

Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Area Community Plan



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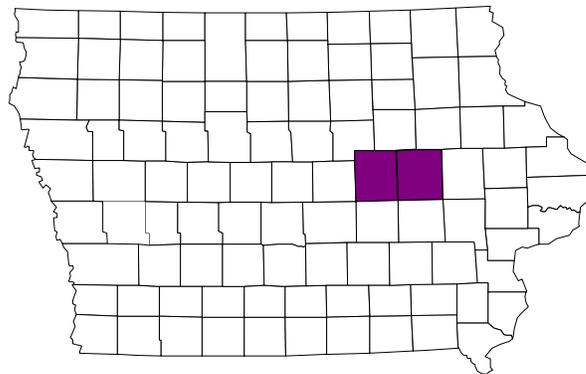
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Section I: General Information

Identification of the Early Childhood Iowa Area (ECIA)

Benton and Tama Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards have utilized the state Tool U to merge into one Early Childhood Area effective July 1, 2012. This merger was not arrived at lightly and there has been purposeful and meaningful conversation starting in August 2010. The new boundary shall include any families residing in Benton and Tama County. Both boards are aware of the challenges and changes before them and are empowered to lead the way. This successful merge will provide new opportunities along with gained efficiencies. The new board is here by known as Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Area Board.

The Early Childhood Area is comprised of Benton County and Tama County. Both counties are contiguous and located in east central Iowa. The population eligible for Early Childhood Iowa services is children 0-5 and their families. Both counties serve all children and families in this age bracket residing in Benton and Tama counties. Families must reside in and utilize services in either Benton or Tama County.



Use of the Community Plan

The Better Tomorrows ECI Area Board has drafted this three-year community plan as part of the board merger process between Benton and Tama County. It is intended to provide guidance and direction to the newly created board. The community plan is also to be considered a living document for the community.

The Better Tomorrows ECI Area Board supports five result areas:

- Healthy Children
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Safe and Supportive Communities

It is the desire of the Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Area Board that, during the next three years that this community plan will serve as a useful tool for the community as a whole. It will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure that it reflects the current assets, needs and priorities of the communities in which it serves.

The Better Tomorrows ECI Community Plan is used as a guide to fulfill the needs of the early childhood populations of Benton and Tama counties. Funding recommendations to the Better Tomorrows Governing Board come from both the Benton and Tama County Advisory Committees. Both committees use the Community Plan and the priorities therein to make the most informed funding recommendations. These

committees are made up of early childhood representatives from each county involved in human services, citizens, elected officials, faith, consumers, health, education, day cares, non-profits and social services. The Better Tomorrows Governing Board also represents a diverse collection of area decision-makers with the best interests of young children and their families in mind. The Community Plan is available to the public on the Better Tomorrows website and upon request at each county office.

Early Childhood Iowa Area's Vision and Mission

Process

A sub-committee was formed, with members from both counties. Members of the sub-committee compared current vision, mission and purpose statements from the existing early childhood areas noting significant similarities of content. With collaboration from all sub-committee members a concise new message was unanimously formulated.

Vision

All children (age 0 – 5) living in Benton and Tama County will be healthy, have a safe, secure, nurturing home and childcare environment, and be ready to succeed in school.

Mission

To enhance the quality of life in Benton and Tama County by promoting strong, healthy families. Barriers will be overcome and programs and services coordinated through community collaboration.

Purpose

To ensure the collaboration within our community, the organization will provide families, with children 0 – 5 years old, the resources and opportunities necessary for their children to be healthy, safe, secure, ready to succeed in school, have available affordable, high quality child care and access to a preschool opportunity.

Geographic/Demographic Profile for the Early Childhood Iowa Area

General Information

The geographic area for Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa are defined by the boundaries of Benton and Tama County. Children 0-5 and their families living within Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa are eligible for services.

Benton County is a rural county located in the east central Iowa. The population was 26,076 in the 2010 census, an increase from 25,308 in 2000 census. Its county seat is Vinton. Towns included in its borders are Atkins, Belle Plaine, Blairstown, Garrison, Keystone, Luzerne, Mount Auburn, Newhall, Norway, Shellsburg, Urbana, Van Horne, Vinton, Walford and Watkins. Total county area is 718.45 square miles. The county continues to be predominately Caucasian with only 2% of the population representing other races.

The School Districts represented in Benton County include Benton Community, Belle Plaine, Center Point/Urbana and Vinton-Shellsburg. There is one private school which is Central Lutheran School. Benton County is served by Grant Wood AEA 10 and has satellite locations for Kirkwood Community College in both Vinton and Belle Plaine. These locations serve the county well offering everything from opportunities to obtain a GED to providing classes for child care providers.

Major highways include I-380/Iowa Highway 27, U.S. Highway 30, U.S. Highway 151, Iowa Highway 8, Iowa Highway 150 and U.S. Highway 218. Iowa Highway 21 hinges the two counties together.

Tama County is a rural county located in the east central Iowa. The population was 17,767 in the 2010 census, a decline from 18,103 in 2000 census. Its county seat is Toledo and the largest city is Tama. Towns included in its borders are Buckingham, Chelsea, Clutier, Dysart, Elberon, Garwin, Gladbrook, Lincoln, Montour, Tama, Toledo, Traer, Vining and the Indian Settlement of the Meskwaki's. Total county area is 722.37 square miles. Tama County has no mass transit system, no institutes of higher learning, no health or wellness center and no hospitals. The Sac & Fox Indian Settlement, home of the Meskwaki Tribe makes up 7.5% of their population; which is located on 7,000 acres within the county near the city of Tama and is the only Settlement in the State of Iowa. Tama County has seen a growth in their Hispanic populace (7.4% of their population) over recent years.

The School Districts represented in Tama County include GMG (Green Mountain Garwin), Meskwaki Settlement School, Dysart-LaPorte, Gladbrook-Reinbeck, North Tama and South Tama. Tama County is served by both AEA 267 and Grant Wood AEA 10.

Major highways include U.S. Highway 30, Iowa Highway 8, Iowa Highway 96, Iowa Highway 146 and U.S. Highway 63. Iowa Highway 21 hinges the two counties together.

Both Benton and Tama County are rural. The challenge for both counties, especially as a merged Early Childhood Iowa area, is to represent both Native American and Hispanic population interests and poverty factors fairly. This is also a great asset, as it makes the combined area much stronger with both perspectives being considered in the decision-making process for its Early Childhood system.

A noted strength for both areas to bring to the new structure is the years of proven leadership from the current directors of their respective areas. They haven taken a proactive approach to the challenges of budgets and efficiency to develop a collaborative co-director structure for the newly formed areas.

Children 0-5 and their families living within Benton and Tama County are eligible for services provided through the Better Tomorrows ECI Board. Programs funded through Better Tomorrows ECI can only provide eligible services within the geographic boundaries of the Better Tomorrows ECI area.

Indicator	Benton	Tama	Iowa
Total population – 2010	26,076	17,767	3,046,355
Percent of population change – 2000 – 2010	3.0	-1.9%	4.1%
Total population under 5 – 2010	2,005	1,356	242,345
Percent of population under 5 – 2010	6.0%	6.6%	6.8%
Percent of population 65 or older – 2010	14.8%	18.4%	14.8%
Percent of minority population – 2010	1.9%	13.5%	8.7%
Population diversity – 2010	98.1% White 1.1% Hispanic .3% Asian .4% Black .2% American Indian .2% Two or more	86.5% White 7.4% Hispanic .3% Asian .3% Black 7.5% American Indian 2.5% Two or more	91.3% White 5.0% Hispanic 1.7% Asian 2.9% Black .4% American Indian 1.8% Two or more
High school graduation rate – 2009	89.0%	85.0%	87.2%
Percent of single parent households – 2010	7.5%	8.1%	8.4%

Percent of teen unmarried births – 2009	5.2%	12.2%	7.8%
Percent of teen births – 2009	1.8%	4.2%	3.2%
Unemployment Rate – 2011	5.6	5.7	6.0
Child Poverty – 2009	10.7%	15.8%	15.6%
Percent of child abuse 0-5 – 2010	46.7%	48.6%	50.8%
Median age – 2010	40.9	41.8	38.1
Housing units – 2010	11,095	7,766	1,336,417
Number of households – 2010	10,302	6,947	1,221,576
Average family size – 2010	2.50	2.50	2.4

