

Meeting Minutes

Division: Public Health

Meeting Topic: October EHDI Advisory Committee Meeting

Facilitator: EHDI Team

Date: October 8, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Objectives

The Iowa EHDI Advisory Committee represents the interests of the people of Iowa in the development of programming that ensures availability and access to quality hearing health care for Iowa children less than three years of age. The membership of the Advisory Committee shall be representative of stakeholders with an interest in and concern for newborn hearing screening and follow-up.

Meeting Participants

ASL Interpreters: Julia Lyttle and Jeff Reese

Participants: Jennifer Proctor, Jenni Macke, Kristen Moriarty, Jacqueline Carder, Michelle Vaccaro, Tonya Krueger, Jennifer Sammons, Megan Palmer, Jill Stevenson, Morgan Schultz, Chantelle Broome, Tori Carsrud, Stephanie Childers and Susan Brennan

EHDI program staff: Tammy O'Hollearn, Heather Dirks, Linda True, Jinifer Cox

Agenda Topic and Items

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

- CDC & HRSA Grant Updates
 - CDC - all programs in US were cut by 35%. Due to cuts, Iowa EHDI will only provide individualized data file once per year to CDC due to reduced capacity. EHDI will continue to provide annual aggregate file. CDC Foundation was hired to do minimal data analysis. Currently working on state and territories 2023 data to be published to CDC website. They will then begin working on 2024 data.
 - HRSA – no changes to this grant. Last year EHDI Coordinator and Family Support Coordinator had a separate meeting from the National EHDI conference, but this year it will be at the conference. HRSA staff will not

- be able to attend so meeting will be facilitated by national EHDI technical assistance centers funded by HRSA.
 - EveryStep – EHDI program is working with EveryStep to pilot family navigation through an Oberkotter grant. Pilot facilities are Broadlawns and Mercy Des Moines. EHDI will provide data analysis, evaluation and technical assistance. More details to come on this pilot.
- Hearing Aid & Audiological Services Update
 - All funding has been allocated at this time. July 15th was the start of the new contract and worked through the children on the waitlist first. North Iowa Community Action Organization (NICAO) will add children as funding becomes available following payment of claims. North Iowa has been the claims processor since this funding was first allocated back in 2007-08. This year they only agreed to contract through the end of December due to anticipated staffing changes within their program. In January, the applications, claims processing, etc. will come back to Iowa HHS. Reimbursement is at Medicaid rates. Tammy is working with Lori on a transition plan and will notify providers of the transition in November.
- EHDI Best Practices Manual Posted
 - Provider contacts for Audiology and Birthing Facilities all received the updated [EHDI Best Practices Manual](#) link on the EHDI website.
- Member Updates
 - Stephanie Childers will be retiring in June 2027 and will need to be replaced on the advisory committee.
 - Heather Dirks – Iowa Deafblind Project received full funding for this fiscal year as a part of the 5-year grant.

EHDI Family Support – Heather Dirks

- Recent and Upcoming Activities
 - Parent Partner Panel was held in August and in September there was a Deaf Mentor Panel, both on Zoom.
 - Upcoming events:
 - Pumpkin Patch event in 3 locations: Sioux Center, Ames and Marion on October 17th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Event is being held in collaboration with Iowa Deafblind Project, Iowa School for the Deaf and Iowa Hands & Voices.
 - Signing Santa event at the Ankeny Kirkendall Library on December 19th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. hosted by EHDI and open to children of all ages.
 - Ongoing Book Club for Tots monthly
 - Other events in progress
- Partner and Mentor Updates
 - Referrals since July EHDI advisory Committee meeting:
 - 2 families have been matched with a Parent Partner
 - 1 family has been referred to the Iowa Deafblind Project

- 5 families have been referred to Early ACCESS
- 7 families have been referred to work with a Deaf Mentor through ISD Outreach
- Heather reported the one-pagers created at the April 2026 Advisory by advisory committee workgroups are being sent to parents as a resource. The one-pagers are on Safety, Technology Tips and Equipment. The documents will be published on the EHDI website in the next month.

