CERRO GORDO, HANCOCK AND WORTH COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Cody Williams, Empowerment Service Coordinator
22 N. Georgia Avenue, Suite 300
Mason City, IA 50401
Phone: (641) 422-2707
Fax: (641) 421-9352
e-mail: eac@empowermentforthekids.org
Additional information available at www.empowermentforthekids.org

Mission: Building strategies to improve the lives of children and their families through collaboration, coordination, and planning in Cerro Gordo, Hancock, and Worth Counties.

Vision: Working together so every child is happy, healthy, and ready to learn.

Community Plan Priorities:

★Empower new and expectant parents through a parent support/education/home visitation program.
★Improve accessibility to, and quality of, child care and preschool for all families with young children.
★Enrich the network of community health services to guarantee children a healthy start.

Local Indicators: The following are the top priority indicators for FY 07-08 (in random order):

- Infants born at low birth weight
- Childhood lead poisoning prevention
- Child abuse/safety
- Child Care
- Preschool Opportunities
- Prenatal Care
- Kindergarten Readiness

How we are collaborating to impact the priorities:

The Empowerment Area continues to bring together service providers from a variety of organizations to work together and to make them aware of services available. Current empowerment programs have made efforts to enhance services rather than duplicate programming. Area programs also collaborate in the search for identifying and obtaining alternate sources of funding. Empowerment board members serve on a variety of task forces, planning boards, and advisory committees and bring a wealth of information, as well as serve as an information dissemination method to our community.

Identify services/programs funded by Community Empowerment:

Early Childhood Fund	Childcare Scholarship Program ♦ Nurse Consultant ♦ I Am Worth Saving II ♦ Charlie Brown Get Well Center
School Ready Fund	Family Connections ♦ Mason City-Clear Lake-Garner-North Central-N-K Learning Connections ♦ Smoke Free Families ♦ Lead Free Kids ♦ FLYS Parenting Skills Education ♦ ABCD Drama ♦ CCR&R Provider Training ♦ Better Beginnings ♦ Head Start Transportation ♦ Preschool Scholarships ♦ Oral Health Project ♦ AEA QPPS Training

Program Spotlight: The following is a brief look at a program that has successfully contributed to our community.

Program Name: Lead Free Kids (Cerro Gordo Department of Public Health)

Key Identified Need/Priority: Childhood lead poisoning prevention

Measurable Goal: Enhance local childhood lead poisoning prevention programming to prevent and control childhood lead poisoning within Cerro Gordo, Hancock, and Worth Counties.

- Promote early detection of lead poisoning through screening by increasing the number of children under the age of six that are tested.
- Implement activities designed to garner support from public and private community stakeholders for initiatives to reduce childhood exposure to lead hazards in the environment.

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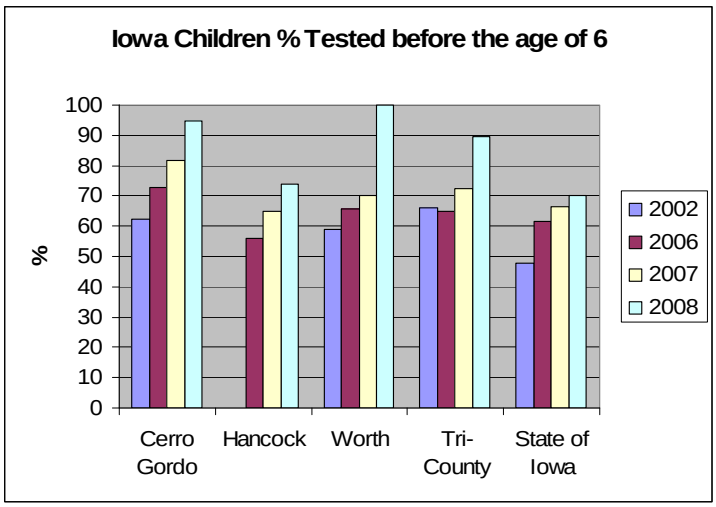
Why this important: The Centers for Disease Control considers any child with greater than 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood at a greater risk for adverse effects such as lower IQ's, increased behavioral problems, learning disabilities, seizures and other health complications. Lead poisoning can affect nearly every system in the body. Since lead poisoning often occurs with no obvious symptoms, it frequently goes unrecognized and untreated. Early detection and prevention of lead poisoning is critical. One of the most common sources of lead exposure among children is lead-based paint, which is frequently found in older homes constructed before 1978. Iowa has a high percent of homes built prior to 1978 and nearly 50% of homes in the three-county CEA were built before 1950. These older homes may place vulnerable children at risk for lead poisoning if lead hazards are not addressed.

State Result Linkage:

Key Community Indicator(s): Iowa Children % Tested before the age of 6.	FY 2002 1996 Cohort	FY 2006 1999 Cohort	FY 2007 2000 Cohort	Current FY 2008 2001 Cohort
Cerro Gordo	*62.2%*	*72.6%*	*81.7%*	*94.9%*
Hancock	*77.7%*	*55.9%*	*64.9%*	*73.7%*
Worth	*58.8%*	*65.8%*	*70.2%*	*100.0%*
Tri-County	*66.23%*	*64.77%*	*72.27%*	*89.53%*
State of Iowa	*47.8%*	*61.5%*	*66.5%*	*70.0%*

Service, Product or Activity to impact the Key Need/Priority:

Lead Free Kids Performance Measures	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	Current FY 2008
Percent of children tested for lead poisoning	93% (goal=115)	100% (goal=200)	100% (goal=430)	87% (goal=625)
Percent of children with elevated lead levels	6%	5%	3.2%	3%
Percent of formerly elevated blood level children with reduced lead levels	NA	90%	81%	84%
Percent of families showing an increased awareness of lead poisoning issues	NA	100%	100%	N/A
Percent of initiating/completing home remediation as suggested	9.5%	44%	25%	13%

Analysis of the Data/ Factors affecting the data:

The data shows that in the three county region percent of lead tests completed have risen. If compared to the state of Iowa, our area is well above the state average for tests completed. The program data shows an increase in tests complete, and a decrease in positive results. Areas that still need improvements are the remedial services to homes in the three counties to prevent future contamination. The hope with the new law that all children be tested, that more focus can be made on remedial services, and testing children at a younger age.