Early Childhood Iowa Funding Tool O

Effective July 1, 2025

Approved by the ECI State Board on March 1, 2024

General Information

By Iowa Code, 256I.4(5) Adopt common performance measures and data reporting requirements, applicable statewide, for services, programs, and activities provided by area boards. The data from common performance measures and other data shall be posted on the early childhood Iowa internet site and disseminated by other means and shall also be aggregated to provide statewide information. The state board shall establish a submission deadline for the annual budget and any budget amendments submitted by early childhood Iowa area boards in accordance with section 256I.8, subsection 1, paragraph "d", that allow a reasonable period of time for preparation by the area boards and for review and approval or request for modification of the materials by the state board.

This tool outlines the required data items by service type.

Age Categories for Data Collection

For direct service types that require the collection of age of children receiving services, the following breakdowns are utilized.

- Prenatal (not an option for all service types)
- Children 0-1
- Children 1-2
- Children 2-3
- Children 3-4
- Children 4-5
- Children 5-6

Direct Service Types

Car Seat Safety
Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of children
- Age of children served
- Number of car seats checked
- Number of car seats that were installed correctly and incorrectly
- Number disbursed due to an emergent situation

Quality/Efficiency:

- Cost per child

Outcomes:

- Number of car seats that were not installed properly and corrected

Results Area:

- Healthy Children
- Safe and Supportive Communities

Designed to ensure the safe transportation of young children by providing access to properly installed car seats and educating caregivers on correct usage. Through targeted funding and additional resources, this service type enables the distribution of car seats to families in need, with special attention to emergent situations where immediate support is required. Trained professionals conduct car seat checks to assess whether seats are installed correctly, addressing common safety concerns and correcting improper installations on the spot. This proactive approach significantly reduces the risk of injury during travel, ensuring children are secured according to safety standards. The program's effectiveness is measured by the number of car seats inspected, the percentage installed correctly, and the improvements made during check-ups. By promoting proper car seat use and supporting families with critical safety equipment, car seat safety support enhances child safety, reduces preventable injuries, and provides peace of mind for caregivers.

Dental

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of children enrolled in all programs/locations served
- Number of children screened

- Age of children screened
- Number of children screened by payment source
- Number of children screened that were high-risk
- Number of children with decay
- Number of children with demineralization
- Number of high-risk children that received dental care coordination

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number of children screened
- Number of children screened that were high-risk

Outcomes:

- Number of children screened with decay
- Number of children screened with demineralization
- Number of high-risk children that received dental care coordination

Result Area:

- Healthy Children

Designed to promote oral health and prevent dental issues among children through early detection, education, and coordinated care. This service type provides dental screenings to children across various programs and community locations, regardless of their payment source. Screenings assess oral health, identify high-risk children, and detect early signs of decay or demineralization, allowing for timely intervention. Children identified as high-risk receive dental care coordination to connect families with appropriate treatment and preventive services. This proactive approach helps to reduce the incidence of untreated dental issues, supporting long-term oral health and overall well-being. The program's impact is measured by the number of children screened, the identification of high-risk cases, and the successful coordination of follow-up care. By prioritizing early detection and accessible dental services, dental health support services help to prevent serious oral health problems, improve health outcomes, and promote lifelong healthy habits.

* High-risk means a child who has signs of oral health needs as detailed in the above narrative (i.e. decay, demineralization, limited hygiene, untreated dental issues regarding oral health)

* Number of children enrolled in all programs/locations served is based on all possible children (this provides a denominator number to then create a percentage based on dividing the number of children possible by the number of children funded by ECI).

