

Early Childhood Advisory Council

Draft Goals

Goal 1: Conduct a needs assessment of comprehensive early care, health, and education programs and services

Objective 1: Provide leadership for the development of a comprehensive needs assessment for the early childhood system by June 2010.

Activities:

- Provide a mechanism for state and local level partners to complete a needs assessment on the quality and availability of early childhood programs.
- Provide recommendations on local funding categories and state funds related to early childhood based on the gaps and needs identified in the assessment.

Objective 2: Explore the need for a comprehensive workforce study for early care, health and education professionals By May 2010.

Activities:

- Analyze the data collected from the 2009 Early Care and Education workforce study and provide recommendations.
- Develop a comprehensive workforce study that would include health, mental health, family support and early childhood education.

Feedback:

What else needs to be included:

GOAL 2: Establish a unified data collection system that provides data measures related to the five result areas in the ECI Strategic Plan

Objective 1: Convene the ECI Results Accountability component group members and other data experts to identify needed data elements by May 2010.

Activities:

- Analyze the data collected from the ECI Results Accountability component group on current data measures and emerging issues.
- Explore data measures collect by other state for early childhood system.

Objective 2: Host ECI regional meetings to focus on results accountability and data measures by August 2010.

Activities:

- Convene partners to agree on a common data set for each result area.

Objective 3: Coordinate new data collection with existing data collection activities

Activities:

- Work with the state agencies (DE, DPH, DHS, DHR, IWD, DED, DOM) to collaborate and coordinate early childhood data systems.

Feedback:

What else needs to be included:

Goal 3- Fully implement Early Childhood Iowa’s Professional Development framework.

Objective 1: The ECI Council through the Professional Development steering committee will provide leadership to ensure the Professional Development Framework, modeled after NAEYC’s Blueprint, is adopted by December 2009 and fully implemented by 2011.

Activities:

- The PD steering committee will work with the ECI Council and state agency director, and other partners to prioritize and implement strategies, infusing goals and objectives of the framework into department and organization goals and budgets.
- Develop PD communication plan.

Objective 2: Four workgroups representing the professional development needs of the four sectors (early learning, early intervention/special needs, health, mental health and nutrition and family support) will adopt and implement strategies to provide an integrated, comprehensive network of professional development by December 2010.

Activities:

- Adopt and implement competencies and levels for the workforce roles within each sector, using state and/or nationally recognized professional development standards when appropriate.
- Link adopted professional development competencies to state regulation, standards and into systems such as teacher licensure.
- Design and implement credentials, certifications and pathways to support the career advancement of all sectors of our workforce.
- Provide scholarship support to the workforce as they move ahead on a professional development ladder.
- Design career pathway policies that are aligned with job opportunities that reward investments in profession advancement with appropriate compensation.

Objective 3: Survey and support the system’s capacity to support the professional development needs of all sectors of the workforce by May 2011.

Activities:

- Support and expand the capacity of IHEs to support the early care, health and education workforce.
- Develop strategies to promote articulation agreements among community colleges and IHE, including promotion of national accreditation of Iowa’s colleges with early childhood programs by NAEYC and/or NCATE.
- Review, and as needed, update the Iowa Early Learning Standards, taking into consideration the new framework, the adopted teacher level and competencies, and updates in state/national standards.
- Implement standards for trainers and curriculum.

Goal 4: Facilitate the development or enhancement of high quality early childhood programs to improve school readiness in Iowa.

Objective 1: Strengthen leadership, collaboration and coordination of state agencies and early childhood partners to improve the quality of state and local level programs through the memorandum of agreements by May 2010.

- Make additions to the current MOAs for improved collaboration and coordination.

Objective 2: Implement the diversity advisory council workplan that will include strategies to improve the quality of early childhood programs by June 2011.

- Continue to provide support for the Diversity Advisory Council.
- Implement the diversity workplan with state agencies and private organizations.

Feedback:

What else needs to be included:

Early Childhood Advisory Council Guidance

Required Components to be addressed in application

- Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment on the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services from birth to school entry.
- Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination.
- Develop recommendations on increasing participation in child care and early education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations.
- Develop recommendations on the development of a unified data collection systems for public early childhood and development programs and services.
- Develop recommendations on statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood education.
- Assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutes of higher education supporting the development of early childhood educators.
- Make recommendations on improvements in state early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate.
- Facilitate the development or enhancement of high quality systems of early childhood education and care designed to improve school readiness through one or more of the following activities:
 - Promote school preparedness of children from birth through school entry.
 - Supporting professional development, recruitment, and retention initiatives for early childhood educators.
 - Enhancing existing early childhood education and development programs and services.
 - Carrying out other activities consistent with the State's plan and application.