Sources include: Data for Decision Makers, Iowa Kids Count, U.S. Census Bureau

Education

Fourth Grade Reading Scores

District	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Belle Plaine	78.26	80.21	74.47	73.85	77.19	83.61
Benton Community	77.54	84.91	88.53	88.18	86.77	82.67
Center Point/Urbana	71.6	78.5	82.7	80.6	82.0	79.89
Vinton/Shellsburg	76.52	75.29	78.19	81.55	80.62	84.27
GMG	100	100	100	100	100	100
North Tama	97.06	100	96.97	97.87	100	100
South Tama	99.17	99.19	100	100	100	100
State	99.66	99.61	99.71	99.69	99.7	99.6

Sources include: www.iowaschoolprofiles.com

Fourth Grade Math Scores

District	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Belle Plaine	80.43	75.00	72.34	70.77	75.44	85.25
Benton Community	84.68	89.57	91.74	91.13	89.95	85.15
Center Point/Urbana	64.9	80.4	79.0	79.2	78.2	76.72
Vinton/Shellsburg	79.55	76.06	76.54	80.49	80.97	82.33
GMG	100	100	100	100	100	100
North Tama	97.06	100	96.97	97.87	100	97.14
South Tama	100	99.19	100	100	100	100
State	99.62	99.45	99.6	99.65	99.6	99.71

Sources include: www.iowaschoolprofiles.com

2009 Graduation Rate By Race/Ethnicity

District	African American	White	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian
Belle Plaine	N/A	96.36	N/A	N/A	N/A
Benton Community	N/A	97.37	N/A	N/A	N/A
Center Point/Urbana	N/A	98.88	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vinton/Shellsburg	N/A	80.69	N/A	N/A	N/A
GMG	N/A	86.84	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Tama	N/A	96.67	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Tama	N/A	92	80	N/A	57.14
State	68.62	89.18	71.58	89.15	69.3

Sources include: www.iowaschoolprofiles.com

Education Levels

Benton and Tama Counties had a lower percentage of college graduates than the state overall

Percent with	Benton County Percentage	Tama County Percentage	State Percentage
High school graduate	91.4%	87.9%	89.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	16.5%	16.7%	24.2%

Sources include: U.S. Census

According to the 2009 Kids County Data Center, the percent of students receiving free and reduced meals were 27.7 in Benton County and 35.6 in Tama County.

Health Information

Benton County has one hospital located in Vinton. Tama County is 1 of 8 counties in the state that does not have a hospital located in its county. The Vinton hospital discontinued delivering babies in the late 80's. Most residents travel to surrounding counties for hospital services, with the closest being a minimum of 20 miles. There are no pediatrician offices located in either county.

Dental care remains a need in both counties, with limited providers accepting clients with Title XIX. Both counties also show a need for child psychologist for mental health services, where residents have to travel a minimum of 20 miles for both services, if needed.

Year	Births to Teens			Low Birth Weight			Full Immunizations		
	Benton %	Tama %	State %	Benton %	Tama %	State %	Benton %	Tama %	State %
2000	8.9	11.2	10	8	7.6	6.1	88	71	86
2001	8.2	11.4	9.6	6.6	5.1	6.4	78	73	88
2002	6.3	9.5	9	5.3	9.5	6.6	44	89	85
2003	3	11.7	8.7	6.6	7.1	6.6	100	90	89
2004	5.1	8.9	8.5	2.9	3.4	7	100	100	90

Sources include: SETA

Teen parenting is used as a predictor of future economic hardship for both parents and children. Teen parents are often less able to provide positive, safe and caring environments, or family stability.

Low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds or 2,500 grams) can be an indicator of mothers not receiving adequate prenatal care and is often a good predictor of future health and developmental complications. Fully Immunized = 4 DTP/DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B by 24 months of age.

1st Trimester Prenatal Care (per 1,000 live births)

Year	Benton %	Tama%	State %
2001	884.4	817.7	869.8
2002	NA	NA	NA
2003	940.3	819.2	886.2
2004	NA	NA	NA

Sources include: SETA

Early and ongoing prenatal care increases the chances of delivering healthy, full-term, and normal weight babies.

Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 – ages 1 to 14)

Year	Benton	Tama	State
1996 – 1998	8	10.0	6.6
1999 – 2001	4.4	8.4	5.9
2002 – 2004	4.3	5.8	5.3

Sources include: SETA

Infant mortality is considered one of the best overall measures of health care accessibility and quality in that it measures the health of the most vulnerable in a given population. The infant mortality rate is the number of infants who die before their first birthday per 1,000 live births.

Both counties are investing in prevention activities as they know that once pregnant, young teen mothers are less likely to complete high school. Children of young mothers have more health and developmental problems which leads to higher health costs for taxpayers. Children of teen mothers without a high school education are more likely to live in poverty than a child born to a mother with a high school education. These are the same children that are more likely to have a lower grade point average, poor high school attendance and are more likely to drop out of high school, which decreases their earning potential.

Health Care

Indicator	Benton	Tama	Iowa
Child Abuse & Neglect Rate per 1000	15.8	25.6	17.4
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births) – 2009	0.0	0.0	4.5
Child Immunization – 2010	70.0%	80.0%	72.8%
Low Birth weight – 2009	5.9%	5.9%	6.7%
Prenatal Care – 2009	81.4%	66.8%	73.7%
Children Receiving WIC – 2009	16.4%	32.9%	28.8%

Sources include: U.S. Census

Child Abuse

Child abuse remained constant from 2007 to 2010, with a 9% decrease in 2010. Below is the total number of confirmed abused children in Benton County from 2007 to 2010. Benton County ranks 65th in the state in the rate of confirmed abused children in 2010. Tama County ranks 5th in the state in the rate of confirmed abused children in 2010.

Child Abuse 0-5 – 2007-2010

County	2007	2008	2009	2010	Ave. 07-10
Tama	32	53	56	68	52
Benton	##	##	##	43	47
Iowa	6,468	5,836	6,405	6,401	6,278

Sources include: Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

% of Child Abuse 0-5 – 2005-2010

County	2007	2008	2009	2010	Ave. 07-10
Tama	43.8%	53.0%	47.9%	48.6%	48.6%
Benton	##	##	##	46.7%	44.0%
Iowa	50.6%	53.1%	51.5%	50.8%	51.4%

Sources include: Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Types of Child Abuse, Average 2007-2010 by Rate/ 1,000

County	Denial of Critical Care	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Presence of Illegal Drugs
Tama	30.22	2.58	1.00	.70
Benton	18.98	2.96	1.12	.52
Iowa	21.64	2.61	1.09	1.61

Sources include: Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Drug Related Child Abuse, Average 2007-2010

County	Meth Manufacturing	Rank among Iowa Counties	Presence of Illegal Drugs in a child's body	Rank among Iowa Counties
Tama	4.7	18 th	0.7	55 th
Benton	0	56 th	3.3	65 th
Iowa	.15	-	1.2	-

Sources include: Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Employment/Poverty Information

There are few major employers located in Benton & Tama County. Most major employers in many of the communities include government-related entities, school districts, hospital and local governments. Below is a list of the top two employers from each industry type for each county.

Major Employers

County	Manufacturing	Health Service Providers	Schools	Retail Trade	Utility Provider	Contractor/Trucking
Benton	Frontier Natural Products Coop (259)	Virginia Gay Hospital (255)	Vinton-Shellsburg School District (175)	Fareway (110)	East-Central Iowa REC (37)	GSTCO-Gordon Sevig Trucking Co (150)
Benton	Pierce Lumber (23)	Lutheran Home for the Aged (107)	Belle Plaine School District (103)	John's Quick Stop (33)	USA Communications (23)	Garling Construction (45)
Tama	Tama PaperBoard (96)	Sunrise Hill (83)	South Tama (250)	Meskwaki Casino (1,030)	Alliant Energy	Elliott Brothers (80)
Tama	Pioneer (50 full-time + seasonal help)	Westbrook Acres (62)	North Tama (100)	Fareway (80)	N/A	Dysart Trucking (50)

Sources include: Benton and Tama County Economic Development Offices

Because of the counties proximity to Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Grinnell or Marshalltown, a number of its workforce travel to these cities for employment. According to a study by the National Child Care Association, by 2010, nearly 85% of the workforce will consist of parents, and the number of working women will exceed men. This emphasizes the importance of ensuring quality early childhood experience for the county's children.

Poverty Level

Local Indicators	Benton	Tama	State
Median household Income - 2009	\$56,592	\$45,564	\$48,065
Percent of population below poverty - 2009	7.9%	10.5%	11.8%
Percent of children living in poverty - 2009	10.7%	15.8%	15.6%
Food Assistance - 2009	7.4%	8.8%	10.2%
Family Investment Program - 2009	.7%	1.2%	1.4%
Free and reduced lunch rate - 2009	27.7%	35.6%	34.1%

Sources include: Data for Decision Makers, Iowa Kids Count, U.S. Census Bureau

A major factor affecting the welfare of both counties is children in poverty. The total number of residents whose income is below the poverty level of the State.

