

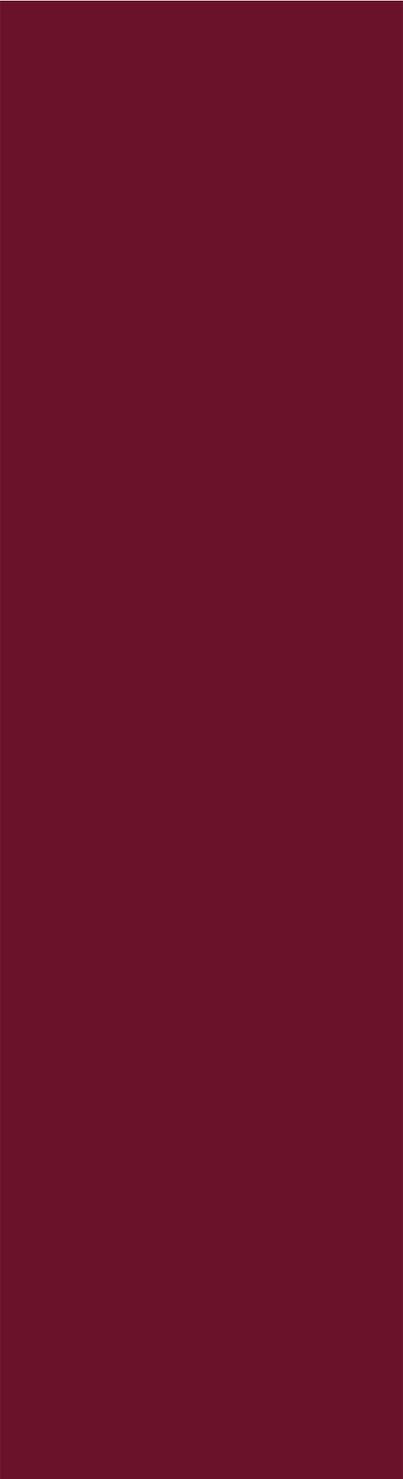
Next Steps

Overall, on many if not most indicators related to young children, while Iowa fares relatively well compared to the nation as a whole, there are still very significant numbers of children at high need. Changing demographics are placing new challenges on raising the next generation and ensuring young children, in particular, get what they need to start school healthy and prepared for success. In addition, in an increasingly international economy and an aging overall society, it is increasingly important that young children get a very healthy start in life that equips them to be healthier, better educated and ready to lead.

To effectively make strategic decisions about Iowa's early-childhood system, use of resources and policy development across health, early care and education, special needs and family support systems Iowa's systems needs information. This first Early Childhood Iowa needs assessment deliverable is intended to answer the large question of who are Iowa's youngest children and what is the current and future demand for systems to respond to their needs.

The answers to these questions have raised yet more questions. These will be addressed in future needs assessment reports, including:

- What is the supply, capacity, use and quality of programs and services intended to address the needs of Iowa's young children and their families?
- Given the complex nature of families and the myriad of issues that impact young children's development, how is the system responding to this complexity?
- Given the increased language and cultural diversity among young children are these populations able to access the systems and programs in place to address needs or provide support?



Child and Family Policy Center

505 5th Street, Suite 404

Des Moines, IA 50309

515-280-9027

www.cfpciowa.org

The Child and Family Policy Center is a Des Moines-based research and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting outcome-based policies that improve well-being of children and their families.

Early Childhood Iowa

www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

Early Childhood Iowa is a confederation or alliance of stakeholders in early care, health and education systems that affect children ages prenatal to five years in the state of Iowa. Its purpose is to support the development and integration of an early care, health and education system for Iowa.