

# COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT



June  
2021

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation  
Head Start/Early Head Start



*Serving Allamakee, Bremer, Chickasaw,  
Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek  
Counties in Northeast Iowa*

# Community Assessment

## NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) is a community action agency serving Allamakee, Bremer, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties in rural, northeastern Iowa. The Head Start/Early Head Start program is a central aspect of NEICAC's services. The agency is funded to serve 233 children in center-based Head Start and 80 children in home-based Early Head Start.

In addition to the Head Start/Early Head Start program, NEICAC provides a variety of other social services, such as family support services, stable and affordable housing, budget counseling, public transportation, low income home energy assistance, weatherization and crisis assistance.

#### SERVICE AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start service area includes seven counties in northeast Iowa: Allamakee, Bremer, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties. NEICAC's service area is primarily rural. With the exception of Bremer County, all counties in the service area have a population per square mile much lower than the statewide rate of 54.5 people per square mile.

The total population in NEICAC's service area is 85,895. Service area residents are predominantly White, Non-Hispanic, and the primary language of individuals in NEICAC's service area is English. The demographic make-up of children and families served by NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program is consistent with the service area.

The poverty rates in counties in the service area are consistent with the rate for Iowa. The poverty rate for children under age 5 is greatest in Howard County and Fayette County, while Allamakee County and Fayette County have the highest number of income-eligible children.

There are a significant number of single-parent families in NEICAC's service area, many of which are led by the mother. Poverty rates are high among single-mother households, particularly those with young children.

#### NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEET NEEDS

In NEICAC's service area, there are a total of 681 children and 138 pregnant women who are eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start services based on having a family income at or below the federal poverty

level. Additionally, in Iowa, the number of children in foster care has been stable in recent years, though there are high numbers in parts of the service area, particularly Fayette County. Homelessness is also a concern.

The needs of children and families in the service area are multifaceted. High school graduation rates vary, and educational attainment is lower than the statewide rate in certain counties in the service area (Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard) and among Head Start/Early Head Start families. There are disparities at the local level regarding access to high-quality early learning and K-12 educational experiences. Looking at health, many residents in NEICAC's service area do not have sufficient optimal health outcomes and experience negative health factors; there are challenges both in availability of and access to health care. In parts of the service area (Bremer and Winneshiek Counties), health factors and outcomes are much stronger. Furthermore, when this 2021 Community Assessment was conducted, the COVID-19 pandemic was impacting the health and well-being of communities across the nation, including Iowa.

There is a steady rate of pregnancy in the service area. Limited data is available on teen birth rates in counties in NEICAC's service area, though data that is available points to a high rate in Fayette County. Limited data is also available on infant and maternal health factors. Available data points to disparities within the service area – for example, more concerning trends in Fayette and Howard Counties, and more positive outcomes in Clayton and Winneshiek Counties. NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program serves an important role in helping families to support their children's health and well-being.

In the Head Start/Early Head Start service area, many families depend on a wide range of social services to support their families, including subsidized child care, cash assistance, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. The percent of the population in the labor force is consistent with the statewide rate in many counties in the service area, and many young children have both parents in the labor force, more than 70% across the service area and as high as 100% in some communities.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the types of jobs that most people are employed in include management, business, science, and arts occupation, and sales and office occupations. The top industries are manufacturing, retail trade, educational services, and health care and social assistance. Families face barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment, such as child care and lack of public transportation.

### AGENCIES SERVING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN

In NEICAC's service area, there is need for additional capacity to serve children birth to age 5. There are only 4,492 slots for infant, toddler, preschool, and school age children in licensed child care centers and child development homes in the service area. The number of children under 5 years old in the service area far exceeds total child care capacity (including school age). Data from Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral agencies show infant child care is a high need in Bremer, Chickasaw, Fayette, and Winneshiek Counties, while toddler care is in high demand in Clayton and Howard Counties.

Out of 146 licensed child care and registered child development (RCD) home programs available to families, approximately one third of the providers in the service area participate in the voluntary Quality Rating System (QRS) and 43 participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP). Iowa ranks 6th in the nation for four-year old access to public quality preschool programming; this robust public pre-kindergarten programming impacts families' choices and Head Start enrollment.

Pregnant mothers and new parents in Iowa are eligible to access the home visiting program. NEICAC is a primary provider of home visiting through its Early Head Start home-based program option and Family Development & Self Sufficiency Program (FaDSS).

In NEICAC's service area, there are social services resources available to families in addition to those offered by the grantee. NEICAC works to connect families with resources within the service area to expand their access to comprehensive services. Some of the primary resource gaps in the service area include access to job search and employment, affordable housing and housing support, and health services. Barriers such as transportation and child care impact access to existing resources.

## FAMILY, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY INSIGHT

In spring 2021, NEICAC conducted a Head Start/Early Head Start Family Survey, Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey, and Community Provider Survey to inform this Community Assessment.

**Families.** 156 parents/caregivers responded to the Family Survey (53.0% response rate). Families are overwhelmingly satisfied with the services provided by NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program. Large portions of Head Start and Early Head Start families indicated the program schedule and locations meet their family's needs. When asked how the program schedule could better meet their needs, transportation was the top response, followed by earlier hours and later hours.

Families find the most challenges around paying for utilities; reliability of their family's vehicle; having trouble doing things they normally enjoy, or feeling sad, empty, or blue; and having enough room in their home for the people that live there. The biggest personal stressor for parents is COVID-19, indicated by 32.9% of respondents. This response was followed by work/life balance, financial, their child's behavior, and access to dental care.

**Staff.** 72 staff completed the Staff Survey (96.0% response rate). When asked what they feel would be helpful for them to advance in their professional role, the top response was time and/or scheduling flexibility, followed by professional development or training, and supplies and materials. Staff indicated their personal stressors as primarily work/life balance and financial.

A majority of staff members (91.0%) believe the program schedules meet families' needs, and most staff (73.1%) believe the location of Head Start centers meet families' needs. Considering the needs of families served, a majority of staff (95.3%) indicated that they believe the program is preparing children for school.

When asked about families' biggest stressors, staff indicated many areas. The top responses were financial, employment, transportation, housing, and food insecurity. The services that staff indicated they believe families most need or want are transportation, housing support, child care, food assistance, and parenting.

**Community Providers.** 56 respondents from across the service area and sectors responded to the Community Provider Survey. Respondents to the Community Provider Survey reported observing increases in drug abuse in the community, low-income families contacting their agency, and transportation needs. When asked what they believe are families' biggest stressors, community providers indicated many areas including financial, mental health, how to manage their child's challenging behavior, COVID-19, and housing. Community Providers report that limited knowledge of what resources are available and fear/reliance to access services may impact families accessing community resources.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Program Design.** Review Head Start/Early Head Start slot allocations and community-wide trends (e.g., availability of publicly funded pre-kindergarten, demand for infant/toddler care) to explore strategies to support full enrollment across the program. Explore updates to program schedules and transportation services to ensure the needs of working families are met.
2. **Staff Support and Retention.** Explore work/life balance and scheduling flexibility needs of staff. Learn more from staff about their professional development and training needs to help them meet their professional goals. Review staff's expressed interest in management/leadership training more closely and leverage this interest to support staff members' professional growth within the agency.
3. **Awareness of NEICAC Services.** Review and confirm internal roles and processes for partnership management, including formal and informal partnerships at the administrative and service delivery level. Continue to leverage partnerships to increase visibility of NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program. Promote agency services among families and community members to enhance knowledge and use of available resources.
4. **Public School District Relationship-Building.** Continue and enhance existing relationships with local school districts to support a coordinated approach to serving eligible children, aid in smooth transitions into kindergarten, and leverage community resources (e.g., homelessness support to families with children in the early learning and public school systems). Create or enhance new partnerships by modeling improvements after successful existing partnerships with school districts. Consider shared recruitment strategies so that families of children most likely to benefit from Head Start are aware of the program and encouraged to enroll.
5. **Parent Training and Employment.** Continue to leverage internal resources and community partnerships, and explore new strategies and partnerships to provide educational counseling, job training, and resources to families related to employment skill building and job search. Collaborate with community partners and local employers to address specific barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment (e.g., child care, work history, transportation).
6. **Affordable Housing and Homelessness.** Continue to advocate for and provide support to families experiencing homelessness and those on the brink of homelessness, including help preparing those who may experience housing challenges when rent moratoriums and eviction protections cease. Ensure that families are aware of and understand the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and how it impacts eligibility for and services available from the Head Start/Early Head start program.
7. **Preventive and Primary Care.** Continue to collaborate with local health services providers, including dental health providers, to promote the importance of preventative and primary care and address barriers to maintaining an on-time health schedule, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. **Mental Health.** Collaborate with community-based mental health providers to develop a shared understanding of needs within communities and to identify strategies to address the need for mental health resources and counseling services. Advocate for the availability and accessibility of family-centered, culturally sensitive care and services that meet the needs of families with young children.
9. **Impact of COVID-19.** Regularly review community data to adapt to the impact of COVID-19 on families. Consider data such as unemployment, food insecurity, child welfare, substance abuse, and housing stability. Leverage partnerships and community resources to support vulnerable families, including those on the verge of homelessness, single parents, grandparents (and other relatives) raising children, and families who may need job search or employment support.

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## INTRODUCTION



### Agency Overview

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) is a community action agency serving Allamakee, Bremer, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties in rural, northeastern Iowa. The agency is based in Decorah, Winneshiek County, and employs approximately 150 employees at sites across it's the agency.

Community action agencies were established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight poverty and improve individuals' economic future. In 1965, NEICAC was one of the first community action agencies created in the United States. As a community action agency, NEICAC is uniquely positioned to provide an integrated approach to social services so that residents benefit from multi-faceted programs that serve the whole family. When services are coordinated and informed by community members, the benefits to children and families are significant.