Even with Tama County having a high percent of families in poverty or receiving food assistance and on the Family Investment Program, their local Department of Human Services office was moved to Benton County.

As a result of the recent economic downturn, it is expected there will be an increase in the estimated percent of residents living in poverty; the percent of children under 18 years of age in poverty will most like also increase. Several of the local businesses in Tama and Toledo have closed due to the restructuring of Highway 30. Several other business large and small have closed in both counties include Benco, Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, Traer Manufacturing, King Tower, Dairy Queen, Peony Chinese Restaurant and Granny's to name a few. Evidence of challenges facing families may impact the ongoing issue of child abuse and neglect.

Another indicator of poverty is the number of households that receive Food Assistance and are involved in the Family Investment Program.

Income and Poverty

County	1979	1989	1999
Benton County	\$37,387	\$34,561	\$42,427
Tama County	\$34,498	\$32,349	\$37,419
State	\$37,515	\$34,921	\$39,469

Sources include: Data for Decision Makers

Eligibility for free or reduced school lunch is an annual measure and is a good indicator of economic well-being of children in a community. Families with incomes of 135% or less of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes of 136% to 180% of the established poverty levels are eligible for reduced price meals. The following chart provides information on the needs for free or reduced in each of the school districts in Benton County.

The Better Tomorrows ECI Area board recognizes the uniqueness of each individual county. Below is information about distinct and unique characteristics of each county.

Unique Characteristics

County	What they are known for
Benton	Benton County is the 5 th fastest growing county in Iowa.
Tama	Tama County is home to Iowa's only significant Native American community.

Child Care Information

Employed parents of Benton and Tama County families often find it difficult to obtain child care because there is not enough available to meet the needs. State and national data show a lack of child care outside of the 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. timeframe, leaving a large gap in service options for parents working second and third shift occupations. In addition, the number of providers willing to serve low-income or state-pay families is dwindling due to lower reimbursement rates from state agencies. Providers are hesitant to become registered due to the restructuring of DHS and the time commitment involved with becoming and maintaining registration.

Child Care Providers

County	Private Preschool Classrooms	Voluntary 4-Year-Old Preschool Programs	Head Starts	Licensed Child Care Centers	Registered In-Home Providers	Known Unregistered Providers
Benton	4	4	1	3	38	19
Tama	4	1	1	2	26	17

Sources include: *Child Care Resource & Referral*

Frequently these unregistered providers are not aware of the laws that apply to them as child care providers. In the past providers over the child limit were visited by DHS and became registered or are in the process of becoming so. Both Benton and Tama County took steps to address this problem by supporting an In-Home Child Care Provider Consultant to work with the providers in becoming registered. This consultant also offered technical assistance to those already registered in order to help them maintain their status. Budget cuts have prevented Benton County from continuing this program. A Child Care Provider Consultant is funded by Tama County, but this consultant serves Tama and Poweshiek County.

Other Descriptive Information

County Demographics

	Benton	Tama
Square miles	716.39	721.30
Persons per square mile	36.4	24.6
Hospitals	√ Hospital Does not deliver babies	None
Local DHS Office	Full Time	None
Average travel time to work	24.4 minutes	21.9 minutes

Sources include: *Department of Human Services, U.S. Census Bureau*

As with the other 97 counties in the state, Benton & Tama are predominately Caucasian, with the primary language being English.

This analysis indicates that the programs provided are critical to the children and families located in Benton and Tama Early Childhood Iowa Areas. Compiling this data assists our Board in determining what the priorities are for Better Tomorrows to be able to make decisions in meeting the needs of children 0-5 years and their families. Items such as the age of birth mothers, number of fetal and infant deaths, low birth weight and out of wedlock births helps the board when considering the need for family support and parent education programs. The combined demographic data assists the board to determine barriers and gaps across the county including the need in funding for area preschools and child care facilities.

Section II: Community Needs Assessment

Development of the Community Needs Assessment

The Better Tomorrows ECI Area Board conducted a detailed indicator assessment of the previously designated single county areas. A committee of the two existing boards researched all data and chose indicators that were relevant to the new Early Childhood Area. The following indicators will be utilized to maintain a comprehensive overview of current issues effecting children and families in Benton and Tama County. Indicators will be reviewed and updated for effectiveness on a yearly basis in conjunction with the annual report.

As part of the merger process, Benton and Tama county obtained information from a variety of other agencies to evaluate community needs. Information was pulled from each of these reports in order to develop a clear picture of what the needs may include for the next three years. In the future, the ECI area may develop its own survey to gather feedback in order to determine the future direction of Early Childhood.

The Benton County director conducted surveys at the following schools: Central Lutheran, Belle Plaine, Benton Community, Vinton-Shellsburg; WIC clinics in Belle Plaine & Vinton; at their parent support program; and utilized their internet website. They received an overwhelming response with over 300 people responding to their survey.

The Tama County ECI Board collaborated with Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, Tama County Public Health and Mid-Iowa Community Action to review current community needs assessments that had been recently compiled by those agencies, at their regular Board meetings. Attending the meetings were community members, citizens, clergy/faith members, business/health representatives, elected officials, school representatives, and department of human services representatives being present.

- ***Child Abuse Prevention Needs Assessment Results (May 24 ECI Meeting)*** – Jana Enfield reviewed Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics for Tama County. More are being identified with increased awareness and changes in policies and practices. Doesn't appear that kids are “being lost with the Department of Human Services changes”. Tama County is the 5th highest in the state for number of confirmed abuse. One hundred fifty-nine children (duplicated) were confirmed abused. One hundred forty children were unique children (counted once or unduplicated). Nineteen children were re-abused.
- ***Mid-Iowa Community Action (May 24 ECI Meeting)*** – Anne Bacon provided “Tama County Snap Shot” and “Data Charts and Tables 2010”. 18.4% of Tama Counties families with children under 5 are in poverty; Iowa = 12.7%. Percent of families with children under 18 in poverty Tama County is 13%; Iowa = 14%. Percent of families with female head of household with children under 5 in poverty in Tama County = 50.9%; Iowa = 46.1%. Number of limited English proficient students pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in Tama County = 159 (2008 – 2009 statistics).
- ***Public Health Community Needs Assessment Results (March 22nd ECI Meeting)*** – Linda Rosenberger shared results from their recent Community Needs Assessment. Their assessment, for Tama County, showed high rates or percentages of (as compared to similar Iowa counties or the United States rate):
 - lead levels in children less than 6 years old
 - low and very low birth weights
 - premature births
 - births to women age 18 or younger
 - births to unmarried women

- women receiving no prenatal care in the 1st trimester
- infant mortality (Tama County 19.0; US rate 5.6)
- Post natal mortality (28 days to 1 year) (Tama County 2.9; US rate 2.3)
- Colon Cancer
- Coronary Heart Disease
- Motor vehicle deaths

Low incidence was noted with people reporting eating the daily recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables. They will be focusing on nutrition and exercise as a result of their community needs assessment.

Needs and Gaps Identified

Benton	Tama
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transportation ● Literacy ● Poverty ● Teen Pregnancy ● Drug/Alcohol Abuse ● Bullying ● Before/After School Programs ● Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transportation ● Poverty ● Teen Pregnancy ● Drug/Alcohol Abuse ● Bullying ● Obesity ● Child Abuse ● Tobacco Abuse

Analysis of the Needs Assessment Data Collected

Assessments and reports reviewed and analyzed were:

- Head Start & Early Head Start 2010 Community Needs Assessment
- Benton County Empowerment – Community Plan 2007
- Tama County Empowerment – Community Plan 2007
- Benton County Community Health Needs Assessment & Health Improvement Planning
- Tama County Community Health Needs Assessment & Health Improvement Planning
- Benton/Iowa DECAT Annual Services Plan 2012
- Benton County Iowa Youth Survey 2010
- Tama County Iowa Youth Survey 2010

Priorities of the Early Childhood Iowa Area Board and Analysis

Priority	Rationale for Identification or Deletion of Priority
Healthy children	The Benton and Tama sub-committee and their local Boards feel that it is important to assure that there are adequate health care provider/services in their counties so all children have a medical home, have access to a dentist, able to obtain immunizations, and that pregnant women have prenatal care and healthy births to prevent infant mortality or increased health care costs later. A review of the assessments and surveys indicated that current dentists are reluctant to take on Title XIX clients. The local WIC clinics no longer offer a child health physical. The Board will work with local health care providers to assure families with children have access to health care services. This will reinforce the importance for children to access health care when needed and be able to grow up healthy.