Public Awareness/Child Fairs

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of activities funded
- Number of families who participated
- Number of estimated reach
- Number of families who responded to changes of condition questions
- Number of families reporting an increased awareness of ECI and early childhood services

Quality/Efficiency:

- Cost per activity

Outcomes:

- Number of families with an increased awareness of ECI and early childhood services available to their child

Result Areas:

- Safe and Supportive Communities

Designed to inform and empower families by increasing awareness of local services and resources that support early childhood development and family well-being. Through targeted funding and community partnerships, these events such as community fairs, informational sessions, and resource expos bring families together to learn about available programs, health services, educational opportunities, and family support networks. Activities are strategically planned to reach a board audience, maximizing community impact and connecting families with essential resources. Participants are provided with information on local services, encouraged to engage in community programs, and educated on the benefits of early intervention and developmental support. Effectiveness is measured by the number of activities held, family participation rates, and feedback indicating increased awareness of community services. Families are also surveyed on their understanding of local resources and any changes in their ability to access support for their children. By fostering community connections and raising awareness, public awareness and community engagement events strengthen families' ability to access crucial services, contributing to healthier, more resilient communities.

Family Support Services

*All data reported for family support home visitation services will be reported in DAISEY and follow the FSSD Data Dictionary. The below measures are a scope of data but DAISEY and the FSSD Data Dictionary are the source of final data requirements.

https://daiseyiowa.daiseysolutions.org/articles/iowa-data-dictionary/

Inputs:

- Amount of funding to administer the program

Outputs:

- Number of children (0-5) served during the fiscal year.
  - In DAISEY, profiles are based on one primary target child.
- Number of families served during the fiscal year.
- Number of home visits completed during the fiscal year.
- Number of attendees at group-based parent education meetings.
- Demographics of enrolled families:
  - Race of primary caregiver
  - Ethnicity of primary caregiver
  - Marital status of primary caregiver
  - Educational attainment of primary caregiver
  - Household size
  - Household income
  - Prenatal enrollment
  - First time mothers

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number of age-eligible children (0-5) that are screened for developmental delays
  - Of those screened, the number that were referred to early intervention services.
- Number of eligible mothers screened with EPDS
  - Of those screened, the number that were referred for additional supports

Outcomes (reported from DAISEY):

- Percentage of participating families that improve or maintain healthy family functioning, problem solving, and communication.
- Percentage of families that increase or maintain social supports
- Percentage of families that are connected to additional concrete supports
- Percentage of participating families that increase knowledge about child development and parenting

- Percentage of participating families that improve nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and child(ren)

Result Areas:

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

Designed to strengthen families by providing personalized guidance, education, and resources that promote healthy development and well-being. Through dedicated funding, these services support families with young children by offering home visits, group-based parent education, and developmental screenings. The program prioritizes engagement with families from diverse backgrounds, ensuring inclusivity across different races, ethnicities, household size, and income levels. Special attention is given to prenatal enrollment and first-time mothers, providing early intervention and support during critical stages of development. Trained professionals conduct home visits that focus on enhancing parenting skills, promoting child development, and connecting families to community resources.

Group-based parent education meetings offer opportunities for shared learning and peer support, fostering stronger community connections. Developmental screenings are performed for age-eligible children, with referrals made for early intervention services when needed. Additionally, mothers are screened using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale, and referrals are provided for further support if necessary. The impact of family support services is measured through improvements in family functioning, communication, and problem-solving skills. Families also report increased social support, better access to community resources, greater understanding of child development, and stronger nurturing and attachment with their children. By focusing on education, connection, and early intervention, family support services empower families to build resilient, healthy environments that support children's growth and success.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultations

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of consultants providing infant and early childhood mental health consultation

- Number of hours the consultants provided consultation services
- Number of staff receiving services from the consultant
- Number of individual case consultation sessions with individual staff
- Number of group consultation sessions
- Number of staff training sessions
- Number of parent or community training sessions
- Number of referrals to mental health-related services

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number of staff answering change of condition questions
- Number of staff reporting that the consultant makes time for them when they have a question or concern
- Number of staff reporting that the consultant is knowledgeable about children's typical and atypical developmental progress
- Number of consultants endorsed (or in the process of becoming endorsed) in Iowa's Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health Endorsement

Outcomes:

- Number of staff reporting an increase in competency and self-confidence in addressing children's social and emotional development
- Number of staff reporting an increase in job satisfaction
- Number of staff reporting that the consultant works as a partner to help meet children's needs
- Number of staff retained in the program

Result Areas:

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

Designed to support the emotional and developmental well-being of young children by enhancing the capacity of professionals, caregivers, and community members who work with them. This support strengthens staff confidence, job satisfaction, and provides an opportunity for reflection of various strategies to support children and families. This support empowers adults to meet children's needs with confidence and empathy, building a foundation for lifelong well-being.

