

# Tama County



# Empowerment

## Community Plan 2007

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**VISION, MISSION & PURPOSE**

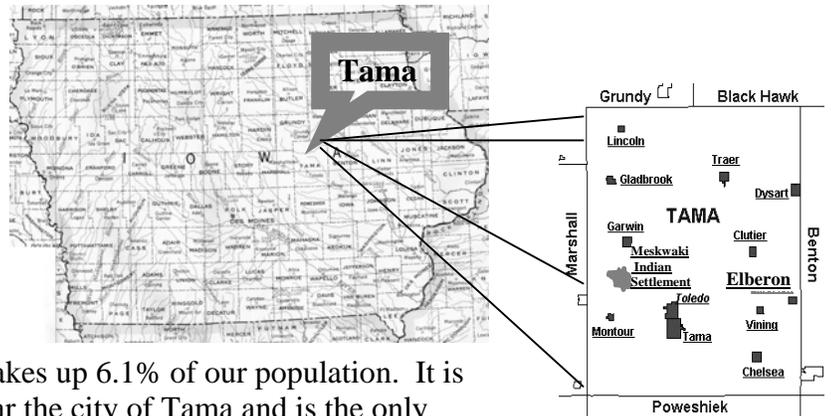
**Vision:** All children (age 0 – 5) living in Tama County will be healthy, have a safe, secure, nurturing home and childcare environment, and be ready to succeed in school.

**Mission:** To enhance the quality of life in 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 will provide our families with children 0 – 5 years old, the resources and opportunities necessary for their children to be healthy, safe, and secure, and ready to succeed in school, have available affordable, high quality child care, and access to a preschool opportunity.

**TAMA COUNTY POPULACE**

Tama County is a rural, sparsely populated, non-metropolitan county in East Central Iowa. According to the 2000 census, the total population is 18,103. This agriculture-based county has no mass transit system, no institutes of higher learning, no health or wellness center and no hospitals. The Sac and Fox Indian Settlement, home of the Meskwaki Tribe makes up 6.1% of our population. It 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 growing Hispanic populace (3.8% of our population) over recent years. Approximately 60% of Tama County residents make their income from farming related activities. Being in a rural community presents cultural aspects unique to that community. Tama County consists of six school districts including the Meskwaki Settlement School. We also have a youth at-risk alternative high school.



**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Congressional district served by the coalition:** Iowa, 3rd

**Zip codes of the target area being served by the coalition are:**

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Buckingham...50612   | Lincoln.....50652   |
| Chelsea.....52215    | Montour .....50173  |
| Clutier .....52217   | Tama .. .....52339  |
| Dysart. ....52224    | Toledo .....52342   |
| Elberon.....52225    | Traer... .....50675 |
| Garwin .....50632    | Vining .....52348   |
| Gladbrook .....50635 |                     |

**Geographical Boundaries of Tama County:** Black Hawk, Grundy, Marshall, Benton, Iowa, Jasper and Poweshiek Counties.

**Population by race:**

Distribution of Community Population

	Number	Percent
Total Population	18,103	100%
American Indian (Meskwaki Tribe)	1,343	7%
Hispanic	679	4%

Source: 2000 US Census Bureau

**Population by Age:**

Population by Age	Number	Percent by Age
< 5 years	1,255	6.9%
5 – 13 years	2377	13%
14 – 17 years	1176	6.5%
18 – 24 years	1265	6.9%
15 – 44 years	6744	37.3%
16+ years	13,903	76.8%
18+ years	13,295	73.4%
65+ years	3,390	18.7%
85+ years	566	3.1%

Source: 2000 US Census Bureau

In 2000, the median age for Tama County resident was 39.1, while the State average was 36.6.

**Education Levels:** In 1999, 13.2% of Tama County residents had less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education compared to 9.2% across the State, with an additional 11% attending school to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade but receiving no diploma.

**INCOME AND POVERTY**

**Economic Status:**

Tama County ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 99 counties in the state in economic well-being with 35.2% of the people at/below 200% poverty.

DATA	TAMA COUNTY	IOWA
Per Capita Income, 2002 data	\$24,112	\$28,089
Median Household Income, 1999 data	\$37,419	\$36,742.19

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

- In 1999, per capita income was \$21,638 for Tama County and \$25,598 for the State.
- In 2000, the estimated unemployment rate for Tama County was 3.8% while the State average was 2.6%. In 2002 the estimated unemployment rates for Tama County was 4.4% and the state average was 4.0%. For the 2001-2004 time period the average unemployment rate was at 6.3%.

2005 Information from Iowa Workforce Development lists the current unemployment rate for Tama County at 5.9% compared to Iowa's rate at 4.5%.

In 2003 Tama County had 64 Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Filings.

Two hundred and eighty-four households are currently receiving food stamps.

Data	Tama County	Iowa
Food Stamps – Average Number of Recipients, 2003 data	699	149,991
Percent Eligible for Free & Reduced School Meals, 2003 data	33.9%	30%

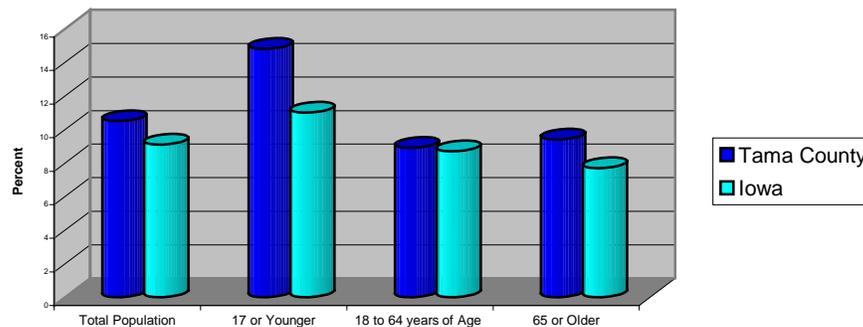
Source: Iowa Department of Human Services and Iowa Department of Education

7.2% of Tama County residents do not have health insurance. 8.1% of all Iowans do not have health insurance.