Secure and nurturing families	The Benton and Tama sub-committee and their local Boards feel that access and the ability to pay for health care and child care assist parents with being able to better provide for their families. A review of the assessments and indicators show that economics have impacted the counties, thus impact families by increased poverty with local business closing and services being readily available. The Board will work with local community partners and economic development to increase more opportunities or access for services for families, such as the Food Pantry, DHS Food Stamp or Title XIX applications. This will reinforce the importance for families with children to access services available if needed; and to have employment opportunities available, if able.
Secure and nurturing child care environments	The Benton and Tama sub-committee and their local Boards feel that child abuse data reflects high incidents of child abuse. A review of assessments and surveys show that poverty and educational levels impact this. Access to quality child care providers is crucial to assuring children are safe and taken care of while parents are having to work to make ends meet. Many parents are not aware of what a quality child care provider is and utilize family members because of financial resources. The Board will work with early care & education partners to information community members and parents of quality preschools and child care providers. This will reinforce the importance for preschool children to receive an optimum educational experience that allows a child to grow up safe, health, socially well adjusted and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten.
Children ready to succeed in school	The Benton and Tama sub-committee and their local Boards feel that reading and math scores, graduation rates, and education levels are evidence to the success of children being ready to succeed. A review of the assessment and surveys indicated that preschool opportunities are crucial for students to have a “jump start” and be ready to start kindergarten and be able to succeed. The Board will work with early care & education partners to information community members and parents of quality preschools and child care providers. This will reinforce the importance for preschool children to receive an optimum educational experience that allows a child to grow up safe, health, socially well adjusted and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten.
Safe and supportive communities	The Benton and Tama sub-committee and their local Boards feel that child abuse data reflects high incidents of child abuse. A review of the assessment and surveys indicate that poverty and educational levels impact this. The Board will work with community partners, economic development, health care and child care providers to inform them regarding quality child care, access to health care, and available services. This will reinforce the importance for children to be able to have an optimum educational experience and be able to succeed in school and later in life.

Identified Priorities

Better Tomorrows ECI supports the state board initiatives on all priorities and have chosen to enhance and reinforce the importance of all these areas which will allow a child to grow up safe, healthy, socially well adjusted and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten.

1. Healthy children
2. Secure and nurturing families
3. Secure and nurturing child care environments
4. Children ready to succeed in school
5. Safe and supportive communities

Indicators of the Early Childhood Iowa Area Board and Analysis

Indicator	Rationale for Selection of Indicator
Number of QRS Participants: Centers & Homes	Quality Child care providers was identified as a need because quality is necessary for children to reap from the benefits by graduating, acquiring a higher education, and economically being able to financial support themselves or their families. The Board will work with the Child Care Consultant, Nurse Consultant, ECERS and ITERS to ensure that programs are meeting the definition of quality. The population data of preschool aged children within Better Tomorrows will also be collected in order to determine if the number of slots meets the potential need.
Number of regulated and licensed child care programs and slots	Number of available child care slots was identified as a need because of more parents having to work and their children receiving child care from a quality care provider and having providers provide services during untraditional hours was a concern. The Board will work with the Child Care Consultant, Nurse Consultant, ECERS and ITERS to ensure that providers are meeting the definition of quality.
Percent of children tested for elevated lead levels	Tama County has a high incidence of high lead levels in children due to the older homes in it's county. Due to funding being cut, they are no longer supporting lead prevention. The local public health office does continue to follow up on children with high lead levels. Even though this is a concern for this Board, as untreated children could be developmentally delayed, they will continue to collaborate with the local Public Health Department to try to assure children are followed up for treatment as needed.
Number of confirmed child abuse reports	Child Abuse reports identified a need because unemployment numbers are rising and statistics show that high unemployment has a direct link to higher abuse rates. The Board will track the number of confirmed child abuse reports to determine the impact on the families in their communities served.
Percent of fourth grade students reading at fourth grade level	4 th Grade reading scores were identified as a need because scores are low in Benton County and there are concerns that the data is accurate in Tama. The Board will continue to track to be aware of the economic and educational impact to the families services are provided to.
Percent of fourth grade students performing math at fourth grade level	4 th Grade math scores were identified as a need because scores are low in Benton County and there are concerns that the data is accurate in Tama. The Board will continue to track to be aware of the economic and educational impact to the families services are provided to.
Percent of Teen Births (females ages 15-19)	Percent of Teen Births was identified through community assessment as a need with in our ECIA because teen births have been increasing in Tama County. Benton County continues to show low numbers but as young adults are changing their opinions on the social norms – oral sex, etc., these numbers could increase. The board will track this to be aware of the programming that could be funded in the area to help reduce this percentage.
Child poverty rate	Current poverty rate was identified as a need because social and economic situations have changed with the recession. Businesses are closing at an alarming rate and many families have at least one adult under or unemployed. The board will track this number to be aware of the economic impact this will have on the programs provided and the families served.
# enrolled in preschools	Number enrolled in preschool was identified as a need because the ECI area wants to ensure that every child has an opportunity to attend preschool to get a jump start on education and to hopefully help them to succeed to graduation, further their education and support their family.

EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA AREA INDICATORS

Community ECI Area Indicators	Identify the State Results Linked to the Indicator by A, B, C, D, E	<i>Identify Source of data for each Indicator</i>	Baseline Data (date & numerical value)	Subsequent Year's Data (Trend Line) Identify Year			Goal (numerical value & projected timeline)	Progress Update (Brief Analysis of data)
Number of QRS Participants: Centers & Homes	E. Secure & Nurturing Child Care Environments	Child Care Resource & Referral	Baseline to be established					
Number of regulated and licensed child care programs and slots	D. Safe & Supportive Communities E. Secure & Nurturing Child Care Environments	Child Care Resource & Referral	Baseline to be established					
Percent of children tested for elevated lead levels	B. Healthy Children	Iowa Department of Public Health Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention	Baseline to be established					
Number of confirmed child abuse reports	B. Healthy Children C. Secure & Nurturing Families D. Safe & Supportive Communities	Pcaaiowa.org	Baseline to be established					
Percent of fourth grade students reading at fourth grade level	B. Healthy Children E. Secure & Nurturing Child Care Environments A. Children Ready to Succeed in School	Kids Count	Baseline to be established					
Percent of fourth grade students performing math at fourth grade level	B. Healthy Children E. Secure & Nurturing Child Care Environments A. Children Ready to Succeed in School	Kids Count	Baseline to be established					

Percent of Teen Births (females ages 15-19)	C. Secure & Nurturing Families D. Safe & Supportive Communities	Kids Count	Baseline to be established					
Child poverty rate	B. Healthy Children C. Secure & Nurturing Families A. Children Ready to Succeed in School D. Safe & Supportive Communities	Iowa Kids Count	Baseline to be established					
# enrolled in preschools	A. Children Ready to Succeed in School	SETA: Office of Social & Economic Trend Analysis & the local School Districts	Baseline to be established					

Strategies of the Early Childhood Iowa Area Board

Better Tomorrows ECI is a new partnership which is working on moving forward in planning to improve the lives of children and families in Benton and Tama county. Merger planning has taken place over the past 1 ½ years to develop the plan. The area will have a better idea of how to move forward once the merger takes place and experiences begin to exist to move the plan forward. As funds allow, Better Tomorrows plans to continue with currently funded programs that each have supported in the past for continuity. The ECI area will strengthen relationships with organizations in both counties and work collaboratively with them to better utilize limited funds. The plan will be reviewed annually and update as necessary to ensure that the needs of each county are being met.

The Board will properly represent Benton & Tama County citizens and elected officials with the expertise and backgrounds to make the best decisions for Better Tomorrows. They are striving to become an agency that many other organizations and non-profits rely on to build collaborations in the interest of raising the quality of life for children and low income families in Benton and Tama County. Families are offered preschool opportunities or other resources as needed. Collaborations and partnerships are built and infrastructures developed so they adequately address this area's priorities. Every year, the Board and community will revisit and revise priorities and indicators to ensure the needs of the communities are being met.

The ECIA Board's Process for Awarding Funds

Award Process

Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa grants will be on a three year cycle. The first year an RFP is issued for all programs. The second and third years funding will be prioritized to programs that applied and received funding in the first year only. Programs must indicate what priority (priorities) and outcome(s) they are addressing. The written application is sent to the Funding Committee, consisting of community members. Providers will not be allowed to serve on the Funding Committee. The Funding Committee will make recommendations to the Advisory Committee who will present to the Better Tomorrows Board. The Better Tomorrows Board will make the final decision on all funding. Funded providers/agencies will be required to sign a contract and provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance listing Tama County, Benton County and Better Tomorrows Board as additionally insured.