Tele-Audiology – Linda True

- Pilot office is located at the Child Health Specialty Clinic (CHSC) in Oelwein. Iowa EHDI found a new audiology partner, Hearing Associates, PC, for the pilot. Hearing Associates has outreach clinics in that area (Cresco, New Hampton) if there are children identified with a hearing difference who are in need of hearing aids. Appointments will begin again on November 12, 2026, with a practice session on October 22, 2026 for the new audiologist and CHSC nurse. The EHDI program is also working with Hearing Associates on back-up providers if the audiologist is not available on a regularly scheduled clinic day. This will allow for continuity of care since there are only two days per month for diagnostic assessment appointments. Appointments will continue to be twice a month and will alternate between morning and an afternoon time.

Quarterly Diagnostic QA Reports – Linda True

- 2024-2025 Comparison
 - There has been a decrease in diagnostic providers due to regional AEAs being unable to support unsedated diagnostic ABR. This has impacted the numbers of children being referred to diagnostic facilities in a timely manner. Overall, there are still providers across the state who need to do a better job of referring children to diagnostic centers in a timely manner. EHDI continues to educate providers on the importance of performing only one outpatient screening and if they do not pass, referring them to the appropriate diagnostic provider immediately. Late referrals lead to late identification and delays in referral to early intervention for Iowa children.
 - Stephanie Childers suggested the information be shared with the people in charge of decisions for AEA service provision. Stephanie said she feels they are missing kids and it is hard to know where they are missing them because they can no longer provide an important service.
 - Tammy noted educational audiologists providing diagnostic assessments was highlighted by EHDI division of the American Academy of Pediatrics as a promising practice for other states struggling with timely diagnosis. Tammy shared there is a new Oberkotter grant that came out in the last week. EHDI personnel were contacted by Beth Walker at University of Iowa to explore the increase of service provision across the state through local screening and diagnostic assessments to improve timely diagnosis of hearing differences. They are exploring tele-audiology and mobile services

to increase capacity through partnerships. The grant opportunity will allow the programs to explore sustainable solutions. This would allow parents to receive services closer to home. Grant is due at the end of November. If committee members have ideas, please reach out to Tammy.

- Linda commented that having a variety of options may increase service provision. Some areas may do better with a mobile clinic whereas in other parts of the state, tele-audiology may work best.
- Jennifer Sammons – Appreciate the data and numbers and will make sure to share the slide and data with the AEA group.

CHSC Regional Programming – Tonya Krueger

- Tonya provided background information on the CHSC. They serve kids with chronic conditions, special health care needs and mental health needs. The population served and service provision is based on community need (gap filling). Central office is located in Iowa City, while there are regional centers throughout the state. The population served is approximately 20% of Iowa's children. In 2025 CHSC was able to serve 6,957 patients in all 99 counties in a variety of ways. Out of the 6,957 patients, more than 3,500 were supported for behavioral/social-emotional needs. 1,621 patients were able to be seen virtually.
 - 16% of the population served are under the age of 3. Most children they see are school age.
 - Staffing consists of: nurse practitioners, nurses, family navigators, administrative staff, clerical staff, dietitians and program staff.
 - CHSC is charged with providing services to fill gaps including developmental and behavioral screenings and assessments, mental health services, medication management and other clinical supports. The goal is to transition care back to the medical home provider. Telehealth visits are also offered, including nutrition services.
 - Family-to-Family support is offered. There are 21 family navigators throughout the state to provide support to families to navigate systems, provide emotional support and connect families to community resources. Tonya shared 2 family stories of children and families served by CHSC.
 - CHSC supports Early ACCESS with services including nutrition and health assessments. CHSC also has a Regional Autism Assistance Program. Waiver services are also available to support youth on waiver services. CHSC provide webinars, and family training programs, including Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute (IFLTI) and Digital Storytelling. CHSC is still recruiting families to join both of those upcoming sessions. IFLTI is scheduled for the Spring and will be a hybrid in-person and online. Digital Storytelling will be in Iowa City.