Medicaid recipients total 8.4% percent of Tama County's population. (Iowa = 8.7%)

Tama County's Medicaid recipients receive a lower average monthly payment (\$529.32) than the State of Iowa's average monthly payment (\$611.97).

**Percent of Total Population in Poverty:**



Source: 1999 U.S. Bureau of the Census

**PRESCHOOLS, HEAD START**

There are four private preschools, 1 public preschool, and 1 Head Start (located in the southern part) in Tama County.

Tama County has two licensed childcare centers.

Preschools located in Tama County are:

- South Tama County Elementary (public) - located in the South Tama County (STC) School District
- Crayon Corner (private) - located in the Gladbrook-Reinbeck School District
- Raggedy Ann & Andy (private) - located in the Union (Dysart) School District
- Pied Piper Preschool\* (private) – located in the North Tama County Community School District
- Kids Corner Preschool\* (private) – licensed preschool located in the STC Community School District
- Head Start - located in the South Tama County Community School District

\* Licensed childcare centers

## HOUSING

According to the 2000 census, Tama County has 54.9% pre- 1950 housing while the state average was 29.3%.

- 24.3% are single parent homes with children (2000).
- 10.4% of births were to teens (avg. 2001 – 2004)
- In 2004, 33.1 per 1,000 15 to 19 year old teens gave birth.

## CHILD ABUSE

The child population in 2003, according to the Prevent Child Abuse Iowa data, is 4,505. Child abuse rose 8.4% from 2004 to 2005. Below is the total number of confirmed abused children in Tama County from 2001 through 2005. Tama County ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> in the state for confirmed abused children in 2005.

### Confirmed Abused Children ages 0 - 17

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
103	100	124	83	92

Data from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Below is the number of confirmed abused children ages 0 – 17 listed by category from 2001 – 2005.

Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Denial of Critical Care	97	63	95	86	67
Physical Injury	15	26	14	8	8
Sexual Abuse	8	21	15	5	11
Drug-Affected Children	1	3	6	5	2
Meth Manufacturing	2	2	4	0	3

Data from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

We are ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in average rate for Sexual Abuse.

Below is the number of confirmed abused children ages 0 – 5.

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Average 2000 - 2005
111	96	101	124	98	92	104

Data from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Overall we saw a 17.1% average decrease in confirmed abused children for the last 5 years.

148 confirmed child abuse reports were accepted in 2005. Of those, 58 were confirmed. Total confirmed abused children in 2005 were 92. Tama County is ranked 44<sup>th</sup> in rate of confirmed abused children.

## ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

3.08 per 10,000 people (2002 – 2005 average) reported meth lab seizures.

The 2002 Iowa Youth Survey for Tama County revealed an increase in the acceptance of alcohol and drug abuse among the younger age groups.

Students are trying alcohol at an earlier age. When given the statement “How old were you when you drank (more than a few sips) of alcohol?”

Responses by grade were:

Age	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
8 or younger	9%	7%	6%
9 or 10	5%	7%	4%
11 or 12	7%	15%	12%
13 or 14	0%	8%	26%
15 or 16	0%	0%	18%
17 or older	0%	0%	1%

Source: South Tama Community School District 2002 Iowa Youth Survey Report

When given the statement “During the past 30 days, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?”

Responses by grade were:

Daily alcohol consumed in past 30 days	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
1 - 2	6%	8%	22%
3 - 5	0%	2%	10%
6 - 9	0%	2%	7%
10 - 19	0%	0%	0%
20 - 29	0%	1%	0%
30 days	1%	0%	3%

Source: South Tama Community School District 2002 Iowa Youth Survey Report

Of those that reported drinking, drinking on a daily basis is beginning at a younger age.

Percentage of Tama County individuals admitted to a drug and alcohol treatment facility by race.

Race	Tama County Value
American Indian or Alaska Native	28%
Black or African American	1%
White	71%
Total Admitted	156

This represents a very high percentage of the Meskwaki population (6.1% of total county population)

Sources: FACTIS: 2001-2003 Iowa Department of Public Health - Division of Health Promotion, Prevention & Addictive Behaviors

## TOBACCO USE

Among youth, use of cigarettes and tobacco products is generally highest in rural counties. Nationwide, 19.2% of rural youth vs. 13.3% of urban youth use tobacco. In the Hispanic populations, Iowa statistics show 39.9% use tobacco.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports American Indians are more likely than any other race to report use of tobacco. Nationally 31.3% of their youth, ages 12 – 17, are using tobacco. In Tama County, although a TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use) group does exist, no Meskwaki youth are

members. Tama County Iowa State Extension recently stated that they have attempted to involve Meskwaki students in the group, but encountered difficulties finding any non-smoking Meskwaki students.

Students are trying tobacco at an earlier age. When given the statement “How old were you when you first smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?”

