

FMC Community Empowerment-FY09

Chickasaw-Floyd-Mitchell Counties

Contact for Area: Laurie Kristiansen, Coordinator; P.O. Box 3, Nashua, IA 50658 Phone/fax: 641-435-4435
Email: fmc@rconnect.com website: www.fmccempowerment.com

Vision: Children, prenatal to school age, will live in a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment in order to become successful and contributing members of our community. Families will be strengthened and empowered through support services leading to their self-sufficiency.

Mission: FMC Community Empowerment will work to provide assistance so that each child has a right to be safe, healthy, nurtured, and educated; families are the primary caregivers and educators of their children; working collaboratively results in eliminating barriers, meeting identified objectives, and utilizing resources more effectively.

“Stephanie” was new to the area. Her husband lost his job and their family moved to Floyd County for new opportunities. Stephanie had been providing child care for families previously and decided this would be a good career path to pursue. With help from Child Care Resource & Referral, she became a registered Child Development Home. CCR&R helped her create a safe space for children to grow and learn while in her care. She is now enrolled in a training series through CCR&R that will help her learn more about providing quality child care and running a successful child care business. Parents have received referrals to Stephanie and she now has a thriving business. With help from Child Care Resource & Referral, Stephanie is succeeding and the children in her care are happy, healthy, and ready to learn.

Did you know? Child care is a necessity for most American families. Two-thirds of all American women are working by the time their first child is a year old, compared with only 17% four decades ago. Single-parent households, most of them headed by women, comprise a quarter of all U.S. families.*

**“The New Push for Quality Child Care”, Parade Magazine, July 19, 2009*

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- Child care costs have risen as much as 11% in the last two years.*
- Most states in the US offer preschool programs for income eligible children, but middle-class families have to figure out child care on their own.*
- At-risk preschoolers who attend high-quality programs are less likely to lose a grade or need special ed, are more literate and more likely to graduate from high school and get jobs.*

*“The New Push for Quality Child Care”, Parade Magazine, July 19, 2009, Art Rolnick, Senior VP/Director of Research, Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Healthy Children
2. Children Ready to Succeed in School
3. Safe and Supportive Communities
4. Secure and Nurturing Families
5. Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

What services/programs/activities do we support?

Early Childhood Fund: Child Care Resource & Referral (Resource development coordinator services, technical assistance, consultation, training, and support services for CEA providers/centers/preschools.)

School Ready Fund:

Family Support/Parent Ed 0-5: Families Together (parent ed/home visitation), Learning Connections (Parent ed/support focusing on building protective factors in families), Head Start (0-5 home-based services, following Head Start Guidelines); Public Health (home visitation services/early health care for 0-5)

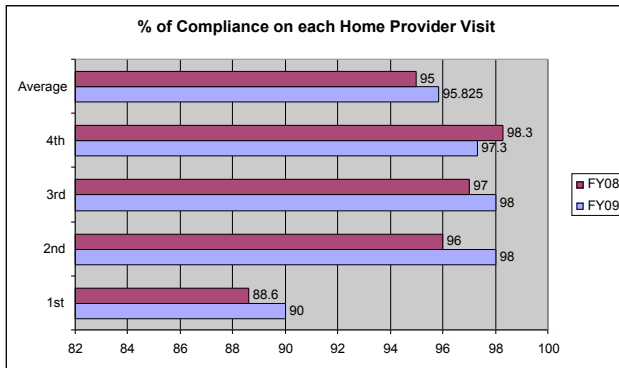
Preschool Programming Support for Low Income Families: Preschool Scholarships, Head Start services (for children above HS guidelines, but below Empowerment guidelines/comprehensive preschool programming extending hours, adding days; EAGLE (literacy support for preschools/centers/HS).

Quality Improvement: Head Start (Early HS services/pregnant moms/children birth to 3); Public Health (Nurse visitations/education/training/incentives/supplies birth to 5); CCR&R (QRS supports); Coordination Services

Other: Public Health (health services, education), EAGLE (Literacy), Speech Pathology, Coordination Services

How do we measure our progress?

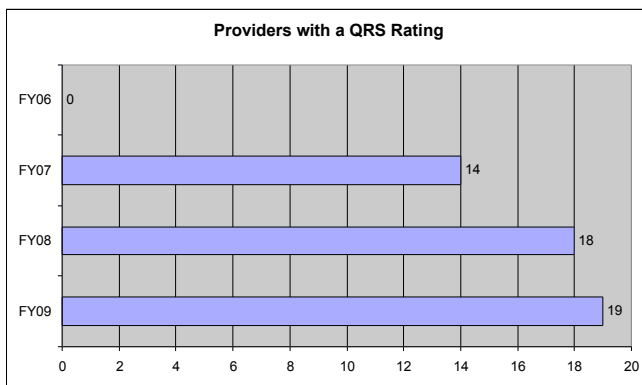
1. Percent of Compliance for Registered Homes in FMC Empowerment Area



Data source: CCR&R Data Resource Center, Regional Office, 8/09.

How are we doing? FMC Empowerment data indicates the average percent of compliance on each home provider visit has increased by approximately 1% from FY08 to FY09.

2. FMC Area Providers with a QRS Rating



Data source: CCR&R Data Resource Center, Regional Office, 8/09.

How are we doing? There are a total of 19 providers in the FMC Empowerment area who have achieved a QRS rating between 1-5. Data indicates a base line increase of 36% from FY07 to FY09. Data also indicates an increase of 5.5% from FY08 to FY09.



What can you do to help?

- Support the vision/mission of the FMC Community Empowerment Board by ensuring that the local Empowerment organization fulfills a need and is not a duplication of other agencies. Visit the local website at: www.fmcempowerment.com
- Ensure that FMC Empowerment board members are committed to prioritizing the mission of the organization at both the local and state level. Visit the state website at: <http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/>
- Child Care Resource and Referral is a valuable resource for parents and child care providers. Visit the state CCR&R website at: www.neiowachildcare.org; and the QRS website: www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs

Others within our community working on similar issues:

- Community Empowerment: local and state
- Public Health/Home Health Care Agencies: Floyd County Public Health/Home Health Care; Mitchell County Public Health/Home Health Care; Chickasaw County Public Health/Home Health Care; Health Care organizations i.e. hospitals/practitioners
- Child Care Resource and Referral: local, regional, state
- School Districts (7 in the FMC area) and faith-based education/preschools, Community Action/Head Start; AEAs; Early ACCESS; ISU Extension/Chickasaw County, Floyd County, Mitchell County, local libraries in 3 counties
- Family services and support organizations: Families Together/Lutheran Services of IA; DHS; Families Making Connections; Learning Connections
- Family stakeholders and advocates