Professional Development

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of professional development participants
- Number of professional development activities funded

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number of professional development activities by category (early learning, family support, special needs, health/mental health and nutrition)

Outcomes:

- Participant satisfactory survey developed, issued, and received results
- Satisfactory survey result rates

Result Areas:

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

Retroactive Evaluation Form Criteria:

- How were you before and how are you now?
- How and when
- Reflective consultation

Designed to enhance the skills, knowledge, and effectiveness of professionals working in community-based services. This service type provides opportunities for workforce development across key categories, including early learning, family support, special needs, health and mental health, and nutrition. Funds are allocated to support a range of professional development activities, including workshops, training sessions, and continuing education programs that equip participants with best practices, evidence-based strategies, and the latest research in their respective fields. These activities are tracked by category to ensure targeted skill-building and impactful learning experiences. The effectiveness of the professional development opportunities is measured through participant satisfaction surveys, capturing feedback on the quality, relevance, and overall impact of the training received. This commitment to continuous learning not only

strengthens individual competencies but also elevates the quality of services provided to families and communities. By investing in professional growth, professional development promotes a skilled, confident workforce capable of delivering high-quality, effective support.

Indirect Service Types

Early Care and Education Scholarships

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of children
- Number of families served
- Age of children (0-5) served based on September 15th of school year
- Marital status of primary caregiver head of household
- Household size
- Federal poverty level
- Education level of primary caregiver head of household
- Race of child
- Ethnicity of child
- Number of programs
- Number of programs meeting a quality initiative
- Education level of lead teachers
- Number of children screened
- Number of screened who were referred for further evaluation
- May use one-time funds to cover scholarship amount for up to 3 months while family awaits results for CCA or from other funding resources

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number of children screened with ASQ-3
- Number of children screened with ASQ:SE
- Number of children screened with ASQ-3 and referred for follow up services/treatment
- Number of children screened with ASQ:SE and referred for follow up services/treatment
- Cost per child
- Number of programs participating in quality initiative

Outcomes:

- Number of children demonstrating age-appropriate skills as assessed by the ASQ-3
- Number of children demonstrating age-appropriate skills as assessed by the ASQ:SE
- Number of temporary scholarships (3 months or less) who moved towards CCA per CCA approval

Results Areas:

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

Designed to expand access to quality early learning opportunities for children and families who face financial barriers. Through dedicated funding and additional support, scholarships are provided to help cover the cost of early education programs, enabling families to access safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate environments. These scholarships prioritize children from diverse backgrounds, taking into account household size, federal poverty level, marital status of the primary caregiver, and the education level of the head of household to ensure equitable access to early learning. Participating programs are encouraged to meet quality initiatives and maintain high standards. Scholarships also support developmental screenings, helping to identify children who may benefit from further evaluation or services. Data collected from these screenings ensure that children are meeting age-appropriate milestones and receiving the support they need to thrive.

As a funder of last resort, the scholarships require documentation of Child Care Assistance decline to confirm eligibility. Programs that receive back pay from CCA eligible family, may apply EC scholarship for the tuition rate difference.

- All families who are at 160% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or below must apply for Child Care Assistance (CCA). The state has dedicated staff trained to help families navigate CCA questions. https://www.iowa.gov/how-do-i-apply-child-care-assistance

ECIs will develop a local application to verify the family is not eligible for other financial support for this care and reason why no other financial support eligibility was met. The local ECI will develop a board policy to document their scholarship rates/ranges and eligibility for a scholarship to be made payable to the child care or preschool program on the family's behalf. If an ECI chooses to pay the tuition difference between CCA and

their program's tuition rate, the ECI will need to include their scholarship plan for rates and eligibility in their board approved policy.

