

# FMC Community Empowerment

**Counties in Area:** Chickasaw, Floyd, Mitchell (FMC)

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**Vision:** *The Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw (FMC) CEA 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 creating 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:** (See FMC Community Plan Areas of Focus)

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

**Local Indicators (list):**

Community Plan Priorities	Local Indicators
Healthy Children	# Children immunized by age 2
Children Ready to Succeed in School	# preschool students w/scholarships # TEACH participants
Safe & Supportive Communities	# confirmed cases of child abuse in FMC area, 0-5
Secure & Nurturing Families	# confirmed cases of child abuse in FMC area, 0-5
Secure & Nurturing Child Care Environments	# registered child development homes # child care capacity

**How we are collaborating to impact the priorities:**

The **Quality Rating System** was introduced in Iowa in the spring of 2006. In 12 months, 14 providers in the FMC area have successfully achieved a rating in the Quality Rating System. Because of the collaborative partnerships already in place between CCR&R and FMC, the ease of transition was evident. **Preschool scholarships** continue to make a major impact in # of children able to attend preschool (FY '07: 183); new partnerships come about and evolve- **Learning Connections** partnered with St Ansgar school district, **Early Head Start** became a reality in FY 07; **Public Health** continues to forge new partnerships with existing agencies, **Head Start** services now offered in several school districts, working in concert with the districts, and much more.

**Identify services/programs funded by Community Empowerment:**

<b>Early Childhood Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Care Resource and Referral—as listed below</li> <li>• Resource Development Coordinator services supported</li> <li>• Collaborative partnership between CCR&amp;R and CEA continues to expand</li> <li>• Providers/centers/preschool can access vast resources including technical assistance, consultation, training and other supports</li> </ul>
<b>School Ready Fund</b> <b>Preschool Support for Low Income Families</b>  <b>Family Support/Parent Ed: 0-3</b>  <b>Family Support/Parent Ed: 0-5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preschool Scholarships and Head Start Support</li> <li>• Families Together (Parent Ed/Home Visitation)</li> <li>• Head Start (0-3 Home-based Services)</li> <li>• EAGLE (Exploring Avenues of Getting Literate Early) Literacy</li> <li>• Public Health Services</li> <li>• Families Together (Family Support/parent Ed programs, 0-5)</li> <li>• Head Start (additional slots/services/family worker for families)</li> <li>• Public Health: Parent education, child nutrition, living skills, family emotional/health counseling, etc.</li> <li>• Learning Connections: Parent education/literacy/home visitation/early Childhood education w/ St. Ansgar School Dist.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech Pathology: services for 0-5 ; EAGLE: Early literacy programs/services 0-5</li> <li>• TEACH: provider scholarship</li> <li>• Public Health: Public Health services , 0-5</li> <li>• Program Coordination: Support services for all programs, board support/education, marketing/PR/, preschool scholarship administration, fiscal. All inclusive.</li> </ul>

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**Key Identified Need/Priority:**

Children Ready to Succeed in School

**Measurable Goal:**

The measurable goal is the number of children in kindergarten who display school ready behaviors. School ready is the result of kindergarten teachers responding to students' assessment in 5 areas: communication skills, cognitive skills, self-management skills, motor skills, and social-emotional development. Instructors report the degree to which behaviors within these five areas are observable, ranging from "rarely" to "consistently."

**Why this important:**

In many instances, early reading and math skills are stronger as evidence in children who have been enrolled in preschool, as compared to those who have not had a quality preschool experience.

**State Result Linkage:**

Key Community Indicator(s) (Baseline/trend information)	FY 01 (state wide data)	FY 02 (state wide data)	FY 03 (local data)	FY 04 (local data)	FY 04 (local for compare)	FY 06	Current FY 07
School readiness of preschoolers measured in FMC area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor Skills</li> <li>• Communication Skills</li> <li>• Cognitive Skills</li> <li>• Social/Emotional Developmental</li> <li>• Self-Management Skills</li> </ul>	51.44%	48.84%	48.6%	54.1%	46.1%	Figures not available at press time from State Data Center, Des Moines	Figures not available at press time from State Data Center, Des Moines
	35.9%	35.86%	42.1%	44.6%	33.7%		
	45.08%	44.54%	44.4%	46.8%	41.8%		
	51.57%	50.11%	57.2%	46.1%	47.0%		
	44.0%	42.9%	48.0%	41.2%	41.2%		
<i>Source: IA Dept. of Ed.; Profile of Child Well-being</i>							

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

Performance Measure(s) (Baseline and trend information)	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Number of preschool scholarships awarded to FMC students in 100% of preschools	204	158	183	183

<b>Analysis:</b> For the FMC CEA, FY 2007	<p>In the latest data assessment, sources reveal that in the FMC Empowerment area, at least 41.7% of its kindergartners consistently displayed school-ready behaviors in the five areas that include: Communication skills, cognitive skills, self-management skills, motor skills, and social-emotional development. Instructional staff report the degree to which behaviors with these five areas are observable ranging from "rarely" to "consistently". Statewide, recorded values indicate at least 33.7 percent of kindergarten students were reported as school ready. The FMC students continue to show a higher level of readiness from the 41.7% local assessment to the statewide 33.7% readiness quotient. The numbers of FMC children receiving scholarships was constant from 183 students in FY 06 and 183 in FY 07. One thing that did fluctuate was the number of children coming and going throughout the school year. New applicants were processed up to and including May, 2007. This would indicate families are continually moving in and out of the FMC area. Income eligible families received scholarships based on the latest USDA free/reduced school lunch guidelines. This is a constant measurement tool, as eligibility for free/reduced price school meals is also an annual measure, and is a reliable indicator of the economic status of CEA families within the FMC boundaries. FMC Empowerment relies on the same USDA guidelines for its scholarship eligibility, although in FY 07 a tier was added, encompassing families who were above the 200% poverty level. The guidelines encourage families with incomes 135% or less of the federal poverty to apply for "free" level scholarships, and those with incomes 136% to 180% of poverty to apply for "reduced" level scholarships.</p>
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