

CHILD DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2017

This report is submitted to the Governor and General Assembly in accordance with Iowa Code Section 256A.3(8).

The Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) is comprised of members representing the following:

- Department of Human Services
- Division of Adult, Children, and Family Services, DHS
- Department of Education
- Department of Public Health
- Area Education Agencies
- Iowa State University, Human Sciences
- University of Iowa, Department of Pediatrics
- University of Northern Iowa, College of Education
- Head Start Parents
- Head Start Directors
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Early Childhood Special Education

The CDCC advises and assists the Department of Education (Department) regarding the administration and implementation of Shared Visions Programs, state-funded programs for children with risk factors and their families.

The primary risk factor is defined as being a member of a low-income family at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for parent support programs and 130 percent for preschool programs.

Secondary risk factors include having developmental delays; being born with a biological risk or to a parent under age 18; being in foster care or homeless; residing in a household where a parent or guardian has not completed high school, has been identified as a substance abuser or chronically mentally ill, is illiterate, incarcerated, or an abuser.

FY17 STATE FUNDING

Appropriation	\$8,536,740
Shared Visions Parent Support	\$836,752
Shared Visions Preschool	\$7,699,988

There had been no change to the annual state appropriation shown in the chart above since FY13. However, in March 2017, SF130 was enacted which resulted in a reduction of funds by 3.75% during the fourth quarter of FY17. The reduced appropriation is shown in the chart below.

FY17 STATE FUNDING - FINAL

Appropriation	\$8,216,612
Shared Visions Parent Support	\$805,374
Shared Visions Preschool	\$7,411,238

MISSION

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

- parent support programs which enhance the skills of parents to support the learning and development of their children ages birth to five years;
- established minimum guidelines for comprehensive early child development services for children ages three to five years;
- cost-effective child development services for children ages three to five years; and
- comprehensive services such as child care, transportation, family support and education, developmental screening, and referral to health professionals.

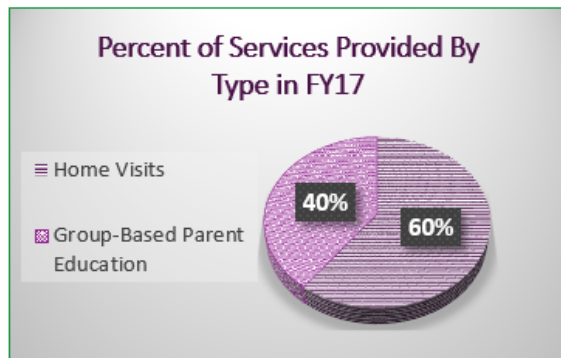
QUALITY PROGRAMMING

Shared Visions Parent Support Programs

“Quality early childhood education from birth to age five, coupled with parent coaching, such as home visitation programs for parents and teen mothers, has proven to be effective and warrants more investment” (Heckman, 2012).¹

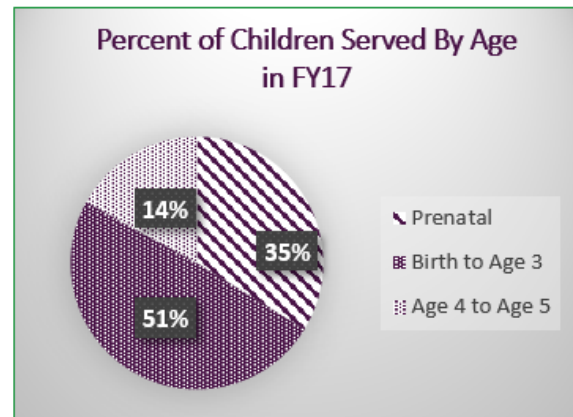
The Shared Visions Parent Support Programs provide services for families with an income below 125 percent of the poverty level and who have children ages birth to age five with risk factors. In FY17, six Shared Visions Parent Support Programs were awarded grants in five counties. All grantees were validated through external evaluation to meet standards of high quality by earning the Iowa Family Support Credential.

As reported by grantees, a total of 1085 families were served through home visitation, group-based parent education, or a combination of the two types of services. Additionally, a total of 6170 home visits and 3294 group-based parent education meetings were provided over the course of the grant year.



Supports focused on parenting skills, child growth and development, building of self-concept, nutrition, positive guidance techniques, family resource management, and parent literacy, as well as accessing the array of supportive services from a network of agencies available to families.

Grantees reported a total of 1,188 children served with 413 being prenatal, 605 ages birth to three years, and 170 ages four to five years.



Shared Visions Parent Support Programs also assisted in identifying children in need of early intervention services provided in Iowa’s Early ACCESS system. In FY17, a total of 51 children received early intervention/early childhood special education services with more than 40 percent of children identified after program enrollment. Early intervention services help families understand and support their children’s individual needs from an early age and throughout their lives.