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*Mission: Through dynamic partnerships, quality family services, advocacy and education, NEICAC advances community development and improves social and economic conditions for individuals and families with limited resources.*

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Head Start/Early Head Start is a central aspect of NEICAC's services, aligning with the agency's mission to improve social and economic conditions for families. The agency has been a successful Head Start grantee since 1965 and Early Head Start grantee since 1998.

In addition to the Head Start program, NEICAC provides a variety of other social services. This includes family support services, affordable housing, budget counseling, public transportation, crisis intervention, health education, energy assistance, and weatherization support.

### Head Start/Early Head Start Service Area

NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start service area includes seven counties in northeast Iowa: Allamakee, Bremer, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties. The service area is 4,929 square miles. This is approximately 8% of the total land area in the state of Iowa. Clayton County is the largest county in the service area by land area (778.5 square miles) and Bremer County is the smallest (435.5 square miles).<sup>i</sup>

NEICAC's service area is primarily rural. With the exception of Bremer County, all counties in the service area have a population per square mile much lower than the statewide rate of 54.5 people per square mile. The population in the service area is as low as 20.2 people per square mile in Howard County and 22.4 people per square mile in Allamakee County.<sup>ii</sup>

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*NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start service area is 4,929 square miles and is primarily rural. Population per square mile is low, ranging from 20.2 people per square mile in Howard County to 55.7 people per square mile in Bremer County.*

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## Head Start/Early Head Start Program Summary

NEICAC is funded to serve 233 children in its Head Start program, which is provided in all seven counties in the service area. All slots are center-based and operate a full-day schedule, 5-days per week (pre-COVID restrictions). Transportation is provided to a majority of enrolled children, primarily through partnerships with local school districts. A small number of children are transported by EARL Public Transit, which is also administered by NEICAC and is Region 1's public transit provider.

A summary of NEICAC Head Start centers and numbers of classrooms, by county, is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Head Start Classrooms by County**

County	Center	Number of Head Start Classrooms
Allamakee County	Postville Head Start Center 210 S. Ogden St. Postville, IA 52162	2
	Waukon Head Start Center 953 3rd Ave. NW Waukon, IA 52172	2
Bremer County	Waverly Head Start Center 1805 Horton Rd. Waverly, IA 50677	1
Chickasaw County	New Hampton Head Start Center 201 N. Locust Ave. New Hampton, IA 50659	1
Clayton County	Monona Head Start Center 700 S. Page St. Monona, IA 52159	1
	Guttenberg Head Start Center 131 S. River Park Dr. Guttenberg, IA 52052	1
Fayette County	West Union Head Start Center 400 N. Pine St. West Union, IA 52175	1
	Olewein Head Start Center 317 8th Ave. SE Olewein, IA 50662	4
Howard County	Cresco Head Start Center 1135 Canterbury St. Cresco, IA 52136	1
Winneshiek County	Decorah Child Development Center 301 Center St. Decorah, IA 52101	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

During the 2018-2019 program year, NEICAC served 250 total preschool-age children (cumulative) in its Head Start program. As described in Table 2, more than 51% of enrolled children in Head Start are eligible for participation based on family income. Most enrolled children are categorically eligible for services, and a combined 25.2% of enrolled children are over income or exceeding over income (family income between 100% and 130% of the federal poverty level).

**Table 2. Number and Percent of Children Enrolled in Head Start by Primary Eligibility Criteria<sup>iii</sup>**

Primary Eligibility Criteria	Number of Head Start Children	Percent of Cumulative Enrolled Head Start Children
Income-eligible	129	51.6%
Public assistance	46	18.4%
Status as foster child	8	3.2%
Status as homeless	4	1.6%
Over income	16	6.4%
Exceeding over income	47	18.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

NEICAC is also funded to serve 80 children in its Early Head Start program. Early Head Start is operated through the home-based program option and is provided in Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek counties.

During the 2018-2019 program year, NEICAC served 126 pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. Nine pregnant women were served. More than 52% of pregnant women and children were enrolled in Early Head Start based on income-eligibility. Nearly 32% of children enrolled in Early Head Start are over income or exceeding over income.

## Community Assessment

NEICAC completed its last Head Start/Early Head Start community needs assessment, *2019 Community Assessment*, in 2019. The 2019 Community Assessment reported low rates of homelessness and children in foster care in the service area, and strong partnerships to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Population decline, loss of higher paying jobs, and expanding publicly-funded pre-kindergarten were highlighted as impactful for the Head Start/Early Head Start program enrollment and for families in the service area.

NEICAC also completed an annual agency-wide community needs assessment, which was finalized in early 2021 and served as a valuable input to inform the 2021 Head Start/Early Head Start community assessment.

The primary purpose of this community assessment is to inform operation of NEICAC's current Head Start/Early Head Start program. It is an opportunity for the agency to explore the needs of children birth to age 5 within the service area, and to look more closely at the availability of early learning services for young children. NEICAC may use this information to inform future applications for Head Start and/or Early Head Start funding to ensure that children and families most in need are able to access the agency's high quality services.

This 2021 Community Assessment Data Update Report also provides an essential snapshot into the immediate impacts of COVID-19, a worldwide pandemic. COVID-19 data is highlighted throughout the report.



## METHODOLOGY



### Head Start Program Performance Standards

Community assessment is a central aspect of any Head Start or Early Head Start program, serving as a tool for program planning and implementation. The recently revised Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), Section 1302.11, *Determining community strengths, needs, and resources*, requires that programs complete a community assessment once during each five-year grant period and must review and update the community assessment annually.<sup>iv</sup> The 2021 NEICAC Community Assessment provides data

and information to describe the strengths, needs, and resources of its Head Start program and service area. Data from the community assessment will be used by the agency, in collaboration with the Governing Board and Policy Council, to determine immediate and longer-term goals and objectives for the program. Per the HSPPS, Section 1302.11<sup>v</sup>, required data presented in the 2021 Community Assessment includes:

- 1) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
  - a) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));
  - b) Children in foster care;
  - c) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;
- 2) The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;
- 3) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- 4) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;
- 5) Resources available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and
- 6) Strengths of the community.

### Process and Data Collection Methods

NEICAC's 2021 Community Assessment was conducted in spring 2021 under the leadership of Trisha Wilkins, Executive Director, Sharon Burke, Early Childhood Programs (ECP) Director, and Denise Tapscott, Family and Community Partnerships Specialist. NEICAC contracted with Foundations for Families, a consulting, training, and technical assistance company, to conduct the community assessment with input and guidance from NEICAC leadership team members.

Data collection methods included:

- Review of program operations, challenges, and observed trends with agency staff;
- Program-level data from the Head Start/Early Head Start program;
- Needs assessments and reports gathered from county departments and community agencies;
- Information gathered from publicly available data sources (e.g., U.S. Census, state departments, federal agencies, and state and national organizations); and
- Data from surveys of Head Start staff, families, and community providers.

## **Data Analysis: An Equity Perspective**

When conducting NEICAC's 2021 Community Assessment, data was analyzed from an equity perspective to determine if there are certain types of families that are accessing or could benefit from Head Start/Early Head Start more than other families. In doing so, Foundations for Families explored layers of data to uncover disparities among subgroups within the service area and amongst children and families served. By taking the additional step to identify disparities, NEICAC will be able to target its strategies to address the most pressing service area needs through its Head Start/Early Head Start program. This is a method to continuously improve program implementation while monitoring specific data for trends indicating whether outcomes are improving for the children and families most in need.

## **Limitations of NEICAC 2021 Community Assessment**

Because NEICAC's geographic service area lends itself to county-level information, a substantial amount of data at the county level was used to inform the agency's community assessment. State level data is provided for comparison to service area counties when county data is not available, or to set the context for Iowa's communities within the national landscape. School district, zip code, and census tract-level information is provided for key data points and to illustrate unique and specific needs in local communities.

When examining U.S. Census data tables, zip code level data may not sum to county-level data. This is due to sampling as part of the Census process. Additionally, the margins of errors for data on communities with small populations may be higher than communities with large populations.

Throughout the report, when relevant or required data points could not be obtained to inform the community assessment, this is indicated in the text. Anecdotal information is provided, where possible, to balance statewide, county, and local data with observations and reflections about the experiences of children and families in NEICAC's service area.

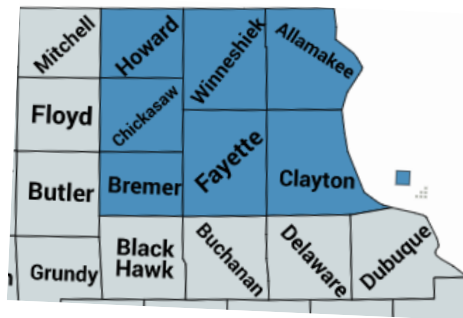
## OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AREA



### Geographic Boundaries

NEICAC serves children and families in a seven-county service area in northeast Iowa, including Allamakee, Bremer, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties (Figure 1). Howard, Winneshiek, and Allamakee Counties share a border with the state of Minnesota, while Allamakee and Clayton Counties border the state of Wisconsin.

**Figure 1. NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start Service Area and Surrounding Counties<sup>vi</sup>**



### County Government and Economics

There are 99 counties in the state of Iowa. In Iowa, a Board of Supervisors that manages the county government and provides oversight for county activities leads each county. These elected individuals hold regular meetings with citizen participation to respond to community needs, ensure services are properly managed, and identify solutions when problems arise. The County Boards of Supervisors appoint public sector representatives to serve on the NEICAC Board of Directors.

NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start service area does not include any federally designated Opportunity Zones (designed to increase economic development by providing investors with tax benefits).<sup>vii</sup>

### Service Area Demographics

#### Population

The total population in NEICAC's service area is 85,895. Over the past three years, although the population in Iowa has been increasing, the population in the service area has been decreasing overall (Table 3).

