Iowa Department of Education

Child Development Coordinating Council

Shared Visions Annual Report

Iowa Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

January, 2013

State of Iowa
Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 E 14th St
Des Moines IA 50319-0146

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Introduction

The Iowa Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) presents this report in fulfilling the requirement to annually submit recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on the need for investment in child development services.[1] The CDCC advises and assists the Department of Education (DE) regarding the administration and implementation of state funded at-risk programs for children ages birth to five. The DE administers two programs: the Shared Visions Parent Support Program and the Shared Visions Preschool Program.

The mission of CDCC is to advocate for Iowa's children and families and support model comprehensive child development and parent support programs for at-risk children and their families. CDCC ensures the development, delivery, and promotion of quality, family-centered comprehensive early childhood services through: [2]

- established minimum guidelines for comprehensive early child development services for at-risk 3 - and 4-year-old children;
- parent support programs targeted to Iowa's most at-risk children and their families which enhance the skills of parents to support the learning and development of their children;
- cost-effective child development services for at-risk 3- and 4-year-old children;
- comprehensive services such as child care, transportation, family support and education, developmental screening, and referral to health professionals; and

Parent Support Programs

The Shared Visions Parent Support programs include:

- Parent support programs for high-risk children in approximately 14 Iowa counties (for families with incomes below 130 percent of the poverty level);

- Twelve grantees located in area education agencies, public schools, Head Start, and private non-profit agencies. The grantees collaborate with local Early Childhood Iowa Boards, local child care, area education agencies, and school districts; and

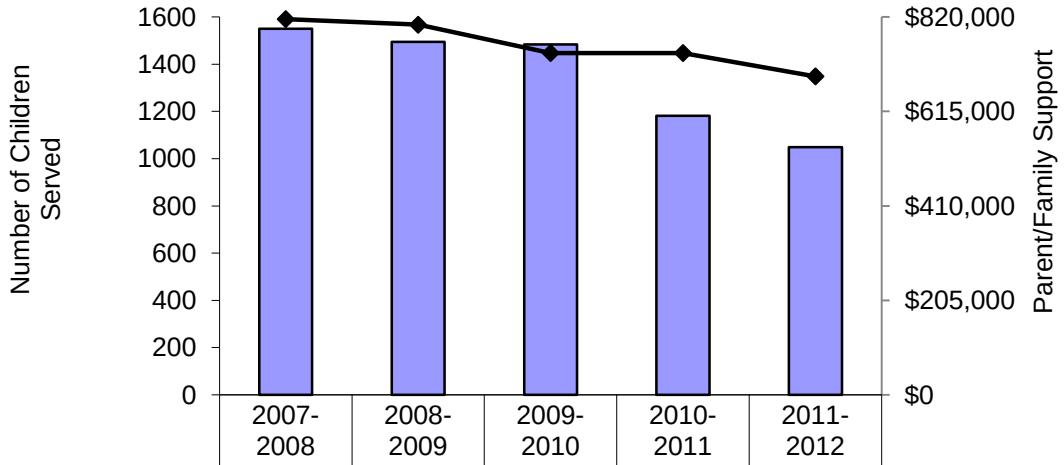
- Individual home visitation and/or group based parent support services focused on parenting skills, child growth and development, building of self-concept, nutrition, positive guidance techniques, family resource management, and parent literacy, and accessing the array of supportive services from a network of agencies that are available to families with young children who are at-risk.

[1] IAC 256A, IAC 279.51, and IAC 281
[2] IAC 256A

Funding. In 2011- 2012, state funds of $691,069 supported twelve Parent/Family Support Programs serving 1048 children birth to three years of age and their families. This funding has decreased by $124,190 in the past five years.

Children Served. Figure 1 (below) shows a five year trend of the enrollment of children ages birth through five years, using the September count data. The level enrollments during the past years were exacerbated during the 2010 – 2011 and 2011 - 2012 fiscal year. Approximately 90 percent of the children qualified for Shared Visions based upon poverty, the remaining children qualified with other risk factors.

