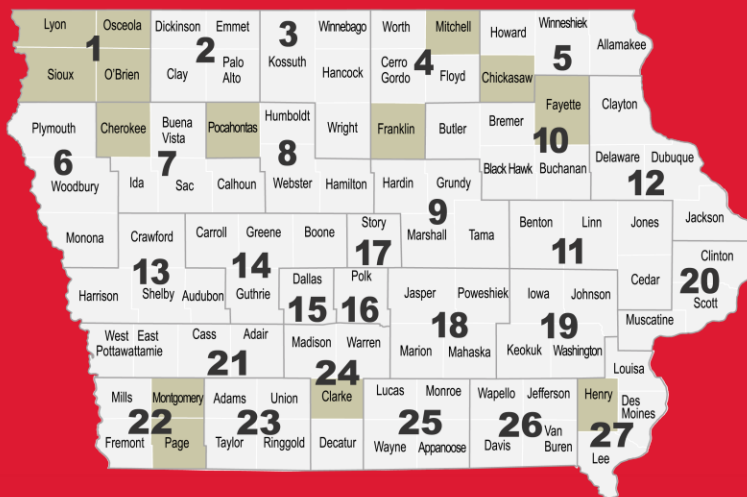


INITIATIVE

Child Care



3 Factors to Consider:

Access/Availability

- Are there enough empty slots to serve families needing child care?

Affordability

- Can families afford to pay the child care costs based on their income?

Quality

- Does the available child care provide an enriching and safe environment for children?

Which is the most important? **ALL THREE!**

Child Care is a Work Force Issue

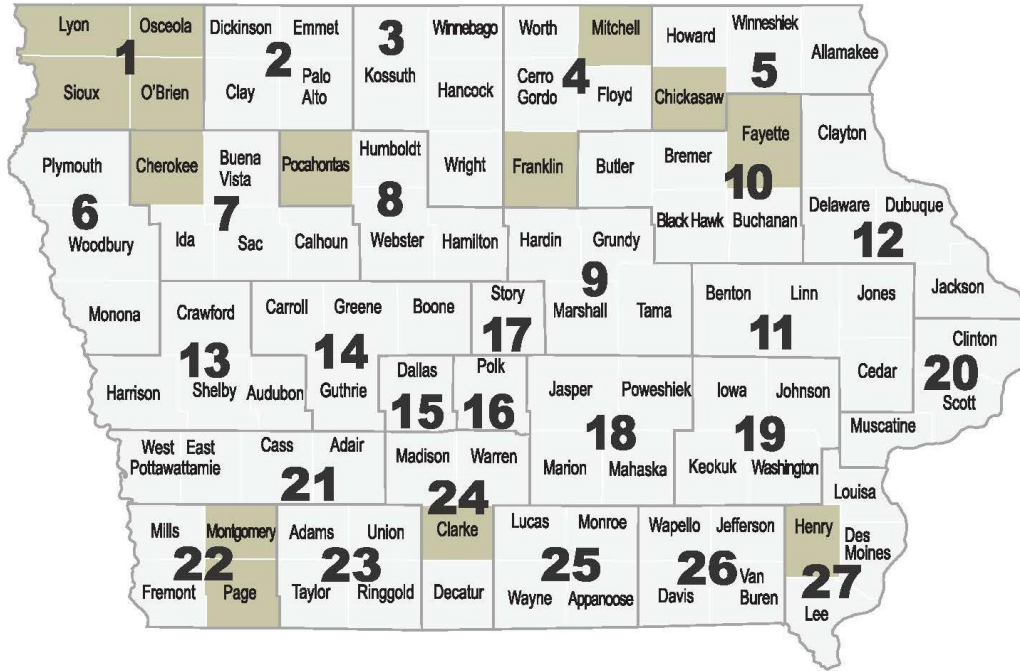
- The State of Iowa is #1 in the percentage of families with children under age 6 with both parents in the workforce
- 75% of Iowa households with children under the age of 6 have both parents in the workforce

**The Child Care shortage has created a
workforce crisis**

Child Care issues result in an estimated loss of **\$935 million** each year to Iowa's economy

- 65% of parents are late to work or leave early because of child care issues
- Iowa has lost 33% of its child care businesses over the past five years
- 829 licensed centers have closed temporarily, representing a loss of 50,000 slots across Iowa
- Single parent families of median income spend 40.7% of their income on childcare
- 63% of parents say child care costs influence their career choices
- Iowa loses \$153 million in tax revenue due to child care issues

Child Care Initiative



Fourteen Counties Have Identified Child Care as a priority in their COVID-19 recovery plan

- Clarke
- Mitchell
- Cherokee
- Montgomery
- Chickasaw
- O'Brien
- Fayette
- Osceola
- Franklin
- Page
- Henry
- Pocahontas
- Lyon
- Sioux

Potential Partners

Employers

- Child care stipends to employees

Government

- Tax credits to employers who financially support child care for their employees, reinstate the before and after school grants program, increase child care assistance entrance income limits to 185%

Agencies

- Educate child care providers, connect them with resources they need to start their own in-home daycare (Child Care Resource and Referral, ISU Extension)

County Action Plans Include:

- On Their Own and OK- both virtual and face to face
- Survey both child care providers and families regarding perceived needs
- Provide Extension resource packets to day care providers and the families they serve
- Create marketing plan to raise awareness of incentives available to new in home day care providers, resources to help offset initial costs as well access to required trainings for new providers
- Legislative conversations so decision makers can take actions to support expanding day care options in their districts