

August 27, 2025

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa - Program Director Update

June 6, 2025, State Board Meeting

District timeline presented at June 6 2025 board meeting:

- Mid-June 2025 – August 30, 2025 Weekly workgroup
- September 5, 2025 Workgroup presentation
- January – March 2026 Local requests for proposals
- April – June 2026 Budgeting, contract drafts, and intent to award
- July 1, 2025 Complete board transition to districts.

Workgroup set to provide input into moving Early Childhood Area to Districts. The groups were set up to meet Thursday and report back at the September State Board meeting.

District started having meetings broken out into groups.

- Technical Review Timelines and Logistics Boards and Staffing
Bylaws; Policy and Procedures; Contract Templates
- Implementation timelines
Fiscal Agent; Category Caps
- Employer of Record
Compensation Ranges; Staffing Structure and Number

Meetings stopped suddenly, no more updates/guidance on districting. State ECI Board meeting September 5, 2025, listen in if you can. I will forward the invite email when it is released.

Association talking not in favor of Districting.

Input was received from Program Directors at various meetings on Tool O. Tool O was adopted into practice on June 6, 2025. Removed Business Investment, Child Care Nurse Consultant, Crisis/Emergency Care and Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Consolidated: Prenatal/Postnatal, PD-training & PD-credit bearing, TA-Consultation, Mentoring, Coaching and Early Care and Supportive Services. Clarification on Scholarships and Wage Enhancement. Combining Performance Measures within Tool O to be able to provide clearer data to share the outcome story.

Data will be entered into Qualtrics Survey (Iowa State University). July spent time collecting data, final claims, entering information into Qualtrics.

Early Care and Education Scholarship changes include:

As a funder of last resort, the scholarships require documentation of Child Care Assistance (CCA) decline to confirm eligibility. All families who are at 160% of Federal Poverty Level or below must apply for CCA. The local ECI will develop a policy to document their

scholarship rates/ranges and eligibility for a scholarship to be made payable to the child care or preschool program on the family's behalf. If an ECI chooses to pay the tuition difference between CCA and their program's tuition rate, the ECI will need to include their scholarship plan for rates and eligibility in their board approved policy.

ECI may provide funding for scholarships to programs who are eligible to accept CCA and do accept CCA, but requesting families have a verified income outside of current CCA eligibility (i.e. 161% up to 200% FPL). ECI may provide funding for scholarships to programs authorized by the Iowa Department of Education as a preschool program without child care licensure. ECI cannot provide funding for scholarships for time paid for by Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) or Head Start. Time beyond these funding streams may be supported by a scholarship if there is a need (200% FPL or below) and no other funding source is available.

Low-Income Preschool Scholarships have been processed in July & August. Awards sent to preschools on 8/25/25. Still working on parents applying for Child Care Assistance and receiving notice back. May result in funds put back into LIPS. CCA Example: Unity Ridge had parents apply for CCA as a part of their process five of the applicants qualified, three cover the cost, two are using LIPS funds to assist with what CCA did not cover. Three did not qualify for CCA but were under 200% and using LIPS to assist with tuition. Five were over 300% of the FPL.

Voted on Tool G. Tool G outlines parameters of state funds allocated to Early Childhood Iowa Areas. Funding will be in the following:

- ☐ 5% Administrative –
- ☐ Community Collaboration & Planning –
- ☐ Home Visitation –
- ☐ Program Discretionary -

DAISEY 2.0 Pilot – Family STEPS is participating in the pilot. At this point Program Directors do not have access to data from DAISEY 2.0. Amanda McKee, Early Childhood Iowa Family Support Technical Assistance Coordinator will receive the data and distribute to local areas.

July – August 2025 Program data entry into DAISEY 2.0

July 2025 – January 2026 Ongoing TA with data pulls from ECI TA Team

February – June 2026 DAISEY 2.0 data pull options ready for local providers

July 1, 2026 All ECI state-funded family support home visitation programs utilize the pilot's enhance procedural manual.

Pilot will participate in the following:

- Follow the Home Visiting and Family Support Operations Manual
- Identify family funder
- Align program expectations with federal requirements (MIECHV Data Dictionary)
- Provide feedback to State and DAIEY Teams
- Engage in Continuous Quality Improvement efforts for family support programs
- Technical assistance calls.

Designation Cycle – move towards a mid-cycle review process for all Early Childhood Iowa Areas in FY 26. Upload existing documentation into IA Grants. Statewide scan at current contract templates, contractors and corresponding invoices.

July: ECI Area budgets approved. Upload: Local Contracts and fiscal agent agreements due before first quarterly payment, Family Support proof of model (HFA), submit claim for payment.

August: Upload: liability insurance verification, Employer of Record agreement, sample of local template of scholarship agreement, sample local template of MOU for Quality Improvement projects (if applicable, sample of Scholarship Agreement (if applicable).

September ECIA Annual board approved financial report data due 9/15. Contract Monitoring Schedule 9/30. ECIA Monthly fiscal Tracking Spreadsheet 9/30 (and each month thereafter).

October 2nd quarter payment request, January 3rd quarter payment request, April 4th quarter payment request.

Coalition meetings were held in June and August in each county. I have requested to be off as the Treasurer for the Crawford County Child Abuse Prevention County (501 C-3). No volunteers for two months.

Annette Koster