Responses by grade were:

Age	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Age	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
8 or younger	3%	8%	7%	13 or 14	0%	4%	13%
9 or 10	2%	5%	11%	15 or 16	0%	0%	6%
11 or 12	2%	1%	3%	17 or older	0%	0%	0%

Source: South Tama Community School District 2002 Iowa Youth Survey Report

“During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?”

Responses by grade were:

Cigarettes smoked per day	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Less than 1	1%	2%	6%
1	0%	0%	1%
2 to 5	0%	4%	1%
6 to 10	0%	0%	4%
11 to 20	0%	0%	1%
More than 20	2%	1%	1%

Source: South Tama Community School District 2002 Iowa Youth Survey Report

A larger percentage of 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported smoking more than 20 cigarettes a day than older students.

When given the statement “How old were you when you first tried marijuana?”

Responses by grade were:

Age	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
8 or younger	0%	3%	2%
9 or 10	0%	2%	0%
11 or 12	0%	4%	3%
13 or 14	0%	2%	9%
15 or 16	0%	0%	10%
17 or older	0%	0%	1%

When given the statement “During the past 30 days, on how many days have you used marijuana?”

Responses by grade were:

Daily marijuana use in past 30 days	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
1 - 2	0%	3%	7%
3 - 5	0%	1%	1%
6 - 9	0%	1%	1%
10 - 19	0%	1%	1%
20 - 29	0%	0%	1%
30 days	0%	1%	1%

Source: South Tama Community School District 2002 Iowa Youth Survey Report

Marijuana use is reported as early as 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Iowa Youth Survey was conducted again in the fall of 2005. Although those results are still pending, school counselors at South Tama report a greater than 100% increase in the number of teens that have been referred to them for substance abuse issues when comparing the 2004-05 school year with the 2005-06 school year.

Perception of harm:

The following statements indicate that students perceive that drugs, alcohol and tobacco are harmful.

Responded "Great Risk"							
Question	Grade			Question	Grade		
	6 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>		6 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
"How much do you think you risk harming yourself (physically or otherwise) if you drink 3 or more drinks of alcohol nearly every day?"	65%	52%	36%	"How much do you think your risk harming yourself (physically or otherwise) if you smoke marijuana once a week?"	66%	63%	47%
"How much do you think you risk harming yourself (physically or otherwise) if you smoke cigarettes every day?"	74%	68%	68%				

Source: 2002 Iowa Youth Survey Report for Tama County

Conversely these statistics indicate an increasing perception that alcohol and tobacco are not harmful in grades 8 and 11.

Perceptions of students of disapproval of use by parents (including alcohol, drugs, and marijuana) show that students perceive parents would disapprove.

Responded "Very Wrong"							
Question	Grade			Question	Grade		
	6 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>		6 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
"How wrong would your parents/ guardians feel it would be for you to drink beer, wine, or hard liquor?"	90%	74%	55%	"How wrong would your parents/ guardians feel it would be for you to smoke cigarettes?"	91%	85%	71%
"How wrong would your parents/ guardians feel it would be for you to smoke marijuana?"	93%	91%	85%				

Source: 2002 Iowa Youth Survey Report for Tama County

Conversely students perceive less parental disapproval as they grow older.

<b>Reviewed by Empowerment Board</b>	<b>2/22/07</b>
<b>Approved by Tama County Empowerment Board</b>	<b>4/26/07</b>

Tama County Empowerment Board collaborated with Mid-Iowa Community Action; Tama County Public Health and Home Care; Jasper, Poweshiek, Tama (JPT) Decategorization; and Prevent Child Abuse to determine our community’s needs. At the February 22, 2007 Empowerment Board meeting, each of these agencies presented the results of their needs assessments. Fifty invitations were sent with 14 people attending the meeting. Those in attendance brainstormed and provided input regarding new, current, or emerging needs. A needs list was formulated and priorities were reviewed and re-established.

- ✓ The Mid-Iowa Community Action Needs Assessment was presented by Pat Shank. Notations were made regarding slots funded, poverty in Tama County, number of students eligible for free or reduced lunches, number of non-registered and registered child care providers, total number of spaces available, percent of babies born with low birth weight, percent of women who smoked during pregnancy, percent of children (under the age of six) tested for lead poisoning, percent of children (under the age of six) tested that were found to have high blood lead levels, percent of people with health insurance coverage, number arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol, percent of the population that is obese, percent of WIC children under age 5 identified as being overweight. It was also noted that due to Welfare Reform there has been a decrease in the number of families receiving Family Investment Program (FIP) assistance.

The percent of students that are eligible for free & reduced lunches were noted by the following school districts.

GMG (Green Mountain Garwin)	33.3%
North Tama County	20.9%
South Tama County	44.7%

Percent of poverty by Town was noted:

Lincoln	15.5%	Toledo	11.0%
Gladbrook	6.3%	Vining	2.5%
Traer	7.0%	Elberon	15.5%
Dysart	6.8%	Tama	12.3%
Garwin	5.2%	Chelsea	19.5%
Clutier	12.6%	Montour	4.7%

- ✓ The Tama County Public Health Needs Assessment information was shared by Linda Rosenberger, CEO/Executive Director. The Hometown Health Committee, comprised of representatives from all areas of Tama County, has assisted with their health needs assessment. Tama County Public Health & Home Care also partners with local schools, faith based organizations, law enforcement, health care and other service providers to address Tama County’s needs. Information shared included: 4.2% of live births were born to 15 to 17 year old girls (state average = 2.8%). 34.3% of live births were born to 18 to 24 year old women (state average = 33.1%). An increase in high school dropouts and percentage of births to teens has been seen in Tama County. A Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition has been formed to address these issues.

