



LINKING FAMILIES
AND COMMUNITIES

Early Childhood Plan

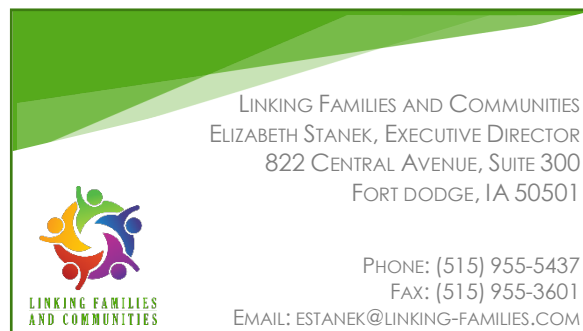
September 2020



Foreword

The Linking Families and Communities Early Childhood plan is a document of the Linking Families and Communities Board. This plan covers the Calhoun, Pocahontas and Webster County, Iowa area.

Trend data and content updates will be completed annually as addenda to this plan. All documents will be hosted at linking-families.com or can be obtained by contacting:



This Early Childhood Plan is implemented through the collaborative work of programs, agencies and organizations serving children and families in the region. The following organizations are part of our local system and provided input into the planning process and are part of on-going work to meet the goals of this plan.

- Calhoun County Public Health
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Child Health Specialty Clinics
- Children & Families of Iowa
- Community Early Childhood Center
- Community Health Center of Fort Dodge
- Fort Dodge Community Schools
- Kid's Spot Child Care Center
- Little Lambs Preschool
- Mid-Iowa Family Therapy
- Pocahontas County Public Health
- Pocahontas Home Care Aide Agency
- Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency
- Southeast Webster-Grand Child Care Center
- UnityPoint – BerryHill Center
- Webster County Health Department
- Your Own United Resources, Inc.
- Youth Shelter Care of North Central Iowa

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Introduction and Overview

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Early Childhood Plan (EC Plan 2020) is to guide local efforts to improve the lives of children ages 0-5. Its development was informed through focus groups with young families and early childhood providers and data. Feedback was gathered to develop goals for enhancing the health, care, and education of young children and their families. Information from assessments, done by various local organizations serving families, was incorporated into the plan and resulting goals. This plan is intended to be used by individuals across all sectors to improve the lives of young children in the Calhoun, Pocahontas and Webster County area.

Brief History

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) was established in Iowa Code in 1998 as *Community Empowerment* to create partnerships, between communities and state government, committed to improving the well-being of children ages 0-5 and their families. Within every county in the state, ECI is engaged in efforts to unite agencies, organizations, business, and community partners to speak one message – *All children, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful*. The statewide system consists of three parts: state board, state advisory structure, and the local structure. The local structure is comprised of citizen led boards dedicated to local, informed decision making. This plan and accompanying needs and fiscal assessment are required elements of a comprehensive early care, health and education system working toward the desired results of:

- Healthy children,
- Children ready to succeed in school,
- Safe and supportive communities,
- Secure and nurturing families, and
- Secure and nurturing early learning environments.

Vision & Mission

The Early Childhood Iowa vision is, “Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful.” Linking Families and Communities serves in support of that vision, though has defined their own.

Vision: Happy, Healthy Children

Mission: To empower parents in raising happy, healthy children by providing families with educational, economic and health support by coordinating services with community resources.

Linking Families and Communities Area

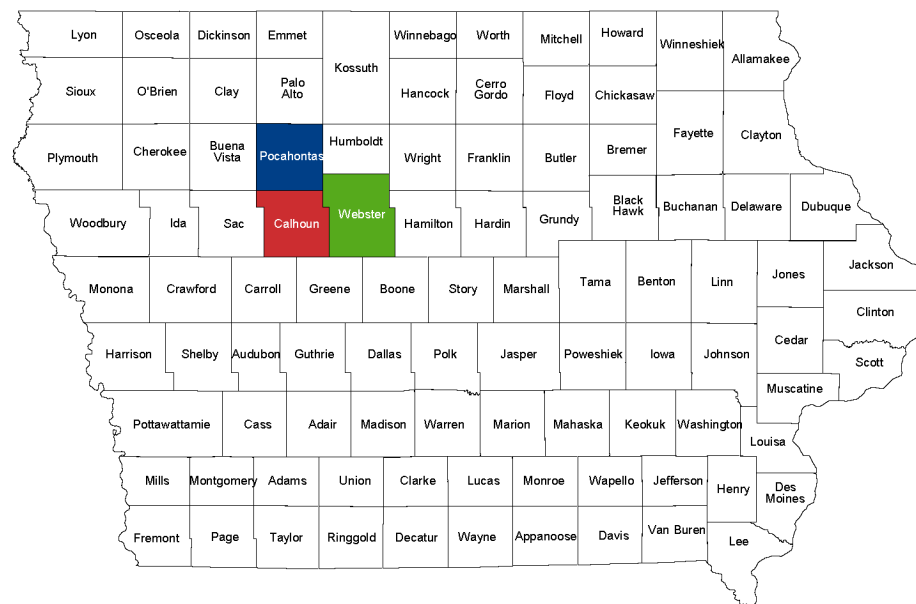
Brief Snapshot

The Linking Families and Communities Area encompasses the counties of Calhoun, Pocahontas and Webster in north central Iowa. Predominately rural, the region has six (6) towns that have populations in excess of 1,000 (Figure 1) persons. These towns offer basic amenities, such as groceries, health care services and limited retail. Several of the smaller towns in the area often rely on their local convenience store, if available, for quick access to basic or essential items. Residents that are able to travel are likely to visit a regional hub, such as Fort Dodge in Webster County, where full-service grocers, larger retail stores and employment opportunities are available. Fort Dodge is the only regional hub located in the Linking Families and Communities area.

Health care services are available to each county through their local public health departments and hospitals. Labor and delivery services are available in Calhoun and Webster

Counties, but not in Pocahontas County as the number of births is low at approximately 155 per year. Specialists, such as Pediatricians, are available in Fort Dodge, but are limited in number. Many children are provided medical care by general practitioners, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners and public health departments in their respective counties.

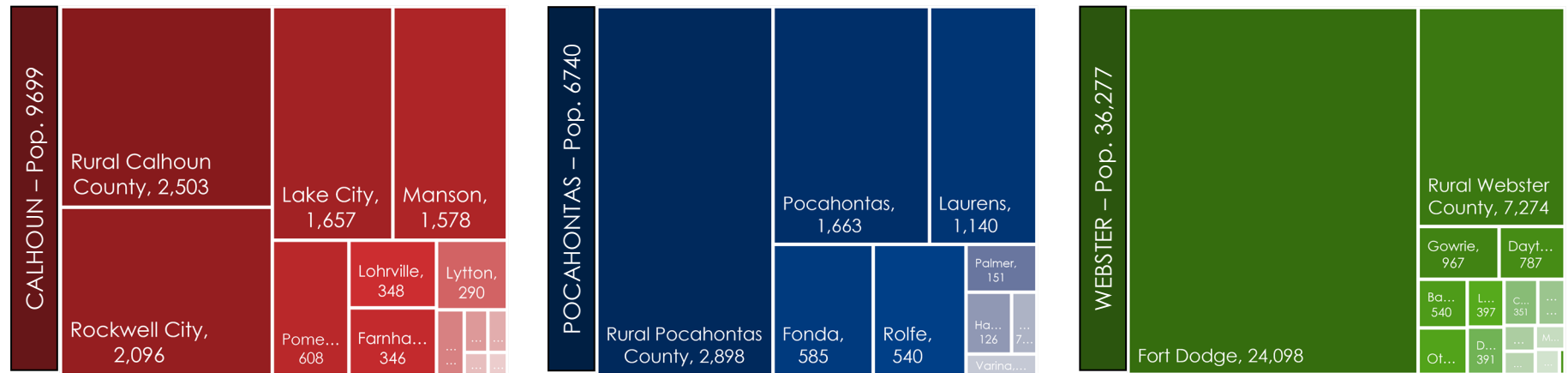
There are 7 public school districts within the region, with preschool through 12th grade enrollments ranging in size from 276 to 3668 students. The area also has 4 private, parochial schools, one in Pocahontas and the other three are located in Fort Dodge.



Population

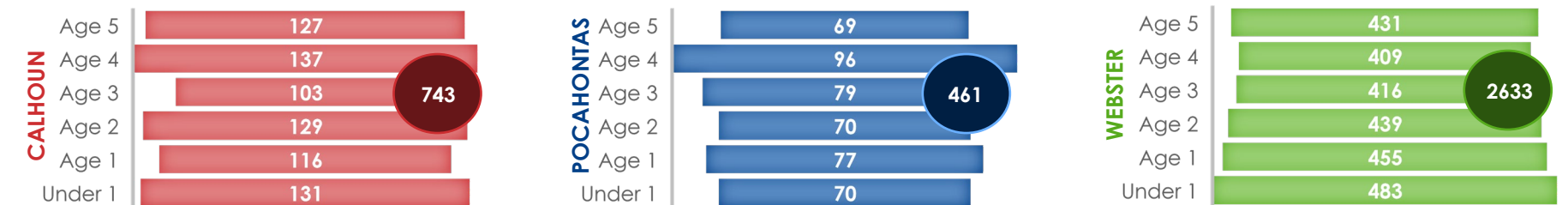
Calhoun and Pocahontas counties have total population 9,699 and 6,740 respectively, while the population of Webster County is 36,277, over twice the size of the Calhoun and Pocahontas combined. Sixty-six percent of Webster County's population is concentrated in its county seat, Fort Dodge (24,098), while 14% reside in small towns and 20% inhabit the rural area. Likewise, the largest towns in Calhoun and Pocahontas counties are the county seats, however they encompass only 22% and 25% of their respective populations. Forty-three percent of Pocahontas County's population live in the rural areas and 32% in small towns, conversely, 52% of Calhoun County residents live in one of the many small towns. Like the rest of the population, children ages 0-5 are spread throughout the rural landscape of the counties, which may make access to services difficult, especially for those not located in the county seat. Children 0-5 represent 7.3% of the area's total population