- Linda shared that she met with the family navigator in Oelwein to talk about collaborating if there is a child diagnosed with hearing loss there. Linda learned about the services they can do to support the family too.
- [Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute and Digital Storytelling](#)

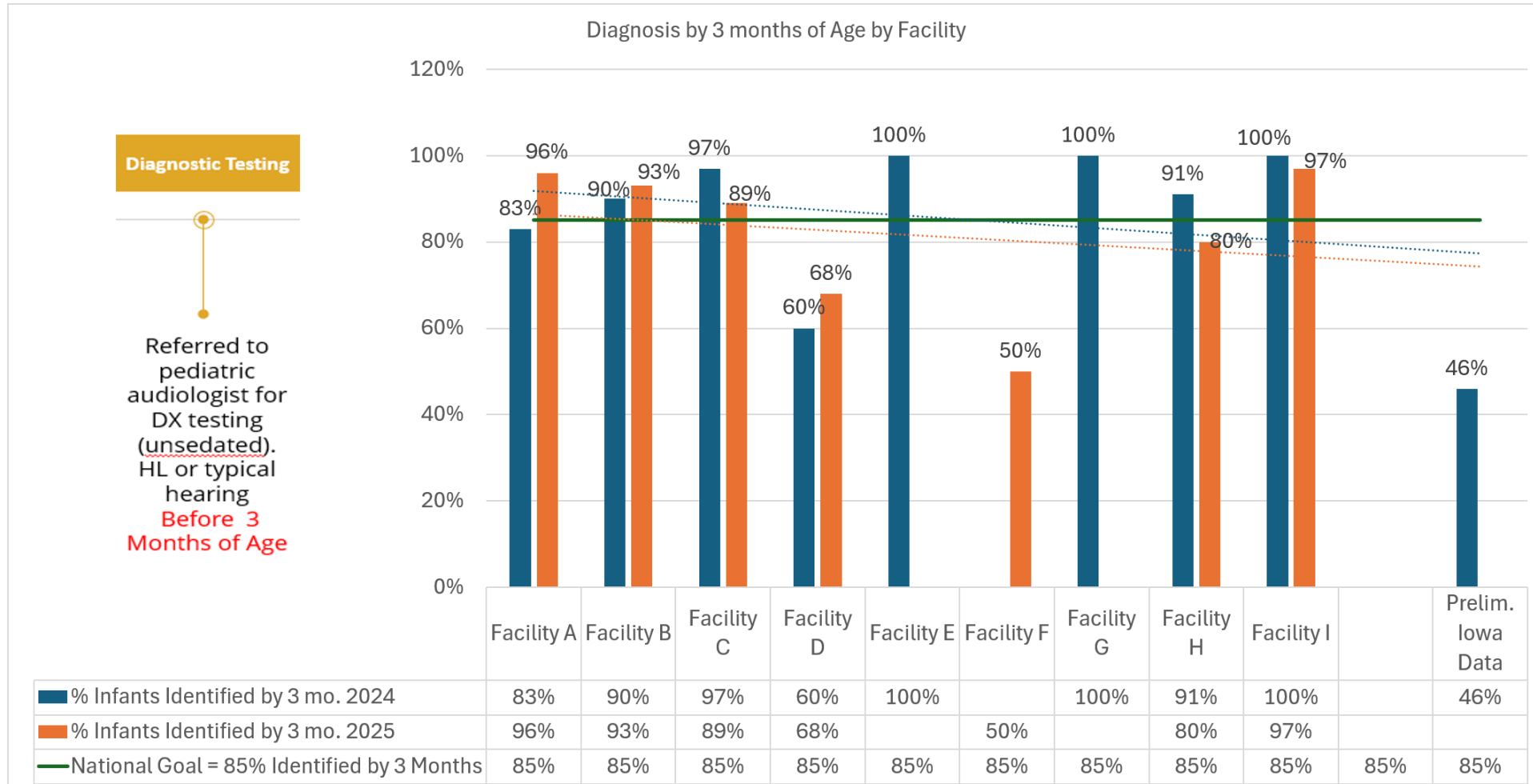
Closing - Questions or Discussion

- Next Meeting Topics (4/2027)
 - EHDI 5 Year Data Analysis – Toby
 - Natural sleep and sedated ABR updates - Linda
 - LEAD-K Update - Tori

Upcoming meeting dates for 2027:

- April 8 (in-person) 10-3 p.m. at the Ankeny Kirkendall Library
- July 8 (online via Zoom) 10-1 p.m.
- October 7 (online via Zoom) 10-1 p.m.