Figure 1. Five Year Trend - Annul Funding and Number of Children Served by Shared Visions Parent Support Programs.



	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Number Children Served	1550	1494	1483	1181	1048
Parent/Family Suport	$815,259	$803,031	$741,677	$741,677	$691,069

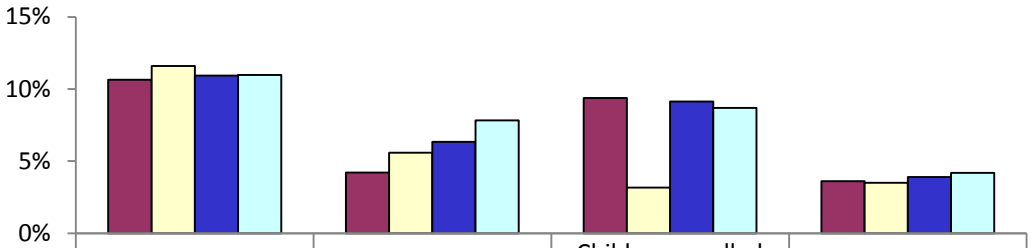
Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, CDCC Shared Visions Grant Year End Report, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-12 Summary.

Figure 2 describes some of the categories of risk factors for children served in the Shared Vision Parent Support Programs. As indicated by the figure, the children served by Shared Vision Parent Support Programs have multiple risk factors. The figure shows the number of children and change in risk factors over time. Note the increase in the percentage of immigrant children enrolled.

Services to young children who have or are at-risk for developmental delays have been shown to positively impact outcomes across developmental domains, including health, language and communication, cognitive development and social/emotional development. Families benefit from early intervention by being able to better meet their children's special needs from an early age and throughout their lives. Benefits to society include reducing economic burden through a decreased need for special education.[3] Shared

Visions Parent Support Programs assist in identifying children needing early intervention services under Iowa's Early ACCESS system. Last year, Shared Visions Parent Support Programs, served families who at enrollment had 44 children receiving special education services (IFSP). An additional 72 young children were identified for special education services after being enrolled in the Parent Family Support Programs.

Figure 2. Four Year Trend - Percentage of Secondary Risk Factors Impacting Children Served in Parent Support Programs.



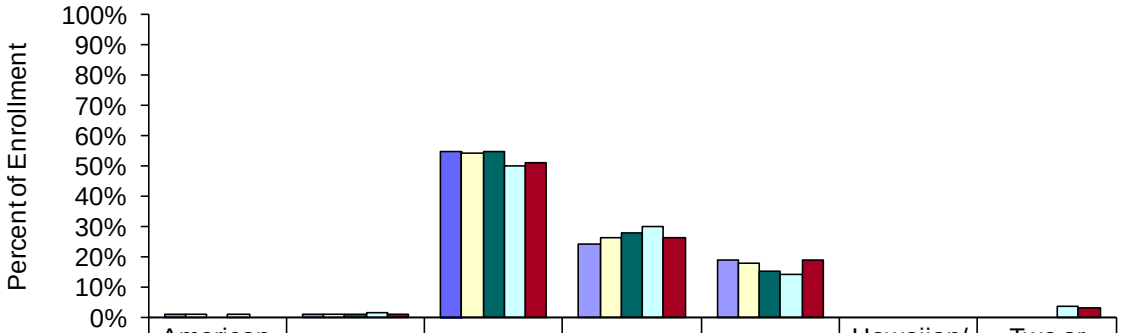
	Homeless children enrolled	Immigrant children enrolled	Children enrolled with special health care needs	Children enrolled with IFSPs
2008-09	10.6%	4.2%	9.4%	3.6%
2009-10	11.6%	5.6%	3.2%	3.5%
2010-11	10.9%	6.4%	9.1%	3.9%
2011-12	11.0%	7.8%	8.7%	4.2%

Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, CDCC Shared Visions Grant Year End Report, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-12 Summary.