- ✓ The JPT Decategorization Needs Assessment was shared by Annette Dunn. The following items were noted and discussed: At-risk families and factors; substance abuse and its acceptance; the number of youth reporting smoking cigarettes at an earlier age; an increase in sexual behaviors and acceptance of having sex at a younger age; an increase in acceptance of violence; the number of students, especially girls, attempting suicide. They noted that gender specific and after school programs should be supported. A comment was shared: “These youth will be the parents of children with in 5 years.”
- ✓ The Prevent Child Abuse Needs Assessment was shared by Jana Enfield. The following items were noted and discussed and types of Child Abuse were defined. For Denial of Critical Care, Tama County’s average rate per 1,000 children is 18.11% (the state average is 16.62%); the average rate per 1,000 children for Sexual Abuse is 2.66% (the state average is 1.61%); the average rate per 1,000 children is .49% for Meth Manufacturing (the state average is .37%). In 2004, Tama County was ranked the 19<sup>th</sup> highest county for the Rate of Confirmed Abuse, compared to 44<sup>th</sup> highest in 2005.

Ms. Enfield also noted the acceptance of sex at a younger age coincides with the number of teen pregnancies. Child abuse statistics are based on reported cases. Mental health issues and substance abuse is also related to domestic violence. Overall child abuse reported shows 50% of those children abused are preschool age children. Child abuse in this age group is targeted because of the lack of communication skills and knowledge of what is right and wrong.

✓ Identify Needs for 0 – 5 Year Old Population

*(Priority number is identified behind need)*

- \*Transportation/Isolation – 1, 2, 3, 4
- \*Child Abuse – 1, 2, 3, 4
- \*Tobacco Use – 1, 2, 4
- \*Child/Parent Education – 1, 2, 3, 4
- \*Preschool/Child Care – 3, 4
- \*Lead Poisoning – 1

- \*Dental Health – 1
- \*Teen Pregnancies – 1, 2
- \*Substance Abuse – 1, 2, 4
- \*Poverty – 1, 2, 3, 4
- \*Childhood Obesity – 1
- \*Minorities – 1, 2, 3, 4

✓ Review Current Priorities

- \*Healthy Children
- \*Safe, Secure Nurturing Families

- \*Children Ready to Succeed in School
- \*Safe, Secure, Nurturing Childcare

✓ Priorities for the next 3 Years, Based on Needs

*(Retain all 4)*

- \* Healthy Children (1)
- \*Children Ready to Succeed in School (2)

- \*Safe, Secure, Nurturing Families (3)
- \*Safe, Secure, Nurturing Childcare (4)

✓ Community Assets & Resources

- \*Communities Caring About Kids
- \*Preschools in Tama County
- \*Increase in Registered Child Care Providers
- \*Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP)
- \*Faith
- \*New/Expanded Child Care Center
- \*Pregnancy Prevention Coalition
- \*Family/Neighborhood Networking Northern Part

- \*Local Theaters
- \*Food Pantry/Project Warmth
- \*Medical Care
- \*Providers
- \*Partners
- \*Adding all Preschools to Empowerment
- \*Preschool in the School
- \*Church/Volunteer Support

✓ Gaps

- \*Minority Representation
- \*Losing Kids After They Get Older
- \*Dental Care

- \*Limited Minority Resources
- \*Values/Choices Made
- \*Health Care Provider on Empowerment Board

An additional question was asked with the following responses:

*Why Did I Choose to Live in Tama County?*

- ◆ Where I grew up
- ◆ Small Towns
- ◆ Jobs
- ◆ Good Schools
- ◆ Family
- ◆ Low Crime
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Fresh Air/Night Skies
- ◆ Quality of Land

<b>Reviewed by Empowerment Board</b>	<b>4/26/07</b>
<b>Approved by Tama County Empowerment Board</b>	<b>4/26/07</b>

The Tama County Empowerment Board reviewed current indicators, recommendations from the State Team, Other Data Indicators, and State Indicators. The Board then updated their indicators on 4/26/07 to reflect what they felt should be followed for the next three years. This list has been modified to reflect changes within Tama County as well as changes within the state. With the collaboration of our local school districts, data will be requested after the school year begins. The Meskwaki School District is federally funded and is not required to report statistics to the state. The Quality Improvement Plans were established in July 2006 and we anticipate providers to continue to increase the quality of services they provide.

<b>Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source</b>
<i><b>Healthy Children</b></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Immunization Compliance %</li> <li>✓ # of children tested for lead</li> <li>✓ # of children with high lead levels</li> <li>✓ Low Birth Weight Rate</li> <li>✓ % of Obese/Overweight Population</li> </ul>	FACITS: Iowa Department of Public Health
<i><b>Children Ready to Succeed in School</b></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ # enrolled in preschools</li>   <li>✓ # with a preschool/Head Start experience</li> </ul>	SETA: Office of Social & Economic Trend Analysis & the local School Districts  Department of Education & local preschools, obtained after school starts in the fall
<i><b>Safe &amp; Nurturing Families</b></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Incidence of Founded Child Abuse</li>   <li>✓ # of Births to Teens</li> </ul>	Prevent Child Abuse Iowa  FACITS: Iowa Department of Public Health
<i><b>Safe, Secure &amp; Nurturing Childcare Environments</b></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ # of licensed and/ or registered childcare providers</li> <li>✓ # of providers participating in a Quality Improvement Plan</li> <li>✓ # of slots available</li> </ul>	Child Care Resource & Referral

*Refer to annual report for data related to the indicators listed.*

<b>Reviewed by Empowerment Board</b>	<b>5/24/07</b>
<b>Approved by Tama County Empowerment Board</b>	<b>5/24/07</b>

## Section IV

## Financial Assets and Resources

A Survey was sent to 107 facilities (see Attached Questionnaire and Mailing List).  
48% responded to our survey.

