

Cerro Gordo, Hancock & Worth Counties Empowerment Area



Counties in Area (alphabetical order if more than one):

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, and Worth

Contact for Area: Name, address, phone, fax, e-mail, website address (if available):

Temporarily the CEA is without a Program Coordinator – the following is a temporary contact:

United Way of North Central Iowa – Attn: Jennifer Kammeyer

600 1st Street NW, Suite 102

PO Box 1465

Mason City, Iowa 50401

Phone: 641-423-1774

Fax: 641-423-2221

E-mail: jennifer@unitedwaynci.com

Website: www.cghwempowerment.com

Vision and Mission:

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 (list):

The following are the top priority indicators for FY 05-06 (in random order):

- ★ Low Birth Weight Infants
- ★ Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
- ★ Child Abuse / Safety
- ★ Child Care
- ★ Preschool Opportunities
- ★ Prenatal Care
- ★ Kindergarten Readiness

How we are collaborating to impact the priorities:

The Cerro Gordo, Hancock, and Worth Counties Empowerment Area Board members and Project Coordinator continue to enhance collaborative efforts in the three-county area through their participation in task force, planning boards, and advisory committees to assess, plan for, identify alternative resource outlets, and implement programs and services that directly and indirectly affect the health and wellbeing of children and families in North Central Iowa. Local providers work together to increase awareness of programs and services available locally, regionally, and statewide. Efficient use of resources is promoted through efforts to ensure the greatest number of families and children are served. For example, local efforts to address childhood lead poisoning are strengthened through the collaborative support of the CEA and the Iowa Department of Public Health to create a comprehensive program encompassing primary prevention, early detection, and environmental testing and remediation components. Over the past fiscal year, the CEA has also worked with local agencies such as AEA 267 and Child Care Resource & Referral to enhance the quality of child care and preschool services available for families in the three-county area. The CEA also continues to support early childhood education professionals and providers to address kindergarten readiness.

Identify services/programs funded by Community Empowerment:

<p>Early Childhood Fund</p>	<p><u>Childcare Scholarship Program</u> offers assistance to families with a gross annual income between 140% and 185% of poverty guidelines. Scholarships up to \$2500 for a family with one child under the age of 6 and up to \$3500 for a family with more than one child under the age of 6. Families are responsible for 35% of their childcare payment.</p> <p><u>Child Care Resource and Referral</u> provides training for Child Care Providers and is a project through Child Care Resource and Referral of North East Iowa. The project provides the ChildNet, Family Communications workshops, Welcome to Child Care, and The Power of Mental Health training series and mini-grant program to assist with the costs for first aid and CPR courses. Business kits are used for training and additional books and videos purchased to enhance The Video Lending Library as a resource for child care providers.</p>
<p>School Ready Fund</p>	<p><u>Child Care Nurse Consultant</u> promotes safe, healthy child care environments for all children, including children with special health or developmental needs, and provides health and safety consultation support and education for families, children, and child care providers. A goal was set for the Nurse Consultant to conduct a minimum of 13 trainings and make at least 150 contacts with child care personnel within the three-county area.</p> <p><u>Family Connections Home Visitation Program</u> empowers parents through support and education to help children ages 0-5 experience a healthy start. Services focus on teaching parents about child development, fostering positive parenting skills, promoting healthy parent/child relationships, and promoting healthy children. Families develop their own plan through the use of an “Individual Family Service Plan” tool and are assigned a Family Support Worker that visits the home regularly to work with the family to achieve their goals. Family Connections works to increase parenting skills by utilizing creative outreach methods to build family trust and engage new families.</p> <p><u>Family Connections Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program</u> enhances the services provided to teen families and uses creative outreach to build trust and engage new teen families. These enhanced services include home visitation, parenting group activities, access to parenting information, referrals to community resources, and community support.</p> <p><u>Mason City, Clear Lake, N-K, and Little Cardinals Learning Connection Programs</u> provide weekly parent/child classes that support children’s development during the early years of life, and offer parents positive parenting knowledge and skills, and build awareness of available community resources.</p> <p><u>Preschool Scholarship Program</u> offers assistance to families with a gross annual income below 185% of poverty guidelines. Scholarships provide up to \$60 per month to cover preschool costs for children under the age of 6. Families are responsible for any monthly preschool cost that exceeds \$60.</p> <p><u>Lead Free Kids & Home Visitation – Cerro Gordo, Hancock, and Worth Counties</u> provide prevention and control of childhood lead poisoning of children within Cerro Gordo, Hancock, and Worth Counties through establishment of a comprehensive systematic approach. The program is operated by the Cerro Gordo Department of Public Health with a focus on reducing the prevalence of lead poisoning in children under the age of six. Strategies include preventative screenings, medical and environmental case management, and in home lead poisoning prevention visitation to children who live in a home built prior to 1978.</p> <p><u>Smoke Free Families-Cerro Gordo, Hancock, and Worth Counties</u> provides smoking cessation services, to include education, counseling, and ongoing</p>