[3]National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center. (2011). *The Importance of. Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families*. http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/importanceofearlyintervention.pdf

The race/ethnicity representation was analyzed (see Figure 3). Overall, the ethnic representation of state enrollment for the Parent Support Programs has been consistent from year to year. Additionally, the gender of children was analyzed and 53 percent were male and 47 percent were female.

Figure 3. Five Year Trend - Percentage of Children Served in Parent Support Programs by Race/Ethnicity.



	American Indian/ Alaska	Asian American	White (not Hispanic)	Hispanic	African American	Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Two or More Races
2007-08	1%	1%	55%	24%	19%	*	*
2008-09	1%	1%	54%	26%	18%	*	*
2009-10	0%	1%	55%	28%	15%	*	*
2010-11	1%	1%	50%	30%	14%	0%	4%
2011-12	0%	1%	51%	26%	19%	0%	3%

Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, CDCC Shared Visions Grant Year End Report, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012 Summary.

Waiting List. In 2011-2012, the increasing need for parent support was evidenced as programs reported 234 income eligible children on their waiting lists.

Results. The Shared Visions Parent Support Programs contribute to Iowa results.

Healthy Children. Approximately 1,194 or 92 percent of the children served had health insurance. In 2006-2007, only 90 percent of the children served had health insurance. This year 98 percent of the children received appropriate immunizations. In 2008-2009, programs reported only 88 percent of the children had appropriate immunizations.

Safe and Supportive Communities. Shared Visions Parent Support Programs report a decrease in the percentage of children experiencing abuse and neglect.

Secure and Nurturing Families. Shared Visions Parent Support Programs report decreases in domestic and family violence.

Preschool Programs

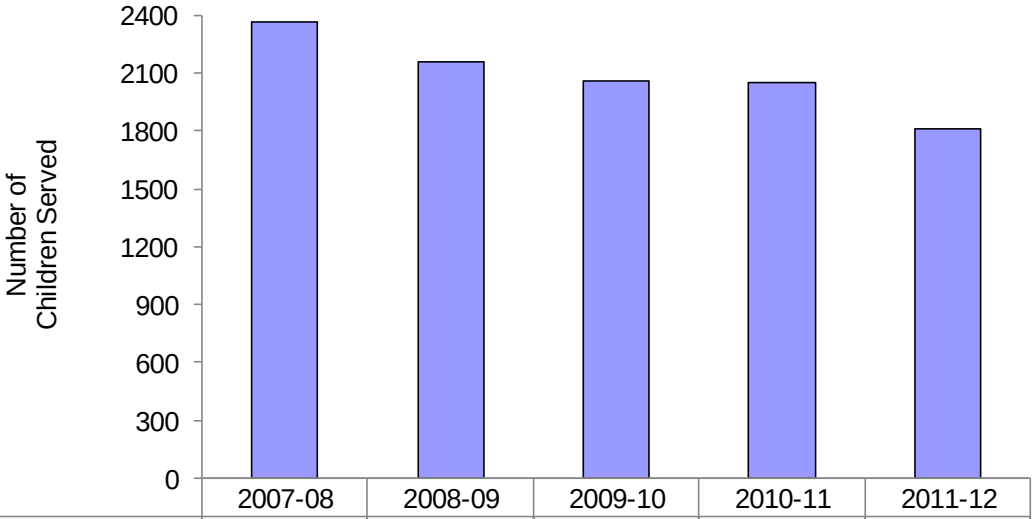
Iowa Shared Visions Preschool Programs include:

- High quality child development programs for at-risk children ages three to five years of age and whose families have an income below 130 percent of the poverty level;
- Collaborative partnerships between local Early Childhood Iowa Boards, Head Start, child care, and school districts in 48 Iowa counties;
- A high level of accountability, documented extensive data collection, a history of established programming in the community with highly trained staff; and
- Programming in diverse settings to support community need and family choice.

Funding. In 2011-2012, state funds of $6,540,233 provided 101 preschool grants supporting approximately 118 classrooms (25 fully funded classrooms and 93 partially funded classrooms) for children three to five years of age. The state funding only supports half of the actual expenses needed to keep programs operating as they are currently structured.

