



Community Priorities:

Support services and training for the prevention of infectious disease, prevention of child injuries, development of health emergency protocols, administration of medications, care for children with special needs, and early childhood screenings (development, vision, hearing, nutrition and social-emotional).

Community Indicators & Definitions:

- ❖ Immunization Rate: the number of children up to date on childhood immunizations at the age of two years and again at kindergarten entry.
- ❖ Teen Birth Rate: the number of live births to mothers below 20 years of age. Rate is per 1000 live births. The number of teen birth rates for a 2nd birth.

Core Services / Programs / Activities MWECI Supports:

- ❖ Child Care Nurse Consultant
- ❖ Early Childhood Screenings
- ❖ Mental Health First Aid Training



Early Learning
Oval

State Result Areas:

Children Ready to
Succeed in School

Safe and
Nurturing Early
Learning
Environments

Community Priorities:

- ❖ Support services and training to improve the quality of early learning environments (child care centers, preschools, child development homes, and FFN (friends, family & neighbors)).
- ❖ Support services to help families access quality preschool experiences for all children

Community Indicators & Definitions:

- ❖ Quality Early Learning Environments: the number of all early learning sites participating in Quality Initiatives as defined by ECI to include: NAEYC, Head Start, QRS, IQPPS, or ERS.
- ❖ Parents in Workforce: the number of families with children under 6 years with both parents employed in the workforce.

Core Services / Programs / Activities MWECI Supports:

- ❖ Early Learning Professional Training Opportunities
- ❖ Professional Development Coaching Opportunities
- ❖ Professional Development Mini Grants
- ❖ Preschool Scholarships
- ❖ Preschool Coordination & Partnerships



Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Promoting & Supporting Quality Programming

MWECI promotes quality programming in the community by investing in programs/services/activities that move, improve or maintain high quality.



State ECI Quality Indicator:	Number of early learning sites achieving national or state quality rating recognition by: Head Start Performance Standards or NAEYC/NAFCC (national); QRS or IQPPS (state); or ERS (established level rating by ISU inner-rater reliable staff). <i>“Participating” means all child care centers, preschools or child development homes and/or staff receiving MWECI funding or participating (taking advantage of) any professional development training or early childhood services funded by MWECI.</i> <i>“Quality rated” means all child care centers, preschools or child development homes that have achieved one of the state recognized quality initiatives listed in Item #2.</i>		
Professional Development	MWECI Quality Recommendations: Began July 1, 2014...	Monitored By:	Ramifications/Penalties:
1 Professional Development	All indirect service staff and supervision offering professional development, training and/or coaching must have a minimum educational degree BA/BS in a health, education or human service field or certificate of specialized training (train the trainer) for specific training offered.	MWECI – Area Director	Professional development criteria will be made clear and emphasized in RFPs and contracts.
2 Professional Development	All professional development training opportunities must be offered through an approved (recognized by the state) training entity.	MWECI – Area Director CCR&R	Professional development criteria will be made clear and emphasized in RFPs and contracts.
Early Learning Environments	MWECI Quality Recommendations: Began July 1, 2015...	Monitored By:	Ramifications/Penalties:
3 Professional Development	All MWECI funded early care & education training/coaching should include support for participant rewards for completion and implementation of training outcomes. Each contractor should design and promote its own criteria for outcomes and rewards. Any local provider may participate in more than one reward program in any year.	MWECI – Area Director CCR&R CCNC BASEC	Reward programs (criteria and outcomes) will be included in RFPs and contracts, annual logic models, and semi-annual reporting.
Community Outreach	MWECI Quality Recommendations: Beginning July 1, 2019...	Monitored By:	Ramifications/Penalties:
1 FYE 2020 Working On It	Support parent education regarding the need for quality child care and preschool education.	MWECI – Area Director CCR&R CCNC	

Family Support
Oval

State Result
Areas:

Safe and
Supportive
Communities

Safe and
Nurturing
Families

Community Priorities:

- ❖ Support services and community awareness for prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- ❖ Support services to provide family support through home visitation and group parent education.

Community Indicators & Definitions:

- ❖ Child Abuse and Neglect: the number of confirmed or founded reports divided by the number of accepted reports (confirmation rate).
- ❖ Quality Family Support Programs: the number of family support programs that meet the criteria of “evidence-based or promising program” as defined in ECI Tool FF.