What Have We Learned?





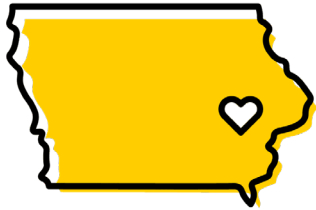
Child Health Specialty Clinics

EHDI Advisory Committee
October 8, 2026

IOWA
HEALTH CARE

Stead Family
Pediatrics

Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC)



CHSC was established in 1936 as public health services unit of the University of Iowa.

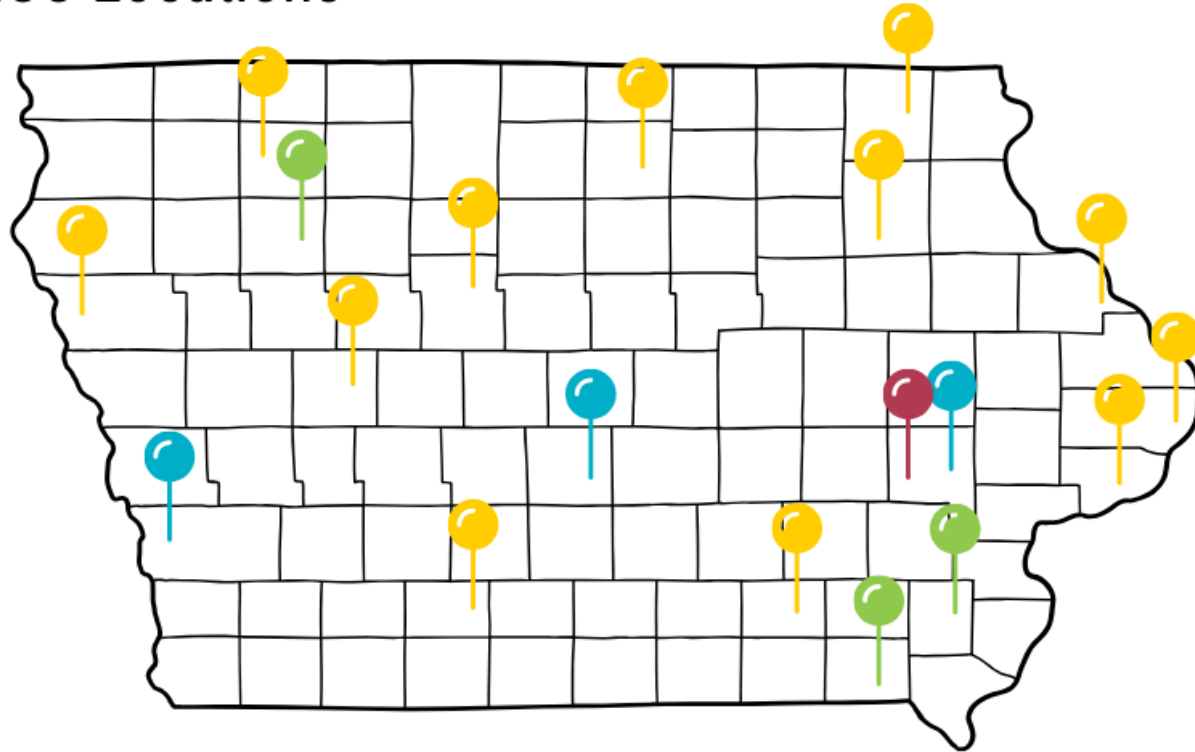


CHSC is part of the University of Iowa Division of Child and Community in the Department of Pediatrics.



CHSC administers Iowa's Title V Program for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.

