Local ECI boards set program performance measure targets for contractors and this data is utilized when evaluating inputs, outputs, and outcomes.

The 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area Board supports programming and service types that impact the following:

- Early learning environments such as preschool and child care services
- Family support services such as home visitation and child development activities
- Health services such as dental screenings and mental health consultation.
- Community planning and resource management

4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area Board

As of June 30, 2025, the following board members volunteer their time representing families with children under the age of five in Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County. Their dedication to early childhood is to be commended.

Catherine Gerdes	Christine LundyColleen Strohmaier	Debra Hansen
Jacob Gunn	Jessica Petter	Nancy Hopkins
Rita Martens	Shelley Flanery	Wendy Sawyer

Evaluating Results

The next several pages are the results of multiple contractors in the 4 R Kids ECI Area that provided multiple service types serving families with children under the age of 5 in Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County. This report includes the following:

- FY25 Executive Summary
- FY25 Snap Shot Report
- FY25 Detailed Family Support Data
- FY25 Success Stories
- FY25 Thrive Iowa Pilot Data
- FY25 Financial Accountability

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact Debra Schrader, 4 R Kids ECI Director at 4rkidseci@gmail.com or 641-344-2250 or visit www.4rkids-eci.org.



FY2025 Executive Summary

Contact for Area

Debra Schrader, Executive Director
1011 Pear Avenue
Prescott, Iowa 50859
Phone: 641-344-2250
Email: 4rkidseci@gmail.com
Website: www.4rkid-seci.org

Rita Martens
2114 120th Street
Winterset, Iowa 50273
Phone: 515-664-6005
Email: martens499@gmail.com

Service Area

Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County in Iowa

Vision Statement

“Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful”

Mission Statement

“Empower families and communities to enhance the quality of the lives of young children”

4 R Kids Board

The 4 R Kids ECI area Board consists of a range of board members from eight to twelve, of which they represent at a minimum, faith, human service, education, business, health, and consumer of service. Board members either live or work in Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County. The purpose of the local board is to be a central point of contact for early childhood, administer funds that have been entrusted to them and monitor programming for families with children under the age of 5.

Commitment to Results

The 4 R Kids ECI area Board is striving to achieve the following state result areas:

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

Priorities

The 4 R Kids ECI area board has the following priorities:

- Quality early childhood education settings (i.e., homes, centers, preschools)
- Health services (i.e., vision, dental, mental, medical)
- Family support and parent education
- Community resource management and planning

Funding

The Iowa legislature allocates state funds to the [Early Childhood Iowa](#) state board. The [Early Childhood Iowa](#) utilizes a funding formula to allocate funding to thirty-eight local Early Childhood Iowa Boards, of which the 4 R Kids ECI Board is one of the thirty-eight local Boards. In fiscal year 2025, the 4 R Kids ECI area board received \$1,234,673 for programming to serve children ages prenatal through age 5 and address priorities in the 4 R Kids ECI community plan.

At a Glance – In Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County there are:

12.7% of early learning providers with a IQ4K rating (June 30, 2025 [CCR&R](#))
82.8% of kindergarteners who had a preschool experience (Local School Districts Fall 2024)
76.5% of all parents working with children under the age of 6 (June 30, 2025 [CCR&R](#))
14,775 children ages 0-5 (Woods & Poole FY2023)

Want to learn more or get involved with early childhood in Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County?

Contact Debra Schrader, Executive Director

4rkidseci@gmail.com or www.4rkids-eci.org or <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/eci>

There are approximately 2000 days between birth and the first day of kindergarten.

The first 2000 days of a child's life can have a profound and lifelong impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed and ability to become a productive citizen.

FY2025 Partners and Performance	
Family Support	Partners and Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lutheran Services in Iowa – New Parent Program long term home visitation • Southwestern Community College – Parents as Teachers long term home visitation • Short Years Partnership – Parents as Teachers long term home visitation Performance Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 178 children received developmentally appropriate instruction • 129 families participated in family support and parent education opportunities • 1,743 personal home visits were conducted • 36% of families served were prenatal • 92% of families served had one or more risk factor (income, education, developmental delay) • 22% of families were Hispanic/Latino • 85% of families increased or maintained social supports • 96% of families improved or maintained healthy function, problem solving and communication
Quality Early Childhood Settings	Partners and Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallas County ISU Extension – Quality Improvement Project & Preschool Enrichment • Orchard Place Child Care Resource & Referral – Consultation & Support • Warren County Health Services – Child Care Nurse Consultant • Every Step – Child Care Nurse Consultant • MATURA – Child Care Nurse Consultant Performance Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 child care training activities were provided • 495 child care providers participated in professional development • 53 child care providers participated in quality improvement • 5 new child care home business were implemented • 40 child care providers received wage enhancements • 1,003 technical assistance contacts were provided by a child care consultant • 375 technical assistance contacts were provided to child care providers by child care nurse consultants • 88 children received preschool tuition assistance
Health Services	Partners and Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallas County ISU Extension – Coordination • Every Step – Dental Screenings • Dental Connection – Dental Screenings • Matura Action Corporation – Dental Screenings • Joyce Westphal – Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Performance Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 290 children received dental screenings • 17 home visitors and 76 child care providers received mental health consultation • 397 hours of infant and early childhood mental health consultation provided
Community Planning & Resource Management	4 R Kids Board Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 board members representing faith, consumer, human service, education, health, and business • 108 hours volunteer time in board meetings • 100% of board meetings met quorum • 100% of contracts were state and local compliant • Continues to meet all legislated responsibilities and maintained designation status • 275 community partners receive regular communication from the Board • 211 community meetings with 4 R Kids representation

4 R Kids ECI is Recipient of Funding From
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services



FY25 Year End Report Snapshot

The snapshot report is a condensed report of 68 pages of contractor inputs, outputs and outcomes.

