

**4 R Kids Program and Service Committee**  
**Friday May 1,206**  
**9:30 A.M.**  
**By Zoom**

**Attendance**

Jovanka Westbrook, Jess Petter, Ricki Hall, Nancy Krause, Wendy Sawyer, and Debra Schrader were in attendance.

**Housekeeping** (*information*)

Overview of the grant application process was reviewed. Conflict of interest was discussed; while there was former staff from two agencies, it was noted this would not impact their recommendations to the Board. Board member Jovanka Westbrook will be the reporter for the board meeting May 21, 2026. Director Schrader will draft the minutes for the meeting.

**FY26 3rd Quarter reports** (*information*)

The committee reviewed the 3rd quarter reports. There were no major concerns with the reports.

- All contractors' quarterly reports were submitted timely, by April 15, 2026.
- 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 and they are on a corrective action plan.
- 63% of early childhood Iowa funds have been expended; on target is 75%. There is no concern with rate of spending.
- 100% of federal ARPA funds have been expended on the Thrive initiative.
- Notes of interest include the following:
  - HHS has failed to have the DAISEY data system fully operational for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter therefore no demographic, output or outcome data was available. This is not a reflection on the home visitation contractors, but a reflection on the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.
  - 100% of family support programs enrolled new families that meet the 80% criteria set by the 4 R Kids board, additionally all three family support programs meet the 75% state enrollment criteria.
  - One family support program has a waiting list for Dallas, Madison, and Warren County.
- A copy of the 1st Quarter progress report is located at [www.4rkids-eci.org](http://www.4rkids-eci.org).

**FY27 Funding Plan** (*recommendation*)

A FY27 competitive grant application was offered, with the possibility of 2 additional years for renewal, and was located on the 4RKids ECI website as well as an announcement that was sent out to more than 300 stakeholders through the social media platform, Constant Contact.

The state ECI office provided draft allocations on April 15, 2026 utilizing the same amount of funding that ECI areas received the previous year. Categorical funds changed to; home visitation, discretionary and administration. The FY27 draft allocation total is \$1,132,027.96 and FY26 carryover is estimated to be \$116,511.91.

The following are recommendations for FY27 programming pending FY26 carryover, state allocations, 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area board approval and Department of Health and Human Services approval.

<b>FY27 Funding Plan Recommendations</b>			
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Benchmarks</b>
Short Years Partnership	Parents as Teachers	\$315,000	1,440 home visits 60 families 5.25 FTE staff
Lutheran Services in Iowa	Healthy Families America	\$202,459	535 home visits 35 families 2.775 FTE
Southwestern Community College	Parents as Teachers	\$119,226.19	300 home visits 22 families 1.35 FTE
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Coordination	\$96,513	1 FTE staff
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Tuition Scholarships	\$134,400	100 children
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Transportation	\$2,625	5 children
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Dental Screenings	\$12,600	100 screenings
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Professional Development	\$3,675	10 preschool providers
Dallas County ISU Extension	Child Care Training	\$89,328	30 trainings 40 personal visits .70 FTE staff
Dallas County ISU Extension	Child Care Mini Grants	\$15,750	10 child care providers
Dallas County ISU Extension	Infant & Early Childhood Mental H	\$52,500	80 child care providers & home visitors
Dallas County ISU Extension	Literacy	\$25,200	40 children and 30 families
CIJDC	Fiscal Agent, Record of Employer Fees	\$15,000	NA
CIJDC	Board Expenses	\$15,000	NA
CIJDC	ECI Director	\$116,963.68	1 FTE
CIJDC	ECI Director Expenses	\$17,300	NA
CIJDC	ECI Director Transition	\$15,000	

**Additional Comments**

- Depending on the outcome of the Iowa legislature, the ECI director may retire during the fiscal year and a staff transition plan will be implemented.
- There were five applications submitted all of which had previously received 4 R Kids ECI funding in FY26.
- Of the five applications received, one application was late and had multiple budget errors.
- Award notices are to include the following reminder “grant funding is to be utilized for direct service of funded ECI programs”.
- Award notice to Short Years Partnership is to be provided to the chairperson of the Short Years Partnership board as well as the agency director.
- Lutheran Services of Iowa will continue with the corrective action plan and move to bi-weekly updates in FY27.
- A process will continue to be in place for contractors to request additional funds after the FY26 financials have been closed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.