

Through research and advocacy, Every Child Counts seeks to influence policies affecting the lives of Iowa children and families on issues related to early care and education, child health and well-being and family economic success. The following are specific areas where ECC, supported by CFPC's research and communications divisions, will seek to inform and influence state policy and investment.

Quality Early Care and Education

- Improve overall monitoring and quality-improvement activities for early-care and education programs
- Strengthen the availability of evidence-based preschool programs for low-income children and support targeted outreach efforts to assure their participation
- Ensure children have the supports and strong educational environments needed to read proficiently by third grade

Child Health and Well-Being

- Implement comprehensive child health provisions under state and federal health reform
- Continue to develop and expand programs that improve child health preventive and developmental practice, such as 1st Five and Project LAUNCH
- Expand access to children's oral, mental, behavioral and nutritional health care
- Improve child safety and well-being through youth, family and community involvement in child safety, permanence and well-being efforts

Child and Family Economic Success

- Increase access to the child care assistance program by raising the eligibility level and increasing provider reimbursement rates
- Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit to at least 20 percent of the federal credit (from the current 7 percent)

Supportive Early-Childhood Systems

- Support Early Childhood Iowa's comprehensive early childhood systems-building strategies at the state and community levels.