New Parent Program (Long Term Home Visitation)	Lutheran Services in Iowa (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$120,752 ECI expended	14 Children served
\$4,433 Other funding expended	17 Families served
\$125,185 Total cost of program	235 Personal visits (7 Adair, 150 Dallas, 44 Madison, 34 Warren)
\$539 average cost per visit	76% Home visit completion rate
\$7,824 average cost per family	79% of age eligible children received a developmental screening
88% met ECI eligibility criteria	100% improve/maintain family functioning
82% newly enrolled met 4 R Kids eligibility criteria	69% increase/maintain social supports
29% served were Hispanic/Latino	77% connected to additional supports
47% were 1st time caregivers	54% improve nurturing & attachment
59% were enrolled prenatally	46% increase in knowledge about child development/parenting
83% of mothers screened for depression	0% of mothers screened positive for depression

Parents as Teachers (Long Term Home Visitation)	Short Years Partnership (Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$325,500 ECI expended	134 Children served
\$30,000 Other funding expended	90 Families served
\$355,500 Total cost of program	1,238 Personal visits (654 Dallas, 180 Madison, 404 Warren)
\$286 average cost per visit	84% Home visit completion rate
\$3,950 average cost per family	69% of age eligible children received a developmental screening
92% meet ECI eligibility criteria	96% improve/maintain family functioning
97% newly enrolled met 4 R Kids eligibility criteria	55% increase/maintain social supports
24% served were Hispanic/Latino	67% connected to additional supports
42% were 1st time caregivers	32% improve nurturing & attachment
34% were enrolled prenatally	38% increase in knowledge about child development/parenting
50% of mothers screened for depression	22% of mothers screened positive for depression

Parents as Teachers (Long Term Home Visitation)	Southwestern Community College (Adair County)
\$112,193 ECI expended	30 Children served
\$0 Other funding expended	22 Families served
\$112,193 Total cost of program	270 Personal visits
\$415 average cost per visit	92% Home visit completion rate
\$5,099 average cost per family	92% of age eligible children received a developmental screening
100% meet ECI eligibility criteria	94% improve/maintain family functioning
100% newly enrolled met 4 R Kids eligibility criteria	94% increase/maintain social supports
9% served were Hispanic/Latino	83% connected to additional supports
41% were 1st time caregivers	50% improve nurturing & attachment
27% were enrolled prenatally	61% increase in knowledge about child development/parenting
100% of mothers screened for depression	50% of mothers screened positive for depression

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	Dallas County ISU Extension (with subcontract) (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$63,044 ECI expended	93 Child care providers and family support workers served (10 Adair, 40 Dallas, 21 Madison, 22 Warren)
\$17,680 Other funding expended	24 Mental health trainings provided
\$80,724 Total cost of program	100% of staff that reported the consultant is knowledgeable about children's typical and atypical developmental progress
\$868 average cost per staff	100% increase in competence and self-competence in addressing children's social and emotional development

Professional Development (Child Care Provider Training)	Dallas County I.S.U. Extension (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$90,089 ECI expended	432 Participants in professional development activities (10 Adair, 270 Dallas, 0 Madison, 86 Warren, & 66 Other)
\$42,785 Other funding expended	45 Professional development trainings provided (0 Adair, 36 Dallas, 0 Madison, 8 Warren, 1 Online)
\$132,874 Total cost of program	87 Face to face contacts (personal visits) (21 Adair, 27 Dallas, 17 Madison, 22 Warren)
\$308 average cost per participant	Training provided by category 0% early learning 0% family support 0% special needs 100% health, mental health, nutrition

Early Care & Education Services (Child Care Stay Bonuses)	Dallas County I.S.U. Extension (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$53,379 ECI expended	4 Child care centers served (1 Adair, 1 Dallas, 1 Madison, 1 Warren)
\$0 Other funding expended	40 Child care staff that received retention bonuses (6 Adair, 9 Dallas, 15 Madison, 10 Warren)
\$53,379 Total cost of program	217 Children served (30 Adair, 42 Dallas, 82 Madison, 63 Warren)
\$1,334 average cost per participant	84% of child care business who increased or maintained enrollment

Quality Improvement (Child Care Provider Mini Grants)	Dallas County I.S.U. Extension (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$22,248 ECI expended	14 Early learning programs participated in quality improvement (0 non-registered, 3 DHS registered, 11 DHS licensed)
\$37,000 Other funding expended	14 Mini grants were provided (5 Adair, 4 Dallas, 4 Madison, 11 Warren)
\$59,248 Total cost of program	50% of programs increased or maintained the highest level in the IQ4K system
\$4,232 average cost per participant	