Appeal Process

Applicants have the right to appeal the funding decisions based upon a showing that the policies and procedures governing the grant selection process have not been properly applied. The appeal process begins on the date the written notification was sent to the applicant of the Board's decision. Appeals should be in writing and e-mailed to Better Tomorrows within ten (10) working days of the date of the e-mail notification of funding decisions to the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant to assure appeals are e-mailed on or before the tenth working day of the appeal process. Appeals e-mailed after the tenth (10th) day will not be reviewed.

- All appeals shall clearly state how Better Tomorrows failed in following the rules of the grant process as governed by the policies and procedures outlined in the application material provided to all applicants. The request must also describe the remedy sought;
- An independent committee will review the appeal and gather information regarding any infractions of the process;
- The committee will make a report and a recommendation to the Better Tomorrows Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting;
- The Better Tomorrow Board will determine if there has been a violation of the process and rule on the appeal.

Section III: Fiscal Assessment

Early Childhood Iowa Area Board's Fiscal Assessment

The information in the fiscal assessment matrix was gathered by directly contacting the entities providing the services via a letter and questionnaire. Approximately 250 contacts were made with nearly 100 responses returned. The following information was requested from community partners: organization/program, location, service provided, families served, ages served, estimated funding, type/source of funding and gaps in funding. The majority of the required fiscal information is public record, however, obtaining complete information was challenging. This information is difficult to obtain for various reasons. Although the request stated the purpose and how the information would be used as part of merger process, it appears that some of the organizations did not understand the intent or the value of providing the information.

The option was given for those contacted to not disclose the source or the amount of funding. Most of the responses received opted to not disclose so the data collected is not as useful as we had hoped. The costs involved with gathering this information includes staff time, postage, envelopes, copies, return address postage and envelopes. The expense outweighed the useful data that was received.

Any application for ECI funding must identify other sources of income secured. The Board is also more likely to fund programs that can secure other funding, and don't just rely on Early Childhood Iowa funding (though some programs do). The Board is mindful of avoiding duplication and supplanting of funds.

Better Tomorrows is always looking for ways to braid funding and create collaboration for successful projects. Our home visitation programs are either already credentialed or in the process of becoming credentialed and are seeking other funding to combine with ECI funding to sustain their programs. Several of the current programs funded with ECI funding would not sustain themselves if one of their funding sources collapsed. Child care and preschool scholarships may require that the family pay a portion of their tuition, have an hourly cap and hour limit and total dollar limit allowed. These are just a few of the many ways in which we locally use ECI funds to help make children and low income families successful.

ECIA FISCAL ASSESSMENT (CONDUCTED FY 2012)

(Codes for identifying sources of funding: Federal Funding =F, State Funding=S, Local Funding=L, Private Funding=P, ECI Local Funding=E)

AGENCY AND ORGANIZATION SERVICES

53 surveys sent out with 25 responding

Agency/ Organization	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Abbe Center for Community Mental Health	Benton	Other - Mental Health Services	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Abbe Center for Community Mental Health	Benton	Other - Outpatient mental health counseling to children, adults, parent-child interactional therapy model for children 3-10.	All	151+	Does not receive funding	Does not receive funding	Daycare.	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
ARC	Both	Other - Services to consumer with intellectual and/or development disabilities	All	0-50 Tama, 51-100 - Benton	Did not wish to disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Benton County Social Service	Benton	Other - Funding for mental health system - general assistance representatives payer for adults	6-21, 22+	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Benton County Transportation	Benton	Other - Transportation	0-5, 6-21	0-50	Did not disclose	Did not disclose	BCT needs money to transport these children to Head Start, local preschool and school. What good is paid preschool if	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration

Agency/ Organization	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
							you don't have a reliable transportation source to get the child there?	
Child Abuse Prevention Services	Tama	Other - Sexual abuse prevention education	0-5, 6-21		\$6,778.40	F, S	These funds from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa are not adequate to meet the needs in Tama County for this service.	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Child Care Resource & Referral Region 5	Both	Parenting, Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs, Other - Parent referrals, training technical assistance to providers	0-5, 6-21	151+	Did not disclose	F, S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Early Care & Educational Consultant - CCR&R	Tama	Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs	0-5	151+	\$18,863.78	E		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
General Relief/Veteran's Affairs	Tama	Other - Emergency relief and Veteran benefits	6-21, 22+		Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration
Genesis Development	Benton	Other - Supported community living	6-21, 22+	0-50	Does not receive funding	Does not receive funding		Communication, Collaboration
Gracie C Mae Advocate Center	Benton	Other - Mental health care (therapy, behavioral health treatment)	All	151+	No way to separate or track dollars according to 0-5.	S, L, P	Transportation to help kids get to after school programming and parents are not provided with research-based intervention information. We	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration

Agency/ Organization	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
							are not sure how to get mental health information to parents of 0-3 year olds. Behavioral health is completely left out of planning for 3-5 year olds when determining school readiness from what we have seen.	
Grant Wood AEA	Benton	Family support, Parenting, Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs, Other - Evaluation for special education, direct service for special education students and their families	0-5, 6-21		Did not disclose	F, S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
HACAP Child Care Programs	Benton	Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs	0-5	0-50	Did not wish to disclose	P		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
HACAP North Benton Center	Benton	Family Support, Other - Head Start	0-5	0-50	Did not wish to disclose	F, S	Transportation	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School	Both	Family Support, Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs	0-5, 6-21	0-50	\$7.6 million	S		Communication, Cooperation, Collaboration
Iowa Child Advocacy Board	Both	Other - Foster care review board and court appointed		0-50	N/A	N/A		Communication, Contribution, Coordination,

Agency/ Organization	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
		special advocates for children involved in juvenile court CINA chases.						Cooperation, Collaboration
Iowa State Patrol	Both	Other - Law enforcement			Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration
Iowa State University Extension	Benton	Family Support, Parenting, Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs	All	101-150	Did not disclose	Did not disclose	We could provide educational information and resources.	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Kirkwood Community College	Benton	Other - education to adults, high school, GED, credit and continuing education	22+	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Mid-Iowa Community Action	Tama	Family Support, Parenting, Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs	0-5	0-50	Did not disclose	E		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Mid-Iowa Community Action	Tama	Family Support, Parenting, Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs	0-5	0-50	Did not disclose	E	The decrease in funding has decreased the number of families we can serve.	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Mid-Iowa Community Action	Both	Family Support, Parenting, Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs, Other - Child Care Nurse Consulting	All	151+	\$661,057.03	F, S E		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Promise Jobs	Benton	Family Support, Other - Childcare for low income families	All	0-50	Did not disclose	F, S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Tama Co. Career Development Center	Tama	Other - Day programming for	6-21, 22+	0-50	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration

Agency/ Organization	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
		adults with disabilities						
Veterans Affairs - Benton County	Benton	Other - Assistance of claims for benefits - county help for Veterans	22+	151+	Does not receive funding	Does not receive funding		Communication, Collaboration

EARLY CARE ENVIRONMENTS

31 surveys sent out with 15 responding.

Child Care Home, Licensed Centers, Preschools	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Atkins ECSE	Benton	Other - Instruction/IEP's	0-5	0-50	Did not disclose	S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Benton Community Preschool	Benton	Other - Preschool	0-5	0-50	\$200	E		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Central Lutheran School	Benton	Other - Lutheran School		0-50	\$49,000	S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Early Beginnings Child Care Center	Benton	Other - Childcare services	0-5, 6-21	0-50	Did not disclose	S, P		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Happytime Child Development Center	Benton	Other - Daycare for 6 weeks - 12 years	0-5, 6-21	0-50	\$15,000	F, S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Kid's Corner	Tama	Other - Childcare	0-5, 5-21	101-150	Did not wish to	F, S	We had funding in	Communication,

Child Care Home, Licensed Centers, Preschools	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
					disclose		the past for children with behavior problems so they could have 1:1 teachers and no longer receive funding for this and can not provide this service.	Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Longfellow Elementary Preschool	Benton	Other - Preschool	0-5	0-50	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
North Tama Elementary	Tama	Other - K-12 Public Education	6-21	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Pied Piper Preschool	Tama	Other - Childcare		101-150	\$4,117.62	S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Pointer Pups Preschool	Benton	Health Care	0-5	0-50	Did not disclose	S, L		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Raggedy Ann & Andy Preschool	Tama	Other - 3 and 4 year old preschool	0-5	0-50	\$4,627.91	S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
South Tama County Elementary School	Tama	Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs	0-5	51-100	\$300,000	S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
TLC Preschool	Benton	Other - Preschool	0-5	0-50	\$900+	E, P		Communication,

