

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Annual Report

Building Visions for Community Success



Annette Koster
BVCS Early Childhood Iowa
September 15, 2014
akosterbvcs@frontiernet.net

Executive Summary

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

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) was founded on the premise that communities and state government can work together to improve the well-being of our youngest children. ECI's efforts unite agencies, organizations and community partners to speak with a shared voice to support, strengthen and meet the needs of all young children and families.

It is believed that individuals in local communities working together can identify and implement the best means for attaining desired results. The role of the State is to be a partner to support and facilitate growth in community responsibility; not assume the directive role that the public has come to expect of government.

Identified results the Early Childhood Iowa Areas use 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.

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.

BVCS Early Childhood Iowa 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.

Strategic Highlights

Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac Early Childhood Iowa area (BVCS ECI) serves the zero to five population and their families in the three Counties.

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 3-County Board has developed priorities to guide in them, they are: Parent Education, Quality Preschool Programs, Nurturing Child Care, Health Prevention Measures, Early Literacy, and Coordination of Services when programs submit proposals for funding.

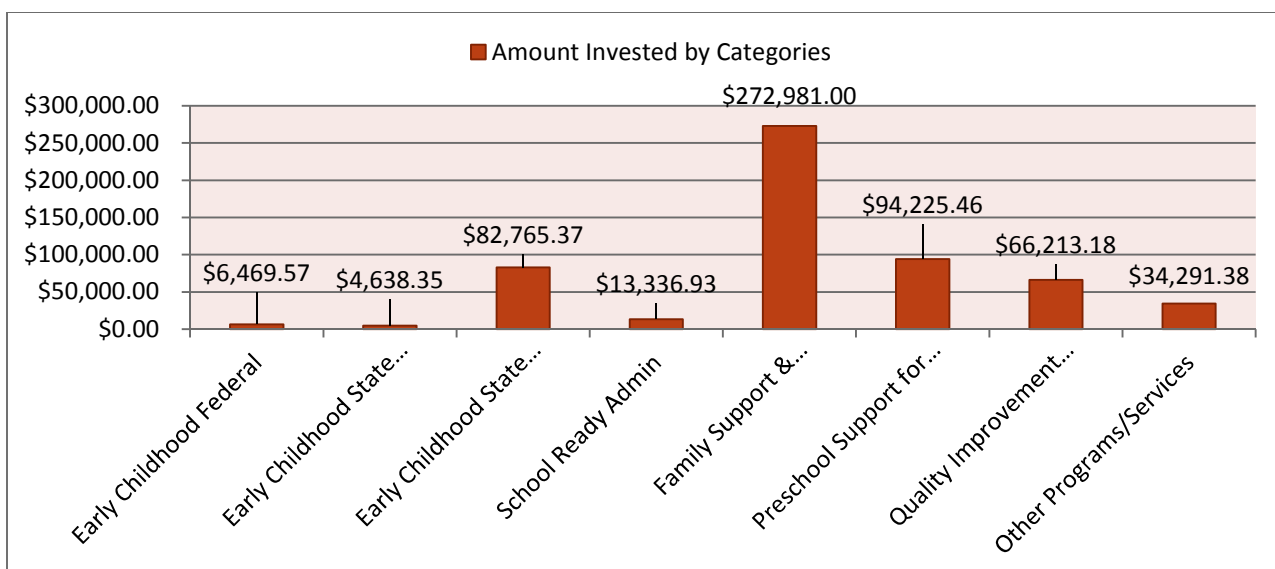
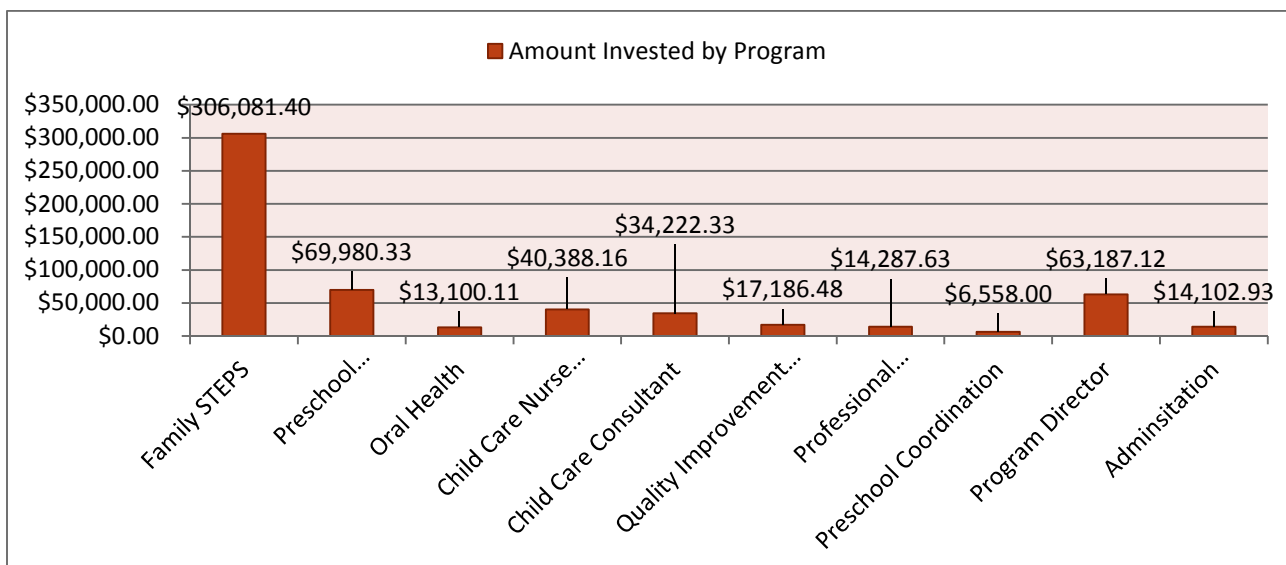
Funded programs in State Fiscal Year 2014 include: Family STEPS in-home visitation for parents; Preschool Scholarship and Support; Child Care Consultant; Child Care Nurse Consultant; Oral Health – Screenings, Varnish, & Education; Early Car & Education Provider Development; Quality Improvement Grants; 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. Without support during the early years, a child will be more likely to drop out of school, receive welfare benefits and commit crime. Economic experts say mounting evidence shows that investments in early care and education should be considered as an economic development strategy. A recent longitudinal study found that a return to society of more than \$17 for every \$1 invested in an early care and education program! For more information visits: www.highscope.org/Research/PerryProject:PerryAge40SumWEb.pdf. To help support programs for children you can ask elected officials to prioritize services to children, volunteer at and/or donate to a program serving children and families, and share this information with others.

Financial Highlights

State Fiscal Year 14 funding summary.



Outcomes

Outcomes for programs funded by BVCS Early Childhood Iowa.



Preschool Support - 89% of children demonstrating age appropriate skills as measured by Creative Curriculum GOLD, And Ages and Stages Questionnaire.

Transportation – 94% of days that children attended preschool that were provided transportation.

Oral Health - 79% of children who need dental treatment that went to a dentist.



Child Care Nurse Consultant – 92% of children with special health care needs with a special needs care plan in place at the child care facility.

Child Care Consultant – 80% increase or maintain in the number of registered child development home/centers.

Quality Improvement – 84% of programs participating in a quality initiative (unduplicated).

Professional Development – 81% of rating/certifications/credentialing/ renewals that were a direct result.