Those that responded stated they provide:

**33% - Health Care**

**15% - Support to Empowerment Programs**

**15% - Other - Comments:**

- Preschools
- Information for patrons
- Mental Health
- Spiritual Health
- Pharmaceutical Consult
- Education
- Children's Programs

**35% - Family Support**

- Safety Education
- Swimming Lessons
- Substance Abuse Education
- Funding for non-profits
- Bereavement
- Public Transit
- Childcare

**17% - Parenting**

- Case management & Referral
- Support to LEA
- Energy Assistance
- WIC
- Weatherization
- Law Enforcement
- Advocates for children

Those that were asked, *“Do you receive funding for services provided to 0 – 5 year olds?”*  
If so, please check all that apply and state amount for each.

Funding Source	Percentage	Amount
Federal	22%	\$405,988.00
State	32%	\$107,428.31
County	2%	Undisclosed
Empowerment	24%	\$143,273.17
Private	20%	\$ 42,000.00

52% of those-responding chose not to disclose the amount they received.

Comments added were:

- Title 19 and Hawk-I per RX
- Block Grants
- State Agency Volunteer Support not “Services”
- Donations/Public
- Payments for Prescriptions

Ages served: 47% - Serve 0 – 5 year olds  
53% - Serve 0 – 21 year olds

As part of our questionnaire we asked:

*“Do you make referrals to Tama County Empowerment Programs?”*

(To make sure our community is aware of what resources are available.)

28% - Refer to Tama County Healthy Families

Of those agencies:

25% refer to Tama County Public Health

23% refer to Mid-Iowa Community Action

16% refer to Area Education Agency (AEA) 267

11% refer to Meskwaki Healthy Start

12% refer to Child Care Resource & Referral

13% refer to Tama County ISU Extension Service

27% - Refer to Stork’s Nest

25% - Refer to Preschools

20% - Refer to Child Abuse Prevention

Other Referrals are made to:

- Tama County Central Point of Coordination
- Substance Abuse
- Preschools
- Dept. of Human Services
- Mental Health
- Medical
- Marshall Co. Empowerment
- Respite

To see how well informed our community is about Empowerment we asked:

1) *“Do you understand Tama County Empowerment?”* YES - 76% NO - 24%

2) *“Would you like more information about Tama County Empowerment?”* YES - 46% NO - 54%

From the response, it appears that our community knows more about Empowerment than we originally thought and that they would like more information.

We have provided News Releases to the local newspapers to provide additional public awareness and education information. We have also compiled a Preschool Readiness Calendar and have distributed it to all preschool age children in Tama County. The calendar contains resources available in our community and services provided by Empowerment. We have also been successful in establishing an Empowerment website under Tama County’s website that provides information for families.

In response to the survey, a pamphlet/brochure/flier will be developed for distribution to provide additional information to the community about Tama County Empowerment.

<b>Reviewed by Empowerment Board</b>	<b>5/24/07</b>
<b>Approved by Tama County Empowerment Board</b>	<b>5/24/07</b>

## Current Plan

Tama County Empowerment is fortunate to have many collaborative providers and other concerned citizens interested in and serving families with children 0 – 5 years of age. This collaboration did not happen before our Empowerment Area was designated. All three school districts that have chosen to be in our Empowerment Area are actively involved on our Board. There are four private preschools, one public preschool and one Head Start in Tama County. Empowerment has brought these entities together to work toward all children in Tama County having a preschool opportunity.

Our priority focus will be:

- ◆ Healthy Children
- ◆ Children Ready to Succeed in School
- ◆ Safe, Secure, Nurturing Families
- ◆ Safe, Secure, Nurturing Childcare

Community Partners include, but are not limited to: local business, school districts, community action agencies, faith organizations, community organizations, and health and human service organizations. Tama County Empowerment Community Partners are:

- Mid-Iowa Community Action & Head Start
- ISU Extension of Tama County
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Tama County Public Health & Home Care
- Kids Corner
- Pied Piper
- Area Education Agency 267
- Meskwaki Healthy Start
- Meskwaki Settlement School
- North Tama School District
- South Tama School District
- Crayon Corner
- Raggedy Ann & Andy
- Pioneer
- School Nurses
- Ministerial Association
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Stitch & Go Quilt Group
- United Way
- Christ United Methodist Church
- Iowa Juvenile Home
- Tama-Toledo Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- Tama-Toledo Kiwanis
- Traer Presbyterian Church
- JPT DECAT
- SKIP (Supporting Kids in Prevention) Coalition
- Women’s Health & Education
- Baby Face
- Meskwaki Wellness
- Pregnancy Prevention Coalition
- Deer Creek Family Care
- Tobacco Coalition
- Local physicians
- Board of Supervisors
- Mental Health
- Legislatures
- Clients
- K-Mart
- Pamida
- Libraries

These community partners have linked together through the Empowerment 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 and 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.

