



IOWA WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

Building & Expanding Child Care Centers

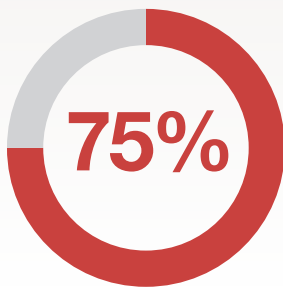


SOLUTION

Building new centers and expanding existing centers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child care is a family issue, a workforce issue and a community issue.



OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 IN IOWA

have all available parents in the labor force. But in many Iowa communities, child care is often inaccessible, unaffordable, or nonexistent.

Child care issues are not new, but have risen to a higher priority due to their pervasiveness, necessity, and impact on businesses. Parents often encounter issues finding and/or retaining child care. In turn, employers experience reduced productivity, increased absenteeism, and difficulty retaining and finding employees. Ultimately, this impacts the local economy of communities throughout the state.

Building a new child care center and/or expanding existing centers are two solutions to provide an influx of child care spaces. Starting a local dialogue is a simple way to begin the discussion and process. It is imperative that communities understand the market and the needs of parents, employers, and most of all—children—in order to successfully implement a solution.

PROCESS

1

CONNECT

with resources, supporters, and gain partners, such as Early Childhood Iowa, Child Care Resource & Referral, child care providers, city/county staff, and businesses to support and implement the solution.

2

CREATE

a team to lead and oversee the project.

3

ASSESS

the need for care by completing a market analysis.

4

DETERMINE

financial feasibility and organizational capacity.

5

SELECT

site for building or expansion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

MAIN CONTACT

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

NOTES/TAKEAWAYS/ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS/REPORT BACK

RESOURCES

This is not an exhaustive list; you may have and know of potential resources that are specific to your community.

Iowa Department of Human Services – dhs.iowa.gov/licensure-and-registration

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral – www.iowaccrr.org

First Children's Finance – www.firstchildrensfinance.org

U.S. Department of Agriculture – www.nal.usda.gov/ric/starting-child-care-center

IA Dept. of Economic Development – www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/Community/CDBGPF



6

ENGAGE

an architect to design the building and provide cost estimates.

7

OBTAIN

financing through fundraising, grants, and loans.

8

CONSTRUCT

the facility, equip classrooms, obtain license approval, and begin marketing.

9

HIRE

and train staff and phase in children.

10

CONTINUE

to seek funding opportunities and maintain marketing efforts.

BEST PRACTICES/TESTIMONIALS

FORT DODGE: LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Along with 8 other businesses, Linking Families and Communities is currently working through the process of building and expanding child care centers in Fort Dodge. The group completed a market analysis and feasibility study, which informed them of the growing need for care. It also provided a fiscally feasible financial model for a new center. The group is currently engaged with an architect to design an expansion of an existing child care center as well as a new center.

STORM LAKE: READY, SET, GROW (RSG)

Early Childhood Iowa hosted a forum open to the public in Storm Lake to address the need for child care in the community. Following that initial meeting, a steering committee was formed. The first challenge of the committee was finding a location for a child care center. They reviewed and discussed the options.

RSG is located in the former high school building located in downtown Alta (six miles west of Storm Lake). The Alta school location is ideal for several reasons:

- Preschool children are welcome to attend RSG before and after school as needed.
- For after-school care, preschool teachers are able to walk the children down the hall to RSG.
- The child care center contracts with the school district for the noon meal.
- The school allows RSG to lease classrooms for \$1/year, and RSG is able to purchase cleaning supplies and paper supplies through the school district.
- The preschool classrooms and RSG share the gym to allow for exercise.
- The school upkeep the building, and takes care of the utilities, garbage service, snow removal, and lawn care.

Where otherwise the former school building would have stood empty and unused, RSG has breathed new life into the old building while providing a valuable service to the community.





SOLUTION

Building a center and expanding an existing center.

Why is this solution a good fit for your community?

What resources and connections already exist that support implementing this solution?

What resources and connections are needed to implement this solution?

Who should help make this solution happen?

List next steps.