Figure 1: Total Population by County



Source: American FactFinder: 2018 Population Estimate

Figure 2: 0-5 Child Population by County



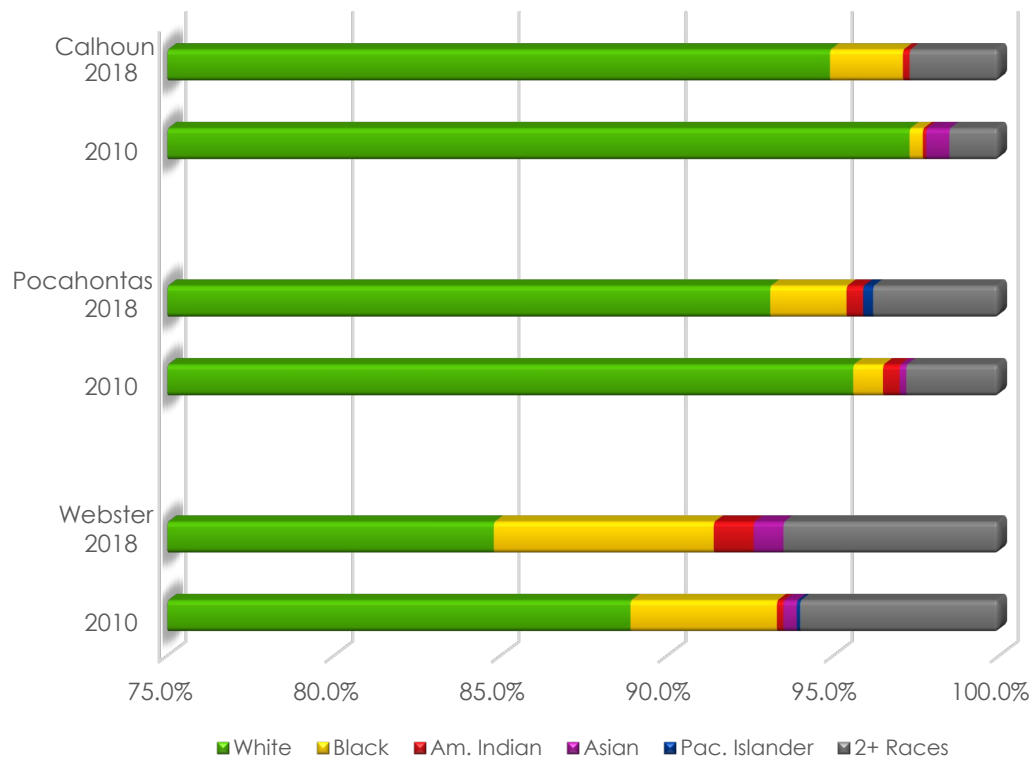
Source: Population Age 0-5: 2018 Woods & Poole

Diversity

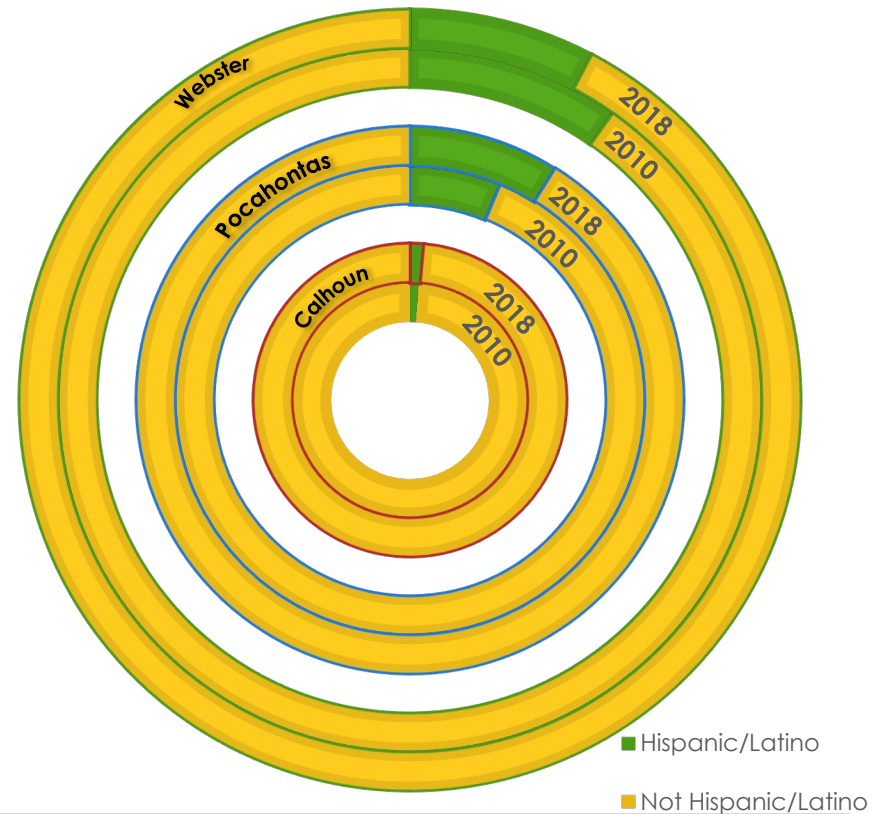
Increasing diversity is a state-wide trend that can be seen in our rural counties. According to the US Census Bureau, the total population of the three-county area, experienced a 2.3% decrease of the White/Caucasian race between 2010 and 2018. The area experienced the shift with the largest increases in the categories of Black/African American and Two or More Races, increasing 1.0% and 0.5% respectively. In comparison, Calhoun County experienced the largest population change with the Black/African American growing 2.2%. The Hispanic/Latino population grew by a minimum of 1.0% in all counties with the largest increase in Pocahontas County (1.6%).

Data on young children, age 0-5, indicates the child population is more diverse than our total population, which is a continued trend in our area and in Iowa. We also have experienced increases in children of Hispanic/Latino origin in Calhoun (0.1%) and Pocahontas (2.6%) counties, however Webster County experienced a decrease of 2.1%.

Population 0-5 by Race: A Comparison of 2010 & 2018*



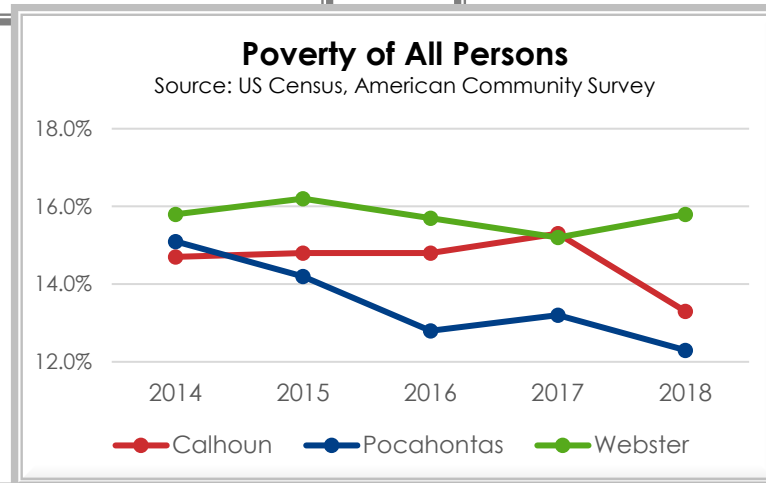
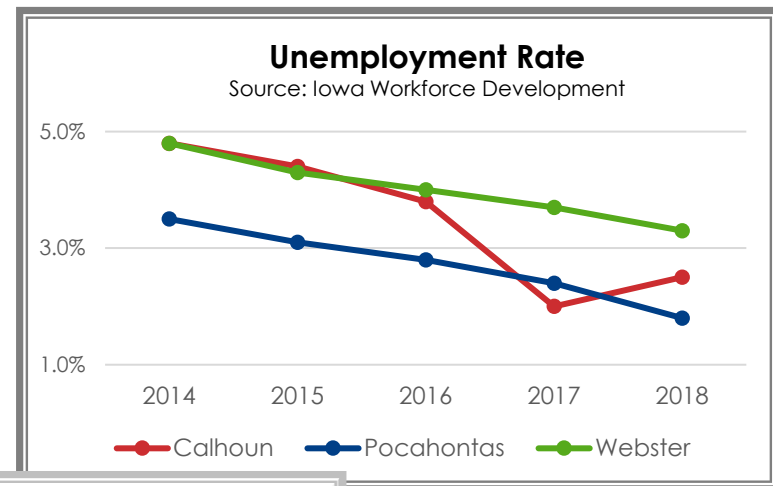
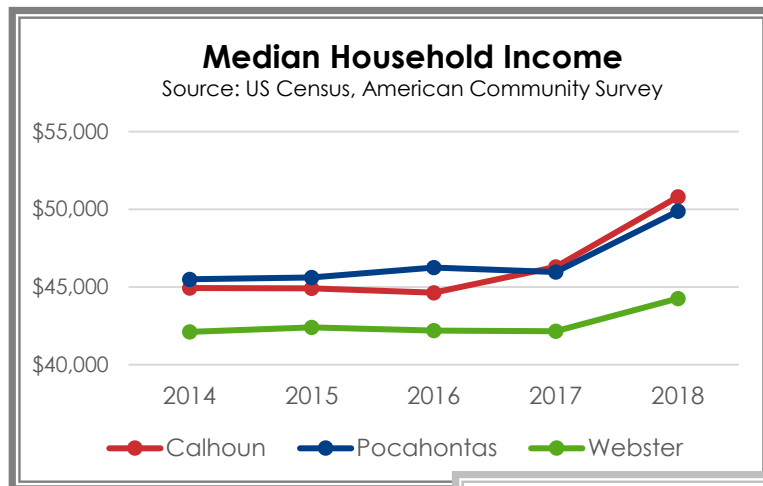
Population 0-5 By Ethnicity: 2010 vs 2018*



*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, etc.; 2010 & 2018

Income, Unemployment & Poverty

In 2018, the annual income in the region ranged from \$44,261 in Webster County to \$50,800 in Calhoun County, a difference of more than \$6,000 per year. Iowa's median income in 2018 was \$58,580, almost \$8,000 more than Calhoun County and over \$14,000 higher than Webster County. The charts below show that, over time, residents of Calhoun and Webster counties consistently have higher unemployment and higher poverty than those in Pocahontas County. While there is a need for more resources for families in all three counties, this data indicates a greater need for resources for families and young children in Webster County. Calhoun and Pocahontas counties benefit from close proximity to Fort Dodge and have access to other hubs such as Carroll and Storm Lake respectively increasing access to employment, resources, however commute times are likely 45 minutes or more.



