

FMC Community Empowerment

Counties in Area: Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw

Contact for Area:

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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 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.
- 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.

Community Plan Priorities:

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

Local Indicators (list):

- Early Childhood Education
- Quality and Accessible Childcare
- Parent Education and Support
- Maternal and Child Health
- Safe and Supportive Communities

How we are collaborating to impact the priorities:

An ever-growing group of community partnerships continues to impact the success of the FMC Empowerment funded programs in the FMC area. Collaborators include already established partnerships, along with new associations including the AEA 267 and T.E.A.C.H (Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network) for training and scholarship opportunities, and P.I.R.C. (Parent Information Resource Center).

Identify services/programs funded by Community Empowerment:

Early Childhood Fund CCR&R TEACH	Partnership w/CCR&R: fund a resource development coordinator; and training/education Partnership w/TEACH for scholarship program
School Ready Fund Head Start NICAO Head Start NIACAO Heads Up Preschool Scholarships Families Together EAGLE Public Health Speech Pathology Public Relations	Head Start Services: Floyd/Mitchell Counties Head Start Services: Chickasaw County Preschool-Plus services: pilot program Preschool scholarship for FMC zone preschools Community-based voluntary services prevention program for families with prenatal to age 5 children Exploring Avenues of Getting Literate Early—Literacy programming birth to 5 Public Health services for birth to 5 in FMC zone Speech therapy services Public awareness programming

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Key Identified Need/Priority:

1.) To ensure safe and secure families and communities so--2.) children birth to five are school-ready.

Measurable Goal:

The measurable goal is the number of children in kindergarten displaying school ready-behaviors. School-ready is the result of kindergarten teachers being asked to assess their students in 5 areas: communication skills, cognitive skills, self-management skills, motor skills, and social-emotional development. Teachers report the degree to which behaviors within these five areas are observable ranging from “rarely” to “consistently”.

Why this important:

Children who have been enrolled in quality pre-kindergarten classes often demonstrate stronger early reading and math skills than non pre-school children.

State Result Linkage:

Children ready to succeed in school

Key Community Indicator(s): (Baseline and trend information)	FY 01 (statewide data)	FY 02 (statewide data)	FY 03 (local data)	FY 04 & Current FY
School readiness of measured preschoolers in FMC area motor skills:				
• Motor skills:	51.44%	48.84%	48.6%	Data not available yet
• Communication skills:	35.9%	35.86%	42.1%	
• Cognitive Skills:	45.08%	44.54%	44.4%	
• Social/Emotional Dev.	51.57%	50.11%	57.2%	
• Self-management Skills:	44%	42.97%	48.0%	
<i>Source: Iowa Dept. of Education, Web Site; latest figures cited: 2003</i>				

Service, Product or Activity to impact the Key Need/Priority:

Performance Measure(s) (Baseline and trend information)	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05 current
# of preschool scholarships awarded to FMC students	203	225	204	158

Analysis of the Data/Factors affecting the data:

The Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Community Empowerment area reported at least 42.1% of its kindergartners consistently displayed school-ready behaviors in the five areas of assessment. Statewide at least 35.9 percent of kindergarten students were reported as school-ready. Assessment areas include: motor skills, communication skills, cognitive skills, social/emotional development, and self-management skills. Overall, this data indicates that preschoolers in the FMC area are testing 6.2% above the state averages in these areas of school-ready measurements. The numbers of students being awarded preschool scholarships is reflective of the state-wide declining enrollment figures.

Source: Iowa Dept. of Education, 2003 data