

Community Empowerment Lean Design
Rationale for Redefining Community Empowerment Boundaries
Local Structures Workgroup – September 2009

Based on input received from multiple community partners, Community Empowerment Boards and Lean team members, the Local Structures workgroup presents the following criteria in determining the boundaries for local areas.

Overarching Goal:

30-38 Community Empowerment Areas

Criterion #1:

A local CEA must consist of no more than 4 counties.

Rationale:

- When the area gets larger than 4 counties, there is a concern that the geographical distance becomes an issue, for travel of volunteer board members, families and the coordinator.
- The ability to engage all partners and funding sources.

Criterion #2:

Single-county areas must have a child population (ages 0-5 years) greater than 5,000.

Rationale:

- The number of children applies to single-county areas only. While the input of placing a minimum number of children on all areas was discussed, there was potential for areas to be too large geographically due to the population difference of rural and urban counties in Iowa.
- It is realized that there has to be a cut-off. Many figures were considered but when looking at the population numbers across the state, the goal of 38 total areas or less, the ability to make a difference with the funding and issues of economy of scale related to planning and administration, 5,000 seemed to be a good fit.

Criterion #3:

Based on the ability of an area to meet all the criteria, any CEA can choose to redefine their boundaries.

Rationale:

- The original criterion was that no current multi-county CEA would be split. The idea was to impact as few areas as possible. However, based on the input received, this change allows more flexibility to the local areas.

Criterion #4:

All Community Empowerment Areas must have contiguous county borders.

Rationale:

- This is based on the reality of geography.
- If programs are shared it is usually between counties that share a border.

Additional Pieces of the Local Structures Workgroup Rationale Document:

- Fiscal estimate developed by Legislative Services Agency
- Tool U – Revised – IEB Guidance for Boundary Change
- Anecdotal Information from program providers that work with multiple CEA boards