

FY 2004 FMC Community Empowerment—Executive Showcase Summary

A. Name of Community Empowerment Area: FMC Community Empowerment

B. Counties in Area: Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw (FMC)

C. Contact for Area

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D. Vision and Mission

Vision: The Floyd, Mitchell, and Chickasaw (FMC) Community Empowerment Area envisions that 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 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.
- Programs and services will have a strong component of outcomes-based measurement for families and children that is realistic, with success indicators that show progress.
- The community and families will be strengthened by the creation of new programs and the fostering of existing community-based partnerships between citizens, education, government, health, social services and any other individuals committed to the Vision.

E. Overview of Community Plan

The community plan for the FMC Empowerment area specifically targets the 0 to 5 age group, with the focus on preparing children to be “school-ready” and to also augment early childhood services community-wide. Successful, result-oriented existing and continuing programs include:

- an ongoing preschool scholarship program for eligible students in the FMC Empowerment Zone, attending 16 different licensed preschools
- “Families Together”, a home-based visitation and parent education program for families in the Empowerment Zone with children ages 0-5, collaborating with Lutheran Services of Iowa
- a partnership with two Head Start organizations, serving three counties, that continues to meet the needs of low income preschool children and their families; extending services to children who would not have received services if their families did not meet income guidelines.
- a variety of health services for children ages 0-5 in the Empowerment Zone; also maternal health care and well-baby services all offered through three separate public health entities sharing planning and resource outputs.
- an expansion of early literacy services and programming through “EAGLE” (Exploring Avenues of Getting Literate Early), working through public libraries, daycares, centers, with an increase in parental input and cooperation.
- extending speech and language services with funding to serve children in the private sector through a partnership with a private clinician at a local hospital.
- ongoing support and new training opportunities for daycare providers and centers through a CCR&R partnership.

F. Local Indicators

Early Childhood Education:

- Increase the number of eligible children able to enroll in preschool in FMC Empowerment Zone through utilization of Empowerment preschool scholarships
- Increase enrollment in Head Start sites in Empowerment Zone
- Increase parents’ opportunities to explore educational and family development activities
- Increase utilization of early literacy programming and family involvement through partnerships libraries, daycares, and preschools

Parent Education and Support:

- Increase in parental involvement; strengthen parent skills and family bonding
- Encourage parents to keep children physically and emotionally healthy; thus allowing families to grow together in a supportive environment
- Decrease out-of-home placements
- Decrease confirmed child abuse and neglect cases
- Decrease juvenile delinquency

Maternal and Child Health:

- Increase in prenatal care during the first trimester
- Decrease in low birth weight
- Increase in number of children with lead levels less than 1-0 mcq/df
- Increase in post-natal and well-baby checks

Quality and Accessible Childcare:

- Continuing increase in number of trained, registered/licensed childcare providers
- Increase in number of available trainings for providers
- Increase in number of slots available through registered/licensed childcare providers

G. Summary of Services Provided With FMC Empowerment Funding:

School Ready:

- **Preschool Scholarships:** scholarships for eligible children in FMC Empowerment Zone at 16 licensed, participating preschools; Heads Up pilot program (preschool plus program)
- **Head Start Services:** for eligible children through two Head Start Services (Floyd/Mitchell) and Chickasaw Counties
- **Families Together:** home visitation/parent education program for 0-5 age children in Empowerment Zone
- **Public Health:** health services for 0-5 age children; maternal, prenatal, and well-baby checks
- **Speech Pathology:** collaborative effort with speech clinician and local hospital to offer an extension of language and speech pathology services for children in private sector for 0-5 ages
- **EAGLE:** Early literacy programming and services for children 0-5 and their parents, offered through libraries, daycare providers, centers, and preschools

Early Childhood:

Child Care Resource and Referral

- **Collaborative agreement** with CCR&R for the services of a resource coordinator
- **Resource Coordinator:** individual recruitment, first/in-home visits, registration packets delivery, registration application assistance, follow-up visits, technical assistance
- **Provider Training Opportunities:** 11 separate trainings offered to providers in '04
- **Provider Incentives:** incentives for providers completing trainings

Public Relations Activities: School Ready and Early Childhood (support ongoing and new activities with public relations/media/marketing plan)

- Web site development, implementation, and on-going support—fmcempowerment.com
- FMC Community Empowerment Speakers' Bureau
- Chamber memberships for FMC Empowerment in three county seat communities
- Media advertising placements; collateral materials/display units
- Participation in community expositions/events

H. Showcase of Cooperation/Collaboration Efforts: Results/Accomplishments/Successes/Successful Collaborations With:

Successful and results-oriented partnerships continue with:

- Families Together/Lutheran Services of IA
- Head Start
- Empowerment Zone Preschools/School Districts
- EAGLE: libraries, preschools, daycare providers and centers
- Public Health: three public health and home health care organizations
- Speech pathologist with local hospital serving 2 counties
- Child Care Resource and Referral