



Tama County Empowerment Area



Counties in Area: Tama

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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, and have available affordable, high quality child care, and access to a preschool opportunity.

Community Plan Priorities:

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

Local Indicators:

- Immunization Compliance %
- Obese/Overweight Population %
- Low Birth Weight Rate
- # of Births to Teens
- # of Children with High Lead Levels
- # of Preschool Slots Available
- # Enrolled in Preschools
- # With a Preschool/Head Start Experience
- # of Licensed and/or Registered Childcare Providers
- # of Incidences of Founded Child Abuse
- # of Providers Participating in a Quality Improvement Plan

How we are collaborating to impact the priorities:

The Tama County Empowerment Board meets every other month and as needed. The Board includes childcare providers, service providers, education, business, Department of Human Services, Board of Supervisors, Public Health, North Tama School District, Meskwaki Settlement School, South Tama School District, Clergy, and citizens from Tama County.

These Board members work together to create new initiatives, strengthen existing programs regarding our initiatives, activities, and programs available for children and families in Tama County, to eliminate duplication of services and focusing on our priorities.

Sub-committees met and made recommendations to the Board regarding funding, preschool scholarships, and professional development activities.

Identify services/programs funded by Community Empowerment:

Early Childhood Fund	Child Care Consultant, Training and Retainment, Provider Support Program, Child Care Provider Training
School Ready Fund	Home Visitation, Health Care Coordination, Infant Toddler Specialist, Family Nutrition Specialist, Stork’s Nest, Parenting Class, Dental Hygienist, Interpreter, Developmental Screening, Preschool & Respite Scholarships, Lead Care Coordination, Care 4 Kids, Developmental Services, Professional Development, Low-income Preschool Support, Quality Improvement, Training and Retainment

Key Identified Need/Priority: Parenting Education and Support

Measurable Goal: Increased knowledge reported after education given, Increase in client participation

Why this important: In February 2001, the strangulation and mutilation of a newborn infant (“Baby Chelsea”) by her desperate teenage mother in our county. The baby was found near the Chelsea water tower, across the street from her mother’s home, face down in the snow wearing only a blue scarf. Attempting to dispose of the infant and evidence of the offense, she attempted to conceal the child’s body, by burning it. The baby’s mother was described as a junior, who was a popular girl who played for South Tama Junior Varsity Basketball Team, was quite, nearly a straight-A student who was college-bound, and had received academic letters of achievement.

Tama County has a high incidence of teen pregnancies, low birth weight babies, high poverty rates, high substance abuse rates, lack of drug-alcohol free activities, high child abuse rates, low high school graduation rates, high minority out of home placements, and is seeing an increasing acceptance of violence.

State Result Linkage:

- A. Healthy Children
- B. Secure & Nurturing Families
- C. Secure & Nurturing Child Care Environments
- D. Children Ready to Succeed in School

Key Community Indicator(s): (Baseline and trend information)	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08
# Of families participating in parenting programs FY 2000 Baseline – Stork’s Nest Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stork’s Nest - 54 newly enrolled, total enrollment = 265 • Early Head Start 10 families, 12 children, • Healthy Families – 57 families; 73 children served. • Center based Head Start – 40 children were enrolled. 	<p>Stork’s Nest 113 newly enrolled.</p> <p>54 families were served in Healthy Families Program; 78 children were served.</p>	<p>Stork’s Nest had 148 newly enrolled clients.</p> <p>Healthy Families: 61 Families; 57 Children were served. 126 Face to Face Visits</p>

Analysis of the Data/ Factors affecting the data: Use of incentives as “rewards” has increased client participation in Stork’s Nest Program. We have seen a 131% increase in the Stork’s Nest Program this last fiscal year. We have seen a 112% increase in Families served in the Health Families Program this last fiscal year. As family participation increases, parenting knowledge increases.