To ensure continued eligibility and program alignment, scholarship recipients are required to complete a follow-up review annually. This process verifies ongoing participation in quality programs and assesses any changes in eligibility status, promoting accountability and effective use of resources.

By reducing financial barriers and promoting high-quality early learning experiences, these scholarships empower families, enhance child development, and contribute to long-term educational success. ECI may provide funding for scholarships to programs who are eligible to accept CCA and do accept CCA, but requesting families have a verified income outside of current CCA eligibility (i.e. 161% up to 200% FPL).

ECI may provide funding for scholarships to programs who are authorized by the Iowa Department of Education as a preschool program without child care licensure. ECI cannot provide funding for scholarships for time paid for by Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) or Head Start. Time beyond these funding streams may be supported by a scholarship if there is a need (200% FPL or below) and no other funding source is available.

A scholarship should not be provided to an early learning program (i.e. child care or preschool) that is not officially associated with either the Iowa Department of Education or the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

*Quality Initiative defined as a child care or preschool program meeting a relative quality system (i.e. IQ4K – Iowa's Quality 4 Kids, IQPPS – Iowa's Quality Preschool Program Standards, NAEYC – National Association for the Education of Young Children, or a Head Start grantee)

Scholarship Coordination

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of applications processed
- Number of scholarships awarded
- Number programs with a scholarship awarded to a child
- Number of programs meeting a quality initiative

Quality/Efficiency:

- Cost per scholarship

Outcomes:

- Number of scholarships awarded
- Number of scholarships not awarded because of (list reasons)

Result Areas:

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

Designed to expand access to high-quality programs by managing and distributing financial support to eligible families. Scholarships are made available to ease the financial burden of participating in community-based programs that promote learning, development, and well-being. The coordination process includes managing applications, determining eligibility, and awarding scholarships to qualified recipients. The effectiveness of scholarship coordination services is measured by the number of applications processed, scholarships awarded, and the reach of funding across community programs. Reasons for non-awarded scholarships are documented to inform improvements in outreach and eligibility criteria. To ensure continued eligibility and program alignment, scholarship recipients are required to complete a follow-up review annually. This process verifies ongoing participation in quality programs and assesses any changes in eligibility status, promoting accountability and effective use of resources. By streamlining access to financial assistance and promoting high-quality services, this initiative helps bridge gaps in affordability and increases opportunities for families to access vital community programs.

Health Services
Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of children the services are offered to either individually or in a group setting
- Number of children that participate in the services offered
- Age of the children served
- Number of children referred for follow-up services across all screening types

- Of those screened, the Number of children who received follow-up services/treatment

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number screenings provided, type, list
- Number of children screened by another payment source: list
- Number of children that were high-risk
- Number of children screened and referred for follow up services/treatment
- Number referred for follow up were able to receive services/treatment
- Cost per child (ECI)
- Cost by other payment sources

Outcomes:

- Number of children referred and received follow up services/treatment
- Percentage children receiving services
- Percentage screened that were high-risk
- Percentage that received follow up services/treatment

Result Areas:

- Ready to Succeed in School
- Healthy Children
- Secure and Nurturing Families

Designed to ensure children receive essential health screenings and follow-up care, prioritizing early detection and intervention. As a funder of last resort, this service only provides support when no other funding options are available, ensuring that critical health needs are met without duplicating existing resources. Through dedicated funding and community partnerships, comprehensive health screenings such as hearing, vision, developmental, and other critical health concerns early, enabling timely referrals for follow-up services or treatment. This proactive approach helps prevent minor issues from becoming significant health barriers, supporting long-term well-being. The program's impact is measured by the number of children screened, the age of children served, and the effectiveness of follow-up care. Data is also collected on the number of referrals made and the percentage of children who successfully receive treatment. By acting as a safety net when other funding is not available, health services support ensures that every child has access to vital health services, promoting healthier outcomes and stronger community well-being.