	<p>one-on-one support to pregnant mothers, mothers of children between the ages of birth through 5 years, and their household members who use tobacco products. The goal of the program is to eliminate tobacco use of prenatal mothers and the secondhand smoke that can increase the chances of low birth weight in babies and health problems in children.</p>
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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.
- Maintain a proactive environmental case management home visitation program serving children under the age of six through: (a) identification of children living in high-risk housing units, (b) offering free in-home visitation services encompassing testing and environmental assessments, and (c) providing appropriate referral services.

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): (Baseline and trend information)	FY 98/99	FY 03/04	FY 04/05	Current FY
Childhood Blood Lead Levels • Number of children 0-5 screened for lead.	Cerro Gordo = 512	Cerro Gordo = 775	Cerro Gordo = 768	Cerro Gordo = 1262
	Hancock = 85	Hancock = 124	Hancock = 159	Hancock = 310
	Worth = 67	Worth = 127	Worth = 124	Worth = 205

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

Performance Measure(s) (Baseline and trend information)	FY 02/03	FY 03/04	FY 04/05	Current FY
<i>Percent of children tested for lead poisoning (of Empowerment funded target)</i>	NA	88% (goal=360)	93% (goal=115)	100% (goal=200)
<i>Percent of children with elevated lead levels (of Empowerment funded)</i>	NA	16%	6%	5%
<i>Percent of formerly elevated blood level children with reduced lead levels (of Empowerment funded)</i>	NA	NA	NA	90%

Performance Measure(s) (Baseline and trend information)	FY 02/03	FY 03/04	FY 04/05	Current FY
Percent of targeted populations showing an increased awareness and support of local childhood lead poisoning prevention initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health care providers Citizens 	NA NA	NA NA	30% 50%	100% 80%
Percent of families showing an increased awareness of lead poisoning issues	NA	NA	NA	100%
Percent of initiating/completing home remediation as suggested	NA	50%	9.5%	44%
Percent of children served with identified medical home	NA	NA	100%	100%

Analysis of the Data/ Factors affecting the data:

A primary goal of local childhood lead poisoning efforts have focused on expanding the number of children tested. As a local indicator, the CEA has tracked the number of blood lead tests completed on children 0-5 years. Data indicate that there has been an increase in the number of lead tests completed on children less than 6 years of age since the baseline data was collected during the 1998-99 fiscal year. The support of the CEA, in addition to the IDPH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, has been critical in achieving the noted increase in the number of screening tests completed through the three-county Lead Free Kids program.

Performance measure data collected regarding childhood lead poisoning programming in the three-county CEA has not been consistent. With the guidance of the local CEA, the Lead Free Kids program coordinator has enhanced data collection over the years to more accurately evaluate the impact of program components. For the years that data is available, it is positive to see that a greater percent of established program testing goals are being met with each subsequent program year. Additionally, an increasing percent of health care providers and citizens are recognizing the hazards of lead poisoning. Conversely, the percent of children tested who have elevated blood lead levels has decreased. This decrease may reflect the positive effect of primary prevention efforts in the region to increase public awareness of the hazards of lead paint, enact local lead ordinances, and promote environmental assessment and remediation before children become lead poisoned. Through proactive advocacy at the state legislature, the Lead Free Kids program received special allocation funding to further enhance proactive initiatives in the three-county area during the past fiscal year, which will continue throughout the next fiscal.

(Insert Graph of Community Indicator or Performance Measure)