**Table 3. Population by Geographic Area and Year (2017-2019)<sup>viii</sup>**

Geographic Area	2017	2018	2019	Three-Year Trend
Allamakee County	13,940	13,880	13,813	Decreasing
Bremer County	24,741	24,782	24,864	Increasing
Chickasaw County	12,140	12,099	12,026	Decreasing
Clayton County	17,711	17,672	17,625	Decreasing
Fayette County	20,139	19,929	19,803	Decreasing
Howard County	9,321	9,264	9,226	Decreasing
Winneshiek County	20,575	20,401	20,262	Decreasing
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>118,567</b>	<b>118,027</b>	<b>117,619</b>	<b>Decreasing</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>3,118,102</b>	<b>3,132,499</b>	<b>3,139,508</b>	<b>Increasing</b>

The median age in NEICAC's service area trends higher than the statewide rate, and a significant portion of the population is over age 65. At the county levels, the percent of the population that is under age 5-years-old is consistent with the statewide rate. There are exceptions where the percent of the population under age 5 is higher within counties, though these populations are small (Table 4).

**Table 4. Median Age by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>ix,1</sup>**

Geographic Area	Median Age	Percent of Population Under Age 5	Percent of Population Over Age 65
52140 (Dorchester)	50.3	5.2%	18.9%
52146 (Harpers Ferry)	60.4	3.9%	37.2%
52151 (Lansing)	52.2	4.8%	29.8%
52160 (New Albin)	45.9	4.5%	18.1%
52162 (Postville)	35.1	9.4%	14.7%
52170 (Waterville)	56.1	5.1%	30.5%
52172 (Waukon)	41.5	6.4%	21.3%
Allamakee County	44.4	6.9%	22.3%
50622 (Denver)	37.6	6.7%	17.4%
50631 (Frederika)	n/a	n/a	n/a
50647 (Janesville)	n/a	n/a	n/a
50666 (Plainfield)	37.9	5.0%	18.7%
50668 (Readlyn)	41.8	6.4%	21.2%
50674 (Sumner)	42.6	7.5%	22.1%
50676 (Tripoli)	39.7	7.7%	17.8%
50677 (Waverly)	38.7	5.1%	19.8%
Bremer County	39.8	5.9%	19.6%
50603 (Alta Vista)	53.2	6.3%	30.0%
50630 (Fredericksburg)	44.3	6.0%	21.1%
50645 (Ionia)	49.3	4.2%	19.4%
50658 (Nashua)	45.0	5.9%	20.3%
50659 (New Hampton)	42.0	6.0%	18.7%
52154 (Lawler)	52.2	4.8%	29.8%
Chickasaw County	44.5	6.0%	20.1%
52042 (Edgewood)	33.8	10.1%	22.3%
52043 (Elkader)	54.4	2.9%	30.7%
52044 (Elkport)	27.9	2.8%	14.2%
52047 (Farmersburg)	37.9	4.5%	13.0%
52048 (Garber)	42.9	8.7%	18.9%
52049 (Garnaville)	43.8	6.5%	19.7%
52052 (Guttenberg)	53.8	4.3%	27.8%
52066 (North Buena Vista)	62.3	3.8%	39.6%
52072 (Saint Olaf)	34.4	11.7%	12.0%
52076 (Strawberry Point)	43.9	4.7%	20.7%
52077 (Volga)	52.2	11.3%	23.8%
52156 (Luana)	38.9	8.9%	11.0%
52157 (McGregor)	48.6	4.6%	27.1%
52159 (Monona)	44.3	5.8%	22.5%
Clayton County	47.3	5.4%	23.0%
50606 (Arlington)	41.8	5.4%	21.6%
50655 (Maynard)	41.0	4.9%	16.7%
50662 (Oelwein)	45.4	4.9%	24.4%
50664 (Oran)	38.4	16.7%	38.1%
50681 (Westgate)	48.6	2.7%	17.3%

<sup>1</sup> Rates greater than the countywide rate are highlighted.

<sup>2</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

Geographic Area	Median Age	Percent of Population Under Age 5	Percent of Population Over Age 65
52135 (Clermont)	51.7	2.7%	22.9%
52141 (Elgin)	38.7	12.0%	23.7%
52142 (Fayette)	37.8	1.8%	20.9%
52147 (Hawkeye)	47.1	2.1%	14.1%
52164 (Randalia)	39.6	11.9%	19.7%
52169 (Wadena)	51.9	4.8%	27.6%
52171 (Waucoma)	51.3	2.4%	24.6%
52175 (West Union)	40.8	7.8%	20.2%
Fayette County	43.8	5.4%	21.0%
50466 (Riceville)	37.5	6.1%	21.7%
50628 (Elma)	44.0	8.0%	27.1%
52134 (Chester)	38.2	13.0%	16.5%
52136 (Cresco)	44.0	5.8%	19.7%
52155 (Lime Springs)	38.9	4.9%	21.3%
Howard County	41.5	6.8%	20.2%
52101 (Decorah)	37.9	4.2%	19.9%
52132 (Calmar)	40.0	6.2%	15.4%
52133 (Castalia)	47.5	2.2%	16.8%
52144 (Fort Atkinson)	49.7	4.1%	23.0%
52161 (Osian)	50.4	5.9%	24.5%
52165 (Ridgeway)	50.7	3.7%	17.7%
Winneshiek County	41.5	4.2%	20.0%
Iowa	38.2	6.3%	16.7%

Tables 5 and 6 describe the race and ethnicity of the service area population by county. Counties within the service area are less diverse than Iowa as a whole. Allamakee County has the most ethnic diversity in the service area, particularly in and around the town of Postville.

**Table 5. Population (and Percentage of Population) by Race and Geographic Area (2019)<sup>x, 2</sup>**

County	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races
Allamakee County	13,324 (96.5%)	176 (1.3%)	46 (0.3%)	79 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	50 (0.4%)	138 (1.0%)
Bremer County	23,895 (96.1%)	228 (0.9%)	92 (0.4%)	286 (1.2%)	13 (0.1%)	60 (0.2%)	290 (1.2%)
Chickasaw County	11,770 (97.9%)	129 (1.1%)	20 (0.2%)	15 (0.1%)	5 (0.0%)	31 (0.3%)	56 (0.5%)
Clayton County	17,173 (97.4%)	170 (1.0%)	33 (0.2%)	79 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	56 (0.3%)	114 (0.6%)
Fayette County	18,890 (95.4%)	444 (2.2%)	34 (0.2%)	50 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	41 (0.2%)	344 (1.7%)
Howard County	9,051 (98.1%)	29 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	40 (0.4%)	1 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	104 (1.1%)
Winneshiek County	19,593 (96.7%)	308 (1.5%)	12 (0.1%)	132 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	116 (0.6%)	101 (0.5%)
Iowa	2,826,070 (90.0%)	116,359 (3.7%)	11,976 (0.4%)	75,741 (2.4%)	3,729 (0.1%)	39,048 (1.2%)	66,585 (2.1%)

<sup>2</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 6. Ethnicity as a Percentage of the Population by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>xi</sup>**

Geographic Area	Hispanic or Latino Origin (of any race)	Hispanic or Latino Origin: Mexican	Hispanic or Latino Origin: Puerto Rican	Hispanic or Latino Origin: Cuban	Hispanic or Latino Origin: Other
Allamakee County	6.6%	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
Bremer County	1.6%	1.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Chickasaw County	2.5%	2.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Clayton County	1.9%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Fayette County	2.4%	1.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
Howard County	1.6%	1.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%
Winneshiek County	2.2%	1.7%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%
Iowa	6.0%	4.6%	0.2%	0.1%	1.1%

## Poverty

The poverty rate of counties in the service area, compared to the state of Iowa, is provided in Table 7, and poverty rates and numbers of individuals in poverty by race is detailed in Table 8. Poverty rates have been fluctuating across most of the service area in recent years, and they are highest in Clayton, Fayette, and Allamakee Counties. In the tables that follow, poverty rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 7. Poverty Rate by Geographic Area and Year<sup>xii,3</sup>**

Geographic Area	2017	2018	2019	Three-Year Trend
Allamakee County	11.4%	9.5%	11.0%	Fluctuating
Bremer County	7.7%	8.2%	7.4%	Fluctuating
Chickasaw County	8.9%	7.4%	6.7%	Decreasing
Clayton County	10.4%	9.0%	11.5%	Fluctuating
Fayette County	12.8%	12.4%	11.4%	Decreasing
Howard County	11.6%	11.9%	9.0%	Decreasing
Winneshiek County	8.0%	8.6%	8.2%	Fluctuating
Iowa	12.0%	11.7%	11.5%	Decreasing

**Table 8. Number (and Percent) of Individuals Below Poverty Level by Race and Geographic Area (2019)<sup>xiii,4</sup>**

County	White	Black or African American	American Indian & Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races
Allamakee County	1,433 (11.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	n/a	45 (90.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Bremer County	1,610 (7.1%)	43 (51.2%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (2.4%)	n/a	0 (0.0%)	66 (27.6%)
Chickasaw County	754 (6.5%)	5 (4.8%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (53.3%)	5 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	21 (37.5%)
Clayton County	1,856 (11.0%)	114 (69.5%)	3 (9.1%)	3 (3.8%)	n/a	0 (0.0%)	17 (16.2%)
Fayette County	1,920 (10.5%)	175 (48.9%)	3 (8.8%)	0 (0.0%)	n/a	6 (16.2%)	69 (22.8%)
Howard County	732 (8.3%)	12 (54.5%)	n/a	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	n/a	66 (63.5%)
Winneshiek County	1,392 (7.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	42 (48.3%)	n/a	7 (6.0%)	39 (48.1%)
Iowa	275,643 (10.1%)	34,517 (31.9%)	2,803 (24.5%)	11,910 (16.1%)	1,135 (31.2%)	8,039 (21.1%)	14,075 (22.1%)

<sup>3</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>4</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.