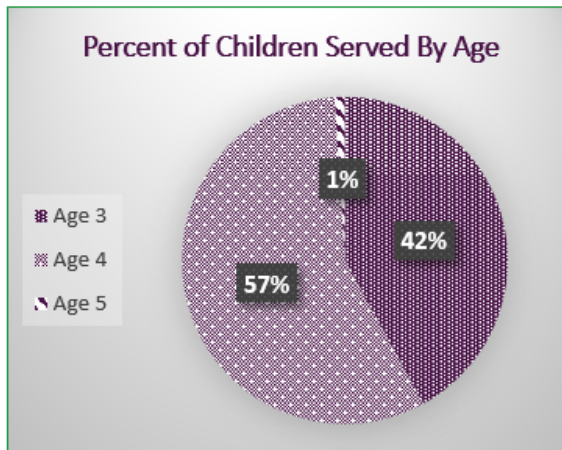
“A four-year-old boy attended preschool and child care at our program. He had recently been removed from his home as a result of his mother’s drug addiction and concerns of a safe home environment. He had been temporarily placed in a shelter due to safety concerns. Our program partners with this shelter to provide preschool and childcare services and this child was enrolled in our program. The child’s mother went to treatment and, once sufficient progress was made, her child was able to go live with her at the treatment center. Our program provided a stable preschool and childcare environment during all of these transitions. This demonstrates the importance of positive community relationships and continuity of care. The child’s mother successfully completed treatment and they were able to return home together. The child continued to attend our program and was on track with his learning and education. He will attend Kindergarten in the fall.”

--Stella Sanford Child Development Center - Crittenton Center

Shared Visions Preschool Programs

“We know that preschool can provide the developmentally stimulating experiences that many children growing up in poverty lack. The evidence is incontrovertible” (Lamy, 2013).ⁱⁱ

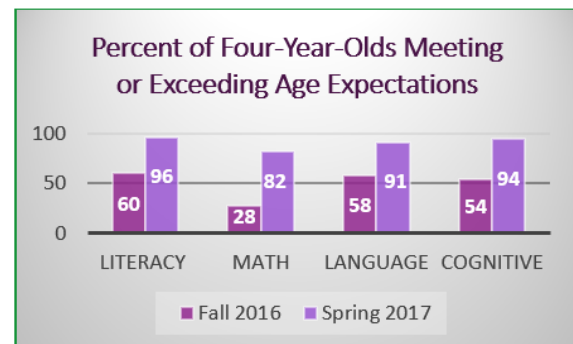
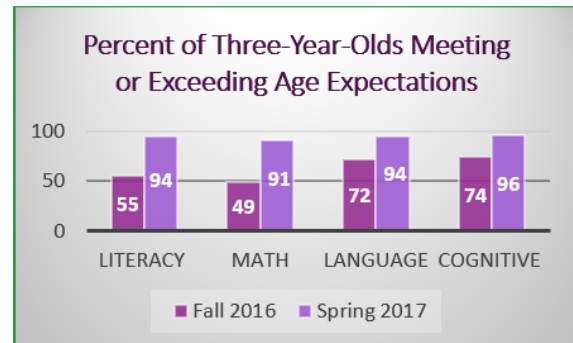
In FY17, a total of 67 Shared Visions Preschool Program grants were awarded across 37 counties. These grants provided quality, comprehensive preschool programming to children with risk factors. Of the 1,349 children enrolled, 567 were age three, 767 were age four, and 15 were age five. Grantees also reported an additional 480 income eligible children who remained on waiting lists during the year.



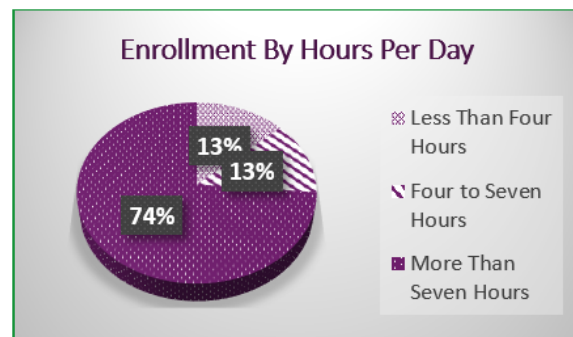
Shared Visions Preschool Programs enrolled 94 percent of children based on income levels at or below 130 percent of poverty. The remaining six percent were over income guidelines but eligible based on secondary risk factors. Fifteen percent of participating children, 205, received early childhood special education services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) with 38 percent of those being identified after enrollment.

Providing high quality services to children with risk factors is a distinguishing characteristic of Shared Visions Preschool Programs. All grantees 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. Additionally, all programs must use a common statewide child assessment, the *MyTeachingStrategies GOLD® Online Assessment System*. Reports from FY17 show that children’s knowledge, skills, and behaviors met

the range of expected growth. As shown in the charts below, the percent of children meeting or exceeding expectations greatly increased over the course of the year.



Shared Visions Preschool Programs are encouraged to consider partnerships and collaborative relationships that address the gaps within their communities and best serve children and families. In FY17, children received varying amounts of programming per day based on local program design and collaborative efforts. The majority of children, 993, received more than seven hours per day, which included extended preschool services or wrap-around child care. In other program designs, 176 children received between four and seven hours of programming per day, while 180 children received less than four hours per day.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Child Development Coordinating Council recommends the following:

- Increase access and duration of services for families and children with risk factors to improve child and family outcomes
- Explore opportunities for mixed delivery programs to meet family and community needs
- Improve services for diverse families and children to address Iowa's growing diversity
- Maintain accreditation status in order to enhance overall program quality
- Increase administrative capacity and awareness for leadership and advocacy in early childhood programming and services
- Strengthen Area Education Agencies' connections to support all types of programs

ⁱ Heckman, J. (2012). *The Heckman Equation: Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen the Economy*. Pritzker Children's Initiative. Retrieved from www.heckmanequation.org

ⁱⁱ Lamy, C. (2013, May). How Preschool Fights Poverty. *Educational Leadership*. 70(8), 32-36.