### **RFP Process**

As part of our Request for Proposal (RFP) process, we review the submitted Proposal Score Sheet for inclusion of specifications regarding our area's target population, priorities, needs, measurable goals, community indicators and a detailed budget. Other areas of review include: alignment with our vision and mission, avoiding duplication of services, previous effectiveness, anticipated outcomes, capacity to collect and report results, and demonstrating collaboration. The Funding Sub-committee consists of four voting board members, the Empowerment Coordinator, two concerned citizens and three members that are not funded providers. Because providers must abstain from voting on their reviewed proposals, the majority of this committee cannot be providers. Tasks of the Funding Subcommittee may include but are not limited to: reviewing, approving/disapproving RFP's, and making recommendations to the Empowerment Board regarding funding decisions. Recommendations from the Funding/Finance Committee shall be presented to the Empowerment Board for their approval.

### **Other Committees**

***Preschool Scholarship Sub-Committee:*** Consists of three voting board members, three concerned citizens, and the Empowerment Coordinator. The majority of members of this committee cannot be preschool providers. Tasks may include but are not limited to: discussing the application process; reviewing preschool guidelines and setting funding limits for the Preschool Scholarship. Recommendations from the Preschool Scholarship Sub-committee shall be presented to the Empowerment Board for their approval.

***Professional Development Sub-committee:*** Consists of representation from Child Care Resource & Referral, center and home care providers, and the Empowerment Coordinator, with a maximum of 8 members participating. Tasks may include but are not limited to: review of funding guidelines, sharing education opportunities, and suggesting ways to help providers achieve a higher level of education.

***Child At-Heart Sub-committee:*** Consists of three concerned citizens and the Empowerment Coordinator who will determine a nominee for our local area for recommendation to the Association for Iowa's Child (AIC). Tasks include but are not limited to: determining a nominee that is a champion for children, innovative approaches to support children and families that have been implemented, achievements or changes accomplished through the nominee's efforts, evidence of passion and motivation given to others to take leadership roles for children and families. Recommendations from the Child At-Heart Sub-committee shall be presented to the Empowerment Board for their approval.

***Ad-Hoc Committees will be formed on an as needed basis.***

## **Current Programs**

The following is a brief description of the current programs being funded for the 2007 year. For detailed statistics, please refer to our annual report.

### ***School Ready:***

**HOME VISITATION** – is provided by Tama County Public Health & Home Care (TCPHHC).

***Priorities addressed are:*** Healthy Children and Safe, Secure, and Nurturing Families. TCPHHC provides home visits to pregnant women/children age's birth to age 5 who reside in Tama County. Clients are given basic education on health, contact/referral resources available in the county with referrals made as needed, parent education, immunizations, the importance of preventative health appointments, and information on providing appropriate care for their newborn.

**HEALTH CARE COORDINATION** – is provided by Tama County Public Health & Home Care.

***Priorities addressed are:*** Healthy Children, Children Ready to Succeed in School, and Safe, Secure & Nurturing Families. TCPHHC coordinates health care for Tama County children age 0 - 5 to increase awareness, follow children for immunization compliance, encourage follow-up health care, referrals for needed medical care, and insurance coverage. They serve a large Hispanic population that would otherwise not receive health education, as they are not covered under other health care.

**LEAD CARE COORDINATION** – is provided by Tama County Public Health & Home Care.

***Priorities addressed are:*** Healthy Children and Children Ready to Succeed in School. Lead testing for children 12 – 60 months of age is provided. Efforts are made to make parents aware of the effects of lead poisoning and the importance of having their child tested. Preventative information is distributed to control lead hazards. Children with elevated lead levels are followed for further care.

**TRANSLATION SERVICES** – employed by Tama County Public Health & Home Care.

***Priorities addressed are:*** Healthy Children and Safe, Secure & Nurturing Families. Hispanic parents residing in Tama County with children 0 – 5 years of age have access to a Spanish interpreter. This interpreter is used by the Infant Toddler Specialists, AEA 267, Family Nutritionist and Public Health Home Visitation providers to assure services are appropriate, referrals are made as needed, and clients understand and follow through with appropriate services.

**STORK'S NEST** – coordinated by Tama County Public Health & Home Care.

***Priorities addressed are:*** Safe, Secure & Nurturing Families, and Healthy Children. Pregnant women, as well as new moms with children 0 – 12 months, that reside in Tama County are eligible regardless of income. This is an incentive program to support and provide educational classes related to pregnancy, childbirth, infant care, smoking cessation, and parenting topics. Participants gain points for healthy behaviors or compliance with healthy behaviors. Points are used to purchase new and safe

items for their babies such as baby clothing, and nursery supplies and equipment. Parent education classes are scheduled twice a month.

**DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS** – is provided by AEA 267.

*Priorities addressed are:* Children Ready to Succeed in School. Children in Tama County age birth to five years old are served. These screenings help to identify children that have delays in one or more areas of their development. These screenings are done monthly at Well Child Clinics. Local physicians and other agencies involved with Tama County children are not currently providing routine developmental screenings. If concerns are found, early intervention can be provided to help prepare them for success in school.

**RESPIRE SCHOLARSHIPS** – is coordinated by AEA 267, with collaborative efforts of other home visitation providers.

*Priorities addressed are:* Children Ready to Succeed in School, and Safe, Secure & Nurturing Environments. These scholarships provide families of children birth to 5 years of age the opportunity for respite care in a setting that provides a safe, secure, nurturing environment that stimulates learning. There are no income guidelines for these services. Families qualify if they: 1) have a need, 2) have no other appropriate options, 3) do not already receive other out of home services, 4) do not qualify for respite through other agencies. These scholarships are not used for work related childcare.