Child Care Home, Licensed Centers, Preschools	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
		providing 3-5 year old children a preschool education						Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Tiny Vikes Preschool	Benton	Other - All of these areas are supported on some level in our state-wide program	0-5	51-100	Did not wish to disclose	F, S, L, E		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
UNKNOWN RESPONDENT	Benton	Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs, Other - Preschool story times and summer reading programs	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration

RELIGIOUS ENTITIES

51 surveys sent out with 6 responding

Religious Entity	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Christian Fellowship Church	Benton	Other - Mentoring	All	0-50	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Fellowship Baptist Church	Tama	Other - Spiritual instruction; counseling	All	51-100	Does not receive funding	Does not receive funding		Communication, Collaboration
St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church	Tama	Family Support			None	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration

Religious Entity	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church	Benton	Other - Church	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration
United Methodist Church of Gladbrook	Tama	Other - Spiritual care/food pantry		51-100	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration

CITY MANAGED SERVICES

7 surveys sent out with 1 responding

Agency/ Organization	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Vinton Park & Rec Center	Benton	Other - Recreation programming for all ages	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

4 surveys sent out with 1 responding

Organization	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Lion's Club - Vinton	Benton	Other - Sight testing	0-50		Does not receive funding	Does not receive funding		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration

LIBRARIES

17 surveys sent out with 7 responding

Library	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Atkins Library	Benton	Health Care, Family Support, Parenting	22+	151+	Did not disclose	S	We don't receive any funding for this it comes out of our budget.	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Belle Plaine Public Library	Benton	Other - Preschool Story time			Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Shellsburg Public Library	Benton	Other – Story time literacy program, parenting section, teen after school programming	All	51-100	Did not wish to disclose	S, L		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Tama Public Library	Tama	Other - Public Library	All	151+	Did not disclose	S, L		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Toledo Public Library	Tama	Health Care, Parenting, Family Support, Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs			Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Traer Public Library	Tama	Family Support, Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs, Other			Did not disclose	Did not disclose	We receive funding from the state for library services that include 0-5. We also have a budget from the city of Traer.	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Vinton Public Library	Benton	Other – Story-time, reading programs						Communication, Contribution, Coordination,

Library	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
								Cooperation, Collaboration

FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

3 surveys sent out with 3 responding

Program Name/Model	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Central Iowa Family Planning	Tama	Other - Family planning counseling, birth control, women's health	6-21, 22+	101-150	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration
Horizons-A Family Service Alliance	Benton	Family Support	0-5	51-100	161,010.05	L, E	The gaps would be for professional development, family assistance and program supplies. We were fortunate to secure another grant for the community foundation. We were pleased to maintain full staffing and other expenses.	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Young Parents Network	Benton	Parenting, Other - Sexual abuse prevention in preschools	All	0-50	Did not disclose	S	YPN in past years provided home visits specifically parent education and child development. The funding for these visits is not available but still important to help parents and children before the child enters school.	Communication, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration

HEALTH SERVICES

57 surveys sent out with 23 responding

Health Service	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Belle Plaine Dental	Benton	Health Care, Other - Dental Services	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose	We do participate as a provider for Hawk-I, but not a provider for Medicaid.	Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Belle Plaine Family Medicine	Benton	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Betterton Family Chiropractic	Benton	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
C J LaTendresse MD - Gladbrook	Tama	Health Care	All	0-50	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration
Clingman Pharmacy	Benton	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose	Funding for 0-5 year olds is usually to a problem in pharmacy.	Communication, Cooperation, Collaboration
Cornerstone Apothecary	Benton							Communication, Cooperation, Collaboration
Country Chiropractic	Tama	Health Care	All	51-100	Did not disclose	F, S	Exams are not covered nor are vitamins or electrotherapy	Communication, Collaboration
Covenant Clinic	Tama	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose			Communication, Collaboration
Deer Creek Family Care	Tama	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration
James Sheronick DDS	Benton	Health Care						Communication, Contribution, Cooperation,

Health Service	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
								Collaboration
La Grange Pharmacy	Benton	Health Care	All	151+	\$0	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Cooperation, Collaboration
Lutheran Home Health Agency	Benton	Health Care	All	51-100	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication
Martin Eye Clinic	Benton	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Medicap Pharmacy	Tama	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose	I know there is a program for children to get free flu shots at doctor's offices for medical points - but I feel compliance would be greatly increased by having Medicaid pay for kid's shots at pharmacy level also. We see a lot of kids go without immunizations due to not having insurance coverage to pay for cost of shot.	Communication, Collaboration
Mental Health Clinic Of Tama County	Tama	Family Support, Parenting, Other - Mental health services	All	101-150	\$14,000	F, S	Insurance gaps can exist though it is getting better for children with the XX and children's health insurance	Communication, Collaboration

Health Service	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
							programs.	
Mercy Care Community Physicians	Tama	Health Care	0-21	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration
Mercy Care Community Physicians - Tama	Tama	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	S		Communication, Collaboration
Mercy Care Tama	Tama	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	S		Communication, Collaboration
Meskwaki Tribal Health Clinic	Tama	Health Care - Only for the Native American population	All		Did not wish to disclose	Did not wish to disclose		Communication, Collaboration
NuCara Pharmacy	Tama	Health Care	All	151+	Did not wish to disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration
Shellsburg Family Practice	Benton	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	S	Medication expense for patients.	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Urbana Family Medical	Benton	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Vinton Family Practice	Benton	Health Care	All	151+	Did not disclose	S	Prescription coverage or prescription financial assistance.	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Virginia Gay Home Health/Benton County Public Health	Benton	Health Care	All	101-150	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Virginia Gay Hospital	Benton	Health Care	All	151+	Did not wish to disclose	F, S, L		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration

OTHER SERVICES/PROGRAMS

20 surveys sent out with 5 responding

Service/Program	Location	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number of Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Identified Gaps in Funding	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Law Office of Patricia Lough	Benton	Other - foster care, juvenile court representation	All	0-50	Did not wish to disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
South Tama County Middle School	Tama	Other - School	0-5, 6-21	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
South Tama High School	Tama	Other - Public school system	0-5, 6-21	151+	\$244,145	S		Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
Tama County Sheriff	Tama							Communication, Collaboration
Union Middle School	Tama	Health Care, Family Support, Parenting	6-21	151+	Did not disclose	Did not disclose		Communication, Collaboration
Vinton/Shellsburg School	Benton	Other - Education	0-5, 6-21	151+	\$550,000	F, S	Many gaps!	Communication, Contribution, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration



Better Tomorrows
P.O. Box 516
Vinton, Iowa 52349

October 1, 2011

Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear Mr./Ms. Name:

In 2012, Benton and Tama County will be merging into one Early Childhood Iowa Area to be known as Better Tomorrows. As part of our merging process, we are required to gather information for our community plan. In order to complete this process, the Better Tomorrows Board is requesting your assistance by completing the enclosed questionnaire. This information is required by the State Early Childhood Iowa Board.

We will be striving to work towards the goals listed below in our Vision, Mission and Purpose Statements.

Vision – All children (age 0 – 5) living in Benton and Tama County will be healthy, have a safe, secure, nurturing home and childcare environment, and be ready to succeed in school.

Mission – To enhance the quality of life in Benton and Tama County by promoting strong, healthy families. Barriers will be overcome and programs and services coordinated through community collaboration.

Purpose – To ensure the collaboration within our community, the organization will provide families, with children 0 – 5 years old, the resources and opportunities necessary for their children to be healthy, safe, secure, ready to succeed in school, have available affordable, high quality child care and access to a preschool opportunity.

You may not be aware of, or utilize the programs and services offered by Early Childhood Iowa. Currently, the funding we receive is used to provide programs in our community such as: home visits, parent education, child care assistance and preschool opportunities.

We appreciate your assistance completing and returning this questionnaire in the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope. This information will allow us to continue to provide the above programs to children and their families in Benton and Tama County and to achieve our goal in making a difference in the lives of Benton and Tama County children.