Core Services / Programs / Activities MWECEI Supports:

- ❖ Home Visitation Programming
- ❖ Group Parent Education Programming
- ❖ Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Community Awareness



Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Promoting & Supporting Quality Programming

MWECI promotes quality programming in the community by investing in programs/services/activities that move, improve or maintain high quality.

Family Support

Special Needs / Early Intervention

MWECI Community Indicator:	Quality Family Support Programs: The number of family support programs that meet the criteria of “evidence-based or promising program” as defined in the state ECI Tool FF. Child Abuse and Neglect: the number of confirmed or founded reports divided by the number of accepted reports (confirmation rate).		
Family Support	MWECI Quality Recommendations: Began July 1, 2014...	Monitored By:	Ramifications/Penalties:
1 Quality Rating	All family support programs must participate in the Iowa Family Support Standards Credentialing Program and receive the IFS Credential within time frames established by the program or provide proof of other national credential.	IFSTAN – LSI MWECI – Area Director MWECI Board	MWECI funding will not be awarded to any family support program unwilling to participate in the IFS Credentialing program. This applies to both home visitation services and group parent education services.
2 Personnel	Direct service staff and supervision must be able to meet the Iowa Family Support Standards for personnel requirements.	IFSTAN – LSI MWECI – Area Director MWECI Board	MWECI funding will not be awarded to any family support program unwilling to participate in the IFS Credentialing program. This applies to both home visitation services and group parent education services.
3 HV-Personnel	All home visitation direct service staff are required to have a minimum educational degree BA/BS in health, education or human service field. Short term home visitation staff and dual language personnel serving as temporary or interim service providers are not required to have a degree.	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Requirements are included in current contracts. Any violation of will be considered a breach of contract and be presented to the MWECI board for quality assurance review with a corrective action plan. Severity of breach of contract could also lead to contract being terminated.
4 HV-Evidence Based Curricula	All long-term and short-term home visitation programs must utilize research-based and/or evidence-based home visitation model, materials and best practice strategies. Long-term home visitation programs shall use the selected questions on the Life Skills	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Requirements are included in current contracts. Any violation of will be considered a breach of contract and be presented to the MWECI board for quality assurance review with a corrective action

	Progression Instrument as the approved assessment tool for reporting the required performance measures.		plan. Severity of breach of contract could also lead to contract being terminated.
5 HV-Programming	All long-term home visitation programs must offer a minimum of 24 visits per year for families who fall below 200% FPL and staff must strive to complete a minimum of 85% of offered visits.	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Requirements are included in current contracts. Research shows the number of visits offered & completed for optimum family change. Programs are voluntary for parent involvement, hence some flexibility in achievement will be accepted. A quality assurance review and corrective action plan will be required of contractors falling below 55% achievement.
6 PE -Personnel	All group parent education program management staff are required to have a minimum educational degree BA/BS in health, education or human service field. Short term group parent education facilitators and dual language personnel serving as temporary or interim service providers are not required to have a degree.	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Requirements are included in current contracts. Any violation of will be considered a breach of contract and be presented to the MWECI board for quality assurance review with a corrective action plan. Severity of breach of contract could also lead to contract being terminated.
7 PE-Evidence Based Curricula	All parent education programs must utilize research-based and/or evidence-based parent education courses as their core curricula designed for no less than 6 / one-hour teaching sessions. Dual sessions cannot be offered on the same day. Short-term home visitation and group-based parent education programs must use the Protective Factors Survey as the approved assessment tool for reporting the required performance measures.	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Requirements are included in current contracts. Any violation of will be considered a breach of contract and be presented to the MWECI board for quality assurance review with a corrective action plan. Severity of breach of contract could also lead to contract being terminated.
8 PE-Programming	All parent education program parents must strive to maintain a minimum of 85% attendance for each parent education course completed.	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Requirements are included in current contracts. Research shows the number of classes offered & completed for optimum family change. Programs are voluntary for parent involvement, hence some flexibility in achievement will be accepted. A quality assurance review and corrective action plan will be required of contractors falling below 55% achievement.
9 HV & PE Programming (Beginning July 1, 2017)	All family support programs must utilize the FSSD (Family Support State-wide Data) data reporting system, known as DAISEY and submit quarterly progress reports to the Board / Area Director, indicating the inputs, outputs, efficiency and outcomes as outlined in the state required performance measures.	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Requirements are included in current contracts. All family support programs funded through the early childhood Iowa initiative are required to participate in the state administered internet-based data