Dental, Physical & Mental Health

Access to health services is important to the entire population. Dental, health and hospital services are available in each county, however the extent to which they are available, especially to children and families and those on Medicaid, differ. Dental services seem to be widely available, however only 23% of the area's dentist accept Medicaid. Services to young children are available but most dentists do not see children under the age of 3. The area lacks a pediatric dentist, so children requiring restorative treatment are referred out of the area.

Physical Health services are more readily available. Each county has a hospital, a number of clinic locations and is also served by a county public health department. Labor and delivery services are not offered in Pocahontas County. Expectant mothers must seek those services outside of the county, typically in Fort Dodge or Emmetsburg. The area has only four pediatric practitioners, all of which are located in Fort Dodge, therefore many children receive well and sick care from family practice practitioners (DO, MD, PA-C, ARNP, FNP).

	General Dentists	Dentist that Accept Medicaid	Hospitals	Labor & Delivery	Family Practitioners ¹ (DO, MD, PA-C, ARNP, FNP)	Pediatric Practitioners (DO, MD, ARNP)	Licensed Mental Health Professionals ¹	Licensed Mental Health Professionals (0-5) ¹
Calhoun	3	0	1	Yes	12	0	2	1
Pocahontas	5	5	1	No	5	0	0	0
Webster	22	2	1	Yes	43	4	40	13

¹ Counts in this category are duplicated as providers often work in different county locations.

Mental health services in the area, akin to the State of Iowa, are lacking for the entire population. The majority of mental health services emanate from Fort Dodge. While there are no mental health providers located in Calhoun or Pocahontas County, a Carroll County provider has established office hours at a clinic in Lake City two days per week. With services limited for adults, service for young children are even more difficult to access. Most area clinicians serve teens and adults. In a survey of clinicians, 33% reported providing services to children under age 5. Those that serve young children may or may not have specialized training in pediatric therapies and typically serve the full spectrum of ages/issues, further exacerbating the problem. While the area has mental health professionals trained in play therapy, Parent Child Interaction Therapy and/or Child Parent Psychotherapy, some of their facilities are not equipped for implementation of the modality. Further compounding these issues are the length of time before a new patient can be served, which ranges from 2 weeks to 6 months for non-emergency services. Some will not persist, others may seek services in a more urban setting, such as Des Moines or Iowa City, as time, travel and finances allow and some will take advantage of telehealth services, which are expanding in our area.

Schools

Due to the way that school district boundaries are set, there are 13 districts that have students that live in the Linking Families and Communities area. However, for Early Childhood Iowa purposes, we identify 7 districts as being in our area.

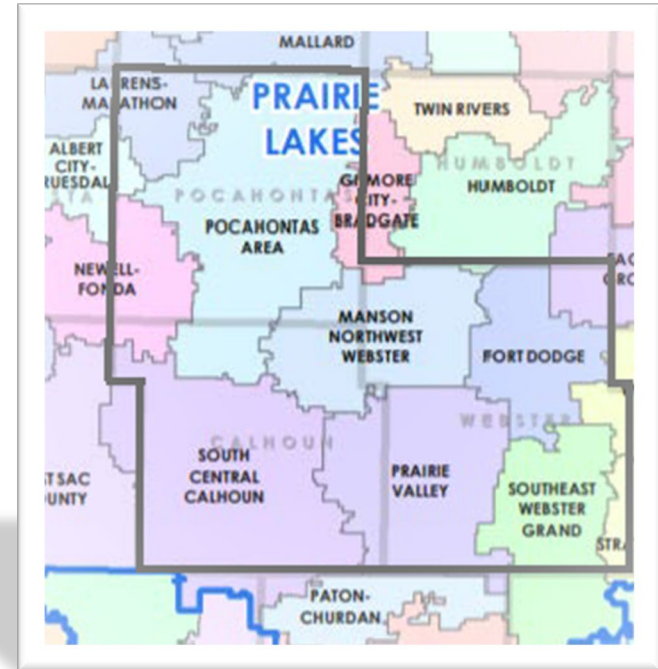
- Fort Dodge (3668 students)
- Laurens-Marathon (276 students)
- Manson Northwest Webster (642 students)
- Pocahontas Area (664 students)
- Prairie Valley (568 students)
- South Central Calhoun (936 students)
- Southeast Webster-Grand (536 students)

Decreasing population and changes in public schools over the last four decades have resulted in larger districts that serve many small communities. These districts typically have buildings with different age groups in different towns, with buildings being 10-15 miles apart. According to the data from 2012-2013 published online by the Des Moines Register, titled **Database: Iowa's public school transportation crunch**, the Fort Dodge School District is the area's smallest at 160 square miles, while Pocahontas Area School District is the largest at 387 square miles. With the distance in districts and to available services transportation is an issue for schools and families.

There are 4 nonpublic schools located in the area, which serve 1,003 students. Pocahontas Catholic serves 85 students, kindergarten through 5th grade. In Fort Dodge, Community Christian and St. Paul Lutheran serve preschool through 8th grade and have respective enrollments of 97 and 149 and St. Edmond Catholic has an enrollment of 672 students, preschool through 12th grade.

All public schools in the area participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP), offering free preschool for four-year-old children. In the Fort Dodge School District, most of the other community preschool programs are program partners, providing preschool programming under the SWVPP program. As an area, the program serves 421 four-year-old children.

The area is also served by Iowa Central Community College, which is located in Fort Dodge. The college offers over 100 undergraduate, certificate and technical programs to approximately 5,500 students through its four campuses. The Fort Dodge location serves as the main campus, serves 3,500 students and provides a one-year certificate in child development, a benefit to our area that is under-utilized due to the low wages of child care providers.

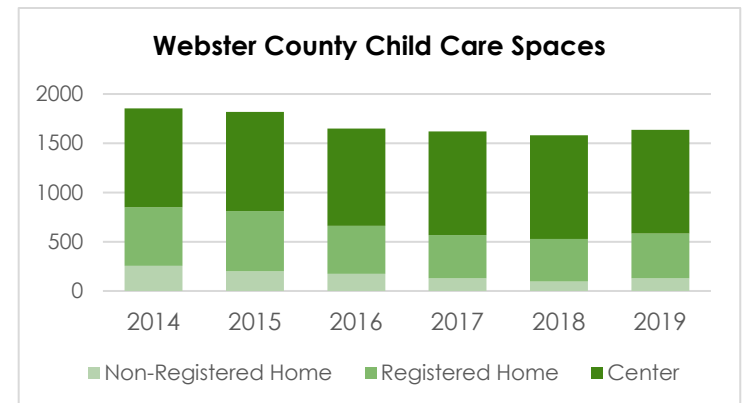
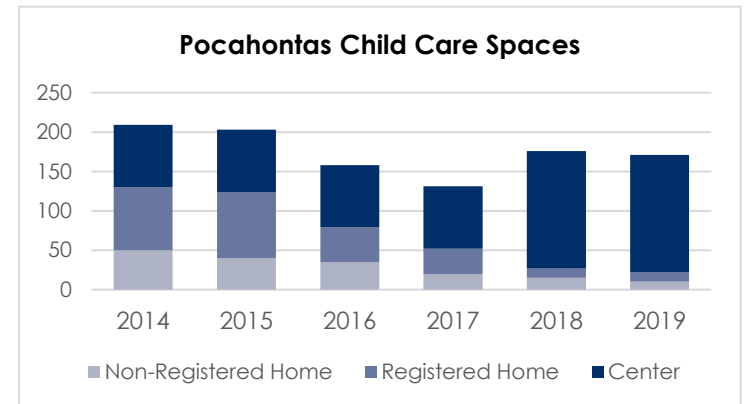
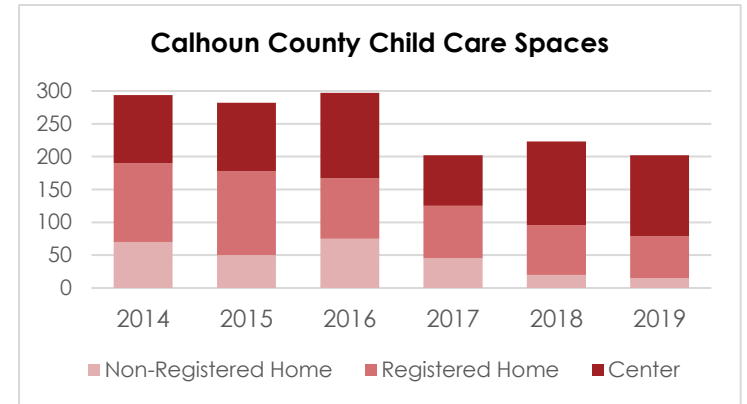


Early Care

The issue of access to child care, let alone quality child care, is a well-known issue in the area. Like the State of Iowa, it has experienced a downward child care trend for almost a decade. The decline was accelerated when regulations and policies required by the federal Child Care and Development Act of 2014 were implemented in October 2016. The charts to the right show the decline in child care spaces for each of the counties in the area. Since 2014, all three counties have lost child care spaces, mostly due to non-registered and registered home child care providers closing their businesses.

