

# Early Childhood Iowa State Board Update

## Program Status Report

**Reporting Period:** January – February 2024

**Report Date:** March 1, 2024

**I2D2 is authorized by the ECI State Board and Department Directors and advised by the I2D2 Data Stewardship Committee:** Amanda Winslow (ECI; HHS); Heather Rouse & William Abraham (ISU); Ryan Page (Child Care; HHS); Shelley Horak (Early Intervention, HHS); Marcus Johnson-Miller (HHS); Kelsey Feller (HHS); Jay Pennington & Monica Garner (Education); Wendy Greenman & Donna Burkett (Workforce).

### Early Childhood Iowa VISION for I2D2:

*Iowa's early childhood system will be effectively and efficiently coordinated among health, social service, and education agencies to support healthy and successful families. This work will be informed by actionable intelligence derived from a statewide integrated data system that comprehensively identifies and addresses the needs of Iowa's young children and their families.*

**Overview:** Iowa's investment in building an integrated data system approach to help address the comprehensive needs of families began in 2015, with full implementation and completion of three demonstration projects funded by the Administration for Children and Families (Preschool Development Grant) and the Iowa Department of Public Health in 2019. Between 2019 and 2021, advancements in technology, governance, and communications were made possible through additional state contracts, university awards, and federal research grants.

In 2022, Early Childhood Iowa initiated an annual contract to support the foundational operations of I2D2 that is essential to facilitate more efficient and effective use of I2D2 data capacities. The following report will outline activities accomplished during the current reporting period, as well as a summary of additional projects and funding that have been leveraged as a result of ECI's investments in the I2D2 Infrastructure. Because of this resource that was developed and continued to be supported by ECI, many other system strengthening activities have been made possible.

### Activities Update for the Current Reporting Period:

- ECI 2023 Annual report was updated and finalized. It is now accessible on the ECI website. Final indicators were collected and combined to complete the report.
  - Current efforts are underway to recommend advancements to the annual report for 2024, including a possible interactive report that will be web-based and coordinate with the IA Data Drive more directly to provide more relevant and timely information about ECI's approved indicators.
- IA Data Drive was updated to reflect the new indicators for 2023. This included interactive dashboards for all ECI approved indicators and prepopulated reports for ECI area directors and for each Iowa county.
  - Multiple discussions with additional ECI partner groups are underway to identify additional indicator dashboards that will be explored during the next reporting period. These include relevant indicators and visualizations to aid home visiting and family support strategic planning, and Head Start community needs assessments.
- Data Sharing Agreement updates continue to be pursued, including amendments to the Head Start grantee agreements and the Iowa Department of Education and a streamlining of agreements with health and human services to align with HHS department alignment.

## Projects Leveraged by ECI Investments in I2D2 to Further Advance the Vision and Mission

The following projects were cultivated during the last two fiscal years, capitalizing on investments made by ECI for I2D2 Infrastructure support. The purpose of the ECI contracts is to help maintain basic operations of the system and advance the vision for more stakeholder use by making projects simpler and more efficient to implement. The following projects benefited from this infrastructure support (i.e., already established legal agreements, data holdings cleaned and ready for use, data integration processes already vetted and tested, and communications routes already established). This means these projects were more **efficient and effective** because of ECI investments, and would not have been possible without the systemic supports I2D2 has built to date with ECI. Secondly, these projects are generating additional benefits for current and future I2D2 work because of what is being learned and applied.

- 1. Iowa Child Care Workforce Study** (Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; \$850K)  
Purpose. Conduct statewide study of the child care workforce  
Supports I2D2. Data Discovery across multiple administrative data systems that could be used to study/track/evaluate child care workforce in the future from HHS, IWD, and Iowa AEYC sources
- 2. Multiple Experiences of Head Start Enrollees** (USDHHS Administration for Children and Families; 2 grants to date totaling \$200K)  
Purpose. Analyze the multiple experiences of Iowa HS children before/after HS enrollment and outcomes related to their multiple experiences  
Supports I2D2. Infile HS recipient data, PIR data, develop cleaning and matching algorithm for HS data/ChildPlus (Procure)
- 3. Child Care Operational Data Store** (Iowa Health and Human Services; \$5.2M)  
Purpose. Build real-time data infrastructure to track child care supply and demand and help child care businesses with efficient data collection/reporting.  
Supports I2D2. Advance IA Data Drive infrastructure for more complex data tools and reporting capacity.
- 4. WIOA Evaluation** (Iowa Workforce Development; \$41K)  
Purpose. Evaluate participation in multiple WIOA programs and develop ongoing evaluation strategy to inform program improvement efforts  
Supports I2D2. Executed legal agreement with IWD and completed initial data discovery efforts. Anticipated ongoing annual contract will include additional datasets in the future to expand evaluation capacity.
- 5. Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates Evaluation** (Wellmark Foundation, iJAG; \$60K)  
Purpose. Evaluate participation in the iJAG program and develop a longitudinal plan to inform continuous program improvement using evidence.  
Supports I2D2. Test integration protocols with additional data systems and advance the integration algorithm to include tested results and match criteria. National attention to this effort could result in cross-site tests with other IDS that have iJAG programs, some of which are also funded by Wellmark Foundation.



For more information about any of these projects or I2D2 processes, please visit our website or contact us. Stay in touch via [i2d2.iastate.edu](https://i2d2.iastate.edu) or follow us on LinkedIn via the QR code.