Quality Improvement (Cash Incentives to Attend ChildNet)	Orchard Place/CCRR (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$1,890 ECI expended	5 Early learning programs participated in quality improvement (1 Adair, 1 Dallas, 0 Madison, 3 Warren)
\$0 Other funding expended	4 Early learning programs achieved an IQ4K rating
\$1,890 Total cost of program	20% of programs increased or maintained the highest level in the IQ4K system
\$378 average cost per program	

Quality Improvement (IQ4K Cash Incentives)	Orchard Place/CCRR (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$4,200 ECI expended	8 Early Learning programs participated in quality improvement (1 Adair, 5 Dallas, 0 Madison, 2 Warren)
\$0 Other funding expended	2 Early learning programs achieved an IQ4K rating
\$4,200 Total cost of program	25% of programs increased or maintained the highest level in the IQ4K system
\$525 average cost per program	

Quality Improvement (CPR and First Aid Incentives)	Orchard Place/CCRR (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$14,175 ECI expended	26 Early Learning programs participated in quality improvement (1 non-registered, 6 HHS registered, 19 HHS licensed)
\$0 Other funding expended	180 child care staff served (6 Adair, 130 Dallas, 10 Madison, 34 Warren)
\$14,175 Total cost of program	27% of programs increased or maintained the highest level in the IQ4K system
\$545 average cost per provider	

Business Investment Plan (Child Care Provider Business Kits)	Orchard Place/CCRR (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$2,300 ECI expended	5 Home providers became registered (1 Adair, 3 Dallas, 0 Madison, 1 Warren)
\$0 Other funding expended	0 Home providers expanded their child care business
\$2,300 Total cost of program	100% of applications awarded a grant that were non-registered became registered
\$462 average cost per provider	100% of home providers received at least one incentive

Technical Assistance Consultation (Child Care Provider Support)	Orchard Place/CCRR (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$23,029 ECI expended	103 Child care programs served
\$89,240 Other funding expended	107 visits conducted (12 Adair, 71 Dallas, 8 Madison, 16 Warren)
\$112,269 Total cost of program	32% of programs have a 3 or higher in the IQ4K system
\$1,090 average cost per program	100% of the programs met the goals established for the service

Child Care Nurse Consultant (Nursing Visits)	Warren County Health Services (Madison & Warren County)
\$43,617 ECI expended	30 Early learning programs participating with nurse consultant
\$0 Other funding expended	36 Visits to early learning environments
\$43,617 Total cost of program	10 Trainings provided to early learning programs
\$1,453 average cost per program	100% of programs that improved health and safety conditions
\$660 average cost per technical assistance contact	86% of children with a special health care needs with a special needs care plan in place at the child care facility

Child Care Nurse Consultant (Nursing Visits)	Every Step (Dallas County)
\$27,205 ECI expended	37 Early learning programs participating with nurse consultant
\$0 Other funding expended	47 Visits to early learning environments
\$27,205 Total cost of program	6 Trainings provided to early learning programs
\$735 average cost per program	100% of programs that improved health and safety conditions
\$94.79 average cost per technical assistance contact	95% of children with a special health care needs with a special needs care plan in place at the child care facility

Child Care Nurse Consultant (Nursing Visits)	Matura (Adair County)
\$11,662 ECI expended	10 Early learning programs participating with nurse consultant
\$0 Other funding expended	19 Visits to early learning environments
\$11,662 Total cost of program	4 Trainings provided to early learning programs
\$1,166 average cost per program	100% of programs that improved health and safety conditions
\$530 average cost per technical assistance contact	100% of children with a special health care needs with a special needs care plan in place at the child care facility

Preschool Enrichment Project (Preschool Services Coordination)	Dallas County I.S.U. Extension (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$91,685 ECI expended	117 Scholarships processed; 88 scholarships awarded
\$0 Other funding expended	23 Preschools served
\$91,685 Total cost of program	75% of children applying for scholarship received it
\$783 average cost per scholarship processed	25% of children did not receive a scholarship <i>Reasons - over income, eligible for other programs, misc. reasons</i>

Early Learning Scholarships (Preschool Tuition Scholarships)	Dallas County I.S.U. Extension (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$98,618 ECI expended	88 Children served ages 3-5 (18 Adair, 29 Dallas, 10 Madison, 31 Warren)
\$0 Other funding expended	90% of children demonstrating age-appropriate skills
\$98,618 Total cost of program	76% of families were at or below 185% of poverty
\$1,120 average cost per child	6% of children were Hispanic/Latino
41% of families had a GED/high school diploma or less	35% of families were either single, partnered, separated, divorced, or widowed