*High-risk means a child who displays need for further screening (i.e. vision, hearing)

Literacy

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of children served
- Age of children served (0-5)
- Number of families participating
- Number of families reporting on change in condition
- Number of families reporting an increase in reading to their children each day
- Number of families reporting an increase in talking to their child about new words in stories

Quality/Efficiency:

- Cost per child

Outcomes:

- Number of families that report an increase in reading to their child each day
- Number of families that report an increase in talking with their child about new words in stories

Result Areas:

- Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments
- Ready to Succeed in School
- Secure and Nurturing Families

Designed to foster a love of reading and strengthen early language development in children by empowering families with the tools and knowledge to engage in literacy activities. Through targeted funding and community partnerships, this service provides resources and educational support to families, encouraging daily reading habits and interactive storytelling. Families participating in the program receive guidance on effective reading techniques and the importance of discussing new words and concepts during story time. By promoting these interactive literacy practices, children are exposed to richer language experiences, enhancing their vocabulary, comprehension, and overall readiness for learning. The program's effectiveness is measured by the number of children and families served, as well as the reported increase in daily reading and language-building activities. Families share feedback on changes in their reading habits and their engagement with children during storytelling. The cost per child is tracked to ensure efficient use of resources while maximizing impact. By equipping families to

create strong literacy foundations, literacy support services help children develop critical language skills that are essential for future learning and academic success.

Community-Based Supportive Housing

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of households served with children age prenatal through age five
- Number of individuals housed
- Number of households that spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent
- Number of clients actively enrolled in support groups and/or counseling services
- Number of eligible individuals who are referred to additional supportive services
- Number of Faith-based entities involved
- Number of non-profit status/community-based organizations (not faith-based) entities involved
- Number of households that received a Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) assessment
- Number of households who received additional state or community resource services
- Number of households that received support to avoid eviction
- Number of households without a home that received short-term housing for less than 180 days in a shelter service
- Number of households without a home that received long-term housing stabilization for 180 or more days in a shelter service
- Number of households who retained stable housing for 6 or more months
- Number of households unknown if housing stabilization was achieved at 180 days or longer
- Number of households that were supported to complete applications for additional supportive services beyond initial housing intake

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number of households received a Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) assessment
- Number of families referred to local community supports
- Number of households receiving support to avoid eviction
- Number of households receiving short-term shelter
- Number of households receiving long-term shelter defined as at least 180 days

- Number of households receiving application support for additional supportive services

Outcomes:

- Number of families who enrolled in additional state and community resource services
- Number of families who stay in permanent housing
- Number of families who increased their income in supportive housing by obtaining benefits and/or employment
- Number of families who developed connections to their community and build social support networks
- Number of families who retained stable housing for 6 or more months

Result Areas:

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

Designed to provide stable, secure housing for families with children from the prenatal stage through age five, while connecting them to essential community resources and supportive services. Through targeted funding and collaborative partnerships, this service type addresses housing instability by offering short-term and long-term housing solutions, eviction prevention, and access to community-based support networks. Families participating in the program receive not only housing assistance by also support in addressing broader social determinants of health that impact long-term stability, such as access to healthcare, employment opportunities, and educational services. Households are assessed for their specific needs, and referrals are made to community resources, faith-based organizations, and non-profit agencies to address gaps in services and promote holistic well-being. To further stabilize families, the program provides counseling, support groups, and assistance with applications for additional services, ensuring that families are connected to long-term solutions that extend beyond housing. Tracking measures include the number of households served, days of housing stability, eviction prevention outcomes, and successful connections to state and community services. The effectiveness of community based supportive housing is demonstrated by families maintaining stable housing for six months or longer, increasing their income through employment or benefits, and building stronger community connections.