Please feel free to contact either of us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Lori Johnson
Better Tomorrows Treasurer (Tama County Director)

Heidi Schminke
Better Tomorrows Secretary (Benton County Director)



Please return this document no later than:
October 19, 2011

Early Childhood Iowa Questionnaire

Agency/Organization Name: _____

Location: ___ Benton County ___ Tama County

Services you provide (*please check all that apply*):

- ___ Health Care ___ Family Support
- ___ Parenting ___ Support to Early Childhood Iowa Programs
- ___ Other _____

Number of families served: ___ 0-50 ___ 51-100 ___ 101-150 ___ 151+

Ages served: ___ 0-5 years old ___ 6-21 years old ___ 22 years old+

Do you receive funding for services provided to 0-5 year olds? If so, please check all that apply and state annual amount for each.

- ___ Federal \$ _____
- ___ State \$ _____
- ___ Local \$ _____
- ___ Early Childhood Iowa \$ _____
- ___ Private Funding \$ _____
- ___ Do not wish to disclose

Please list any gaps in funding you feel exist:

Do you understand what Early Childhood Iowa is? ___ Yes ___ No

Would you like more information about Better Tomorrows? ___ Yes ___ No

Please return completed form in the provided envelope.

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey and for helping us make a difference in the lives of our children in Benton and Tama County.

Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Board
P.O. Box 516
Vinton, Iowa 52349

Agency

1st Congregational UCC
Abbe Center for Community Mental Health
Abbe Center for Community Mental Health
Accelerated Rehab Center
American Red Cross
American Red Cross - Iowa River Chapter
ARC
Area Education Agency (267)
Assembly of God Church
Atkins 3's Preschool
Atkins ECSE
Atkins Library
Atkins Preschool
Atkins Preschool
Belle Plaine Chiropractic
Belle Plaine Dental
Belle Plaine Family Practice
Belle Plaine Pharmacy
Belle Plaine Police Department
Belle Plaine Public Library
Benton Community Middle School
Benton Community Preschool
Benton County Sherriff
Benton County Social Service
Benton County Transportation
Benton County Volunteer Program
Benton CSD
Betterton Family Chiropractic
Blairstown Public Library
Carlton Grace Brethren Church
CASA Program
Center Point-Urbana Elementary School
Center Point-Urbana Middle School
Central Elementary School
Central Lutheran Preschool
Central Lutheran School
Chelsea Public Library
Child Abuse Prevention Services
Child Support Recovery
Christ United Methodist Church
Christ United Methodist Church
Christian Fellowship Church
Church of Jesus Christ
Clingman Pharmacy
Clutier Public Library
Community Action of Iowa
Community Action of Iowa
Community Clothes Closet
Cornerstone Apothecary
Country Chiropractic
Covenant Clinic

Covenant Clinic
Covenant Clinic
Covenant Clinic
Crayon Corner Learning Center
David Beecher DDS
Deer Creek Dental
Deer Creek Family Care
DHS
DHS Case Management
Doyle's Family Pharmacy
Dr Harold Alcott
Dysart Assembly of God
Early Beginnings Child Care Center
Elberon Public Library
Eye Care Associates
Faith Baptist Church
Fellowship Baptist Church
First Lutheran Church
First Lutheran Preschool
First Presbyterian Church
First United Presbyterian Church
Floyd Chiropractor
Frontier Child Care Center
Garrison Library
Garwin Library
General Relief/Veteran's Affairs
Geneseo United Methodist Church
Genesis Development
Genesis Development
Gladbrook Public Library
Gladbrook-Reinbeck Schools
GMG Community School
Goodwill Industries
Grace Community Church
Grace Community Church
Grace Lutheran Church
Gracie C Mae Advocate Center
Grant Wood AEA
HACAP Child Care Programs
HACAP North Benton Center
Hanneman Dentist Office
Happytime Child Development Center
Harvest House Ministry Center
Heartland Dental Professionals
Horizons-A Family Service Alliance
ICAS
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School
Iowa Legal Aid
Iowa State Patrol
Iowa State University Extension
Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

ISU Extension Office
James Sheronick DDS
Julie's Preschool
Keystone Elementary
Kid's Corner
Kirkwood Community College
Kirkwood Skills To Employment
Kiwanis Club c/o Iowa Land Management
La Grange Pharmacy
Law Office of Patricia Lough
Lions Club
Lion's Club c/o Farmers Savings Bank
Living Faith United Methodist Church
Longfellow Elementary School
Longfellow Elementary School
Lutheran Church
Martin Eye Clinic
Medicap Pharmacy
Mental Health Clinic Of Tama County
Mercy Care Community Physicians
Mercy Care Community Physicians
Mercy Care Community Physicians
Meskwaki Family Services
Meskwaki Healthy Start
Meskwaki Settlement School
Mid-Iowa Community Action
Mid-Iowa Community Action
Mid-Iowa Community Action
Mossman & Mossman LLP
Norma Anders Public Library
North Star Community Services
North Tama County Community Schools
Norway 4's Preschool
NuCara Pharmacy
Oak Grove Church
Parker's Grove Church
Peace United Church of Christ
PeopleRides

Pied Piper Preschool
Pioneer Hi-Bred International
Plaza Family Dental Center
Plaza Family Dental Center
Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
Pointer Pups Preschool
Powell Chiropractic Clinic
Prairie Creek Church
Presbyterian Church
Raggedy Ann & Andy Preschool
Red Cross
Reformed Baptist Church
REM-Iowa

Response Link
Ripley United Church of Christ
Salem Church of Lincoln
Sara Stuefen DDS
SATUCI
Schroeder Library
Shanahan Family Chiropractic
Shellsburg Elementary School
Shellsburg Police Department
Shellsburg Preschool 3's
Shellsburg Preschool 4's
Shellsburg Preschool ECSE
Shellsburg Public Library
ShIPLEY Chiropractic
South Tama Administration Offices
South Tama County Elementary School
South Tama County Middle School
South Tama County United Way
South Tama High School
St Andrew's Lutheran Church
St John's Lutheran Church
St Mark's Lutheran Church
St Mary's Catholic Church
St Paul's Lutheran Church
St Stephen's Lutheran Church
St. Boniface Catholic Church
St. John's Catholic Church
St. John's Lutheran
St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Lukes Family Practice
St. Mary's Preschool
St. Michael Church
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
St. Paul Catholic Rectory
St. Paul Lutheran Church
T L C Preschool
Tama Co. Career Development Center
Tama County Public Health & Home Care
Tama County Sheriff
Tama Medical Center
Tama Police Department
Tama Public Library
Tama/Toledo Kiwanis
The Arc of East Central Iowa
The Blood Center of Iowa
Tilford Elementary
Tilford Elementary
Tilford Elementary
Tilford Elementary
Toledo Police Department
Toledo Public Library
Traer Public Library
Tribal Health Center

Tribal Health Center
Twin City Chiropractic
U of I Hospitals & Clinics
Union Community School
United Methodist Church
United Methodist Church
United Methodist Church
United Methodist Church
United Methodist Church (Calvary)
United Methodist Church of Gladbrook
United Presbyterian Church
Urbana Christian Church
Urbana Family Medical
Urbana Police Department
Van Horne Elementary School
Van Horne Family Medical Clinic
Van Horne Public Library
Veterans Affairs - Benton County
Vinton Chiropractic Center
Vinton Counseling Service
Vinton Family Practice
Vinton Head Start
Vinton Lutheran Home Community Services
Vinton Police Department
Vinton Public Library
Vinton Rec Center
Vinton/Shellsburg School
Virginia Gay Home Health
Virginia Gay Hospital
Visiting Angels of Cedar Rapids
Walter Family Chiropractic
Washington High School
Waypoint Services
Wicks Chiropractic
Wilson Family Chiropractic Center
Wolfe Clinic Eye Center
Wolfe Clinic Eye Center
Women's Health & Education Center
Young Parents Network
Zion Lutheran Church

Section IV: Community Collaboration

Collaborative and Networking Opportunities

By definition, Better Tomorrows itself is collaboration, with Board members from every facet of the community (health, education, human services, faith). Board and staff are heavily involved with community partners by attending meetings. Below is a list of some, but not all, meetings that individuals have participated in.

2012 Better Tomorrows Board Meetings

Tama County Advisory Committee (as needed)

Benton County Advisory Committee (as needed)

Southeast ECI Director Meetings (3rd Friday, bi-monthly)

Northeast ECI Director Meetings (4th Wednesday, bi-monthly)

State ECI Director Meetings, quarterly (2nd Wednesday, quarterly)

Benton County DCAT Meetings (3rd Monday, monthly)

Benton County CPPC Meetings (as needed)

Benton County Coalition Meetings (4th Monday, quarterly)

Tama County CPPC Meetings – SKIP (Supporting Kids in Prevention) (4th Thursday, except July and December)

Funding Committees (as needed)

Ad Hoc Committees (as needed)

Benton County Above The Influence Meetings (3rd Thursday, monthly)

Benton County SFP SIG Meetings (as needed)

Early Childhood Advisory Board: comprised of local members of each county, and makes recommendations to the Governing Board. Board representation is at least 2 voting members from the Board representing their area and area Directors. The committee shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Board regarding: policies and procedures, scope of services offered, supervision of program and staff, personnel qualifications, program evaluation, fiscal guidance and practices, membership, by-laws, contracts, required documents and reports, study and research of community issues.