Dental Screenings (Dental Screenings for Preschoolers)	Dallas County I.S.U. Extension (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County) (Subcontracts with Matura, Every Step and Dental Connection)
\$9,381 ECI expended	128 Children screened ages 3-5 (25 Adair, 52 Dallas, 22 Madison, 29 Warren)
\$1,238 Other funding expended	9 Preschools served (2 Adair, 3 Dallas, 2 Madison, 2 Warren)
\$10,619 Total cost of program	8% of children screened had demineralization
\$83 average cost per child	2% of children screened were identified at risk

Transportation (Transportation for Preschool Students)	Dallas County I.S.U. Extension (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$848 ECI expended	3 Children served ages 3-5 (Adair County only) 1 Preschool served
\$0 Other funding expended	102 days of transportation provided
\$848 Total cost of program	\$283 average cost per child

Professional Development (Professional Dev for Preschool Staff)	Dallas County I.S.U. Extension (Adair, Dallas, Madison, & Warren County)
\$7,075 ECI expended	63 preschool staff served with professional development activities (6 Adair, 41 Dallas, 4 Madison, 12 Warren)
\$0 Other funding expended	19 trainings provided
\$7,075 Total cost of program \$112 average cost per staff person	Training provided by category 53% early learning 0% family support 0% special needs 47% health, mental health, nutrition

ECI Director	4 R Kids ECI Area Board Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center
\$104,380 ECI expended salary/benefits	25 service type contracts/programs monitored
\$12,701 ECI expended on expenses	211 total meetings attended
\$7.92 average cost per child under the age of 5	34 hours of professional development
275 community partners receive regular communication	209 payment vouchers processed

Board Operations	4 R Kids ECI Area Board Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center
\$17,377 ECI expended	108 hours of volunteer time
11 Board members as of June 30th	100% (6 of 6) of ECI Area Board meetings meet quorum and adhere to Chapter 21 & 22 of Iowa Code
Piloted Thrive Iowa in Madsion and Warren County	4,606 Website hits 259 Facebook followers
Compliant with all 6 required representation slots	100% of contracts were state and local compliant
Member of the Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards and Advocates	Completed all requirements to continue to be designated and is in good standing with HHS and Early Childhood Iowa

FY25 Family Support Inputs/Outputs/Demographics

How Much Was Produced	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg Cost
# of children ages 0-5 (unduplicated)	134	30	14	178	\$3,330.78
# of families	90	22	17	129	\$4,595.96
# of home visits	1238	270	235	1743	\$340.15
Funding and Average Costs	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	
ECI funds expended	\$325,500.00	\$112,193.57	\$120,752.21	\$558,445.78	
Other funds expended (cash only, no in-kind)	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,433.00	\$34,433.00	
Total cost of program	\$355,500.00	\$112,193.57	\$125,185.21	\$592,878.78	
Average cost per child	\$2,652.99	\$3,739.79	\$8,941.80	\$3,330.78	
Average cost per family	\$3,950.00	\$5,099.71	\$7,363.84	\$4,595.96	
Average cost per visit	\$287.16	\$415.53	\$532.70	\$340.15	
Visit dosage per family (visits/families)	13.76	12.27	13.82	13.51	

Caregiver Age at Enrollment	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg %
12-17	2	0	2	4	3.1%
18-21	8	3	3	14	10.9%
22-24	12	5	1	18	14.0%
25-29	30	8	4	42	32.6%
30-39	29	5	3	37	28.7%
40-49	9	0	1	10	7.8%
50	0	1	1	2	1.6%
Invalid	0	0	2	2	1.6%
Total	90	22	17	129	100.0%

Childs Age at Enrollment	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg %
Prenatal	48	6	7	61	32.1%
Less than 1	38	11	6	55	28.9%
1	18	7	0	25	13.2%
2	19	2	0	21	11.1%
3	12	4	0	16	8.4%
4	9	1	1	11	5.8%
5	0	1	0	1	0.5%
Totals	144	32	14	190	100.0%

Caregiver Giver Race	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg %
Multiracial	1	0	0	1	0.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other	1	0	0	1	0.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Asian	1	0	0	1	0.8%
Black or African American	2	0	2	4	3.1%
White	85	22	15	122	94.6%
Total	90	22	17	129	100.0%

Caregiver Ethnicity	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg %
Hispanic/Latino	22	2	5	29	22.5%
Not Hispanic/Latino	68	20	12	100	77.5%
Total	90	22	17	129	100.0%

Caregiver Martial Status	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg %
Married	51	6	6	63	48.8%
Partnered	9	11	2	22	17.1%
Single	27	3	8	38	29.5%
Divorced	1	0	1	2	1.6%
Separated	2	0	0	2	1.6%
Widowed	0	2	0	2	1.6%
Total	90	22	17	129	100.0%

Primary Language Spoken in the Home	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg %
Chin	0	0	0	0	0
English	53	22	12	87	67.4%
Spanish	18	0	4	22	17.1%
Burmese	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Karen	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Kareni	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Arabic	17	0	0	17	13.2%
Other	2	0	1	3	2.3%
Total	90	22	17	129	100.0%

