



# GROWING IOWA'S FUTURE

## OUR SYSTEM

### State ECI Board

Provides oversight of state and local efforts while serving as an advisory body to the Iowa legislature and the Governor's Office.

### Stakeholders Alliance

Provides advice regarding the coordination of early childhood activities in the state and is made up of public and private stakeholders; the Alliance branches into several component groups and subgroups focused on a range of expertise.

### Local ECI Boards

Citizen-led boards that leverage private partnerships, implement programs, promote collaboration and develop systems in their communities for young children and their families.



Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) exists so that every community in Iowa will develop the capacity and commitment for using local, informed decision making to achieve desired results for Iowa's young children and their families.

## ECI WORKS for IOWA:

- Coordinating statewide and local systems.
- Increasing access to early childhood services through gap filling and coordination of resources.
- Building systems of supports for early childhood programs and services.
- Increasing awareness of the importance of early childhood years.
- Promoting evidence-based programs that increase quality of services to children and families.
- Comprehensive planning for early childhood systems.
- Collaborating across early care, education and health systems for the benefit of young children.
- Brings together a variety of perspectives to problem-solve.
- Engages citizens in finding solutions to local problems.

## OUR STRENGTHS

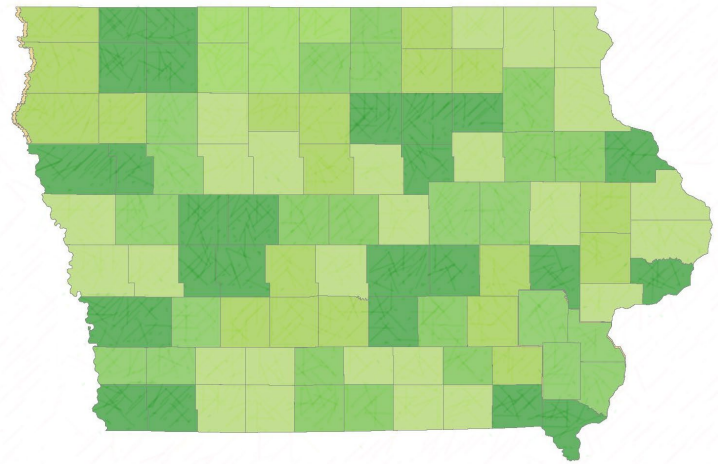
- Integrated Data Systems
- Private-Public Collaboration & Partnership
- Small and efficient State Coordination Office.
- Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards are the local connections to the state system.
- Flexibility to respond to emerging issues that impact young children and their families.

Every Child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

# Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards

Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards 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.

There are 38 Early Childhood Iowa areas statewide representing all 99 counties. Each area has a citizen-led board that promotes collaboration, leverages private partnerships, implements programs and develop systems.



## Nimble

ECI Area Boards have the ability to fill gaps and act swiftly.

- Multiple ECI Area Boards purchased and distributed items needed by child care providers, such as hand sanitizer, thermo-scan thermometers, and cleaning supplies, in the initial weeks of the pandemic before a statewide response was initiated.
- The Johnson County ECI board worked with CCR&R to quickly establish a program to assist child care providers with deductible payments for child care items that were damaged by the derecho.

## Ability to Leverage Private Funds

ECI Area Boards have connections within their communities that enable them to engage with partners and secure funding for projects.

- Linking Families and Communities invested in a child care market study and architectural design in Webster County that resulted in an investment of \$1.5 million through private-public partnerships which added 56 child care spaces to Community Early Childhood Center in Fort Dodge.
- In Hamilton County, Building Families created and administers the Child Care Worker Recruitment and Retention Bonus Program, which is funded through private-public partnerships. The program has leveraged \$645,000 to improve staffing levels in existing child care centers.

## Unite Local People

ECI Area Boards, governed by local people, understand the local needs and issues. They have a unique ability to unite their local communities toward a common goal or action.

- Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Area united local business partners to address the child care desert in Union County. This action led to businesses donating land, funds and employment services for a new child care center in Creston which will be completed in 2023.

**WE ARE ECI.**