- Calhoun County has experienced a 31% loss in the past 5 years. The county has lost 79% of their non-registered and 47% of their registered child care home providers.
- The 80% loss of non-registered and 85% loss of registered home providers in Pocahontas County was offset by the opening of a new child care center in 2018. Overall, the county lost 18% of child care spaces.
- Webster County experienced the smallest loss (12%) and like the other counties lost the largest share of non-registered (47%) and registered (24%) child care home providers.

In the state of Iowa, it is legal to provide care for up to 5 children in a home setting without being registered with DHS. Parents needing child care often rely on family, friends, and neighbors to care for their children due to the lack of child care, in-affordability for the working poor and lack of quality options. The use of unregulated child care creates a challenge in assessing the exact need for additional child care business and/or spaces.



Community Demographic Data Snapshot

	Calhoun		Pocahontas		Webster		DATA Source
	2010	Current	2010	Current	2010	Current	
Total County Population	9,670	9,699	7,310	6,740	38,310	36,277	State of Iowa Data Center; 2010 & 2018
Total Population by Race							U.S. Census Bureau; State of Iowa Data Center, Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race & Hispanic Origin; 2010 & 2018
White	98.7%	95.9%	98.3%	96.1%	93.5%	91.4%	
Black	0.2%	2.4%	0.4%	1.0%	3.9%	4.7%	
American Indian	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	
Asian	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.7%	1.2%	
Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	
Two or More Races	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%	1.5%	1.6%	2.1%	
Total Population by Ethnicity							U.S. Census Bureau; State of Iowa Data Center, Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, etc.; 2010 & 2018
Hispanic/Latino	0.9%	1.9%	2.3%	3.9%	3.8%	5.1%	
Not Hispanic/Latino	99.1%	98.1%	97.7%	96.1%	96.2%	94.9%	
Number of Children 0-5	673	743	523	461	2691	2633	Woods & Poole, Population Age 0-5 2010 & 2018
Number of Children Under Age 6 Living Below the Federal Poverty Level	102	187	90	61	578	598	U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, B17001; 2010 & 2017
Population 0-5 by Race							U.S. Census Bureau; State of Iowa Data Center, Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race & Hispanic Origin; 2010 & 2018
White	97.3%	94.9%	95.6%	93.1%	88.9%	84.8%	
Black	0.4%	2.2%	0.9%	2.3%	4.4%	6.6%	
American Indian	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%	1.2%	
Asian	0.7%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	
Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	
Two or More Races	1.5%	2.7%	2.8%	3.8%	6.0%	6.5%	
Population 0-5 by Ethnicity							U.S. Census Bureau; State of Iowa Data Center, Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, etc.; 2010 & 2018
Hispanic/Latino	1.2%	1.4%	6.3%	8.9%	9.8%	7.7%	
Not Hispanic/Latino	98.8%	98.6%	93.7%	91.1%	90.2%	92.3%	
Number of Live Births	103	110	69	64	442	431	IDPH Vital Statistics of Iowa; 2010 & 2018
Percentage of Low Birth Weight Births	13.6%	14.5%	10.1	*	7.2%	5.3%	IDPH Vital Statistics of Iowa; 2010 & 2018
Number of Out-of-Wedlock Births	33	29	28	21	190	189	IDPH Vital Statistics of Iowa; 2010 & 2018
Number of Live Births to Mothers Under Age 20	11	*	5	*	36	25	IDPH Vital Statistics of Iowa; 2010 & 2018
Percent of Children receiving WIC	17.6%	17.8%	22.7%	20.1%	41.7%	37.9%	Kids Count Data Center
% Children Immunized by Age 2	68%	71.7%	76%	67.1%	65%	74.7%	Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal; 2010 & 2019

Child Abuse Rate	21.9	13.4	22.9	14.7	28.2	25.8	Department of Human Services; KIDS COUNT Data Center; 2010 & 2018
Education Level of Mothers Giving Birth in Past 12 Months							U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, B13014; 2010 & 2017
Less than High School	0.7%	13.7%	10.5%	0.0%	8.5%	8.9%	
High School Graduate/Equivalency	18.9%	12.2%	17.5%	24.7%	42.9%	22.7%	
Some College or Associates Degree	58.7%	57.3%	40.4%	57.1%	25.8%	39.0%	
Bachelor's Degree	8.4%	6.9%	31.6%	11.7%	19.4%	23.6%	
Graduate or Professional Degree	13.3%	9.9%	0.0%	6.5%	3.4%	5.58%	
Single Headed Households	31.0%	40.4%	28.8%	26.7%	38.8%	38.5%	KIDS COUNT Data Center; 2010 & 2017
Number of Households with Children Age 6 or Below with All Parents in the Labor Force	64.5%	74.4%	81.7%	69.6%	74.6%	76.3%	U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, B23008; 2010 & 2017
Median Household Income	\$41,611	\$50,800	\$40,806	\$49,877	\$42,105	\$44,261	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010 & 2018
Number of Child Care Spaces in Child Care Homes (Non-Registered)	55	15	65	10	560	130	Child Care Resource & Referral; 2011 & 2019
Number of Child Care Spaces in Child Development Homes	148	64	132	12	764	452	Child Care Resource & Referral; 2011 & 2019
Number of Child Care Spaces in Child Care Centers	198	123	142	149	1093	1055	Child Care Resource & Referral; 2011 & 2019
QRS Participation (homes)	1	1	1	0	3	8	Child Care Resource & Referral; 2011 & 2019
QRS Participation (centers)	1	1	1	1	2	6	Child Care Resource & Referral; 2011 & 2019
Number of Statewide Voluntary Preschool Slots	168	169	85	67	337	350	Iowa Department of Education; 2010-11 & 2019-20
Number of NAEYC Accredited Centers/Preschools	0	0	1	1	1	1	National Association for the Education of Young Children
# of NAFCC Child Development Homes	0	0	0	0	0	0	National Association for Family Child Care; 2010 & 2019
Number of School Districts	4	2	2	2	3	3	Iowa Department of Education
Crime Rate (per 100,000)	868.7	372.1	684.0	NA	4295.9	3662.3	Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer; 2010 & 2018
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	2.5%	5.1%	1.8%	6.9%	3.3%	Iowa Workforce Development, Annual Averages, 2010 & 2018

Assessment Process & Analysis

Mixed Assessment

The EC Plan 2020 was developed using a mixed assessment process that included reviewing current local assessments and completed plans from other organizations. Initially, focus groups with early childhood providers and parents were held. The two main areas of concern were identified in the initial stage; child care and mental health; full meeting notes can be found in Appendix C. The second stage of the process included a review of other local organization's plans and completed assessments. Common goals and priorities from the other plans were identified and used in conjunction with additional data to determine needs for young children and families in the region. During the final stage of the process the information and data collected was reviewed by local ECI area board members and stakeholders to determine community level goals.

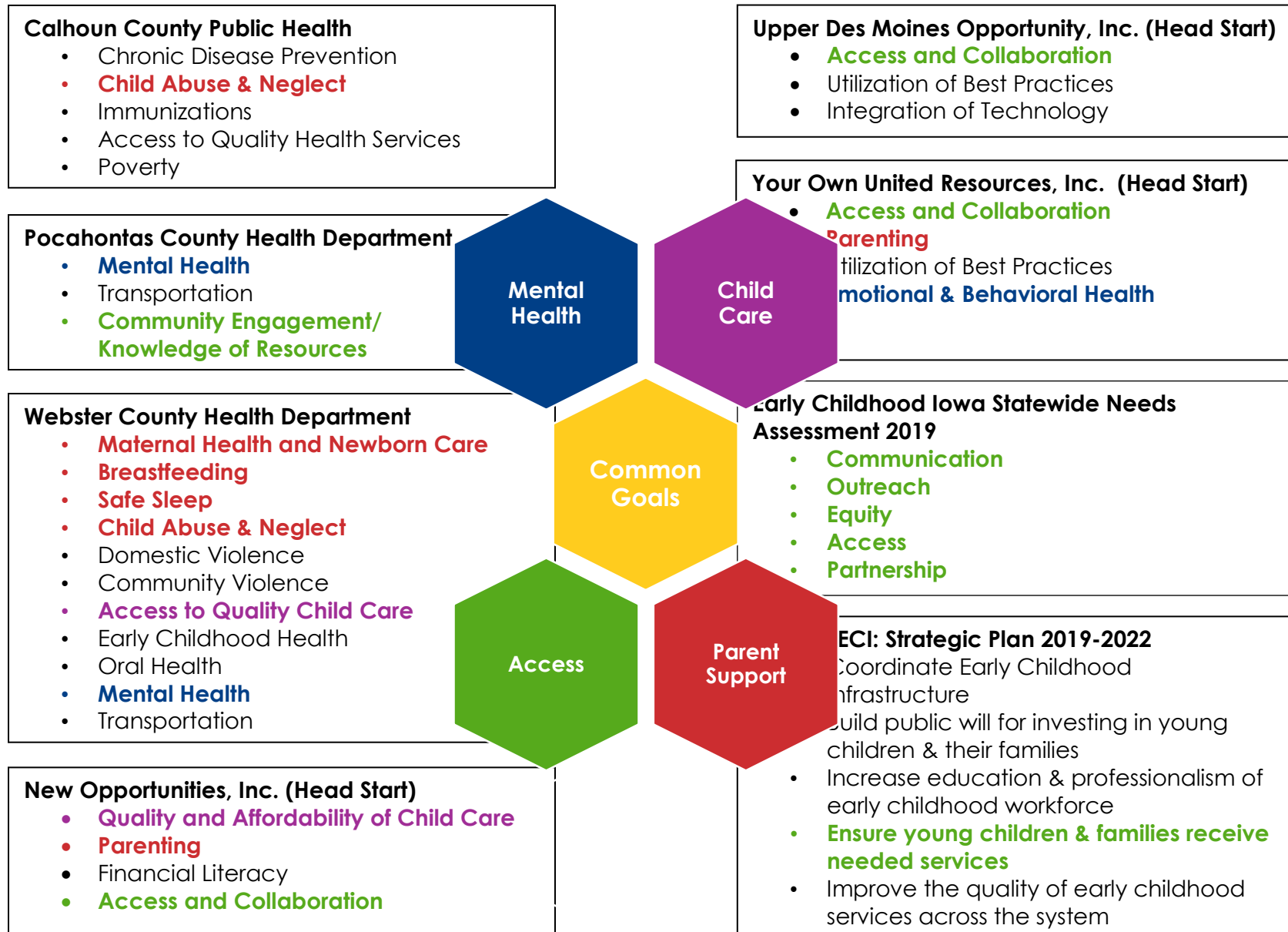
Local Assessments & Plans

A variety of other local organizations, as well as the State of Iowa, have completed community assessments and established priorities relating to children and families. The organizations used a variety of methods, including stakeholder meetings and surveys to ensure broad community input. The EC Plan 2020 assessment process utilized information from existing assessments. Specific plans were selected for review based on the inclusion of children and family data and relevance to early childhood issues. Common themes and priorities were identified among the plans reviewed and incorporated into the final process of establishing goals for this plan. The following assessments and plans were included in the review and analysis process.

