



IOWA WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

Community Colleges & Early Childhood Care



SOLUTION

Partner with community colleges for both early childhood educational programs and for child care provision.

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.

Partnering with community colleges for both early childhood educational programs and for child care provision is a solution 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.

Communities fare better when they can partner with other entities in their communities. Since their inception in the 1960s, Iowa Community Colleges, as a part of their mission, have to work to address real needs in their communities.

Several Iowa Community Colleges have early childhood education programs ranging from diploma programs to Associate of Applied Science Degree programs. All community college programs in Iowa require practical “field experience” for students.

Some Iowa Community Colleges have on-site child care programs for the children of students enrolled in college credits. Many offer non-students/families in the community the opportunity to have their children cared for on the college campus after the needs of enrolled students have been met.

PROCESS



BEST PRACTICES/TESTIMONIALS

Hawkeye Community College:

www.hawkeyecollege.edu/students/services/child-development-center

DMACC Child Development Center:

www.dmacc.edu/programs/earlychildhood/center/Pages/welcome.aspx

A list of Community Colleges that currently provide on-site child care:

www.collegesimply.com/colleges/iowa/colleges-with-daycare





SOLUTION

Partner with community colleges for both early childhood educational programs and for child care provision.

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.