Children Served. Preschool services were provided to 1,810 children, decreasing by approximately 243 children from the 2010-2011 program year. The gradual decrease in enrollment is largely due to the $1,181,248 cut in funding since 2007-2008. At this time, the increasing need for preschool services is evidenced as programs reported 1,234 eligible children remained on the waiting list.

Figure 4. Five Year Trend - Number of Children Served in Shared Visions Preschool Programs.

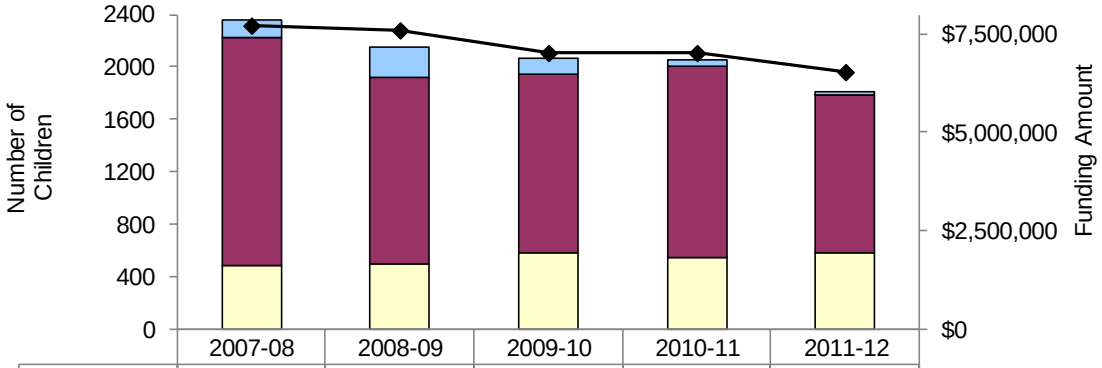


	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number of Children Served	2362	2155	2063	2053	1810

Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, CDCC Shared Visions Grant Year End Report, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012 Summary.

Shared Visions Preschool Programs serve primarily four-year-olds (see Figure 5). Overall, the number of three-year-olds has remained relatively stable during the past five years. In 2011-2012, the number of four- and five-year-olds decreased which is reflective of the overall decrease in the number of children served.

Figure 5. Five Year Trend – Annual Funding and Age Breakdown of Children Served in Shared Visions Preschool Programs.



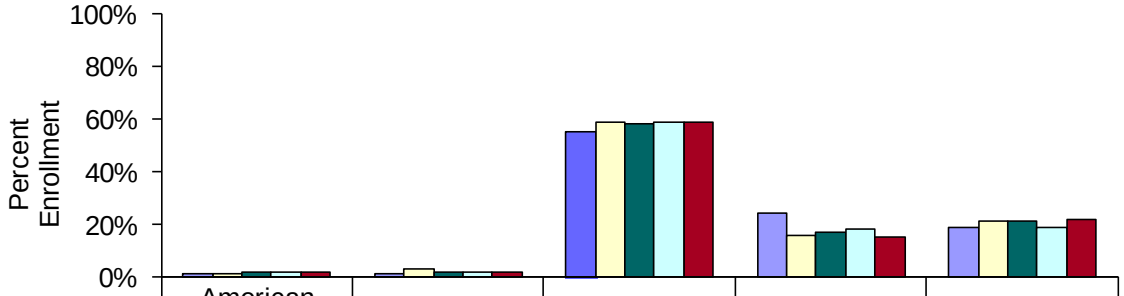
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Age 5	142	237	114	43	26
Age 4	1733	1423	1366	1464	1202
Age 3	487	495	583	546	582
Funding	$7,721,481	$7,600,887	$7,024,552	$7,024,552	$6,540,233

Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, CDCC Shared Visions Grant Year End Report, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012 Summary.