- Early Childhood Iowa Statewide Needs Assessment 2019
- We are ECI: Strategic Plan 2019-2022
- Early Childhood Iowa Statewide Needs Assessment 2019 Strategic Plan 2019-2022
- Community Health Needs Assessment – Health Improvement Plan: Calhoun County, 2016
- Community Health Needs Assessment – Health Improvement Plan: Pocahontas County, 2016
- Community Health Needs Assessment – Health Improvement Plan: Webster County, 2016
- New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start Community Needs Assessment 2016 and 2019 Update
- Your Own United Resources, Inc. – Needs Assessment 2018
- Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. – Strategic Plan 2016-2018

County Public Health offices and Community Action Agencies are key early childhood partners and both complete assessments on a regular basis. Public Health agencies complete a Community Health Needs Assessment – Health Improvement Plan (CHNA-HIP) every 5 years. The planning process typically includes 1 – 3 community meetings with members of the public and various stakeholders who provide services in the area. New Opportunities, Inc. (Calhoun) and Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. (Pocahontas and Webster) are the area's community action agencies. Both provide Head Start services in their counties, however Webster County is served by Your Own United Resources, a stand-alone Head Start/Early Head Start organization.

Priorities from Key Partners and Common Goals



Community Relationships

The area's community providers are committed to the children and families that they serve and work to do what is in their best interest. Providers reported being supportive of each other's work, making referrals to each other and collaborating when possible during the Early Childhood Provider Focus Group (See Appendix C). Providers also reported communication as the largest barrier in community relationships. Area providers are very busy. They serve the three-county area and often provide services in other contiguous counties. Most try to attend each county's human service provider meeting to stay informed. In addition to improved communication, providers of early childhood services have expressed a desire to work together more collaboratively in a targeted manner to for prevention and early intervention services that will improve the lives young children and families. EC Plan 2020 provides for communication and planning efforts that will 'move the needle'.

Linking Families and Communities is involved with other committees and groups that support or involve the early childhood years, including:

- **Calhoun County Interagency Group** – *provide input on community needs, seek collaborative opportunities & learn about community and/or program changes/needs.*
- **Calhoun, Pocahontas and Webster Decategorization Board** – *provide input on community needs.*
- **Community Partnerships for Protecting Children** – *provide input on community needs, serve on Shared Decision-Making group, collaborate on programming for families, children and child care providers.*
- **Pocahontas County Interagency Group** – *provide input on community needs, seek collaborative opportunities & learn about community and/or program changes/needs*
- **Webster County Human Service Providers Group** – *provide input on community needs, seek collaborative opportunities & learn about community and/or program changes/needs*
- **Iowa Central Community College Early Childhood Education Advisory Board** – *provide input on needs of early care and education workforce, child development class offerings, and post certificate programs.*





Fiscal Assessment

A fiscal assessment was completed as part of EC Plan 2020 in order to identify other funding coming into the area for families and young children. Appendix B includes a matrix that identifies the agency, program, amount, ages served, counties served, type of funding, and source of information. Information in the matrix was gathered from online data resources, emails to local partners and phone calls. Although the matrix offers a general overview of the services and funding flowing into the community to support children, all data should be reviewed with an understanding of challenges and margins for error, such as:

- Program numbers and data cannot be compared with identical timeframes. Programs operate on a variety of calendars. Some may be reporting funds for a calendar year while others are reporting for the state or federal fiscal years.
- Several services are operated by regional agencies with numerous counties. Information for these services offers a fiscal picture that is larger than the region covered by the EC Plan 2020.
- A service area including rural and more urban counties may have a greater percentage of funding going to larger populated cities and it cannot be assumed that rural families were served proportionately.
- Some programs serve children and families well beyond the age of 5 years. A program listed that serves people 0-18 does not confirm that a child 0-5 was actually served with the funding.

Taking into consideration the limitations of the fiscal information, the assessment provides broad information that may help early childhood efforts and to guide the decision-making processes. The fiscal assessment supports efforts to identify disparities, duplication, potential for efficiency, and trends of increasing and or decreasing funds.

Summary of Fiscal Assessment Findings

-  State funds make up a greater portion of funding contributions for young children as opposed to the federal funds identified.
-  Four-year-old children receive considerable education funding through Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP) with a total of \$1.45 million invested in 2020.
-  It is difficult to ascertain the funding allocated to serve the county(ies) due to the way funding is dispersed through state departments.
-  Children in the 0 – 3 age group are allocated fewer resources than children age 4 and 5.

Summary & Collaborative Next Steps






Based on the data reviewed and feedback gathered at various stages during the assessment process, it was apparent that many organizations have identified similar needs/priorities. It was also evident that communication and collaboration was needed and desired by our partners. Based on that information, four goals emerged:



During the assessment review process many providers stated their interest in working in a collaborative way to address the goals and objectives. Strategy groups were formed for each goal area. Strategy groups are comprised of community partners, stakeholders and board members. Membership is not limited and is open to anyone wishing to 'move the needle' for young children. Each strategy group has drafted a work plan to ensure collaboration and communication as all work together to implement the strategies and objectives for each goal. The strategy groups regularly and identify tasks to complete and report back to the group. The tasks keep the focus on the goal, objective or strategy and increase collaboration and communication.

Result Areas & Core Services

At the state level, Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) has identified 5 desired result areas and 4 core services that every child needs to be healthy and successful. Each identified goal area in EC Plan 2020 provides opportunities and strategies to support the ECI result areas and core services. In the next section each goal is further developed with objectives and potential strategies. Each goal page includes the ECI result area(s) and core service(s) with which it aligns. Progress toward each result area will be evaluated using community-wide, or population measurements, which are collected by public agencies. Specific trend data and tables for each indicator is located in Appendix A.

ECI RESULT AREA		COMMUNITY-INDICATORS
	HEALTHY CHILDREN	Low Birth Weight Child Immunization
	CHILDREN READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL	Kindergarten Students Meeting Benchmark Proficiency of 4 th Grade Students (Reading and Math) Graduation Rate
	SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES	Crime Rate Unemployment Rate
	SECURE AND NURTURING FAMILIES	Incidence of Child Abuse Child Poverty Rate Teen Birth Rate
	SECURE AND NURTURING EARLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS	Child Care Providers and Spaces by Type Child care providers rated on the Quality Rating System (QRS)

Goal 1 - Quality Child Care

Objectives

- Increase the supply of quality child care.
- Increase parental demand for quality child care
- Increase demand and support of child care by the community.




Strategies

- Outreach to parents, community and business through social media and marketing to build interest in the child care industry and build awareness of what quality (i.e. packets to OB-GYN Providers for parents with questions to ask).
- Provide outreach, technical assistance, consultation and business support to child care providers and those interested in child care.
- Provide health consultation and support to child care environments regarding health and safety issues and support of the Quality Rating System.
- Promote and support quality improvements of child care providers.
- Promote the development of additional online professional development opportunities for child care providers that also meet registration/licensure requirements.
- Provide early childhood mental health learning opportunities and/or consultation.
- Encourage local connections between child care, preschools and other resources.

Indicators

- Child care providers by type
- Child care spaces by type
- Child care providers rated on the Quality Rating System (QRS)




Community Level Goals

-  Increase child care spaces by 10% in each county
-  Expand centers in each county.
-  Add one child care center in Webster County

Core Service

- Community Development
- Early Care & Education

State Result Area

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

Goal 2 - Mental Health Supports

Objectives

- Increase understanding and normalization of mental health.
- Increase awareness of early childhood mental health.
- Increase professional development opportunities on mental health.
- Increase local mental health services for young children.
- Advocate for tele-health services be approved for Medicaid/Insurance clients.
- Expand partnerships to increase services through tele-health.
- Increase the number of local mental health providers.


How can we meet these objectives?

- Create simple marketing materials to use on social media to increase awareness.
- Provide professional development opportunities for mental health clinicians, child care providers, human service providers and the community for low or no-cost.
- Provide support to expand early childhood mental health services.
- Provide child care providers with infant and early childhood mental health training, consultation and support.
- Cultivate champions for mental health policy changes.
- Become members of Iowa Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association.
- Start/assist with a local National Alliance on Mental Illness coalition.

Indicators

- Incidence of Child Abuse
- Crime Rate






Community Level Goals

-  Increase the number of early childhood mental health providers by 5%.

Core Service



- Community Development
- Health
- Early Care & Education

State Result Area

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

Goal 3 – Parent Support

Objectives

-  Increase community understanding of the importance of the first five years of life.
-  Support parents to meet and exceed health, care and educational goals for their children.


How can we meet these objectives?