Regional Centers and Satellite Locations



Regional Centers:

Bettendorf, Carroll, Clinton,
Creston, Decorah, Dubuque,
Fort Dodge, Mason City,
Oelwein, Ottumwa, Sioux City,
Spencer



Satellite Locations:

Keosauqua, Mt. Pleasant,
Storm Lake



Family Navigators only:

Council Bluffs, Des Moines,
Iowa City



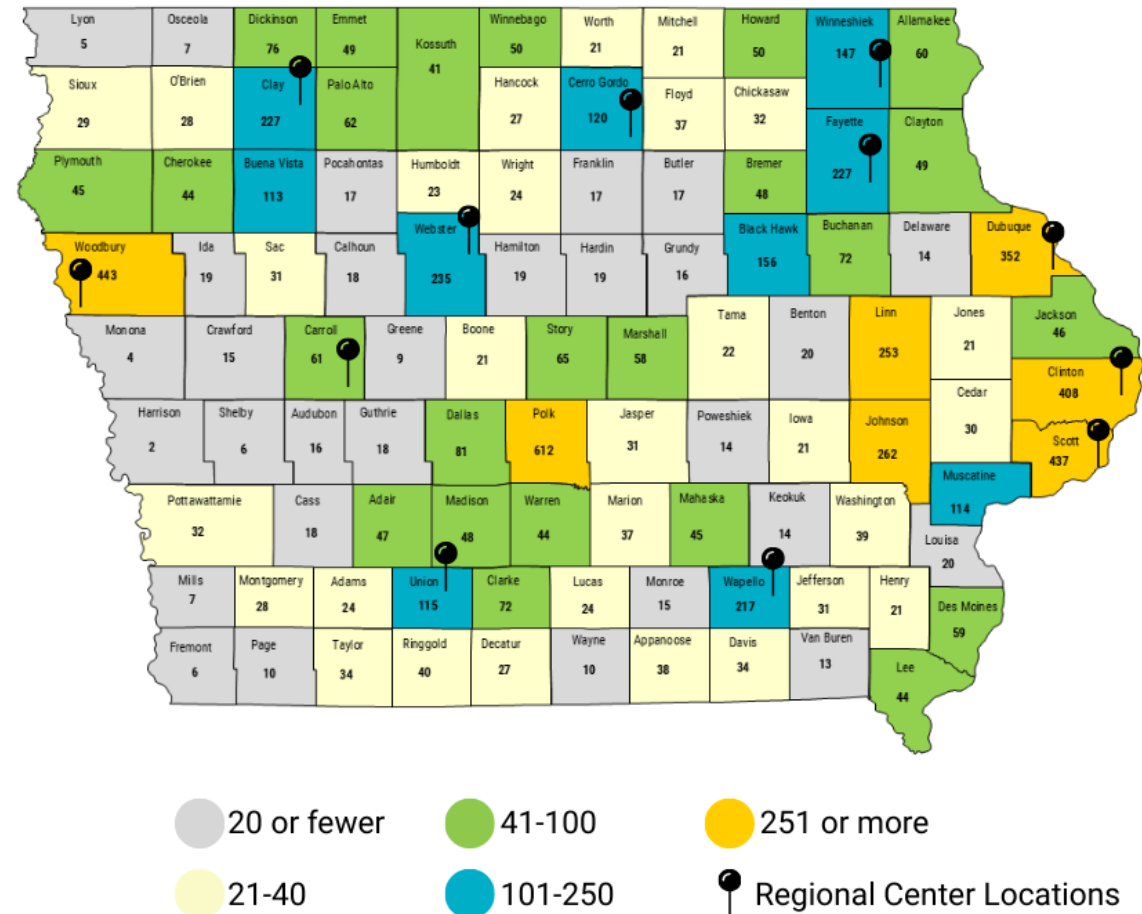
Central Office:

Iowa City

2025 Year in Review

In 2025, CHSC served children, youth, and families from all 99 Iowa counties:

- ✓ 6,957 patients
- ✓ 3,585 medical provider office visits
- ✓ 1,621 child psychiatry telehealth appointments
- ✓ 927 dietitian appointments



2025 Year in Review

Primary Payers for
CHSC Visits



51%  Medicaid
21%  Blue Cross/Blue Shield
28%  Other insurance

CHSC Patient Ages



16%  0-2 years
26%  3-5 years
42%  6-12 years
14%  13-18 years
2%  19-21 years

Serving Iowa families for 90 years



Diagnostic Field Clinics, early 1960s

CHSC Staff



Nurse Practitioners – Nurses - Family Navigators - Administrative Staff
Clerical Staff – Dietitians - Program Staff

Gap-Filling Clinical Services

CHSC Clinical Services:

- developmental and behavioral screenings and assessments
- mental health services
- medication management
- other clinical supports

Telehealth:

- access to pediatric specialties through telehealth

Nutrition Services:

- Assessments
- Care coordination



Family to Family Support

CHSC Family Navigators

- parent or caregiver of a child with special health care needs
- provide emotional support, systems navigation, and connections to community resources
- trained as Family Peer Support Specialists

CHSC has 21 family navigators located in 15 different communities across the state.