Across the service area there is disparity with regard to poverty rates by race. Poverty rates are substantially higher among Black or African American individuals and individuals who are two or more races than the poverty rate among White individuals. Similarly, across the service area, the poverty rate among individuals of Hispanic or Latino origin is higher than that of individuals who are White alone (Table 9).

**Table 9. Number (and Percent) of Individuals Below Poverty Level by Ethnicity and Geographic Area (2019)<sup>xiv,5</sup>**

Geographic Area	Hispanic or Latino Origin	Non-Hispanic or Latino Origin, White Alone
Allamakee County	437 (48.3%)	1,041 (8.5%)
Bremer County	26 (7.8%)	1,584 (7.1%)
Chickasaw County	46 (15.1%)	717 (6.3%)
Clayton County	170 (50.1%)	1,689 (10.2%)
Fayette County	46 (11.4%)	1,880 (10.4%)
Howard County	91 (65.5%)	641 (7.4%)
Winneshiek County	106 (30.1%)	1,292 (7.5%)
Iowa	37,928 (20.8%)	248,882 (9.5%)

Additionally, across the service area, poverty is highest among individuals with less than a high school degree (compared to individuals with a high school degree or higher) and unemployed individuals. There are also significant disparities with regard to single-parent and two-parent families with young children. In families with a female head of household (no husband present), poverty rate is substantially higher than married-couple families (Table 10).<sup>xv</sup>

**Table 10. Poverty Status of Families in the Past 12 Months by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>xvi,6</sup>**

Geographic Area	All Families with Related Children Under Age 5	Married-couple Families with Related Children Under Age 5	Families with Female Householder, No Spouse Present, with Related Children Under Age 5
Allamakee County	8.5%	0.0%	41.8%
Bremer County	2.3%	0.0%	13.5%
Chickasaw County	12.6%	6.0%	50.0%
Clayton County	13.8%	3.5%	45.0%
Fayette County	6.1%	1.6%	26.7%
Howard County	29.8%	0.0%	90.8%
Winneshiek County	9.2%	8.0%	46.7%
Iowa	13.8%	3.5%	45.0%

Child poverty is described in detail in the Eligible Children and Pregnant Women section of this report.

<sup>5</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>6</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

## Household Composition and Family Characteristics

In NEICAC's service area, most children live with their biological, step, or adopted parents. Children live with a grandparent(s) or other relative at rates consistent with the statewide rate. Table 11 describes the percentage of children by relationship to householder for each county in the service area.

**Table 11. Percentage of Children (ages 0 to 18-years-old) by Relationship to Householder and Geographic Area (2019)<sup>xvii,7</sup>**

Geographic Area	Own child (biological, step, or adopted)	Grandchild	Other relatives	Foster child or other unrelated child
Allamakee County	96.0%	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%
Bremer County	96.4%	2.0%	0.1%	1.5%
Chickasaw County	94.3%	3.0%	0.8%	1.9%
Clayton County	90.5%	3.9%	1.9%	3.7%
Fayette County	93.2%	3.2%	0.8%	2.8%
Howard County	95.0%	3.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Winneshiek County	96.3%	2.6%	0.0%	1.1%
Iowa	92.6%	4.2%	1.3%	1.9%

In the Head Start/Early Head Start program, few children were formally in the primary care of their grandparents: four children in Head Start and three children in Early Head Start (2018-2019).<sup>xviii</sup> NEICAC administrators report serving growing numbers of multi-generational families, particularly in Allamakee County.

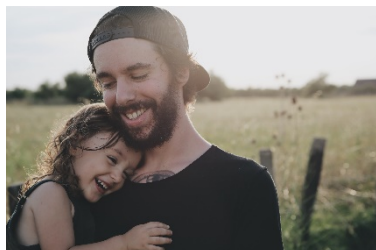
In NEICAC's service area, there are many single-parent households. Over 50% of children served by the NEICAC Head Start program and approximately 35% of Early Head Start children are living in single-parent families, well above the countywide and statewide rates (Table 12). As described above, the poverty rate among single-parent mothers is very high in the counties in the service area. NEICAC is providing critical, comprehensive services to single-parent families in the service area.

**Table 12. Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families by Geographic Area (2015-2019)<sup>xix</sup>**

Geographic Area	Rate
Allamakee County	15%
Bremer County	17%
Chickasaw County	8%
Clayton County	17%
Fayette County	21%
Howard County	10%
Winneshiek County	18%
Iowa	21%

<sup>7</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

## NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



The needs of children and families in NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start service area are multi-faceted and interconnected. In an area where there is great diversity of need, families experience many of the factors that contribute to the cycle of poverty within their communities. Together with other agencies, NEICAC strives to meet the needs as a community partner, serving the area's neediest families.

### Growing and Changing Community Need Due to COVID-19

In December 2019, COVID-19 emerged as a new infectious disease in Wuhan, China. COVID-19 quickly spread throughout the world, and on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic.<sup>xx</sup> Across the service area and across the U.S., COVID-19 is impacting the health and well-being of communities. As of June 1, 2021, there were 371,424 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Iowa and 6,055 deaths from the disease. Approximately 40% of the population is vaccinated against COVID-19.<sup>xxi</sup>

Within the service area, recent test positivity is low and consistent with the statewide rate. Data on deaths from COVID-19 show higher fatality rates in the counties in the service area than in the state of Iowa (Table 13).

Short-term impacts of COVID-19 are described throughout this report. However, the longer-term impacts of COVID-19 are still developing, and will continue to be a factor in the overall health of communities, influencing the needs of children and families in the service area.

**Table 13. COVID Data by Geographic Area (as of June 1, 2021)**

Geographic Area	Number of Confirmed Cases to Date <sup>xxii</sup>	Number of Deaths to Date <sup>xxiii</sup>	Fatality Rate <sup>xxiv,8</sup>	Percent Positivity in Past 7 Days (as of June 1, 2021) <sup>xxv</sup>
Allamakee County	1,522	51	3.35%	2%
Bremer County	2,868	60	2.09%	2%
Chickasaw County	1,244	15	1.29%	0%
Clayton County	1,705	56	3.28%	1%
Fayette County	1,854	42	2.27%	1%
Howard County	1,047	22	2.10%	1%
Winneshiek County	1,972	35	1.77%	0%
Iowa	371,424	6,055	1.63%	2%

## Education

The educational attainment, among adults in the NEICAC service area, trends more towards a high school degree and some college, without degree completion. In five counties, there are higher rates of adults with Associate's Degrees than statewide, while Bremer and Winneshiek County additionally have a greater rate of advanced degree attainment than the statewide rate (Table 14).

<sup>8</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

In four counties in the service area, a greater percentage of the adult population has less than a high school diploma, compared to the state rate. In Allamakee County, for example, the highest education level of almost 12% of the adult population is less than a high school diploma, compared to the state rate of approximately 8% (Table 14).

**Table 14. Education Attainment (Ages 25 and Over) by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>xxvi,9</sup>**

Geographic Area	Less Than 9th Grade <sup>10</sup>	9th to 12th Grade, no diploma <sup>11</sup>	High school graduate	Some college, no degree	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Advanced degree
Allamakee County	6.6%	5.2%	39.4%	18.7%	12.4%	13.0%	4.7%
Bremer County	1.5%	2.1%	32.9%	18.8%	14.0%	20.1%	10.5%
Chickasaw County	3.1%	4.0%	43.6%	17.8%	14.2%	12.8%	4.4%
Clayton County	3.9%	6.2%	43.2%	18.6%	10.5%	13.7%	4.0%
Fayette County	2.5%	5.8%	39.6%	22.6%	11.2%	12.5%	5.7%
Howard County	5.1%	4.0%	40.0%	19.9%	15.2%	11.6%	4.3%
Winneshiek County	1.9%	2.9%	33.0%	17.1%	14.5%	18.6%	11.9%
Iowa	3.1%	4.9%	31.0%	21.0%	11.6%	19.3%	9.3%

The levels of educational attainment among families served by NEICAC's Head Start and Early Head Start programs trends more toward a high school degree or associates degree, vocational school, or some college. Few families (3-8%) have a Bachelor's degree or an advanced degree (Table 15).

In NEICAC's service area, barriers to educational attainment may include factors such Internet access, transportation, and child care.

**Table 15. Educational Attainment of Families Served by NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start (highest level of education obtained by parent(s)/guardian(s)) (2018-2019)<sup>xxvii</sup>**

	EHS: Number of Families (at enrollment)	EHS: Percent of Families	HS: Number of Families (at enrollment)	HS: Percent of Families
Less than a high school degree	25	27%	25	11%
High school graduate or GED	42	46%	115	51%
Associates degree, vocational school or some college	22	24%	69	30%
Bachelor's or advanced degree	3	3%	18	8%
Total	92	100%	227	100%

Educational attainment statistics help inform a larger narrative reflecting how well education supports each student's growth throughout their lives. In counties where children have limited access to early learning opportunities, the impacts to academic achievement can be compounded over time.

In the NEICAC service area, the four-year graduation rate is predominantly above the statewide rate, with just five school districts (out of 24) below the statewide rate. Four-year graduation rates range from 100% (in nine school districts) to 83% (in Clayton Ridge School District). However, disparities exist across subgroups of the student population. Four-year graduation rates are lower for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), English Language Learners (ELL) and those eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch. This is most starkly illustrated in the Postville School District, where just half of English Language Learners graduated in four years (Table 16).