- Promote the importance of the first five years in social media and other marketing messages.
- Promote health behaviors on subjects such as screen time for both parents and children (i.e. public service messages).
- Provide continued support to family support and parenting programs.
- Build greater collaboration with health providers.
- Build local collaborations (multi-disciplinary teams), specific to towns or counties, to problem solve and network.
- Provide information and support on family support services and resources to child care.
- Promote and create informal parent groups in coordination with child care providers.

Indicators

- Incidence of Child Abuse
- 4th Grade Reading Proficiency
- 4th Grade Math Proficiency
- High School Graduation Rate






Community Level Goals

-  Increase participation in family support programs and groups

Core Service

- Community Development
- Early Care & Education
- Family Services & Supports
- Health

State Result Area

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

Goal 4 - Access and Coordination

Objectives

- Expand coordination and collaboration amongst local agencies.
- Improve communication to parents and the community.



How can we meet these objectives?

- Provide one place for community resources for young children that is kept up-to-date and inclusive of all early childhood programs and utilize varied methods (i.e. yard signs, tear-off flyers, etc.) to raise awareness.
- Promote the services available in the community through social media.
- Create a year-long schedule of actions, public service announcements, program spotlights, social media posts. Early Childhood programs all support and push out the messages to their own audiences.
- Increase awareness of the Department of Human Services' Child Care Client Portal as the best child care provider search tool.

Indicators

- Low Birth Weight
- Child Immunization






Community Level Goals

-  Increased awareness of early childhood resources.
-  Increased access to services.

Core Service

- Community Development
- Early Care & Education
- Family Services & Supports
- Health

State Result Area

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

Appendix A - Indicator Trend Data

Indicators were selected for each goal to provide information on progress of goals and identify trends in communities. Data is updated annually and reviewed by the board and the executive committee. Additional indicators or data may be incorporated into annual analysis to provide a complete picture and enhance strategies. Where possible, information was gathered for at least 3 years to show trends.

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that the data has been suppressed to protect confidentiality.

Low Birth Weight

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics of Iowa Annual Report, <https://idph.iowa.gov/health-statistics/data>

	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Calhoun	13.6%	9.7%	6.1%	9.0%	7.1%	14.5%
Pocahontas	10.1%	*	*	*	*	*
Webster	7.2%	4.5%	7.2%	7.3%	6.6%	5.3%
State of Iowa	7.0%	6.8%	6.8%	6.7%	6.6%	6.5%

Child Immunization

Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal, Immunization Data for 2 Year Olds, <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization/Childhood-Immunizations/Childhood-Immunization-Data>

	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calhoun	68.0%	62.0%	98.1%	84.9%	81.7%	71.7%
Pocahontas	76.0%	76.1%	50.6%	82.5%	68.4%	82.5%
Webster	65.0%	81.9%	83.7%	78.6%	82.5%	78.6%
State of Iowa	69.0%	62.1%	67.7%	70.3%	72.8%	68.7%



Percent of Kindergarten Students Meeting Benchmark on Fall Assessment

Source: Iowa Department of Education, <https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/document/kindergarten-assessment-tables>

	District	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Calhoun	Manson Northwest	LFC AREA 62%	LFC AREA 75%	67%	55%
Calhoun	South Central Calhoun			79%	69%
Pocahontas	Laurens-Marathon			96%	71%
Pocahontas	Pocahontas Area			77%	47%
Webster	Fort Dodge			67%	56%
Webster	Prairie Valley			67%	57%
Webster	Southeast Webster-Grand			73%	73%
State of Iowa	All student enrollment	64%	68%	69%	61%



Percent of 4th Grade Student Proficient in Reading – All Students

Source: Iowa Department of Education, *Annual Condition of Education Report (PK-12)*,
<https://educateiowa.gov/data-and-reporting/education-statistics/annual-condition-education-report-pk-12>

Percent IEP Students by District					
County	District	2009-2010	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Calhoun	Manson Northwest	73.9%	60.1%	68.9%	72.7%
Calhoun	South Central Calhoun	85.0%	81.2%	84.6%	80.0%
Pocahontas	Laurens-Marathon	56.3%	62.5%	35.3%	60.0%
Pocahontas	Pocahontas Area	88.5%	69.7%	78.4%	82.4%
Webster	Fort Dodge	76.1%	51.5%	67.2%	63.7%
Webster	Prairie Valley	88.6%	87.9%	80.0%	79.1%
Webster	Southeast Webster-Grand	86.5%	100.0%	90.2%	89.3%
State of Iowa	All student enrollment	79.5%	76.0%	75.3%	74.5%

Percent of 4th Grade Student Proficient in Math – All Students

Source: Iowa Department of Education, *Annual Condition of Education Report (PK-12)*,

<https://educateiowa.gov/data-and-reporting/education-statistics/annual-condition-education-report-pk-12>



Percent IEP Students by District					
County	District	2009-2010	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Calhoun	Manson Northwest	80.4%	72.9%	70.5%	77.3%
Calhoun	South Central Calhoun	87.1%	71.0%	90.4%	86.0%
Pocahontas	Laurens-Marathon	75.0%	56.3%	35.3%	50.0%
Pocahontas	Pocahontas Area	92.0%	84.8%	73.0%	82.4%
Webster	Fort Dodge	76.1%	49.6%	64.0%	51.9%
Webster	Prairie Valley	93.2%	90.9%	92.5%	83.7%
Webster	Southeast Webster-Grand	89.2%	97.2%	92.7%	100.0%
State of Iowa	All student enrollment	80.2%	79.2%	78.3%	76.8%

Graduation Rate

Source: Iowa Department of Education, *Graduation Rates and Dropout Rates* <https://educateiowa.gov/graduation-rates-and-dropout-rates>

Graduation Rates by District					
County	District	2009-2010	2015-16	2016-17	2017-2018
Calhoun	Manson Northwest Webster	96.49%	94.74%	100%	90.74%
Calhoun	South Central Calhoun (Rockwell City-Lytton & Southern Cal)	RC – 95% SC – 92%	96.23%	100%	94.29%
Pocahontas	Laurens-Marathon	91.89%	100%	86.67%	**
Pocahontas	Pocahontas Area	96.05%	88.57%	90.16%	89.80%
Webster	Fort Dodge	88.09%	84.09%	77.74%	85.25%
Webster	Prairie Valley	94.83%	98.65%	96.59%	100%
Webster	Southeast Webster-Grand	82.93%	**	**	**
State of Iowa	All student enrollment	88.8%	91.26%	90.98%	91.41%

** No graduating class due to combined high school.

Crime Rate

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Rate per 100,000 population, Crime Data Explorer, <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/>

	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018
Calhoun	868.7	949.1	852.7	449.9	372.1
Pocahontas	684.0	900.6	935.9	234.8	NA
Webster	4295.9	4228.5	3440.6	4017.8	3662.3
State of Iowa	2522.1	2348.1	2397.4	2375.9	1941.6

Unemployment Rate

Source: Iowa Workforce Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (Annual Averages), <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/local-area-unemployment-statistics>

	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018
Calhoun	6.0%	4.4%	3.8%	3.0%	2.5%
Pocahontas	5.1%	3.1%	2.8%	2.4%	1.8%
Webster	6.9%	4.3%	4.0%	3.7%	3.3%
State of Iowa	6.0%	3.8%	3.6%	3.1%	2.5%





Incidence of Child Abuse

Source: Kids Count Data Center, Child abuse and Neglect (per 1,000 children age 0-17), <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018
Calhoun	21.9	8.4	17.2	9.6	13.4
Pocahontas	22.9	19.4	13.3	11.5	14.7
Webster	28.2	12.7	17.3	15.2	25.8
State of Iowa	17.3	11.4	12.2	12.9	15.8

Child Poverty Rate

Source: Kids Count Data Center, Percent of children 0-17 living below poverty US Census <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#IA/2/0/char/0>

	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Calhoun	17.4%	16.7%	16.5%	16.4%	15.5%
Pocahontas	19.4%	18.5%	20.8%	19.0%	18.1%
Webster	21.9%	19.7%	19.6%	18.3%	16.5%
State of Iowa	16.2%	15.5%	14.9%	14.6%	12.6%

Teen Birth Rate – Mothers Under 20

Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal, Birth Rate – Mothers Under 20: The number of births born to women aged 15-19 per 1,000 women in this age range, <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/people-community/Reproduction-and-Birth/Birth-Rate-Mothers-Under-20>

	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Calhoun	18.3	*	11.1	10.8	9.3	*
Pocahontas	10.9	*	*	*	11.7	*
Webster	12.2	9.4	11.7	11.1	8.7	8.8
State of Iowa	13.8	9.6	9.0	8.2	7.7	7.4

Child Care Providers and Spaces

Source: Childcare Resource & Referral, County Data Sheets <https://iowaccrr.org/data/>



Licensed Centers (DHS Centers & DHS Center & Preschool)												
	Number of Providers						Number of Spaces					
	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calhoun	5	3	3	2	3	3	198	104	130	77	127	123
Pocahontas	3	2	2	2	2	2	142	79	79	79	149	149
Webster	13	8	7	9	9	9	1093	1007	987	1055	1055	1055

Child Development Homes (Registered)												
	Number of Providers						Number of Spaces					
	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calhoun	12	12	8	7	7	6	148	128	92	80	76	64
Pocahontas	12	8	4	3	1	1	132	84	44	32	12	12
Webster	70	55	42	37	37	40	764	612	468	436	432	452

Child Care Homes (Non-Registered)												
	Number of Providers						Number of Spaces					
	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calhoun	11	10	15	9	4	3	55	50	75	45	20	15
Pocahontas	13	8	7	4	3	2	65	40	35	20	15	10
Webster	112	40	35	26	19	26	560	200	175	130	95	130

Preschool Only (DHS Preschools & Department of Education Operated)												
	Number of Providers						Number of Spaces					
	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calhoun	3	3	3	3	3	3	57	100	100	100	100	100
Pocahontas	2	2	2	2	2	2	80	123	83	83	83	83
Webster	8	10	10	10	9	9	164	474	481	488	485	598

Child Care – Quality Rating System (QRS)