Caregiver Education	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg %
Middle school or lower	10	1	3	14	10.9%
Some high school	13	2	3	18	14.0%
GED or high school	34	14	5	53	41.1%
Trade or vocational training	2	1	0	3	2.3%
Some college	10	2	2	14	10.9%
2-year degree (Associate's)	4	2	1	7	5.4%
4-year degree (Bachelor's)	16	0	1	17	13.2%
Masters Degree or higher	1	0	0	1	0.8%
Missing	0	0	2	2	1.6%
Total	90	22	17	129	100.0%

Household Size at Enrollment	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg %
1	0	0	1	1	1%
2	14	7	3	24	19%
3	28	6	4	38	29%
4	18	5	5	28	22%
5	20	2	3	25	19%
6	4	2	0	6	5%
7 and up	6	0	1	7	5%
Total	90	22	17	129	100%

Federal Poverty Level	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals	Avg %
125% or lower	62	14	13	89	69%
126%-185%	12	8	1	21	16%
186%-200%	2	0	1	3	2%
201% or higher	14	0	0	14	11%
Missing	0	0	2	2	2%
Total	90	22	17	129	100%

FY25 Family Support Additional Information

State ECI Eligibility Criteria (75% or more)	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals
# of families that meet one or more the eligibility criteria	83	22	14	119
# of families enrolled during the fiscal year	90	22	17	129
Percent	92.2%	100.0%	82.4%	92%

Prenatal	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals
# of caregivers enrolled prenatally	31	6	10	47
# of caregivers served	90	22	17	129
Percent	34.4%	27.3%	58.8%	36.4%

Incarceration	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals
# of caregivers incarcerated	3	0	1	4
# of caregivers served	90	22	17	129
Percent	3.3%	0.0%	5.9%	3%

1st Time Caregivers	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals
# of first time caregivers at enrollment	38	9	8	55
# of caregivers	90	22	17	129
Percent	42.2%	40.9%	47.1%	42.6%

Screened for Early Post Partum Depression	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals
# of caregivers screened with EPDS	18	6	5	29
# of caregivers with a child two years old or younger	36	6	6	48
Percent	50.0%	100.0%	83.3%	60%

Positive Depression Screening	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals
# of caregivers with positive depression screens	4	3	0	7
# of all caregivers screened using EPDS	18	6	5	29
Percent	22.2%	50.0%	0.0%	24%

Children who are age eligible for ASQ-3 screening	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals
# of children screened	79	22	11	112
# of total children age eligible	114	24	14	152
Percent	69.3%	91.7%	78.6%	74%

Children who are screened positive	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals
# of children screened	30	3	2	35
# of total children age eligible	79	22	11	112
Percent	38.0%	13.6%	18.2%	31%

4 R Kids ECI Eligibility Criteria (80% or more)	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals
# of families that meet one or more the 80% eligibility criteria this year	35	22	14	71
# of families enrolled during the fiscal year	36	22	17	75
Percent	97.2%	100.0%	82.4%	95%

FY25 Family Support Outcomes

Participating families that improve or maintain healthy function, problem solving and communication	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals & Avg
Numerator	69	17	13	99
Denominator	72	18	13	103
Percentage	95.8%	94.4%	100.0%	96.1%

Participating families that increase or maintain social supports	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals & Avg
Numerator	61	17	9	87
Denominator	72	18	13	103
Percentage	84.7%	94.4%	69.2%	84.5%

Participating families that are connected to additional concrete supports	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals & Avg
Numerator	48	15	10	73
Denominator	72	18	13	103
Percentage	66.7%	83.3%	76.9%	70.9%

Participating families that improve nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and child(ren)	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals & Avg
Numerator	23	9	7	39
Denominator	71	9	13	93
Percentage	32.4%	100.0%	53.8%	41.9%

Participating families that increase knowledge about child development and parenting (LSP item 7)	Short Y	SWCC	LSI	Totals & Avg
Numerator	27	11	6	44
Denominator	71	18	13	102
Percentage	38.0%	61.1%	46.2%	43.1%

FY25 Success Stories From Contractors Annual Reports

Short Years Partnership – Parents as Teachers

I have been working with a transgender parent for a little over a year. When he enrolled, he made the comment that he didn't go out much, or try to connect with others, stating "I just don't know where I will be welcomed." He also has several sensory issues, so he can struggle with places that are too loud or stimulating. In April, he and his family drove over 30 minutes to attend our PAT 30th Anniversary party. This was a huge step for him. It showed us that he feels safe in our program, and that he trusted that he would feel welcomed and accepted even in the room full of strangers. He was also willing to try to overcome his sensory issues to participate in the party and interact with others. For some of our families, coming to an event like this would be no big deal. But for this particular parent, it was a huge accomplishment. We have also learned over the course of his time in PAT that he was in an abusive relationship. He felt unable to leave the relationship with his child, when the partner took the baby's car seat. We were able to connect the family with a car seat, so he has been able to make strides in leaving this relationship and gaining healthy independence for him and his child.