CHSC Family Story



Angie is 13 years old and has Emanuel Syndrome, a rare disorder associated with multiple congenital anomalies. She needs help with almost everything including toileting, bathing, and eating. She is non-verbal and communicates with sign language.

“I feel Angie is a healthy happy child thanks to all the resources CHSC helped me find. We made the best team. They taught me how to advocate for my daughter and to be her voice.”

CHSC Programs

Early ACCESS:

- [Service Coordination](#)
- [Nutrition Services](#)
- [Health Assessments](#)

Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP):

- Screening and diagnostic services
- Technical assistance and training

Wavier Services:

- Support for eligible children and youth



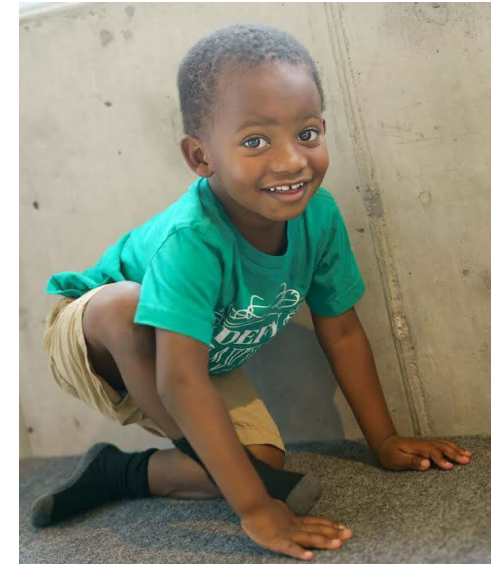
Early ACCESS Family Story



Our family started this journey when we received a call asking if we had room in our home for twin boys. Of course, we said yes! Quincy and Cory came to us when they were a month old. We first noticed a delay when they were around eight months old with gross motor skills. Their primary doctor referred us to Early ACCESS. We were nervous and didn't know what to expect, but the team assigned quickly put us at ease.

The ball really started rolling when we were referred to CHSC and received a service coordinator. The team offered emotional support, connected us with other families with similar stories, and even shared their own lived experiences.