			collection system and use the system as intended and as the official data reporting system. A quality assurance review and corrective action plan will be required of contractors falling below 100% achievement.
Professional Development	MWECI Quality Recommendations: Began July 1, 2014...	Monitored By:	Ramifications/Penalties:
1 Professional Development	All program service staff and supervision staff offering professional development, training and/or coaching must have a minimum educational degree BA/BS in a health, education or human service field or certificate of specialized training (train the trainer) for specific training offered.	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Professional development criteria will be made clear and emphasized in RFPs and contracts.
2 Professional Development	All professional development training opportunities must be offered through an approved training entity.	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Professional development criteria will be made clear and emphasized in RFPs and contracts.
3 Professional Development	All MWECI funded family support programming should include support for participant rewards for participation and implementation of child and family development outcomes and goals. Each contractor should design and promote its own criteria for outcomes and rewards. Any child/family may participate in more than one reward program in any year.	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Reward programs (criteria and outcomes) will be included in RFPs, annual logic models, and semi-annual reporting.
4 Professional Development MWECI Quality Recommendations: Beginning July 1, 2019...	All Family support direct service professionals and their immediate supervisors will register and participate in a minimum of 2 e-learning models per fiscal year via the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals. www.institutefsp.org All Family support direct service professionals and their immediate supervisors will participate in the Iowa Family Support Competency Assessment System and complete the National Certification Exam by the deadlines established by the state ECI office. The goal is to ensure that every family support professional – both direct service and supervisor are competent to carry out the core functions of their job . The exam offers assurance to Iowa’s most vulnerable families that professionals are highly qualified and skilled professionals. To support this goal, the Institute measures	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers MWECI Board	Professional development criteria will be made clear and emphasized in RFPs and contracts. A quality assurance review and corrective action plan will be required of contractors falling below 100% achievement.

	the knowledge and basic skills of the family support workforce, connects individuals to e-learning modules for those who need additional training, and provide a professional designation for those who successfully complete the National Certification Exam.		
Coordinated Intake	MWECI Quality Recommendations: Began July 1, 2015...		
1 HV & PE Programming	ECIA boards shall require all family support programs in their community to register and maintain updated program information in the statewide coordinated intake system (iafamilysupportnetwork.org). The purpose of the coordinated intake process is to ensure families are matched with the most appropriate service available. It also eliminates duplication, maximizes referrals and ensures coordination. The statewide coordinated intake system provides the primary method for outreach, promotion and awareness of family support services available across Iowa. (Tool FF).	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers	MWECI funding will not be awarded to any family support program unwilling to participate in the Coordinated Intake Process. This applies to both home visitation services and group parent education services. Program participation will be assessed during the annual ECI on-site review. A quality assurance review and corrective action plan will be required of contractors failing to keep their program information updated on iafamilysupportnetwork.org . Requirements are included in current contracts.
Developmental Screenings	MWECI Quality Recommendations: Beginning July 1, 2019...		
1 HV & PE Programming MWECI Quality Recommendations: Beginning July 1, 2019...	All age-eligible children enrolled in a short-term or long-term home visiting program and group-based parent education program shall be screened for developmental progress using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) 3 rd Edition. Screening may be completed by parents or the home visiting or parent education staff. Programs shall follow the intervals for screening as outlined in the DAISEY Data Dictionary. Screening results shall be entered into the state administered internet-based data collection system. (DAISEY – FSSD).	MWECI – Area Director Contractors – Program Managers	Requirements are included in current contracts. All family support programs funded through the early childhood Iowa initiative are required to participate in the state administered internet-based data collection system and use the system as intended and as the official data reporting system. A quality assurance review and corrective action plan will be required of contractors falling below 100% achievement.

CQI Strategies of the Mahaska Wapello ECI Area Board

Over the past three years the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Area Board has implemented or improved upon their practices in order to move the early childhood system forward and provide effective services to our children, families and service providers. These opportunities included:

- Board review of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and implementation of a 5-year contract renewal cycle.
- Board review of and updates with the individual contract form and process.
- Reviewed and completely revised the community plan and utilized the plan in their decision making.
- Bi-Annual review of the By-Laws and Policies.
- Encouraged early childhood service provider participation at open board meetings with monthly meetings scheduled.
- Assurance of a quorum present at each board meeting.
- Utilization of the advisory group and other community gatherings to make recommendations to the board.
- Annual site visits to providers of services by the Area Director and Board Members.
- Continued building community partnerships by the Area Director and Board Members participating in local community meetings such as: Child Abuse Prevention Councils, Community Partners Protecting Children, Community Wide Positive Behaviors Intervention Supports, Southeast Iowa Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Collaborative, County Child Care Coalitions, and Inter-agency County meetings.