Southwestern Community College – Parents as Teachers

Sadly, May brought the Anniversary of the Greenfield Tornado. The community has seen amazing progress in rebuilding including one of my families that just moved into their new home in May. Families continue their journey of healing and I continue my efforts to support them in this process sometimes just be there with them needing to talk. The community continues to offer mental health services and has expanded services. Great news to have recently signed a new prenatal family who are excited and nervous. I look forward to being there to provide them needed support and education. We look to be signing another new prenatal family tomorrow! One family that I have been encouraging for months to utilize mental health counseling with the provided resources given to me by our wonderful mental health consultant Joyce reported that they made that call in May and has now started receiving mental health services especially play based services for them and their child.

Lutheran Services in Iowa - New Parent Program

FSS was encouraging a family to eat dinners together because the parents would eat separate from the kids but Mom wanted to work on successful meal times. FSS was able to secure her a dining room table so they can now have dinners together. Dad was hesitant but with encouragement from FSS and Mom they are now all eating at the table every night together

Warren County Health Services – Child Care Nurse Consultant

Programs applying for an IQ4K Level 2 or higher must complete the Healthy Child Care Iowa Medication Administration Skills Competency course. As of 6/30/25, 16 licensed centers and/or preschools and 5 child development homes have providers or staff that have successfully completed that training. In FY2025, I completed 26 initial skills test-outs and 8 skills re-assessments. The transition from QRS to IQ4K also brought a new assessment, the Health and Safety Checklist. Since its introduction in Spring of 2022, 4 programs in this service area have completed two checklists. This assessment is required for programs applying for IQ4K Level 3 or higher. For those seeking to obtain a level 4, they must score a minimum of 2.5/4 on the checklist. All programs that have completed a second Health and Safety Checklist this fiscal year have exceeded that minimum score requirement.

Every Step – Child Care Nurse Consultant

Recently, a daycare provider in Dallas County was faced with a challenging situation when a newly enrolled child required a feeding tube. The provider, who had never cared for a child with special health needs before, felt overwhelmed, stressed, and uncertain about her ability to continue caring for the child. Meanwhile, the child's parent had no alternative childcare options available.

Feeling distressed, the provider reached out to the Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) for help. The CCNC offered emotional support, encouragement, and guidance. She coordinated with the child's family, pediatrician, and the provider to develop a care plan that would allow the child to remain enrolled in the daycare.

A meeting was arranged for the child's mother to educate the provider on how to safely and effectively care for a child with a feeding tube. The CCNC registered nurse facilitated this collaboration, providing essential training and support to the provider, ensuring the child's health needs could be met and their enrollment maintained.

MATURA – Child Care Nurse Consultant

I was able to get into a new registered provider in Fontanelle. Providers in Adair county- especially registered, so I am very excited to work with her.

Child Care Resource & Referral – Business Investment Plan

Nicole Lindberg recently opened a newly registered Child Development Home in Fontanelle and was awarded the BIP grant. She used the funding to make substantial safety improvements to her previously unregistered home, which enabled her to successfully pass the pre-inspection process.

Child Care Resource & Referral – IQ4K Incentives

A Child Development Home in Waukee received the IQ4K Continuous Quality Improvement grant. With the support of the grant, she updated her parent policies to include several best practices she was already implementing. These revisions helped communicate the high quality of care she provides to families.

Dallas County ISU Extension – Quality Improvement Project/Child Care Training

The providers were very appreciative of attending classes for "free" and being able to receive supplies such as gloves, first aid kit items for their program. I have been able to meet with a couple in home providers that appreciate having someone to talk to about personal and professional areas. I have been able to have a rapport with providers and they have reached out just to talk or ask for a visit. I feel that having another resource just to vent and to talk through stuff provides them another avenue for better mental health self-care. Having an open ear and being a non-judgmental resource for providers helps me to foster relationships with them.

Dallas County ISU Extension – Child Care Wage Enhancements

In the state of Iowa, child care centers are faced with the universal challenge of retaining dedicated staff in an industry known for its modest compensation. Recognizing the critical role our teachers here at 100 Acre Woods play in shaping young lives, I was very excited when Val Carmeron came to me with the opportunity to implement quarterly retention bonuses. This initiative aimed not only to supplement the teachers' income but also to acknowledge their unwavering commitment.

Dallas County ISU Extension – Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

The class was very informative and provided us with a great new way of viewing our classrooms and identifying what our kiddos are feeling in the moment. The class was interactive and created a collaborative space for discussion and problem solving within the program and with Joyce. Joyce has remained a resource for us by offering consulting and even coming to our programs to observe and problem solve with staff. I would recommend the Circle of Security classes to everyone! Another center director added: "It is beneficial that we as a team have the same verbiage and can understand and relate to one another."

Dallas County ISU Extension – Child Care Mini Grants

"Specifically, we invested in new manipulative toys that promote fine motor development, problem-solving, and early STEM skills. These hands-on materials support both independent exploration and collaborative play, which are key to the social-emotional and cognitive growth of young children. Additionally, the grant enabled us to supplement our summer program with engaging new toys that kept children active, curious, and excited to learn throughout the season. The updated materials have not only refreshed our classrooms but have also reignited the joy and wonder of play-based learning for our students."