<sup>9</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 16. Four-Year Graduation Rate by Subgroup and School District (2019-2020)<sup>xxviii,12</sup>**

Geographic Area	School District	Overall	IEP	Free or Reduced Lunch	English Language Learners
Allamakee County	Allamakee	98.8%	91.7	97.8	**
	Eastern Allamakee	97.4%	**	91.7	**
	Postville	83.7%	**	83.7%	50%
Bremer County	Denver	100%	**	100%	**
	Janesville	100%	**	**	**
	Sumner-Fredericksburg	95.7%	**	94.7%	**
	Tripoli	96.8%	**	90.9%	**
	Wapsie Valley	97.6%	**	**	**
	Waverly-Shell Rock	96.5%	95.2%	91.1%	**
Chickasaw County	Nashua-Plainfield	100%	**	100%	**
	New Hampton	98.7%	100%	96.4%	**
Clayton County	Central	100%	**	100%	**
	Edgewood-Colesburg	100%	**	100%	**
	Clayton Ridge	83%	76.9%	70.9%	**
	MFL Marmac	100%	**	**	**
Fayette County	North Fayette Valley	86.6%	81.8%	72.7%	**
	Oelwein	91%	**	85.1%	**
	Starmont	90.7%	**	89.5%	**
	West Central	100%	**	100%	**
Howard County	Howard-Winneshiek	94.9%	84.2%	91.5%	**
	Riceville	100%	**	100%	**
Winneshiek County	Decorah	96.6%	72.7%	89.7%	**
	South Winneshiek	97.6%	**	94.4%	**
	Turkey Valley	100%	**	100%	**
Iowa		91.8%	76.4%	85.5%	76.7%

\*\*Data suppressed due to small number of students

In Iowa, there is also disparity by race and ethnicity, among high school students not graduating in four years. During the 2019-2020 school year, a significantly lower rate of Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, African American, American Indian, and Hispanic students graduated on time, in comparison to the rate of White and Asian students (Table 17).

**Table 17. Four-Year Graduation Rate by Student Subgroup in Iowa (2019-2020)<sup>xxix,13</sup>**

Subgroup	Overall
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	75.5%
African American	80.7%
American Indian	82.5%
Hispanic	84.8%
Two or More Races	88.8%
Asian	93.7%
White	93.8%
Iowa	91.8%

There are many reasons why youth drop out of high school. The reasons can be complex and varied and often include school-related factors (e.g., poor grades or attendance), personal reasons (e.g., pregnancy, ill family members) and employment-related factors (e.g., need to financially support family members).<sup>xxx</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Rates below the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>13</sup> Rates below the statewide rate are highlighted.

In the majority (79%) of the NEICAC service area, overall dropout rates are generally lower than the statewide rate. Though, notably, in North Fayette Valley School District the overall dropout rate is 3%, twice that of the statewide rate of 1.5% (Table 18).

Disparities also exist when looking at subgroups of the student population; students with IEPs, English Language Learners and those eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch have higher dropout rates than the overall rate.

**Table 18. Drop Out Rate by Subgroup and School District (2019-2020)<sup>xxxi,14</sup>**

Geographic Area	School District	Overall	IEP	Free or Reduced Lunch	English Language Learners
Allamakee County	Allamakee	0.7%	1.8%	1.7%	**
	Eastern Allamakee	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	**
	Postville	2.8%	6.1%	2.8%	4.8%
Bremer County	Denver	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	**
	Janesville	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	**
	Sumner-Fredericksburg	0.8%	3.3%	1.9%	**
	Tripoli	1.6%	0.0%	2.7%	**
	Wapsie Valley	0.3%	0.0%	1.8%	**
	Waverly-Shell Rock	1.2%	0.0%	3.7%	**
Chickasaw County	Nashua-Plainfield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	**
	New Hampton	0.6%	1.8%	1.3%	0.0%
Clayton County	Central	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	**
	Edgewood-Colesburg	0.9%	7.1%	2.4%	**
	Clayton Ridge	2.4%	4.1%	3.3%	**
	MFL Marmac	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	**
Fayette County	North Fayette Valley	3.0%	3.0%	5.9%	**
	Oelwein	1.7%	1.7%	2.6%	**
	Starmont	1.1%	2.3%	1.5%	**
	West Central	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	**
Howard County	Howard-Winneshiek	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%	**
	Riceville	0.7%	0.0%	1.6%	**
Winneshiek County	Decorah	0.7%	1.4%	2.0%	**
	South Winneshiek	0.8%	2.0%	2.4%	**
	Turkey Valley	0.6%	0.0%	1.7%	**
Iowa		1.5%	2.5%	2.7%	4.4%

\*\*Data suppressed due to small number of students

In Iowa, disparities also exist by race and ethnicity, among students dropping out of school. During the 2019-2020 school year, the dropout rate for all racial subgroups, with the exception of White and Asian students, was above the statewide rate (Table 19).

<sup>14</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.



**Table 19. Dropout Rate by Subgroup (2019-2020)**<sup>xxxii,15</sup>

Subgroup	Overall
American Indian	5.0%
African American	3.5%
Hispanic	2.9%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2.6%
Two or More Races	2.0%
White	1.1%
Asian	0.7%
Iowa	1.5 %

State level educational assessment data provides insight into the achievement of groups of students within school districts. Table 20 provides proficiency rates in English Language Arts (ELA) for students in grades 3, 6, 8 and 11.

Across the NEICAC service area, in both grades three and eleven, 20% of school districts had ELA proficiency levels below the statewide rate. In grades six and eight, 50-54% of the school districts in the service area were below the statewide rate. Three school districts (Edgewood-Colesburg, Oelwein and Postville) had ELA proficiency rates below the statewide rate for all of the four grade levels.

**Table 20. Percent Proficient on English Language Arts State Assessment by Grade and School District (2019)**<sup>xxxiii16</sup>

Geographic Area	School District	Grade 3	Grade 6	Grade 8	Grade 11
Allamakee County	Allamakee	83.1%	64.1%	83.1%	82.1%
	Eastern Allamakee	87.5%	86.4%	60.9%	76.9%
	Postville	36.5%	55.9%	39.0%	43.8%
Bremer County	Denver	82.4%	89.1%	93.2%	90.4%
	Janesville	83.9%	86.5%	77.8%	80.0%
	Sumner-Fredericksburg	59.7%	71.6%	64.4%	75.0%
	Tripoli	68.8%	69.6%	48.6%	72.7%
	Wapsie Valley	71.9%	80.0%	72.1%	76.2%
	Waverly-Shell Rock	77.1%	63.4%	79.7%	87.3%
Chickasaw County	Nashua-Plainfield	79.7%	66.7%	72.5%	78.8%
	New Hampton	59.6%	83.9%	71.4%	78.4%
Clayton County	Central	73.3%	54.8%	58.3%	84.4%
	Edgewood-Colesburg	61.5%	42.9%	47.1%	68.8%
	Clayton Ridge	74.5%	54.4%	67.1%	77.8%
	MFL Marmac	69.5%	74.1%	76.4%	80.0%
Fayette County	North Fayette Valley	79.5%	60.3%	78.7%	65.7%
	Oelwein	51.7%	46.5%	57.1%	62.2%
	Starmont	66.7%	50.0%	53.5%	75.6%
	West Central	80.0%	42.9%	76.2%	84.2%
Howard County	Howard-Winneshiek	50.7%	67.8%	73.3%	77.7%
	Riceville	65.6%	50.0%	58.8%	66.7%
Winneshiek County	Decorah	83.0%	85.1%	84.6%	91.5%
	South Winneshiek	76.2%	75.9%	65.7%	71.4%
	Turkey Valley	83.3%	46.4%	61.3%	72.2%
Iowa		65.3%	67.5%	69.5%	71.4%

Table 21 provides proficiency rates on the state Mathematics assessment for students in grades 3, 6, 8 and 11. In the NEICAC service area, for grade three, 25% of school districts had Mathematics proficiency levels below the statewide rate, followed by 63% in grade six, 29% in grade eight, and 33% in grade 11. Three

<sup>15</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>16</sup> Rates below the statewide rate are highlighted

school districts (Clayton Ridge, Oelwein, and Postville) had Mathematics proficiency rates below the statewide rate for all of the four grade levels.

**Table 21. Percent Proficient on Math State Assessment by Grade and School District (2019)<sup>xxxiv17</sup>**

Geographic Area	School District	Grade 3	Grade 6	Grade 8	Grade 11
Allamakee County	Allamakee	87.0%	78.2%	86.5%	83.3%
	Eastern Allamakee	100%	90.9%	78.3%	82.1%
	Postville	53.8%	57.4%	36.6%	31.3%
Bremer County	Denver	82.4%	93.8%	96.6%	90.8%
	Janesville	82.4%	93.8%	96.6%	90.8%
	Sumner-Fredericksburg	59.7%	66.7%	76.3%	68.8%
	Tripoli	75.0%	60.9%	59.5%	48.5%
	Wapsie Valley	80.7%	83.6%	75.4%	73.8%
	Waverly-Shell Rock	84.3%	80.6%	86.8%	81.6%
Chickasaw County	Nashua-Plainfield	79.7%	70.8%	87.5%	75.8%
	New Hampton	80.7%	87.1%	79.2%	76.7%
Clayton County	Central	76.7%	25.8%	61.1%	75.0%
	Edgewood-Colesburg	79.5%	62.9%	82.4%	71.9%
	Clayton Ridge	68.6%	64.4%	65.8%	58.9%
	MFL Marmac	67.8%	69.0%	67.3%	72.5%
Fayette County	North Fayette Valley	81.8%	69.2%	81.9%	58.2%
	Oelwein	70.8%	52.5%	45.2%	62.2%
	Starmont	69.0%	60.9%	60.5%	75.6%
	West Central	80.0%	57.1%	85.7%	63.2%
Howard County	Howard-Winneshiek	80.8%	66.7%	76.7%	71.3%
	Riceville	81.3%	59.4%	64.7%	54.2%
Winneshiek County	Decorah	90.2%	82.5%	85.3%	90.8%
	South Winneshiek	90.9%	69.0%	74.3%	85.7%
	Turkey Valley	77.8%	67.9%	74.2%	61.1%
Iowa		71.7%	69.4%	71.8%	66.9%

In the 2019-2020 school year, disparities existed across school districts in the NEICAC service area with regard to kindergarten readiness. Table 22 indicates the percent of kindergarten students who were determined ready for kindergarten based on results of approved assessment tools, as prescribed by the Iowa Department of Education.