Current Capacity of Board to Address Priorities

The Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa area currently has strong, long-term family support programs covering the entire ECIA. We also have several QRS rated child care providers and preschool providers in each county. All five community school districts are actively engaged in providing 4Y voluntary preschool for all 4Y olds regardless of income. All our early childhood professionals seek new professional development opportunities and maintain quality programming as a high priority. We have good working relationships with many agencies and individuals who are willing to come to the table to assist young families. And, lastly, the MWECI Board has well-seasoned and experienced board members who work very well together and commit the time necessary to operate efficiently in the best interest of young families.

Strategies for continued services in the future:

In moving the community plan for services forward in our area, the MWECI board will:

- 1) Continue to support training and education of early childhood providers.
- 2) Continue the partnerships with area agencies in sharing data and assessments.
- 3) Work on policies related to preschool scholarships and programs to reward early childhood providers for participating in quality initiatives.
- 4) Continue development of marketing/public awareness activities throughout the ECIA and make use of statewide materials when they are made available to promote a consistent message.

- 5) Continue to support family support programs and parent education programs.
- 6) Continue to support the involvement of community partners, families, community leaders in the process of determining the strengths, the gaps, and the needs in our early childhood area.
- 7) Focus on utilizing funds for appropriate services needed within the area at a reasonable cost and using the appropriate funding stream.
- 8) Be an active participant in the annual legislative forum held each December.

The MWECI Board's Process for Awarding Funds

The Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa (MWECI) Board of Directors determines who will be receiving ECI funds from year to year. The MWECI Board addresses funding decisions as soon as possible in the spring prior to the new fiscal year beginning on July 1st. Historically, the MWECI Board has made funding decisions based on successful and prioritized annual Request for Proposals (RFP). Due to previous years' continuous funding reductions, (2008-2019) the MWECI Board of Directors moved to a competitive RFP plus a two year contract renewal cycle process, beginning and utilizing the accepted FYE 2011 RFP's (Cycle: 1st year competitive RFP-FYE2011, 2nd year Contract Renewal-FYE2012, 3rd year Contract Renewal-FYE2013 – MWECI Board approved April 27th, 2011). Justification for this new process included the MWECI Board's concerns regarding current and future funding reductions balanced against providing contractors with some sense of funding security, based on priority and successful program performance.

Influenced by state funding RFP cycles and contracts, the MWECI Board of Directors voted on August 29th, 2019 to shift the competitive RFP and Contract Renewal Cycle from 3 years to 5 years. This provides an additional 2 years of non-competitive or secure funding through successful contract renewals and will enable current contractors to continue building and executing data-driven internal Quality Improvement Plans (QIP), resulting in higher quality programming. The MWECI Board of Directors may also vote to include or not include annual funding for mini-grant purposes and/or to advertise a competitive RFP process for any unencumbered funds or carry forward funds during any subsequent renewal year in the 5-year cycle.

Competitive Request for Proposals shall be issued every five years, with contract renewals for 4 subsequent years, based on an annual submission of logic models and revised budgets, and successful site reviews. The MWECI Board of Directors will award annual funding amounts as soon as a proposed/anticipated (next fiscal year) FYE budget can be determined; by the direction of the state ECI Office and the current legislative session and signed appropriations. The MWECI Board of Directors holds the authority to award funding based on local contractors successful RFP, logic model and revised budget submission to the Area Director. The MWECI Board of Directors also holds the authority to modify and/or deny funding based on the contractor's performance, annual site review, and community priorities and additional community input.

Funding Priorities are given to: Continuation of proven successful MWECI funded programs, programs that address one or more community plan priorities and state result areas, programs addressing recognized gaps in services, programs that are built upon research- based and evidence-based practices, programs with multi-agency collaboration or programs which work across disciplines, programs that utilize multiple sources of funding and/or leverage other sources of funding, and programs that are creative and customer focused in their approach.