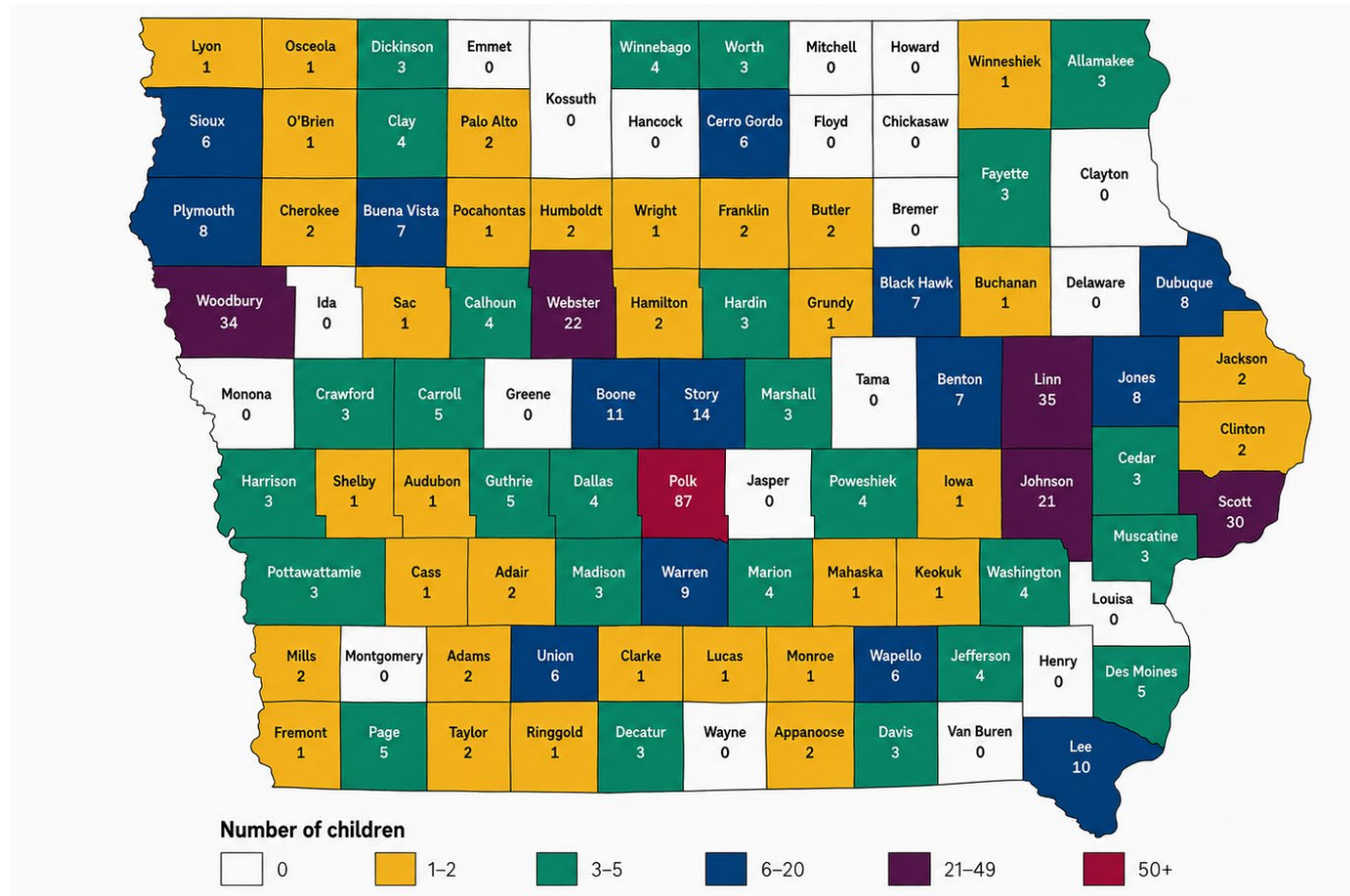
Our service coordinator connected us to the Fort Dodge CHSC clinic for an evaluation, helped us apply for Medicaid waivers, and referred us to amazing therapists for the twins. Their progress shows how effective a big team working together can be! From crawling, walking, communicating their needs, self-regulating, engaging in group activities, these milestones may not have been reached without the AEA and CHSC Early ACCESS support.



Early ACCESS Nutrition Services

July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026

- 481 children referred and/or receiving nutrition services
- 79 counties



CHSC Programs

Nutrition Services:

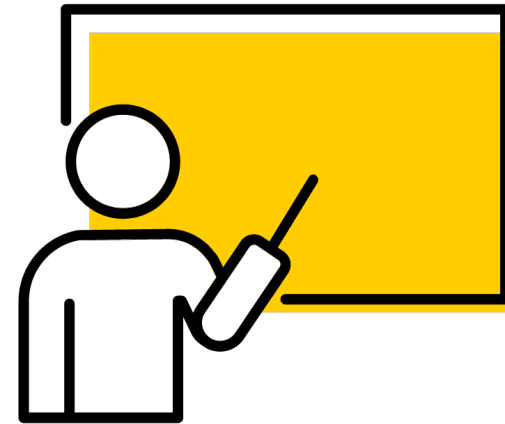
- Assessments
- Care coordination

Mental Health Training:

- [Webinars for primary care providers](#)
- Support for mild to moderate mental health needs within medical home

Family Training:

- [Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute](#)
- [Storytelling Workshops](#)
- Educational Webinars



Child Health Specialty Clinics

uihc.org/childrens/child-health-specialty-clinics

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Stead Family Children's Hospital

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Home Child Health Specialty Clinics     

Child Health Specialty Clinics

The vision of Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) is to assure a system of care for Iowa's children with special health care needs.