Essential Needs

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of times assistance was provided for first time
- Number of returning households
- Number of children in the household, age five or younger
- Number of visits where a household gained access to food
- Number of visits where a household gaining access to clothing
- Number of visits where a household gained access to diapers for their children
- Number of visits where a household gained access to other essential needs
- Number of households who met eligibility criteria for additional services
- Number of faith-based entities providing assistance
- Number of non-profit status/community-based organizations (not faith-based) providing assistance.
- Number of contracted entities/organization(s) providing assistance

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number of recipients eligible for further assistance and received assistance in completing an application

Outcomes:

- Number of families that report an increased awareness of services that can provide additional support

Result Areas:

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

Designed to provide immediate relief and support to families facing economic challenges by addressing fundamental necessities such as food, clothing, diapers, and other critical household items. Through strategic funding and community partnerships with faith-based organizations, non-profits, and contracted service providers, this program ensures families can meet their basic needs while stabilizing their living situations. Families accessing this service receive assistance through community-based

networks that offer essential items during times of crisis or need. Support is provided both to first-time visitors and returning households, ensuring continuity and reliability. Special attention is given to families with children aged five and under, recognizing the importance of stability during early development. Beyond meeting immediate needs, essential needs support services also connect families to additional community resources, providing guidance and assistance in completing applications for further support services. This wraparound approach not only addresses urgent necessities but also fosters long-term resilience by increasing awareness of local services and strengthening community connections. Program effectiveness is measured by the number of households served, the frequency of visits for essential items, and the successful linkage of families to broader support networks. By addressing basic needs and connecting families to extended services, essential needs support services help promote stability, well-being, and self-sufficiency within communities.

Transportation

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of children served
- Number of families served
- Age of children served
- Number of days transportation provided
- Number of days children with transportation utilized transportation and attended

Quality/Efficiency:

- Cost per child

Outcome:

- Number of days children attended preschool and transportation provided

Result Areas:

- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Safe and Supportive Communities
- Ready to Succeed in School

Designed to remove barriers to access by providing reliable transportation for children and families to essential programs and services. This service ensures that families have

consistent, safe transportation options that promote attendance and engagement in critical learning and support programs. The program serves children of various ages, along with their families, by offering scheduled transportation on key service days. This consistent access helps children maintain regular attendance, which is crucial for learning and development. Transportation support is tracked by the number of days services are provided, the number of children and families served, and the frequency of utilization. The effectiveness of transportation support services is measured by the cost per child, attendance rates, and the number of days children participate in programs due to accessible transportation. By addressing logistical barriers, this service ensures that more families can access vital community programs, supporting children's development and family well-being.

Quality Improvement for Early Childhood

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source
- Number of children impacted by the funding
- Age of children served
- Number of environments safety, health

Outputs:

- Number of programs served
- Program type (providers, community group)
- Number of programs provided one time funding for materials

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number of programs meeting a quality initiative

Outcomes:

- Number of programs that report an increase in improving knowledge and or improve their quality

Result Areas:

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

Intent of Service Type:

- Mini grants could be issued to the early learning environment (family support or early learning program)
- Definition of materials: Items or contribution of funds for items
- Group-based strategy
- Mini grants could be issued to provide professional services to guide community planning efforts

Designed to enhance the standards and effectiveness of programs that serve young children and their families. This service supports a wide range of community-based programs, family support initiatives, and early learning providers. The initiative emphasizes strengthening program quality through evidence-based strategies, accreditation support, and group-based learning opportunities. Programs are encouraged to achieve and maintain high standards, contributing to better outcomes for children and families. Mini grants may be used to help programs purchase materials or receive professional services focused on feasibility studies tailored to strategies focused on improving learning environments and service delivery. By investing in quality improvement, this service helps programs elevate their standards, expand their impact, and help children receive high-quality care and education in their earliest years.