The rates of kindergarten readiness are most concerning in the Postville, Sumner-Fredericksburg, Oelwein, and Riceville School Districts, where the percentage of incoming kindergarten students meeting learning benchmarks ranges from 34-58%.

**Table 22. Percent of Kindergarten Students Meeting Kindergarten Assessment Benchmarks by School District (2019-2020)<sup>xxxv</sup>**

Geographic Area	School District	Percent Benchmark Met
Allamakee County	Allamakee	74%
	Eastern Allamakee	95%
	Postville	34%
Bremer County	Denver	88%
	Janesville	86%
	Sumner-Fredericksburg	55%
	Tripoli	73%
	Wapsie Valley	73%
	Waverly-Shell Rock	79%

<sup>17</sup> Rates below the statewide rate are highlighted.

Geographic Area	School District	Percent Benchmark Met
Chickasaw County	Nashua-Plainfield	71%
	New Hampton	73%
Clayton County	Central	90%
	Edgewood-Colesburg	72%
	Clayton Ridge	75%
	MFL Marmac	67%
Fayette County	North Fayette Valley	74%
	Oelwein	58%
	Starmont	87%
	West Central	60%
Howard County	Howard-Winneshiek	65%
	Riceville	58%
Winneshiek County	Decorah	74%
	South Winneshiek	73%
	Turkey Valley	68%

One of the most significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on families with school-age children in the service area has been the closure of K-12 schools. On March 15, 2020, all schools in Iowa ceased in-person instruction and school facilities remained closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, as schools pivoted to provide remote learning opportunities.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

When the 2020-2021 school year began, students were expected to attend school in-person, for at least half of their core learning hours. Most schools provided in-person, hybrid, and remote learning models upon opening for the 2020-2021 academic year. Schools could qualify to provide fully remote programming if they had a 15% positivity rate in the county and a 10% absentee rate.

In February 2021, schools across Iowa were required to open in-person, full time, but parents could request a hybrid or full-remote option for their children. A waiver process was also available for schools to request alternative teaching/learning methods (e.g., hybrid, remote etc.) based on multiple considerations (e.g., number of staff quarantining, positivity rates etc.).

## Health

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ranks communities across many health and wellness factors. According to the most recent rankings, some residents in communities in NEICAC's service area do not have sufficient optimal health outcomes and experience negative health factors (Table 23). Highlighted cells show where counties are in the lowest half of rankings.

**Table 23. Health Outcomes and Health Factors Ranking (Out of 99 Counties in Iowa) (2021)<sup>xxxvii</sup>**

Geographic Area	Health Outcomes Rank	Health Factors Rank
Allamakee County	51	78
Bremer County	4	7
Chickasaw County	25	32
Clayton County	44	79
Fayette County	47	73
Howard County	53	36
Winneshiek County	1	6

The overall rankings in health outcomes represent how healthy counties are within the state. The healthiest county in the state is ranked #1. The ranks are based on two types of measurements: how long people live

and how healthy people feel while alive. The overall rankings in health factors represent what influences the health of a county. They are an estimate of the future health of counties as compared to other counties within a state. The ranks are based on four factors: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment.

There is a wide range of rankings in the service area, as Winneshiek County is ranked #1 for Health Outcomes, and other counties (Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette) rank in the bottom quartile for Health Factors. NEICAC administrators reflect that cultural and environmental differences in Winneshiek County may contribute to its high ratings: a focus on sustainability, access to green space, ample biking and walking trails, and presence of local health care providers.

As seen in Table 24, factors related to poor health, as well as the number of physically and mentally unhealthy days, are relatively low in the state of Iowa. Within the service area, particularly Allamakee, Chickasaw, and Fayette Counties, health outcomes are more challenging. Highlighted numbers show rates above the statewide average.

**Table 24. Health Outcomes Data by Geographic Area<sup>xxxviii,18</sup>**

Geographic Area	Years of Potential Life Lost (2017-2019)	% Poor or Fair Health (2018)	Physically Unhealthy Days (2018)	Mentally Unhealthy Days (2018)
Allamakee County	6,900	16%	3.4	3.8
Bremer County	4,300	11%	2.7	3.2
Chickasaw County	7,000	14%	3.3	3.7
Clayton County	5,800	15%	3.4	3.7
Fayette County	6,400	15%	3.5	3.8
Howard County	6,000	15%	3.4	3.9
Winneshiek County	3,100	11%	2.9	3.5
Iowa	6,200	13%	3.1	3.5
Top U.S. Performers	5,500	12%	3.1	3.4

Across other health-related factors, including chronic diseases such as obesity and diabetes, rates are high for smoking and obesity in a majority of counties in the service area (Table 25).

**Table 25. Adult Health Factors by Geographic Area<sup>xxxix,19</sup>**

Geographic Area	% Smokers (2018)	% Obese (2017)	% Diabetic (2017)
Allamakee County	20%	41%	9%
Bremer County	16%	35%	9%
Chickasaw County	19%	31%	11%
Clayton County	20%	41%	9%
Fayette County	20%	39%	13%
Howard County	20%	34%	11%
Winneshiek County	17%	31%	6%
Iowa	17%	34%	10%
Top U.S. Performers	14%	26%	

<sup>18</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>19</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

COVID-19 has had an immediate impact on Iowa residents' well-being. In Iowa, the percent of adults living in households with children who felt nervous, anxious, or on edge for more than half of the days or nearly every day in the past week grew throughout the pandemic and remains high. According to U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey data from September through December 2020, 31-18% of adults living in households with children felt nervous, anxious, or on edge for more than half of the days or nearly every day in the past week.<sup>xi</sup>

## Substance Abuse

Iowa has a relatively low rate of opioid-related drug overdose deaths (4.8 per 1,000), much lower than the nationwide rate (14.6 per 100,000) (2018).<sup>xli</sup> Deaths involving prescription opioids decreased from 2017 to 2018, and deaths involving heroin or synthetic opioids (e.g., fentanyl) has remained at a low, stable rate in recent years. Further, the rate of physician-ordered opioid prescriptions is 49.3 per 100 persons in Iowa, compared to 51.4 nationally.<sup>xlii</sup>

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) or neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) occurs when a pregnant woman uses drugs such as opioids during her pregnancy. In 2018, the rate of NAS/NOWS in Iowa was 2.9 per 1,000 live births (2018), compared to 7.0 per 1,000 nationally.<sup>xliii</sup>

Table 26 describes substance abuse factors including excessive drinking, alcohol impaired driving deaths, and drug overdose mortality.

**Table 26. Substance Use by Geographic Area<sup>xliv,20</sup>**

Geographic Area	% Excessive Drinking (2018)	Alcohol Impaired Driving Deaths per 100,000 (2015-2019)	Drug Overdose Mortality Rate per 100,000 (2017-2019)
Allamakee County	23%	55%	n/a
Bremer County	26%	22%	n/a
Chickasaw County	26%	25%	n/a
Clayton County	25%	33%	n/a
Fayette County	25%	33%	n/a
Howard County	24%	0%	n/a
Winneshiek County	28%	40%	n/a
Iowa	26%	27%	10
Top U.S. Performers	15%	11%	n/a

NEICAC administrators reflect that data aligns with what is observed locally, particularly with regard to alcohol impaired driving deaths. With limited access to public transportation, and geographically dispersed rural communities, alcohol impaired driving is common in the service area.

In Iowa, the use of opioids has increased slightly in recent years, however the rate is low. While the national focus on opioids is relevant to NEICAC, a greater concern remains for meth/amphetamines and their impacts on the communities within the service area (Table 27). NEICAC administrators echo data on drug abuse that shows that meth/amphetamines are a concern both statewide and in the service area.

<sup>20</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 27. Sampling of Positive Drug Tests in Iowa<sup>xlv</sup>**

Substance	2002	2017	% Change
Marijuana	62.8%	46%	- 16.8%
Meth/Amphetamines	22.9%	29%	+ 6.1%
Opioids	9.7%	12%	+ 2.3%
Benzodiazepines	n/a	7%	n/a
Cocaine	9.7%	4%	- 5.7%
Other	n/a	2%	n/a

Within NEICAC's service area, Fayette County has one of the highest rates of methamphetamine-related treatment admissions statewide, while neighboring Winneshiek County has one of the lowest rates statewide.<sup>xlvi</sup>

Although community-level data on the impact of COVID-19 on populations with substance use disorders is not widely available, the National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that this should be an area of surveillance for researchers. Individuals with opioid and methamphetamine use disorders may be vulnerable to COVID-19 due to the drugs' impacts on health as well as increased likelihood to experience homelessness or incarceration.<sup>xlvii</sup>

## Healthcare and Clinical Care

The rate of uninsured individuals is low in Iowa and is consistent with top U.S. performers. Across the service area, the rate of uninsured individuals is similar to or slightly above the statewide rate (Table 28).

**Table 28. Percent of the Population that is Uninsured by Geographic Area (2018)<sup>xlviii,21</sup>**

Geographic Area	Adults (Under Age 65)	Children (Under Age 19)
Allamakee County	9%	5%
Bremer County	4%	2%
Chickasaw County	7%	4%
Clayton County	6%	4%
Fayette County	6%	3%
Howard County	6%	3%
Winneshiek County	4%	3%
Iowa	6%	3%
Top U.S. Performers	6%	n/a

Although most people have health insurance, the challenge in the service area is the dearth of health care providers. The ratio of primary care providers, dentists, and mental health providers to individuals in the service area is described in Table 29. In nearly every category, the provider ratio is well above the statewide rate. Some of the most concerning ratios are primary care in Clayton and Fayette Counties; dental providers in Howard, Allamakee, and Chickasaw Counties; and mental health providers in Clayton County, Allamakee County, and Howard County. Data illustrate the high need for accessible health care resources across the service area.