**HAPPY BEAR/CARE FOR KIDS** – is provided by Child Abuse Prevention Services.

*Priorities addressed are:* Safe, Secure & Nurturing Families. Sexual abuse prevention programs provide education and are offered to all preschools, childcare centers, and public and private kindergarten classes in Tama County. Targeted population is children ages 3 – 5 years, their parents, teachers and other area professionals. They provide education to increase community awareness with parenting tips, child abuse prevention, sexual abuse and drug abuse information.

**INFANT TODDLER SPECIALIST** – is provided by Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA).

*Priorities addressed are:* Healthy Children, and Safe, Secure & Nurturing Families. Services are offered to families living in Tama County with children age birth to 5 years and/or women who are pregnant. These services provide a prevention service for families with children who are at-risk of starting school less “ready to learn” than their peers. They provide regular home visitation, child screenings and assessments, and socialization opportunities. Parents develop the skills they need to provide a positive, well-functioning home environment where a young child can grow and develop. Families are seen at least once a month. These specialists are trained through the Parents as Teachers Program, and also utilize “A Measure of My Family’s Well-Being” tool. Referrals are made to community resources as needed.

**DENTAL HYGIENIST** – is provided by Mid-Iowa Community Action.

*Priorities addressed are:* Healthy Children. These services are the only source of regular preventive dental care within Tama County for children under the age of 3. Screenings, fluoride and education are provided to Head Start/Early Head Start children and families. Children are seen at the WIC and Well Child Clinics two times a month. Referrals are made to dentists for identified suspicious areas. Assistance is provided to parents needing help with insurance, transportation, translators, and other barriers preventing them from accessing dental care. Families also receive education on how to properly provide oral health care for their infants and children.

**FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM** – is provided by Tama County ISU Extension.

*Priorities addressed are:* Healthy Children, and Safe, Secure & Nurturing Families.

Families with children 0 – 5 years of age whose income is below 185% of poverty qualify for this program. Nutrition education is provided to eligible families with weekly or bi-weekly one-on-one in home visitation or small group settings. Assessments are done, lessons provided, and strategies/goals are set with each family. Focus areas include meal planning, making healthy choices, recipe and menu ideas, reading labels, food preparation that preserves and enhances nutrition, parents as role models, mealtime conversation, developing good eating habits in children, and being physically active to keep physically fit.

**PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS** – is coordinated by AEA 267, and Mid-Iowa Community Action.

*Priorities addressed are:* Children Ready to Succeed in School. Scholarships are available to families meeting income guidelines at or below 200% of poverty. They apply by providing proof of income to MICA. These scholarships can only be used at contracted preschool facilities.

**PRESCHOOL EXPANSION** – awarded to Kids Corner to expand their facility to include a 3 year old preschool room.

*Priorities addressed are:* Children Ready to Succeed in School. Award was based on per child cost and the percent of children at or below 200% of poverty served.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES** – awarded to Kids Corner and Pied Piper to improve their centers knowledge base.

*Priorities addressed are:* Healthy Children, Safe, Secure & Nurturing Childcare Environments.

**COORDINATOR** – employed by Tama County Public Health & Home Care. Promotes and ensures that the activities of the local Tama County Empowerment Area will contribute to Healthy Children, Children Ready to Succeed, Safe Secure & Nurturing Families and Safe, Secure & Nurturing Childcare Environments. The coordinator assures that the Empowerment Area is compliant with state guidelines and requirements necessary to receive funding allocations from the State Empowerment Board, represents the area at regional and state coordinator’s meetings, compiles and submits the annual report with Tama County Empowerment Board approval, informs Tama County Empowerment Board of updates from the state and provider services, coordinates sub-committees as needed, and assures all reimbursements and appropriations meet Empowerment Guidelines.

## ***Early Childhood***

**CHILD CARE CONSULTANT** - employed by Child Care Resource & Referral.

*Priorities addressed are:* Safe, Secure & Nurturing Childcare Environments. Provides one-on-one home visits to home care providers, assists with the Department of Human Services Child Development Home registration process, offers materials and resources related to health and safety, offers training and materials related to business and record keeping practices, offers resources and support when applying for the Adult and Child Food Program, and consultation and information for the Iowa Quality Rating System.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDER SUPPORT PROGRAMS** – provided by Child Care Resource & Referral.

*Priorities addressed are:* Safe, Secure & Nurturing Childcare Environments. Training opportunities and education are provided to home care providers, centers and preschools. Topics covered, but not limited to include: Health & Safety, Nutrition, Child Growth & Development, Child Observation & Assessment, Interaction with Children, Learning Experiences & Environment, Families &

Communities, Program Management or Professional Development. They also assist providers in improving their quality of services by assisting them with: becoming a registered Child Development Home, enrolling in the Adult and Child Food Program, completing Child Net training, becoming Department of Human Services registered/non-registered compliant, completing Environmental Rating Scale training, completing Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers training, achieve a rating on the Iowa Quality Rating System and/or becoming an accredited child care business.

**STAFF INCENTIVES** – awarded to Kids Corner and Pied Piper to assist in retaining qualified staff.  
*Priorities addressed are:* Safe, Secure & Nurturing Childcare Environments. Incentives are based on attendance, training, and evaluations.

Other programs funded in the past include:

Parenting Classes, Family Storyteller Program, Safe Kids, and Head Start expansion of services. These funded programs tie together our community’s statistical data, indicators, and community needs assessments, as well as addressing our vision and mission statements.

*Future Plan*

As we move forward in the next three years, Tama County Empowerment will continue to focus on the community’s needs and priorities, and continue to fund programs that support these.

