

ECI Stakeholder Alliance Organizational Structure	Document Number:	2.1
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Policy:

The Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholder Alliance (ECI-SA) shall be established according to state law and its own bylaws.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholder Alliance is established in Iowa Code (Chapter 256I.12) to:

oversee and provide broad input into the development of a high quality Iowa early childhood system that meets the needs of children zero through age five and their families and integrates the early care, health, and education systems. The alliance shall advise the governor, general assembly, state board, and other public and private policy bodies and service providers in coordinating activities throughout the state to fulfill its purpose.

And its duties are to:

- a. Coordinate with the early childhood Iowa state board.
- b. Serve as the state advisory council required under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-134, as designated by the governor.

The purposes, according to the ECI-SA bylaws, are to:

- Oversee and provide input into the development of a comprehensive, integrated early childhood system for Iowa that meets the needs of children ages 0-5 and families, and integrates the early learning; health, mental health and nutrition; family support and special needs/early intervention systems
- Support the Early Childhood Iowa State Board in addressing the early care, health, and education systems that affect children ages 0 -5.
- Advise the governor, general assembly, state board, and other public and private policy bodies and service providers in coordinating activities and policies related to Iowa's comprehensive early childhood system.

Both state law and the ECI-SA bylaws state that the ECI-SA shall serve as the State Advisory Council initiated through the Head Start federal legislation (42 USC 9801, Section 642B). Additional purposes, duties and responsibilities are defined as: (see 42 USC 9801, Section 642B (D)(i-iii), emphasis added):

(i) The State Advisory Council shall, in addition to any responsibilities assigned to the Council by the Governor of the State:

- (I) conduct a periodic *statewide needs assessment* concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State;
- (II) identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration *and coordination* among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs;
- (III) develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;
- (IV) develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a *unified data collection system* for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;
- (V) develop *recommendations regarding statewide professional development* and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State;
- (VI) *assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators*, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre kindergarten program; and
- (VII) make *recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards* and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate.

(ii) The State Advisory Council shall *hold public hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment* on the activities described in clause (i). The State Advisory Council shall submit a statewide strategic report addressing the activities described in clause (i) to the State Director of Head Start Collaboration and the Governor of the State.

(iii) After submission of a statewide strategic report under clause (ii), the State Advisory Council shall *meet periodically to review any implementation of the recommendations* in such report and any changes in State and local needs.

Definitions:

According to state law, the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholder Alliance is created to support the state board in addressing the early care, health, and education systems that affect children ages zero through five in Iowa (see Iowa Code Chapter 256I.12.1).

According to the ECI-SA bylaws, the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholder Alliance is “a confederation of stakeholders in early care, health and education systems that affects children age zero to five in the State of Iowa”(see Vision and Purpose) with specific purposes as stated

above under "Purpose."

The State Advisory Council is defined through federal legislation as: The steering committee is defined as the body established by the ECI-SA as required by the ECI-SA bylaws in the ECI-SA bylaws which reads: "The ECI SA shall operate with a steering committee to provide leadership, organize, manage, and coordinate the activities of the ECI SA and the component groups. The steering committee shall serve as the ECI SA between SA meetings."

Procedures:

None.

Responsibilities:

See Organizational Roles and Responsibilities polices (2.1.4)

Revision History