<sup>21</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.



**Table 29. Ratio of Health Care Providers by Geographic Area<sup>xlix,22</sup>**

Geographic Area	Primary Care Provider Ratio (2018)	Dentist Ratio (2018)	Mental Health Provider Ratio (2019)
Allamakee County	1,730:1	3,240:1	4,560:1
Bremer County	1,780:1	1,570:1	680:1
Chickasaw County	1,710:1	2,390:1	1,990:1
Clayton County	3,510:1	1,950:1	5,840:1
Fayette County	2,810:1	1,970:1	2,180:1
Howard County	1,840:1	4,580:1	3,050:1
Winneshiek County	910:1	1,540:1	410:1
Iowa	1,360:1	1,450:1	610:1
Top U.S. Performers	1,030:1	1,240:1	290:1

\* Does not include nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, and clinical nurse specialists.

NEICAC administrators report that Winneshiek County is home to Winneshiek Medical Center, part of the Mayo Clinic Health System, as well as a regional hospital and a large medical clinic in partnership with Gunderson Lutheran Health System. This likely contributes to lower ratios of health care providers to individuals within Winneshiek County.

NEICAC administrators also report that in many parts of the service area, outside of Winneshiek County, families often have to travel out of their local area to access care, particularly from specialists. For example, many families go to Winneshiek for OB/GYN or other specialty services. The large geographic spread of the service area, and limited access to health providers within the service area, creates challenges for families having to travel long distances to access routine care.

### Infant and Maternal Health

**Prenatal Care.** Child health and well-being begins with adequate prenatal care. Access to first trimester prenatal care is low in many counties in the service area (Table 30).

**Table 30. Percent of Live Births Where Mothers Began Prenatal Care During First Trimester (2018)<sup>l,23</sup>**

Geographic Area	Percent of Live Births
Allamakee County	55.2%
Bremer County	85.0%
Chickasaw County	82.9%
Clayton County	51.9%
Fayette County	78.1%
Howard County	66.7%
Winneshiek County	75.8%
Iowa	79.0%

In Iowa, there are disparities by race/ethnicity with regard to the percent of women receiving late or no prenatal care. The percent of Black or African American women receiving late or no prenatal care is 8% and the rate for Hispanic or Latino women is 7%. This compares to 3% of non-Hispanic White women who received late or no prenatal care.<sup>li</sup>

**Teen Pregnancy.** In Iowa, the rate of births to teenage girls (under age 20), per 1,000, has been decreasing in recent years. Limited data is available on teen birth rates in counties in NEICAC's service area. Data that is

<sup>22</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>23</sup> Rates less than the statewide rate are highlighted.

available shows a high teen birth rate in Fayette County. The rate is well above the statewide rate and reflects 12 births to teenage mothers in 2019 (Table 31).

**Table 31. Teen Birth Rate (Under Age 20), per 1,000 Population, by Year and Geographic Area (2017-2019)<sup>lii,24</sup>**

Geographic Area	2017	2018	2019	Three-Year Trend
Allamakee County	10.7	7.7	6.5 (5 births)	Decreasing
Bremer County	2.5	*	*	n/a
Chickasaw County	*	*	*	n/a
Clayton County	5.8	5.1	*	n/a
Fayette County	8.9	10.9	9.2 (12 births)	Fluctuating
Howard County	*	*	*	n/a
Winneshiek County	3.3	2.9	2.8 (5 births)	Fluctuating
Iowa	7.7	7.4	6.8	Decreasing

\* Data suppressed

**Low Birth Weight and Infant Mortality.** In Iowa, 1.86% of newborns are considered low birth weight. Table 32 describes the percent of newborn babies born at a low birth weight or very low birth weight by county. Reported data is relatively consistent with the statewide rates. Table 32 also reports infant mortality rate, which is high in Howard County.

**Table 32. Infant Health Factors by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>liii,25</sup>**

Geographic Area	Low Birth Weight (2019)	Very Low Birth Weight (2015-2019)	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) (2015-2019)
Allamakee County	*	*	*
Bremer County	2.41%	0.61%	2.21
Chickasaw County	*	*	1.46
Clayton County	*	0.68%	1.1
Fayette County	*	1.06%	2.81
Howard County	*	1.05%	5.03
Winneshiek County	*	0.79%	2.19
Iowa	1.86%	0.87%	4.55

In Iowa, the percent of low birth weight babies is highest among those whose maternal race is Black (3.5%), compared to babies with mothers whose maternal race is White (1.7%). Infant mortality is higher among Hispanic babies (6.47 per 1,000) than non-Hispanic babies (4.39 per 1,000).<sup>liv</sup>

## Child Health and Wellbeing

**Primary and Preventative Health.** In NEICAC's Early Head Start program, few children are up-to-date on primary and preventative health care at enrollment. NEICAC's services help to significantly increase those rates and there is improvement by the end of the program year. In Head Start, the rates are high and stable from enrollment to the end of the program year (Table 33).

**Table 33. Percent of NIECAC Head Start/Early Head Start Children Up-to-Date on Age-Appropriate Preventative and Primary Health Care (EPSDT) (2018-2019)<sup>lv</sup>**

Program Option	At Enrollment	End of Enrollment Year
Early Head Start	36.5% (46 out of 126)	82.5% (104 out of 126)
Head Start	91.2% (228 out of 250)	95.2% (238 out of 250)

<sup>24</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>25</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

NEICAC administrators attribute these successes, in part, to Head Start/Early Head Start nurses and home visitors who conduct outreach and follow up with families and provide assistance accessing care (e.g., transportation). NEICAC also leverages community partnerships to support children's health screenings and help families overcome barriers to care due to the lack of availability of pediatric providers and far distance necessary to travel to access care. For example, ISmiles is a pediatric dental provider that comes on site to Head Start/Early Head Start centers to provide routine preventative care. Other barriers to accessing pediatric care – such as lack of providers who accept Medicaid – continue to present challenges for families to use local health care providers to meet their families' health needs.

Table 34 describes the percent of children ages 2-years-old and ages 13-15 who are up-to-date on age-appropriate immunizations. Vaccination coverage is lowest in Chickasaw, Clayton, and Fayette Counties, particularly for young children.

**Table 34. Immunization Rate by Age Group and Geographic Area (2019)<sup>lvi,26</sup>**

Geographic Area	2-year-olds up to date on 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series <sup>27</sup>	13-15 year olds up-to-date on 3:1:2:1:2 series <sup>28</sup>
Allamakee County	67.0%	85.1%
Bremer County	89.5%	82.6%
Chickasaw County	60.3%	86.3%
Clayton County	58.1%	60.4%
Fayette County	62.3%	82.0%
Howard County	70.3%	79.8%
Winneshiek County	73.8%	78.3%
Iowa	66.0%	79.0%

NEICAC administrators report there is a shortage of health providers across the service area. Families have difficulty securing appointments with providers locally and may have to travel outside of their area to access services.

Obesity and Chronic Diseases. Indicators from the NEICAC 2018-2019 Head Start PIR Report show that the majority of enrolled children are at a healthy weight. Yet, out of 250 Head Start children served during the 2018-2019 program year, 38 children (15.2%) were classified as overweight and 40 children (16.0%) classified as obese, a combined overweight and obesity rate of 32.2%.<sup>lvii</sup>

PIR data demonstrate that the overweight and obesity rates among Head Start children are above the obesity rate among 2-4 year old WIC participants in Iowa (15.2%) and the obesity rate of children 10-17 years old (15.3%).<sup>lviii</sup>

The primary chronic health condition experienced by Early Head Start children is hearing difficulties and vision problems. In Head Start, the primary chronic health conditions are vision problems, anemia, hearing difficulties, asthma, and high lead levels. Few children have other chronic health issues.<sup>lix</sup>

While limited data is available on pediatric chronic health conditions locally, asthma incidence data – as measured by emergency department visits for treatment – are high in Allamakee, Fayette, and Winneshiek Counties (Table 35).

<sup>26</sup> Rates less than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>27</sup> 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Varicella and 4 PCV

<sup>28</sup> 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Meningococcal, 2 MMR, 1 Td/Tdap, and 2 Varicella

**Table 35. Treatment for Asthma for Children 0-4 by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>ix,29</sup>**

Geographic Area	ED Visits Rate (per 100,000)	Hospitalization Rate (per 100,000)
Allamakee County	62.57	*
Bremer County	41.07	*
Chickasaw County	*	*
Clayton County	*	*
Fayette County	63.18	*
Howard County	*	*
Winneshiek County	67.26	*
Iowa	49.07	7.36

\*Data suppressed

Child Abuse and Neglect. In NEICAC's service area, the rate of child abuse and neglect has been increasing in Iowa in recent years, as it has been in much of the service area. Within counties in the service area, rates are highest in Allamakee County and Clayton County (Table 36).

**Table 36. Rate of Child Abuse and Neglect (per 1,000) by Geographic Area and Year (2016-2018)<sup>ixi, 30</sup>**

Geographic Area	2016	2017	2018	Three-Year Trend
Allamakee County	9.8	12.1	13.8	Increasing
Bremer County	5.0	6.5	7.2	Increasing
Chickasaw County	9.9	9.9	8.2	Fluctuating
Clayton County	8.0	9.5	12.4	Increasing
Fayette County	11.3	15.9	11.7	Fluctuating
Howard County	15.9	18.7	13.6	Fluctuating
Winneshiek County	4.7	6.5	10.5	Increasing
Iowa	12.2	12.9	15.8	Increasing

When exploring child abuse characteristics by county, it is evident that large portions of child abuse cases involve young children, particularly in Clayton and Fayette Counties (Table 37). In most counties in the service area, the most frequent types of abuse are neglect, physical abuse, and dangerous substance. In Fayette and Howard Counties, however, the presence of illicit drugs in a child's system is one of the most frequent types of abuse. This aligns with concerning data on adult substance abuse challenges in these counties.