Dallas County ISU Extension – Preschool Coordination

We had a family whose grandpa was paying for preschool until the child turned 3 and was able to qualify for the scholarship which allowed his single mom to afford to pay it herself (improving her self-sufficiency). The child had

previous received speech services through Early Access, but by being in a high-quality program with his peers his speech improved so that once he aged of Early Access he did not qualify for an IEP. He will be returning in the fall and are relieved funding will be available.

Dallas County ISU Extension – Preschool Dental Screenings

Implementing the new oral health program presented several challenges, particularly around administrative processes and communication with families. One ongoing issue involved the distribution and return of permission slips, which proved difficult despite efforts to ensure broad participation. Since the I-Smile program does not bill for services, some parents were hesitant to provide personal information, expressing reluctance even when services were free. Additionally, some children had recently visited a dentist, leading families to question the need for further screenings. The transition from the I-Smile program to Dental Connections also created uncertainty, both for families accustomed to the previous structure and for staff adjusting to new protocols. The unfamiliarity of the program and its procedures could feel intimidating to parents, potentially affecting engagement and trust. These challenges highlight the importance of clear communication, reassurance about privacy, and continued outreach to build confidence in the program's benefits.

The program experienced several meaningful successes in its first year. The interactive, child-centered approach has proven effective in capturing preschoolers' attention and enthusiasm. Tools like the Pikachu stuffed animal, engaging visuals, and hands-on demonstrations made learning fun and memorable, fostering excitement around dental care. Many children were eager to participate, asked thoughtful questions, and showed a genuine interest in brushing and healthy eating. Importantly, 51 high-risk students returned signed permission slips consenting to receive services and were successfully screened, marking a strong start for the new program. The screenings provided a valuable opportunity to identify dental needs early. Teachers and staff provided support, helping to integrate oral health into the broader learning environment. Most importantly, children left the sessions feeling proud and empowered—with new toothbrushes in hand and a better understanding of how to care for their teeth. These successes demonstrate the value of early intervention and education in establishing lifelong healthy habits.

Dallas County ISU Extension – Preschool Transportation Scholarship

Single mother living in apartment with no car and license had been revoked so no way to get child to preschool. With the help of the scholarship and transportation help, trolley could pick up so this child could attend preschool. We also worked with mom and helped connect her to resources in the community. Mom was not always so good at making sure child was ready for the trolley to pick up so by making contact with her by texting and visiting with we had better attendance most months.

Dallas County ISU Extension – Preschool Scholarships

One of our scholarship students had recently joined with his mother after some time in foster care. She had a supportive child care home but wanted him also to go to preschool. She could not get a spot in the state-funded preschool due to the late custody arrangements. Our registration fee and materials fee were going to be a barrier so reached out to local foundation that covered the costs. The child started year with peers and had great attendance. We offered support to mom throughout journey and she was an outstanding preschool parent. He will graduate from preschool with his mom watching.

Dallas County ISU Extension – Professional Development for Preschool Staff

Professional development funds allowed entire team to attend the IAEYC Spring Institute. This opportunity gave our team time to reflect and focus on the school year. We were able to team build and network with others which is hard to fit into a normal day with staffing issues. We were very grateful to receive this funding.



Early Childhood Iowa Area Board
FY25 Thrive Iowa Pilot Report
Data for November 2025 through June 2026

Overview of Thrive Iowa Pilot Program

The Thrive Iowa Pilot Program made a transformative impact in Madison and Warren County in overcoming barriers to healthcare, housing, and basic needs. In addition to connecting families with vital medical resources, the program has played a crucial role in helping individuals secure stable housing, manage utilities, and access food assistance. By offering guidance and resources, it has empowered families to stay in their homes, provide for their children, and break the cycle of financial hardship. The program's holistic approach has not only improved health outcomes but also helped prevent homelessness and protected individuals from abusive situations. Through personalized support, the Thrive Iowa Pilot Program has given families the opportunity to thrive and build a stronger, more secure future. While the Thrive Iowa Pilot Program was funded for only for 8 months, the below results are impressive for such a short timeframe.

Thrive Iowa Navigation Services <i>(Connects Iowans to resources including concrete goods and direct access to programs)</i>					
Agency	# of unduplicated households served	# of households that have an increased awareness of concrete supports	% of households served with children under age 6	% of households under 200% of FPL	ARPA funding expended
Warren County Health Services	139	93%	60%	100%	\$49,687.09
CRISP	140	100%	56%	88%	\$61,149.69
Totals and Averages	279	96%	58%	92%	\$110,836.78

Success Stories of Thrive Iowa Navigation Services

Preventing Eviction

The Thrive Navigator was contacted by a community partner regarding a new urgent case. The community partner explained that a local family had reached out in crisis—they were facing eviction within the week due to non-payment, and there were two small children in the home. The Thrive Navigator immediately took the client's information and coordinated with the community partner, sharing when they would reach out to the family that same afternoon. The Thrive Navigator also advised that the landlord be informed of the referral to Thrive Iowa Navigation, leveraging the landlord's prior positive experience with the program to help pause eviction proceedings. Given the urgency, the Thrive Navigator completed the intake process over the phone to accelerate support, working with partners sharing resources and preventing the family from becoming homeless.