Governing Board: is the decision making board. Comprised of members from Tama/Benton County.

Funding Committees (as needed): shall consist of five (5) Advisory Committee members that are not receiving funding and the ECI Co-Directors. Tasks may include but not be limited to: reviewing, approving/disapproving Requests for Proposals (RFP's) and making recommendations to the Board regarding funding decisions. The Board will make the final decision.

Other Committees and Task Forces: The Board may establish such standing or ad hoc committees and task forces as it believes will help carry out the responsibilities of the Board. The composition, duties, and terms shall be recorded in the Board minutes. All committees shall report to the Board who shall retain final and complete authority.

Community Partners

Benton and Tama County are fortunate to have many collaborative partners, which include providers and other concerned citizens, interested in and serving families with children 0 – 5 years of age. This collaboration did not happen before their Empowerment/Early Childhood Iowa Areas were designated. All school districts that have chosen to be in our ECI Area are actively involved on our Boards. There are private preschools, public preschools and Heads Starts in each county. Early Childhood Iowa has brought these entities together to work toward all children in Benton and Tama County having a preschool opportunity are ready to succeed in school and ensuring they have safe, secure and nurturing family and childcare.

Community partners include, but are not limited to: local businesses, school districts, community action agencies, faith organizations, community organizations and health and human service organizations. Better Tomorrows partners are:

Child Care Providers
Vinton/Shellsburg School District
Center Point/Urbana School District
ASAC
Department of Human Services
Virginia Gay Home Health
Kirkwood Community College
Happytime Child Development Center
Early Beginnings Childcare
Mid-Iowa Community Action
Child Care Resource & Referral
Kids Corner
Area Education Agency 267
North Tama School District
Crayon Corner
Pioneer
Ministerial Association
Stitch & Go Quilting Club
Christ United Methodist Church
Tama-Toledo Kiwanis
SKIP (Supporting Kids in Prevention)
Benton-Iowa Decat
Board of Supervisors
Legislatures
Pamida
Fischer Law Firm
Grant Wood AEA 10
CPPC

County Board of Supervisors
Belle Plaine School District
Benton Community School District
Abbe/Oaks
Virginia Gay Hospital
Iowa State University Extension
Grant Wood AEA
Frontier Childcare
Healthy Families America
ISU Extension of Tama County
Tama County Public Health & Home Care
Pied Piper
Meskwaki Settlement School
South Tama School District
Raggedy Ann & Andy
School Nurses
Child Abuse Prevention
United Way
Living Faith United Methodist Church
JPT Decat
Pregnancy Prevention Coalition
Local physicians
Mental Health
Clients
Kerdus and Barron CPA
Libraries
WIC
Tama-Toledo American Association of University Women

These community partners have been linked together through the Early Childhood process to compliment their assets and to increase both the capacity and effectiveness of each organization.

Appropriate and positive early childhood development is crucial in the first 3 years of life for the health & well being of children and to promote their success now and in the future. The early years of life, from birth to age 5, are a critical period during which a child's brain develops rapidly and their cognitive, emotional, and social competencies, as well as their sense of well-being are enhanced. Parenting education is an important component to our services. Parents have a significant impact on how children will function from preschool and beyond. Unfortunately, children are exposed to risk factors such as: inadequate prenatal care, sub-standardized child care, poverty, lack of parental support, single parent households, child abuse, poor nutrition, lack of adequate dental care, cultural norms, poor housing, and alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse.

While the outcomes of children with only one risk factor are the same as those with no identified risks, children with two or more risk factors are more likely to develop social and academic problems, and possibly face other socio-economic issues. Barriers to achieving self-sufficiency include lack of available and affordable childcare, low education levels, illiteracy, poor employment skills and lack of transportation.

Spread of Infectious Disease (Collaboration exists and will enhance)

Currently, both counties support services to prevent the spread of infectious disease, prevent childhood injuries, develop emergency protocols, help with medication, and care for children with special health needs are being provided to child care facilities registered or licensed under IA Code Chapter 237A. Tama County supports a Child Care Nurse Consultant while Benton County relies on the county public health department.

Community Coordination & Collaboration

Family Support Collaborative (Collaboration exists and will expand)

A family support collaborative currently exists in Benton and Tama County. It will be comprised of home visitation and parent education programs that provide services to children and families ages 0-5. Maternal Child Health, Parent Partner, Parents as Teachers, Head Start, Healthy Families Inc., Family Nutrition, Incentive Based Parent Education, and Early Access have been identified in which to gather together to address duplication, quality, as well as offer support and networking opportunities for providers that meet the state definition of family support.

Early Childhood Committees (Collaboration exists and will expand)

Benton and Tama County will strengthen the existing early childhood committees. These committees will be the standing advisory committees to the Better Tomorrows ECI Governing Board. Their responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, assisting with community assessments, identifying community needs, resource mapping, and strategies to support the community plan. Membership is not exclusive and all community partners, key leaders, early childhood partners, and human service providers will be invited and encouraged to attend.

Private Public Partnership (Collaboration exists and will enhance)

The Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Area will pursue private/public partnerships to inform the private sector of the importance of the early years. There have been small gains made in this area with Economic Development, Chambers of Commerce, and public libraries but more needs to be done. This will be an evolving collaboration with partners yet to be identified.

Below is a list of agencies/organizations that may be involved with one or more collaborative meetings mentioned and/or receive information in the form of an email distribution list. The distribution list serves as a central point of information for early childhood in the Better Tomorrows ECI Area, as well as a gateway for other information.

- Mental Health
- Area Education Agencies
- Business Leaders
- Central Point of Contact for Mental Health
- Chamber of Commerce
- Child Abuse Prevention Councils
- Child Care Centers
- Child Care Resource and Referral

- Community Action Agencies
- County Board of Supervisors
- County City Councils
- County Public Health Services
- Decategorization Projects
- Department of Human Services
- Economic Development
- Head Start
- Iowa State Extension
- Juvenile Court Services
- Kirkwood Community College
- Libraries
- Multiple Human Service Agency's
- Parents, caregivers, consumers, citizens
- Preschools
- Private and Public Schools
- WIC Program

Section V: Review and Evaluation

Review and Evaluation Methods

As a newly merged area it will be even more important for the Better Tomorrows Early Childhood advisory committees to regularly review the plan to ensure that changes necessary to keep the document ever changing and improving are recommended to the governing board for approval.

The Early Childhood Area Co-Directors maintain ongoing communication with the programs, monitors monthly billing, and ensure contract compliance. Programs are also invited to present at Better Tomorrows board meetings and Early Childhood Advisory Committee meetings.

Funded programs will be required to submit a monthly report to track state required performance measures data and include additional information as identified by the Board. Cumulative information for each program is reported in the ECI areas annual report and will be posted on local and state websites.

Site visits to programs will be conducted annually or as deemed appropriate to show progress, efficiency, and fiscal accountability.

In-depth board policies, infrastructure, and operations are in the process of being developed.

Currently

The Better Tomorrows Board is sensitive to the current contractors/programs that exist in each single county; however a Request for Proposal Process will be utilized for FY 2013, requiring programs to establish clear budgets and explanations of services with an emphasis on efficiencies and collaboration.

Monthly

The Co-Director (Treasurer) and Fiscal Agent will review all expenditures and financial statements on a monthly basis and provide feedback and/or recommendations to the Early Childhood Iowa Board. Funded projects will be required to submit written monthly reports to the board. A quarterly financial report will be submitted to the office of Early Childhood Iowa.

Annually

- Contractors will be required to provide an oral report on an annual basis.
- A year-end report will be required to be completed by each funded project with outputs, inputs, outcomes and finances.
- All programs, at a minimum, must address the state required performance measures as outlined in the Toolkit on the state Early Childhood Iowa website.
- The community plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to address any changes within the community and legislation.
- An annual report will be submitted to the State of Iowa on or before September 15.

Continuous and Ongoing

Funded service providers will be provided with tools that will assist them with expenditures and performance measures reporting. Clear guidelines and expectations will be provided to each provider as well as drafted documents to assist them with their specific project for expenditure reporting and outcome measurements.