Wage Enhancements for the Early Childhood Workforce

Inputs:

- Amount of funding per category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of recipients/individuals who received a wage enhancement
- Cost per recipient/individual
- Number of programs per type participating (family support home visitation, providers, community group)
- Number of programs meeting a quality initiative (evidence-based, accreditation, or group-based strategy)
- Number of childcare program businesses who participate

Quality/Efficiency:

- Average amount of hourly wage without enhancement
- Average amount of hourly wage enhancement provided
  - Report the new hourly wage average OR
- Average amount of bonus/stipends offered
  - Report the amount and frequency

- Average amount of hourly wage post enhancement

Outcomes:

- Number of recipients who retained employment in their program

Result Areas:

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

Designed to strengthen program stability and improve the quality of services by investing directly in the individuals who deliver critical support to communities. Wage enhancements are provided to eligible staff across various program types, including family support, community-based providers, and other service organizations. These enhancements may include direct hourly wage increases, stipends, or bonuses, intended to recognize the value of the workforce, reduce turnover, and promote long-term retention. Programs participating in quality initiatives such as evidence-based practices, accreditation, or structured group-based strategies are prioritized, ensuring that investments support high-impact services. Wage enhancements are measured by average amounts distributed, frequency of payment, and the resulting increases in hourly wages. These investments not only improve financial stability for workers but also elevate job satisfaction, contributing to a stronger, more committed workforce. By valuing the contributions of those who deliver essential community services, a wage enhancement for the workforce fosters program continuity, quality improvement, and enhanced outcomes for the communities served. A wage enhancement should not be provided to an early learning program (i.e. child care or preschool) that is not officially associated with either the Iowa Department of Education or the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

Coordinated Intake (Community Partnerships for Facilitated Referrals)
Inputs:

- Amount of funding per funding category
- Additional funding and source

Outputs:

- Number of unduplicated households served
- Number of households intakes processed

- Number of households served with children, age five or younger
- Number of expectant moms
- Number of dads served singly with children, age five or younger
- Number of households referred by a past recipient
- Number of households referred by a community partner
- Number of households *referred* for food supports
- Number of households *referred* for housing supports
- Number of households *referred* for medical/dental supports
- Number of households *referred* for domestic violence/sexual assault supports
- Number of households *referred* for mental health/substance abuse supports
- Number of households *referred* for early learning environment supports
- Number of households with identified risk factors utilizing a risk/determinant tool
- Number of non-profit status/community-based organizations
- Number of faith-based entities

Quality/Efficiency:

- Number of households referred to a program/service
- Cost per family

Outcomes:

- Number of households referred to and enrolled in a long-term family support program
- Number of families referred that did not enroll in a family support program
- Number of households that report an increased awareness of concrete supports
- Number of households that report an increased awareness of additional informal supports (faith-based)
- Number of households who utilized additional concrete supports

Result Areas:

- Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments
- Healthy Children
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Safe and Supportive Communities

Designed to streamline access to vital community resources and support services for families with children aged five and under, as well as expectant mothers and single fathers. Through dedicated funding and collaborative partnerships, this service provides a single point of entry where families can receive guided assistance in identifying and connecting with programs that address their specific needs, such as food, housing, medical care, mental health services, and more. The intake process begins with a

comprehensive assessment to identify household needs and risk factors. From there, families are connected to appropriate community-based organizations, faith-based entities, and service providers that can deliver targeted support. This facilitated referral system strengthens pathways to essential services, ensuring that families are linked with long-term support options when necessary. Program effectiveness is measured by the number of households served, the range of referrals made, and the successful enrollment of families into ongoing support programs. Data is also gathered on the source of referrals, demonstrating strong community partnerships and trust in the intake process. Families participating in coordinated intake services report increased awareness of community resources, greater access to informal supports and improved stability through concreate assistance. By simplifying access to critical services and strengthening community linkages, coordinated intake services enhance family resilience and well-being, creating stronger, more connected communities.

*If there are data elements for an ECI funded coordinated intake that are not measurable, these would be entered as zero (0).