The majority of the children served in the Shared Visions Preschool Programs are at-risk due to poverty with the remaining children qualifying due to other at-risk factors. These risk factors may include developmental delays, being born at biological risk, being born to a parent under the age of 18, or having other special circumstances such as foster care or being homeless. It may also include residing in a household where one or more parents has not completed high school, has been identified as a substance abuser or as chronically mentally ill, is illiterate, is incarcerated, or is a child or spouse abuser.

Figure 6 indicates enrollment by race/ethnicity. Overall, the ethnic representation of state enrollment for the Shared Visions Preschool Programs has been consistent from year to year. Additionally, the gender of children was analyzed and 53 percent were male and 47 percent were female.

Figure 6. Five Year Trend - Shared Visions Preschool Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity.



	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian American	White (not Hispanic)	Hispanic	African American
2007-08	1%	1%	55%	24%	19%
2008-09	1%	3%	59%	16%	21%
2009-10	2%	2%	58%	17%	21%
2010-11	2%	2%	59%	18%	19%
2011-12	2%	2%	59%	15%	22%

Source. Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Services, CDCC Shared Visions Grant Year End Report, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012 Summary.

Shared Visions Preschool High Quality Services

Providing high quality services to children at-risk has been a distinguishing characteristic of Shared Visions Preschool Programs. All programs are required to achieve and maintain accreditation by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the national standard of highest quality for early childhood programs.

Another element of quality is the requirement that all programs use a common statewide child assessment, the Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment System. GOLD focuses on 38 research-based objectives for development and learning that are predictors of school success and aligned with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. GOLD is also a curriculum neutral assessment so it may be used in conjunction with any curriculum that programs are using.

An external evaluation of classroom quality in all Shared Visions Preschool Program classrooms was completed in 2008. The full evaluation report is posted at Shared Visions Preschool Program website, Supporting Documents; http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=645&Itemid=1278.

Results. The Shared Visions Preschool Programs contribute to Iowa results.

Healthy Children. All children participating in the Shared Visions Preschool Programs received all of their immunizations. During 2011-2012, grantees reported 96 percent of the children had health insurance. This has remained steady since 2010-2011 and has increased three percent since the previous three years.

Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments. Shared Visions Preschool Programs are accredited by NAEYC, implement a common statewide child assessment, and maintain a ratio of one adult for every eight children.

Children Ready to Succeed in School. Research indicates children enrolled in high quality early learning classrooms will be better prepared to successfully achieve the academic and social challenges of school-age programs. For children to develop these skills, they need opportunities to participate in early learning experiences that produce positive child and family outcomes. By implementing the NAEYC standards, the Shared Visions Preschool Programs are providing early learning experiences for preschoolers that meet high standards of quality.

Future Needs for Shared Visions Parent Support Programs
The Child Development Coordinating Council fully supports the impact of the Shared Visions Parent Support Programs and recommends the following:

- Meeting the needs of children on the waiting lists.
- Support additional sites and increase the level of service/contact hours for families. (No additional communities in Iowa have been provided the opportunity to apply for Shared Visions at-risk state funds for children since 1996.)
- Support Shared Visions Parent Support Programs to achieve accreditation through either a nationally recognized accreditation process or the Iowa Family Support credential. National Accreditation Standards require the use of family assessment tools and technology to improve the quality and accuracy of data used to support family progress and systems-level decision making.
- Provide professional development for Shared Visions Parent Support Program staff.

Future Needs for Shared Visions Preschool Programs
The Child Development Coordinating Council fully supports the impact of the Shared Visions Preschool Programs and recommends the following:

- Meeting the needs of children on the waiting lists.
- Providing professional development in the area of assessment and the implementation of *Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment System.*

- Encouraging program administration and staff to consider completing the *Teaching Strategies GOLD Interrater Reliability Certification*.

- Ongoing support by AEA Early Childhood Consultants to provide professional development and technical assistance to Shared Visions Preschool Programs.

- Ongoing efforts to enhance overall classroom quality, strengthen curricular offerings, and enhance teachers' competence within the Shared Visions Preschool Programs.