We will continue to pursue further collaboration with minorities and health care providers in our county to encourage attendance at our Empowerment Board Meetings.

<b>Reviewed by Empowerment Board</b>	<b>7/24/07</b>
<b>Approved by Tama County Empowerment Board</b>	<b>7/24/07</b>

**Tama County Empowerment Board ensures an on-going evaluation and the effectiveness of our community plan by:**

- ◆ Current funded providers will provide a report at our regular scheduled meetings.
- ◆ Providers will complete and submit Performance Measure forms.
- ◆ Annually, the Tama County Empowerment Board reviews information gathered and submits an annual report.
- ◆ Tri-annually, the Tama County Empowerment Board will:
  - a) Review its priorities and indicators
  - b) Seek re-designation from the state
  - c) Reflect on:
    1. What difference did we make.
    2. Why did we choose to live in Tama County.
    3. Why do we want our children to stay in Tama County.
    4. How can we provide the best health care choices/options.
    5. Make sure our children are ready to succeed in school.
    6. Have safe, secure, nurturing families.
    7. Have quality/affordable safe, secure, and nurturing child care environments.

<b>Reviewed by Empowerment Board</b>	<b>7/24/07</b>
<b>Approved by Tama County Empowerment Board</b>	<b>7/24/07</b>

# EMPOWERMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Services you provide: (please check all that apply)

- Health Care                       Family Support                       Parenting  
 Support to Empowerment Programs  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Federal                                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 State    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 County    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Empowerment                                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Private    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do not wish to disclose

Ages Served

- 0 – 5 year olds  
 0 – 21 year olds

Do you make referrals to Tama County Empowerment Programs?  
(Please check all that apply)

- Tama County Healthy Families  
     Tama County Public Health & Home Care  
     Mid-Iowa Community Action  
     AEA 267  
     Meskwaki Healthy Start  
     Child Care Resource & Referral  
     Tama County Extension Service  
 Storks Nest  
 Preschools  
 Child Abuse Prevention  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you understand Tama County Empowerment?     Yes     No

Would you like more information about Tama County Empowerment?     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 Tama County.*

## Tama County Empowerment Financial Assets & Resources Mailing List

### Tama County Schools

South Tama County Elementary School  
 South Tama County School – Chelsea  
 South Tama County Middle School  
 South Tama High School  
 Union Community School  
 GMG Community School  
 Gladbrook-Reinbeck Schools  
 North Tama County Community Schools  
 Meskwaki Settlement School  
 STC Partnership Center  
 Deer Creek Family Care  
 Deer Creek Family Care  
 Deer Creek Family Care  
 Covenant Clinic  
 Covenant Clinic  
 Covenant Clinic  
 Covenant Clinic  
 Tama Medical Center  
 Tama Medical Center  
 Tama Medical Center

### Healthcare Providers

Mercy Care Community Physicians  
 Mercy Care Community Physicians  
 Mercy Care Community Physicians  
 Women's Health & Education Center  
 Tribal Health Center  
 Shanahan Family Chiropractic  
 Twin City Chiropractic  
 Wicks Chiropractic  
 Country Chiropractic  
 Heartland Dental Professionals  
 Plaza Family Dental Center  
 Plaza Family Dental Center  
 Plaza Family Dental Center  
 McLaughlin Family Dentistry  
 Eye Care Associates

Wolfe Clinic Eye Center

### Pharmacies

Doyle's Family Pharmacy  
 Medicap Pharmacy  
 Wright Pharmacy

### Other Community Resources

American Red Cross - Iowa River Chapter  
 Child Abuse Prevention Services  
 Child Support Recovery  
 Community Clothes Closet  
 Department of Human Services -Tama Co.  
 Mid-Iowa Community Action  
 Tama Co. Career Development Center  
 General Relief/Veteran's Affairs  
 Tama County Sheriff  
 PeopleRides  
 CASA Program  
 Mental Health Clinic Of Tama County  
 Meskwaki Family Services  
 Meskwaki Healthy Start  
 South Tama County United Way  
 SATUCI  
 ISU Extension Office  
 Area Education Agency (267)  
 Child Care Resource and Referral  
 Pioneer Hi-Bred International

### Preschools

Crayon Corner Preschool  
 Pied Piper Preschool  
 Raggedy Ann & Andy Preschool  
 Tama Co. Headstart  
 Kid's Corner

### Libraries

Chelsea Public Library  
 Clutier Public Library  
 Elberon Public Library  
 Garwin Library

Gladbrook Public Library  
 Norma Anders Public Library

### Libraries - Continued

Tama Public Library  
 Toledo Public Library  
 Traer Public Library

### Churches

St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
 United Presbyterian Church  
 Tama/Toledo Kiwanis  
 Tama Police Department  
 Toledo Police Department  
 Tama County Public Health & Home Care  
 Lions Club  
 St. Paul Lutheran Church  
 Living Faith United Methodist Church  
 Christ United Methodist Church  
 Assembly of God Church  
 Fellowship Baptist Church  
 Reformed Baptist Church  
 Carlton Grace Brethren Church  
 St. Boniface Catholic Church  
 St. Paul Catholic Rectory  
 Salem Church of Lincoln  
 Peace United Church of Christ  
 Ripley United Church of Christ  
 St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Geneseo United Methodist Church  
 United Methodist Church  
 United Methodist Church  
 United Methodist Church of Gladbrook  
 Grace Community Church  
 First Presbyterian Church