Source: Childcare Resource & Referral, County Data Sheets <https://iowaccrr.org/data/>

Number of Child Care Businesses with a QRS Rating						
	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calhoun	2	9	8	5	3	4
Pocahontas	2	2	5	3	2	2
Webster	5	15	13	14	9	14

Number of Child Care Businesses with a QRS Rating of 3 or Higher						
	2011	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calhoun	1	4	4	3	3	3
Pocahontas	0	1	3	3	2	1
Webster	2	7	10	9	7	11



Appendix B – Fiscal Assessment Matrix

AGENCY	PROGRAM	AMOUNT	AGES SERVED	COUNTIES SERVED	TYPE OF FUNDING	SOURCE of Information
Calhoun County Child Care Providers	Child Care Assistance	\$220,799	0-12	Calhoun	State/Federal	Iowa Department of Human Services
Pocahontas County Child Care Providers	Child Care Assistance	\$46,184	0-12	Pocahontas	State/Federal	Iowa Department of Human Services
Webster County Child Care Providers	Child Care Assistance	\$2,193,481	0-12	Webster	State/Federal	Iowa Department of Human Services
Community Christian	Tuition Assistance	\$7,275	3	Webster	State	Linking Families and Communities
Dodger Preschool	Tuition Assistance	\$945	3	Webster	State	Linking Families and Communities
Little Lambs Preschool	Tuition Assistance	\$4816	3	Webster	State	Linking Families and Communities
South Central Calhoun	Tuition Assistance	\$9,945	3	Calhoun	State	Linking Families and Communities
St. Edmond Catholic School	Tuition Assistance	\$3255	5	Webster	State	Linking Families and Communities
St. Paul Lutheran School	Tuition Assistance	\$16,755	3-5	Webster	State	Linking Families and Communities
Manson Northwest Webster	SWVPP	\$106,640	4	Calhoun & Webster	State	Iowa Dept of Ed
South Central Calhoun	SWVPP	\$202,960	4	Calhoun	State	Iowa Dept of Ed
Laurens-Marathon	SWVPP	\$55,040	4	Pocahontas	State	Iowa Dept of Ed

Pocahontas Area	SWVPP	\$110,080	4	Pocahontas	State	Iowa Dept of Ed
Fort Dodge	SWVPP	\$756,800	4	Webster	State	Iowa Dept of Ed
Prairie Valley	SWVPP	\$123,768	4	Webster	State	Iowa Dept of Ed
Southeast Webster-Grand	SWVPP	\$96,320	4	Webster	State	Iowa Dept of Ed
Pocahontas Area	Shared Visions	\$67,204	3-5	Pocahontas	State	Iowa Dept of Ed
Southeast Webster-Grand	Shared Visions	\$68,581	3-5	Webster	State	Iowa Dept of Ed
New Opportunities	Head Start	\$124,470	3-5	Calhoun	Federal	New Opportunities
Upper Des Moines Opportunity	Head Start	\$5,750,500	3-5	Pocahontas, Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto	Federal	Upper Des Moines Opportunity
Your Own United Resources	Early Head Start	\$636,937	0-3	Webster, Hamilton, Humboldt & Wright	Federal	Your Own United Resources
Your Own United Resources	Head Start	\$1,733,837	3-5	Webster, Hamilton, Humboldt & Wright	Federal	Your Own United Resources
Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.	Child Care Resource & Referral Training & Consultation	\$125,684	0-12	Calhoun, Pocahontas, Webster	Federal	Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.
Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.	Business Investment Program	\$25,657	0-12	Calhoun, Pocahontas, Webster	State	Linking Families and Communities
Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.	Professional Development	\$4,617	0-12	Calhoun, Pocahontas, Webster	State	Linking Families and Communities
Calhoun County Public Health	Family Foundations	\$290,000	0-5	Calhoun, Pocahontas, Webster	State	Linking Families and Communities
Youth & Shelter Services	FaDSS	\$336,367	0-18	Calhoun, Audubon, Boone, Carroll, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Marshall, Sac & Story	State	Youth & Shelter Services

Upper Des Moines Opportunities, Inc.	FaDSS	\$289,000	0-18	Pocahontas, Webster, Wright, Hamilton, Humboldt, BV, Pocahontas, Emmet & Palo Alto	State	Upper Des Moines Opportunities, Inc.
Webster County Health Department	Lead	\$15,781	0-6	Calhoun, Pocahontas, Webster, Hamilton, Humboldt & Greene	State	Webster County Health Department
Calhoun County Public Health	Immunizations	\$7,510	0-18	Calhoun	State	Calhoun County Public Health
Pocahontas County Public Health	Immunizations	\$6,870	0-18	Pocahontas	State	Pocahontas County Public Health
Webster County Health Department	Immunizations	\$13,740	0-18	Webster	State	Webster County Health Department
New Opportunities, Inc.	Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	\$35,423	0-5	Calhoun	State	New Opportunities, Inc.
Webster County Health Department	Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	\$265,313	0-5	Pocahontas, Webster, Hamilton, Humboldt & Wright	State	Webster County Health Department
Webster County Health Department	First Five	\$226,910	0-5	Calhoun, Pocahontas, Webster, Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Greene, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Sac & Wright	State	Webster County Health Department
Webster County Health Department	I-Smile	\$152,066	0-5	Calhoun, Pocahontas, Webster, Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Greene, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Sac & Wright	State	Webster County Health Department
Webster County Health Department	Child Health	\$46,645	0-21	Calhoun, Pocahontas, Webster, Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Greene, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Sac & Wright	State	Webster County Health Department

Webster County Health Department	Child Health Direct Services	\$205,147	0-21	Calhoun, Pocahontas, Webster	Federal	Webster County Health Department
Calhoun County Hawki	Hawki	\$420,835	0-18	Calhoun	State & Federal	Department of Human Services
Pocahontas County Hawki	Hawki	\$335,988	0-18	Pocahontas	State & Federal	Department of Human Services
Webster County Hawki	Hawki	\$1,413,378	0-18	Webster	State & Federal	Department of Human Services
Calhoun County Medicaid	Medicaid	\$17,364,716	0+	Calhoun	State & Federal	Department of Human Services
Pocahontas County Medicaid	Medicaid	\$11,812,693	0+	Pocahontas	State & Federal	Department of Human Services
Webster County Medicaid	Medicaid	\$81,134,905	0+	Webster	State & Federal	Department of Human Services
Calhoun, Pocahontas and Webster Decategorization	Various Programs	\$239,547	0-18	Calhoun, Pocahontas and Webster	State	Department of Human Services
Calhoun, Pocahontas and Webster Decategorization	CPPC – various programs	\$20,000	0-18	Calhoun, Pocahontas and Webster	State & Federal	Department of Human Services

Appendix C

Early Childhood Provider Focus Group – May 20, 2019

Acknowledgements

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) conducted a provider focus group in Fort Dodge as part of the State of Iowa's work on a statewide needs' assessment. Ten providers attended the focus group, which was held at Linking Families and Communities and facilitated by Lynn and Steve Adams.

Identified Strengths:

- Diverse number of services available.
- Good collaboration among providers. Referrals are made.
- Qualified professionals
- Agencies have seasoned staff, especially the leadership.
- All agencies network together
- Telehealth is available in the area.

Identified Weaknesses:

- Difficult to find staff to fill child care positions.
- Child care wages are low and turnover is high.
- Internet is a barrier for some families.
- Access to and travel to mental health services.
- More mental health service providers are needed

What is needed?

- More mental health services, especially play therapy or therapies for young children.
- More child care spaces.
- Professional development for providers.

How do you find out about professional development for yourself?

- Email or mailing lists from local, state and federal partners.
- The challenge is that there is no time and no funding for professional development so providers must do it on their own time and dime.

How could quality be improved?

- Increased funding
- Better communication
- Utilize a common data system
- Keeping in mind what is best for kids.

Parent Focus Group – May 20, 2019

Acknowledgements

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) conducted a parent focus group in Fort Dodge as part of the State of Iowa's work on a statewide needs' assessment. Four parents of young children attended the focus group, which was held at Linking Families and Communities and facilitated by Lynn and Steve Adams.

Identified Weaknesses:

- Difficult to find quality child care
- High turnover at child care
- Wait is long for services or you have to leave the community to get specialized services
- Access to and travel to mental health services.
- More mental health service providers are needed

What is needed?

- We need pediatric specialists, specifically in dentistry and optometry.
- Diagnostic services
- Mental health

If you could choose what things would our community have?

- Free child care
- Therapies that meet our children's needs
- Specialized care for those with behavior issues
- Higher pay for child care staff in order to keep good staff.
- More training for para-educators on behavior.
- Transportation to and from appointments.

Other comments:

- It feels like schools get information out late to families especially around kindergarten.
- As a parent, I had to persevere to get answers and help for my child. I knew that something wasn't right, but it seemed as if no one was listening.

