

## News Release

for Immediate Use

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**For Information Contact:**

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### **FMC Community Empowerment Releases Requests for Proposals**

The fiscal year 2011 Request for Proposal (RFP) forms are now available for FMC Community Empowerment. The local Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw board has announced that the forms to request funding from the Early Childhood grant and the School Ready grant are available online at: <http://www.fmcempowerment.com> or by contacting the local Empowerment coordinator, Laurie Kristiansen, at: 641-435-4435 or emailing at: [fmc@rconnect.com](mailto:fmc@rconnect.com). The deadline for completed proposals is Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Local Empowerment Funding History**

FMC Community Empowerment has funded early childhood programs in the tri-county area since the local empowerment board was established in the fall of 1999. The school ready grant is supported with state funds and has supported preschool scholarships, Head Start and Early Head Start, family support and home visitation, preschool learning experiences, early literacy, and public health programs. The Early Childhood grant is a federally funded grant and has helped childcare providers and centers achieve levels of quality. Both grants are targeted to children ages birth to five.

Funding levels for the 2011 year will be reduced, and in some cases significantly, reports FMC Community Empowerment's local coordinator, Laurie Kristiansen.

Overall, according to Shanell Wagler at the Iowa Department of Management Office of Empowerment, reductions in funding range from 4% to 65%.

#### **Changes for Empowerment**

While Community Empowerment has been active state-wide for more than a decade, changes will be evident in the coming months.

According to Kristiansen, community empowerment areas will soon be known as "Early Childhood Iowa" areas. In addition to name changes, some empowerment areas may also combine with other areas, reducing the state's total Empowerment areas from 58 to between 34 and 38. The consolidation of areas is all part of a state-wide cost-saving effort termed "Lean Design".

The name "FMC Community Empowerment" will change, but the three counties that make up the Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Early Childhood area will remain the same.

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“When these three counties decided to band together, there was some foresight to that move,” commented FMC Empowerment board chair Bob Marreel. “As a result, our area will not have to realign our boundaries,” he added.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the FMC Empowerment board will be Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, with time and location to be announced. For more information about FMC Community Empowerment, its programs and services, contact: Laurie Kristiansen at: 614-435-4435 or [fmc@rconnect.com](mailto:fmc@rconnect.com)