

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Executive Summary



Executive Summary

Early Childhood Iowa Vision: “Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful”.

Early Childhood Iowa Areas enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs on behalf of children, families, and other citizens residing in the area. The focus is to improve results for families with young children, ages 0-5 years.

Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac, Early Childhood Iowa (BVCS ECI) is one out of 39 Early Childhood Iowa Areas identified across the State of Iowa representing all 99 counties.

Each area has a citizen-led board to support activities to promote collaboration and develop systems in the community for young children and their families. Early Childhood Iowa Areas use identified results to develop the capacity and commitment for achieving the results of: Healthy Children; Children Ready to Succeed in School; Safe and Supportive Communities; Secure and Nurturing Families; Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments.

Strategic Highlights

The BVCS ECI mission guides the actions of the organization, provides a path, and guides decision-making. BVCS ECI Mission Statement: *to improve the quality of life for children and families by strongly supporting safe environments, lifelong learning and facilitating a coordinated system for community services.* Stemming from the mission the BVCS ECI 3-County Board has developed priorities to guide them. They are: Parent Education, Quality Preschool Programs, Nurturing Child Care, Health Prevention Measures, Early Literacy, and Coordination of Services.

Funded programs in State Fiscal Year 2015 include: Family STEPS Family Support; Preschool Scholarship and Support; Child Care Consultant; Child Care Nurse Consultant; Oral Health –Screenings, Varnish, & Education; Early Care & Education Provider Development; Quality Improvement Grants; and a Program Director.

The programs supported are important to reaching our mission. They improve outcomes for child well-being and family stability, support growth in the first five years resulting in school readiness, and prioritize quality standards and evidence based or promising practice programs with proven results.



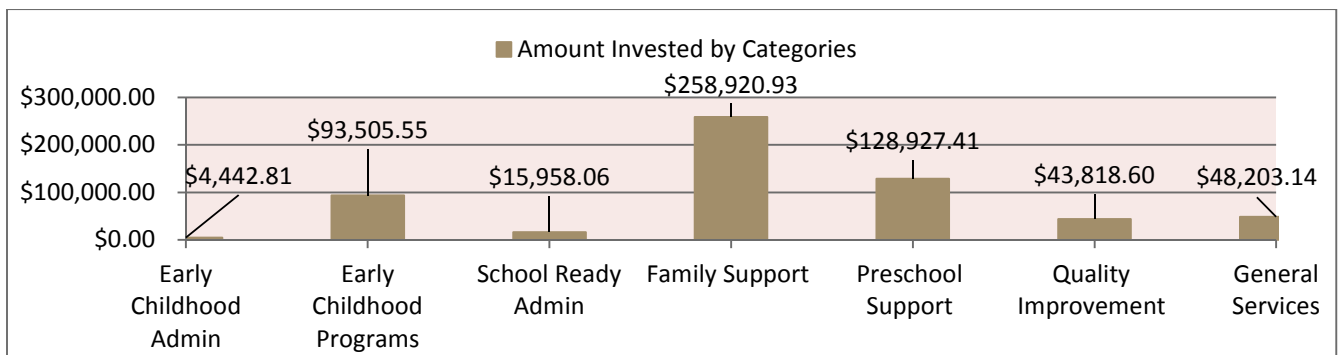
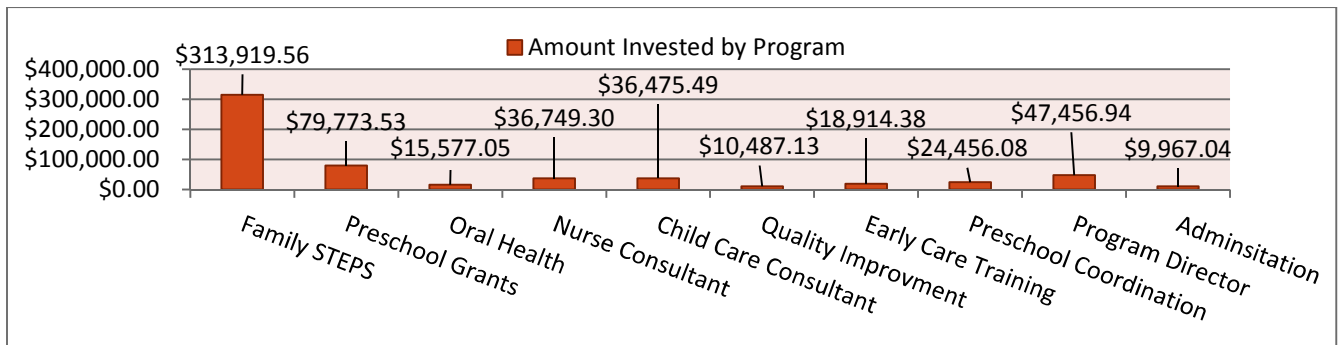
Early care and learning policy should be built as brains are built, from the bottom up. The science is clear that supporting development starting from birth and even before should be an important and integral part of our nation’s early education policy. In the first three years of life, neural connections peak for key functions including language, cognition, and social-emotional interactions, forming the foundation for all learning that follows. When a baby’s environment does not support strong brain development, the gaps in accomplishing developmental tasks open quickly and are apparent by age two—long before a child reaches preK.

[http://www.zerotothree.org/policy/docs/ehs-comments doc_june2015.pdf](http://www.zerotothree.org/policy/docs/ehs-comments_doc_june2015.pdf). *Detailed Zero to Three Comments to the Chairman, House Committee on Education and the Workforce on Strengthening the Federal Investment in Early Childhood Education June 1, 2015*

What can you do? Speak up! Talk about early childhood education with your friends, family, acquaintances, and local, state and federal government officials.

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Financial Highlights & Outcomes

State Fiscal Year 15 funding summary.



Outcomes

Family Support

- Healthy family functioning
- Social supports
- Concrete supports
- Child development
- Nurturing & attachment

Preschool Support

- Age appropriate skills
- Attendance

Oral Health

- Screenings
- Detection
- Referral

Preschool Support - 95% of children demonstrating age appropriate skills.

Transportation – 97% of days that children attended preschool that were provided transportation.

Oral Health - 86% of children who need dental treatment that went to a dentist.

86% families that improve or maintain healthy family functioning, problem solving & communication.

68% families that increase or maintain social supports.

89% families that are connected to additional concrete supports.

72% families that increase knowledge about child development and parenting.

68% families that improve nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and children.

Child Care Nurse Consultant

- Special health care needs
- Onsite assessments
- Trainings

Child Care Consultant

- Registered/Licensed child care
- Child care slots
- Developmentally appropriate practices
- Quality Improvement Program

Professional Development

- Quality Rating System
- Licensing
- Quality Preschool Program Standards

Child Care Consultant – 31% of programs working with Consultant have achieved a Quality Rating System Level 3 or above.

Quality Improvement – 100% of programs that improve, or maintain at the highest level, in a quality initiative.

Professional Development – 14 early provider trainings and one conference held, 100% in early learning content.

Child Care Nurse Consultant – 91% of children with special health care needs have a special needs care plan in place at the child care facility.