Appendix D – Provider Snapshot (May 2020)

DENTAL PROVIDERS

	Provider Name	Location	Service	Accepts children 5 & under	Accepts Medicaid
Calhoun County	Family 1 st Dental	Lake City	General Dentistry • Jack Elder, DDS	✓	-
	Larry Kalkwarf, DDS	Lake City	General Dentistry • Larry Kalkwarf, DDS	✓	-
	Manson Family Dentistry	Manson	General Dentistry • Sarah Hoban, DDS	✓	-
Pocahontas County	Bieri & Christensen Dentistry	Laurens	General Dentistry • Linda Bieri, DDS • Steve Christensen, DDS • Tyler Wallingford, DDS	✓	-
	Dan Wernimont, DDS	Pocahontas	General Dentistry • Dan Wernimont, DDS	✓	✓
	Pocahontas Dental	Pocahontas	General Dentistry • Victoria Rittgers, DDS	✓	✓
Webster County	Applewhite Dental	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry • Russ Heun, DDS	✓	-
	Anne Arklie, DDS	Gowrie	General Dentistry • Anne Arklie, DDS	✓	-
	Aspen Dental	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry	✓	-

Webster County	Clay & Associates, DDS, PLC	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry • John Clay, DDS • Shaun O'Neill, DDS • Tyler Wallingford, DDS	✓	-
	Community Health Center	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry • Marcela Paulino DaCosta, DDS	✓	✓
	Dr. Jim Knight Family Dental Care	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry • James Knight, DDS • Amy Seehusen, DDS	✓	-
	Bruce Cochrane, DDS	Fort Dodge	Periodontics, dental implants • Bruce Cochrane, DDS	✓	-
	Fort Dodge Oral Surgery & Implant Center	Fort Dodge	Oral Surgery • Jonathan DeJong, DDS • Eric Knox, DDS • Eric Pearson, DDS	-	✓
	John Garton, DDS	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry • John Garton, DDS	✓	-
	Iowa Central Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry	✓	✓
	Matthew Maggio, DDS	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry • Mathew Maggio, DDS	✓	-
	Robert Ronconi, DDS	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry • Robert Ronconi, DDS	✓	✓
	Rolling Hills Dental Clinic	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry • Nick Drzycimski, DDS • Maria Drzycimski, DDS	✓	-
	Shelly & Shelly	Fort Dodge	Orthodontics • Andy Shelly, DDS	✓	-
	Sonksen Dental Clinic	Fort Dodge	General Dentistry • Andrew Sonksen, DDS	✓	-

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PROVIDERS

	Business Name	Location	QRS Rating	DHS Licensed Capacity	Ages Served
Calhoun County	Christian Kids Daycare	Manson		21	6wks. – 12 yrs.
	Kids Palace	Rockwell City		50	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Kid's Spot	Lake City	★★	56	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Manson Northwest Webster Preschool	Manson		NA	3-5 yrs.
	Prairie Valley Preschool	Farnhamville		NA	4-5 yrs.
	South Central Calhoun Preschool	Lake City	★★★★★	NA	3-5 yrs.
	South Central Calhoun Preschool	Rockwell City	★★★★	NA	3-5 yrs.
	Registered Child Care Homes (3)	Calhoun County	★-(1)	32	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Non-Registered Child Care Homes w/CCA (1)	Calhoun County		5	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
Pocahontas County	Discovery Day Care Center	Pocahontas	★★	54	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Kid's Korner	Laurens		100	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Laurens-Marathon Early Childhood Program	Laurens		63	3-5 yrs.
	Pocahontas All Star-T Preschool	Pocahontas	★★★★★	60	3-5 yrs.
	Registered Child Care Homes (1)	Pocahontas County		12	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Non-Registered Child Care Homes w/CCA (0)	Pocahontas County		0	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
Webster County	AFES Youth Center	Fort Dodge		281	2 yrs. – 13 yrs.
	Calvary Family Center	Fort Dodge	★★★	39	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Child Care Discovery Center	Fort Dodge		240	6 wks. – 10 yrs.
	Community Christian Preschool & Child Care	Fort Dodge	★★★★	104	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Community Early Childhood Center	Fort Dodge	★★★★	151	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Dodger Academy	Fort Dodge		150	2 yrs. – 13 yrs.
	Dodger Preschool	Fort Dodge		20	3-5 yrs.
	Fort Dodge Community Schools	Fort Dodge		105	4-5 yrs.

	Kid's Korner	Fort Dodge		28	2 yrs. – 12 yrs.
	Kid's Palace	Gowrie		40	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
Webster County	KidZone Christian Daycare Center & Preschool	Fort Dodge	★★★★	93	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Little Lambs Preschool	Fort Dodge		19	3-5 yrs,
	Southeast Webster Daycare	Dayton		90	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Southeast Webster-Grand Preschool	Dayton		NA	3-5 yrs.
	St. Edmond Afterschool Program	Fort Dodge		100	4 yrs. – 12 yrs.
	St. Edmond Preschool	Fort Dodge		NA	4-5 yrs.
	St. Paul Lutheran Preschool	Fort Dodge	★★★★	50	3-5 yrs.
	Tracey's Tots	Fort Dodge		90	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	YOUR Head Start	Fort Dodge	★★★★	128	3-5 yrs.
	Registered Child Care Homes (41)	Webster County	★ - (2) ★★★ - (3) ★★★★★ - (3)	448	6 wks. – 12 yrs.
	Non-Registered Child Care Homes w/CCA (4)	Webster County		20	6 wks. – 12 yrs.

HEALTH PROVIDERS

Provider		Location(s)	Services (family practice & pediatric practitioners are named)
Calhoun County	Calhoun County Public Health	Rockwell City	Public health services, immunizations, environmental health, child health services
	McCrary-Rost Clinics	Lake City Rockwell City	Lab services, radiography, EKG and pharmacy services. Family Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonja Petersen-Anderson, ARNP-C • Margaret Vitiritto, DO • Barbara Weber, ARNP-C • Danni Anderson, PA-C • Derek Duncan, DO • Nancy Flink, PA-C • Megan Grodahl, PA-C • Liz Halbur, PA • Susan Hornback, DO • Mark Mogensen
	Stewart Memorial Hospital	Lake City	Complete hospital services.
	UnityPoint Clinic Family Medicine	Manson	Family Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paulette Gleason, ARNP • Sara Thorkildsen, FNP
Pocahontas County	Pocahontas County Public Health Department	Pocahontas	Public health services, immunizations, environmental health, child health services
	UnityPoint Clinics	Laurens	Family Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenniferr Bpevers, DO • Paulette Gleason, ARNP • Kylie Maurer, PA-C • Selena Meacham, FNP • Sara Thorkildsen, FNP
	UnityPoint-Pocahontas Community Hospital	Pocahontas	Hospital services, no labor & delivery

Webster County	Community Health Center	Dayton Fort Dodge	Family Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Chase, ARNP • Ann Feser, ARNP • Angela McGregor, DNP • Megan Srinivas, MD • Kendra Ulicki, ARNP • Jennifer Zigrang, ARNP
	Iowa ENT & Sinus Surgery Center	Fort Dodge	Ear, nose & throat specialists
	Iowa Specialty Hospitals & Clinics	Fort Dodge	Orthopedics, podiatry, sports medicine, occupational medicine & pain management Family Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Pearson, ARNP • Heidi Pedersen, ARNP
	McCrary Rost Clinic	Gowrie	Lab services, radiography, EKG and pharmacy services. Family Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Halbur, PA • Diana Smith, ARNP-C • Margaret Vitiritto, DO
	MercyOne	Fort Dodge	Family Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Birkett, MD • Alany Nguyen, DO • Tricia Widlund, ARNP
	Millennium Therapy	Fort Dodge	Physical therapy

Webster County	UnityPoint Clinics	Fort Dodge	<p>Specialty care services</p> <p>Family Medicine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Cole, MD • April Gapp, ARNP • Megan Hopp, ARNP • Debbie Ladd, ARNP • Renea Kestel, ARNP • Joe Larson, DO • Selena Meacham, FNP • Randy Minion, MD • Aaron Peimann, MD • Kelsey Redmond, ARNP • Jennifer Schreier, PA-C • Sandi Syments, ARNP • Bobbi Thacker, ARNP • Lincoln Wallace, MD <p>Pediatrics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra Adam, ARNP • Ramadevi Sankaran, MD • Teri Townsend, ARNP, CPNP, DNP • Richard Votta, MD
	UnityPoint – Trinity Regional Medical Center	Fort Dodge	Complete hospital services, cancer center
	Webster County Health Department	Fort Dodge	Public health services, immunizations, environmental health, child health services

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

	Provider	Location	Practitioners (*Serves children under 5)
Calhoun County	Plains Area Mental Health Services	Lake City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenna Nockles, LISW *
	Lincoln Mental Health	Rockwell City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Anderson, LMHC, CADC
Webster County	Authentic Therapy of Iowa	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Schwatken, Psychologist
	Catholic Charities	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darla McEnroe, LMSW, NCC * • Emily McCullough, LMFT, CADC *
	Cathy Huggins, LISW	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy Huggins, LISW
	Child Health Specialty Clinic	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No therapist
	Children & Families of Iowa	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liam Burnside, MSW, LMSW • Katie Royster, MSW, LISW * • Myra Schnieders, MSW, LISW, IADC
	Community Health Center	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roxanne Fevold, LMHC, CADC * • Rick Joneson, PhD • Holly McClintock, PMHNP-BC • Eileen Meier, PMHNP • Kirsten Olson, LISW *
	Families First Counseling Services	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina Stork, LMHC *
	Genesis Mental Health Associates, LLC	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leann Rider-Hildreth, LISW
	Lincoln Mental Health	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Anderson, LMHC, CADC
	Lutheran Family Service	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Degelau, LISW • Toni Larson, LISW

	Lutheran Services in Iowa	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No therapists
	Manz Pastoral Counseling, LLC	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathew Manz, LMHC
	McColley-Nicola Therapy Services, Inc	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arlene McColley-Nicola, LISW
	Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic, Inc.	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siobhan Danreis, LMHC, RPT* • Martin Fialkov, MD
	Patty Hull, LISW	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patty Hull, LISW
Webster County	Sayer Counselling, LLC	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Sayer • Kelly Sayer
	The People Place	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barb Lind, LISW
	Therapeutic Solutions	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy Wilson, LISW, CADC, PLLC *
	Timi Jordison Psychological Services, Inc.	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timi Jordison, LISW
	UnityPoint Berryhill Center	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Greene, LISW * • Jamey Gregerson, ARNP • Dean Guerdet, ARNP • Mary Beth Hutchinson, ARNP • Tenaeda Jeppeson, ARNP • Janne Johnson, ARNP • Joan Kitten, ARNP • Lori Ohrt, LISW * • Christine Segreto, DO • Katelyn Thompson, DO
	Youth Shelter Care of North Central Iowa	Fort Dodge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meghan Baldrige, LISW * • Becky Olson, LMHC *