Increasing Self-Sufficiency

There was a client have a client that has been working with the Thrive Navigator services for several months and in that time she has been through a divorce, lived with family/friends with her infant child, found her own housing and moved in, found employment and maintained employment, worked on her budgeting, registered for school, completed her EMT classes and is scheduled to test in the middle of July 2025 to reach one of her goals of becoming an EMT. With the support and guidance of the Thrive Navigator she has consistently moved forward. Through Thrive funding and blending of other community funding sources, the client was able to alleviate some financial burdens which has allowed a young single mom to continue her education and work towards her long-term goals of self-sufficiency. Due to the assistance she

received from the Thrive Navigator, she will be able to earn an EMT salary which will make her self-sufficient and will not have needs for future financial/state assistance.

Thrive Iowa Community-Based Supportive Housing <i>(Maximum of housing assistance allowable \$1,200 per household per fiscal year)</i>					
Agency	# of unduplicated households served	% of households that received support to avoid eviction	% of children served under age 6	% of households under 200% of FPL	ARPA funding expended
Warren County Health Services	86	100%	46%	100%	\$69,194.08
CRISP	50	48%	38%	100%	\$24,443.45
Totals and Averages	136	81%	43%	100%	\$93,637.53

Success Stories of Thrive Iowa Community-Based Supportive Housing Services

Averting Crisis

When the family first connected with the Thrive Navigation team, they were facing a crisis. Recently laid off from work, the parents were struggling to keep up with rent and utilities while raising their three young children, all under the age of five. With only General Assistance benefits to rely on, the family was on the verge of eviction and unsure of where to turn next. The Thrive Navigator quickly stepped in to assess the family's needs, listen to their concerns, and coordinate a path forward. The Thrive Navigator worked closely with General Assistance to secure supplemental housing assistance. Through Thrive funding in addition to the General Relief funding, they were able to bridge the gap between the cost of their rent allowed the family to remain in their home.

Preventing Foreclosure

The Thrive Navigator assisted a single mom struggling to pay her mortgage. The client was behind in mortgage payments due to being offered fewer summer hours, but was working on maintaining payments until an injury occurred at work. The client was out of work for several weeks putting the client further behind in paying the mortgage. The bank sent a letter stating they would proceed with foreclosure unless delinquent payments were caught up. The client first approached her church for guidance and assistance who then contacted the Thrive Navigator. The client, the Thrive Navigator and the church pastor met to discuss options and a plan for the client to get back on track. Thrive Iowa, two community churches and the client all paid a portion to assist with the mortgage payment, which prevented the client from going into foreclosure proceedings. The client was released to go back to work from the recent work injury and is now able to maintain future payments. To prevent future housing challenges, the client worked with community partners to create a budget and develop an emergency fund. By assisting the client, it prevented her and her family from home foreclosure and her family becoming homeless. The client has needed no further assistance from the Thrive Navigator and is able to maintain self-sufficiency with this one-time support.

Thrive Iowa Essential Needs <i>(Provides for concrete goods such as diapers, wipes, food, utilities, etc.)</i>					
Agency	# of unduplicated household served	% of households that have increased awareness of additional supports	% of households with children under age 6	% of households under 200% of FPL	ARPA funding expended
Warren County Health Services	27	100%	100%	100%	\$5,345.05
CRISP	126	100%	50%	77%	\$23,676.20
Totals and Averages	153	100%	59%	81%	\$29,021.25

Success Stories of Thrive Iowa Essential Needs Services

Restored Stability

After a self-referral to the Thrive Navigation program, a determined parent reached out for help during a difficult transition. Following a workplace injury that ended an 18-year career in a physically demanding field, the client found themselves navigating a new reality, a limited mobility, a loss of stable income, and the challenge of supporting two children while managing a household. Despite these obstacles, the client remained proactive and resilient, taking on part-time and side work whenever possible to keep their family afloat. Recognizing the urgent need for support, the Thrive Navigator worked alongside the client to identify gaps in daily living and quickly mobilized resources to meet them. Through Thrive Navigation, the family received funding for essential household needs, including cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products for adults and teens, and feminine care items. These supports helped reduce financial stress, restored a sense of stability in the home, and allowed the client to focus on both recovery and caregiving.

Ensuring Health and Safety

The Thrive Navigator assisted a client with a medical device to help detect her then 16-year-old son's seizures. The device alerts up to three caregivers if he has fallen or if he has a seizure. It can also tell by elevated heart rate or drastic moving or shaking of arms, symptoms of the seizure. It will also show his location so help can be dispatched if needed and tracks seizure activity. The Thrive Navigator worked with the client to get doctor's appointments and orders recommending a medical device. The client did not have extra money in the budget to pay for the medical device so Thrive funding was utilized. The client has budgeted for the monthly subscription fee. This device has helped give her family piece of mind in being able to respond to her child's seizures promptly to ensure his health and safety.

Examples of Essential Needs To Assist Families

Utilities expenses (i.e. electricity, gas, water etc)
 Cleaning supplies
 Feminine hygiene
 Phone expenses
 Diapering supplies
 Car repairs
 Transportation
 School supplies
 Medical supplies