**Table 37. Child Abuse Characteristics by Geographic Area (2020)<sup>lxii</sup>**

Geographic Area	Number of Unique Cases <sup>31</sup> of Confirmed or Founded Abuse (Age 0-18)	% of Total Cases Age 5 or Younger	Top Three Most Frequent Types of Abuse
Allamakee County	23	30.4%	Neglect Dangerous substance Allow access to obscene materials
Bremer County	38	39.5%	Neglect Dangerous substance Physical abuse
Chickasaw County	36	30.6%	Neglect Physical abuse Dangerous substance
Clayton County	24	45.8%	Neglect Dangerous substance Physical abuse

<sup>29</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>30</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>31</sup> Per the Iowa Department of Human Services, each child abuse report may have multiple children indicated, and a single child may have more than one abuse report in a given year. "Unique cases" indicates only the most adverse outcome for the child during the calendar year.

Geographic Area	Number of Unique Cases <sup>31</sup> of Confirmed or Founded Abuse (Age 0-18)	% of Total Cases Age 5 or Younger	Top Three Most Frequent Types of Abuse
Fayette County	87	44.8%	Neglect Dangerous substance Presence of illicit drugs in child's system
Howard County	16	37.5%	Neglect Dangerous substance Presence of illicit drugs in child's system; sexual abuse; mental injury
Winneshiek County	19	42.1%	Neglect Dangerous substance Physical abuse
Iowa		47.0%	Neglect Dangerous substance Presence of illicit drugs in child's system

## Nutrition

Healthy nutrition is a critical factor for children's healthy development, particularly given high rates of childhood obesity in NEICAC's service area. While there are no low-income and low access census tracts (food deserts) in NEICAC's service area, there are families that face food insecurity. The food insecurity rate in the service area ranges from 7% in Bremer County to 10% in Fayette County, consistent with the statewide rate. Access to healthy foods is most limited in Howard County (Table 38).

**Table 38. Food Access by Geographic Area (2015 & 2018)**<sup>lxiii, 32</sup>

Geographic Area	Food Environment Index <sup>33</sup>	% Limited Access to Healthy Foods	% Food Insecurity
Allamakee County	9.0	2%	8%
Bremer County	9.4	2%	7%
Chickasaw County	8.8	5%	8%
Clayton County	8.9	1%	9%
Fayette County	8.7	2%	10%
Howard County	8.0	12%	9%
Winneshiek County	9.0	3%	8%
Iowa	8.5	6%	10%

NEICAC reports consistently making referrals to local food pantries, located in each of the counties in the service area. NEICAC operates food pantries in Howard, Bremer, and Winneshiek County. Still, access challenges persist; while other NEICAC service area counties have food pantries, many have limited days and hours per week that they are open.

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch. Nutrition needs are also evident in the high rates of free and reduced lunch in school districts in the service area. Table 39 describes the percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch by school district. Rates are highest in Allamakee and Fayette Counties. Also indicated in Table 39, Postville School District is the only district in the service area that is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The CEP provision allows school districts to provide meals to all students, regardless of their family's economic status.

<sup>32</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>33</sup> The Food Environment Index ranges from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) and equally weights two indicators of the food environment: limited access to healthy food and food insecurity. Rates lower than the statewide rate (worse) are highlighted.

**Table 39. Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch by School District (2019-2020)**<sup>lxiv,34</sup>

Geographic Area	School District	Percent of K-12 Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch <sup>35</sup>	CEP (Yes, No)
Allamakee	Allamakee	43.5%	No
	Eastern Allamakee	37.9%	No
	Postville	100.0%	Yes
Bremer	Denver	13.5%	No
	Janesville	19.0%	No
	Sumner-Fredericksburg	32.4%	No
	Tripoli	43.1%	No
	Wapsie Valley	16.4%	No
	Waverly-Shell Rock	23.2%	No
Chickasaw	Nashua-Plainfield	39.4%	No
	New Hampton	35.6%	No
Clayton	Central	34.8%	No
	Edgewood-Colesburg	36.3%	No
	Clayton Ridge	40.4%	No
	MFL Marmac	38.1%	No
Fayette	North Fayette Valley	38.4%	No
	Oelwein	64.2%	No
	Starmont	48.2%	No
	West Central	53.9%	No
Howard	Howard-Winneshiek	49.1%	No
	Riceville	42.3%	No
Winneshiek	Decorah	24.4%	No
	South Winneshiek	36.2%	No
	Turkey Valley	35.2%	No
Iowa		42.4%	n/a

**WIC and SNAP.** In NEICAC's service area, two WIC agencies serve families (Table 40).

**Table 40. WIC Centers by County**<sup>lxv</sup>

Geographic Area	WIC Agency	WIC Centers
Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties	Visiting Nurse Association - Dubuque (Region 42)	Visiting Nurse Association – Clayton County
Bremer and Chickasaw Counties ( <i>in addition to Grundy, Black Haw, Buchanan, and Benton Counties</i> )	Operation Threshold (Region 43)	Operation Threshold WIC, Main Office, Waterloo

The percent of children birth to age 4 participating in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program has remained relatively stable in recent years (Table 41). The highest rates of participation are in Allamakee County and Fayette County, which aligns with the counties that have the highest rates of free and reduced-price lunch eligibility in public school districts.

<sup>34</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>35</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 41. Percent of Children (0-4) Enrolled in the WIC Program by Year and Geographic Area (2016-2018)**<sup>lxvi,36</sup>

Geographic Area	2016	2017	2018	Three-Year Trend
Allamakee County	36.0%	35.7%	33.3%	Fluctuating
Bremer County	12.2%	10.7%	10.5%	Decreasing
Chickasaw County	15.0%	14.8%	11.8%	Decreasing
Clayton County	16.8%	18.0%	17.4%	Fluctuating
Fayette County	21.4%	22.4%	22.0%	Fluctuating
Howard County	18.0%	17.1%	17.8%	Fluctuating
Winneshiek County	14.4%	16.3%	13.0%	Fluctuating
Iowa	26.5%	26.9%	25.9%	Fluctuating

NEICAC administrators report decreasing participation in WIC among Head Start/Early Head Start families. To assist families to enroll in WIC, NEICAC brings local WIC agencies on site at Head Start/Early Head Start centers.

Further, in recent years, the number of families receiving food assistance (SNAP) decreased across the service area. This is consistent with the statewide trend in Iowa (Table 42).

**Table 42. Percent of Families Receiving Food Assistance (SNAP) by Year and Geographic Area (2016-2018)**<sup>lxvii,37</sup>

Geographic Area	2016	2017	2018	Three-Year Trend
Allamakee County	10.6%	10.2%	9.6%	Decreasing
Bremer County	5.5%	5.2%	4.8%	Decreasing
Chickasaw County	8.2%	7.4%	6.8%	Decreasing
Clayton County	7.6%	7.2%	6.3%	Decreasing
Fayette County	13.3%	13.0%	12.3%	Decreasing
Howard County	8.2%	7.4%	6.7%	Decreasing
Winneshiek County	5.1%	4.8%	4.7%	Decreasing
Iowa	12.1%	11.6%	10.9%	Decreasing

In early 2020, there was a sharp increase in the number of food assistance recipients in Iowa. From February to May 2020, the number of recipients rose 14% statewide.<sup>lxviii</sup> The number of food assistance recipients, by month and by county, is described in Table 43. From late 2020 to early 2021, the number of food assistance recipients was stable.

**Table 43. Number of Food Assistance (SNAP) Recipients by Month (2020-2021)**<sup>lxix</sup>

Geographic Area	November 2020	December 2020	January 2021	February 2021
Allamakee County	942	939	938	988
Bremer County	1,118	1,103	1,053	1,062
Chickasaw County	651	647	624	632
Clayton County	1,049	1,001	1,004	1,001
Fayette County	2,273	2,252	2,225	2,263
Howard County	573	574	567	568
Winneshiek County	808	795	778	779
Iowa	304,885	299,550	295,582	297,232

<sup>36</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>37</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.



Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows sustained increases in food insecurity statewide in Iowa due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During fall/winter 2020, approximately 8-11% of adults living in households with children reported that they sometimes or often did not have enough food to eat *prior to the pandemic*. The percent of adults living in households with children who reported that they sometimes or often did not have enough food to eat *during the pandemic* rose to 13-16%.<sup>lxx,lxxi</sup>

Further echoing this data, NEICAC's 2021 agency-wide Community Needs Assessment found that NEICAC staff reported food access as the top need among agency clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Social and Economic Factors Impacting Wellbeing

### Home Value and Affordability

Home value and affordability vary across the service area, with median home value ranging from \$104,100 in Fayette County to \$177,300 in Winneshiek County (Table 44). Median monthly owner and renter costs vary as well, though they are lower than the statewide average across all counties in the service area with the exception of owner costs in Winneshiek and Bremer Counties.

**Table 44. Median Home Value and Costs by Geographic Area (2019)** <sup>lxxii</sup>

Geographic Area	Median Home Value <sup>38</sup>	Median Owner Costs	Median Rent
Allamakee County	\$130,400	\$1,228	\$620
Bremer County	\$165,700	\$1,280	\$661
Chickasaw County	\$119,100	\$1,071	\$630
Clayton County	\$121,700	\$1,136	\$648
Fayette County	\$104,100	\$1,000	\$612
Howard County	\$107,100	\$1,024	\$622
Winneshiek County	\$177,300	\$1,310	\$702
Iowa	\$147,800	\$1,260	\$789

The vacant housing rate ranges from 3.4% in Winneshiek County to 14.5% in Howard County. Within counties, rental vacancy rate is as low as 0.0% in many zip codes in the service area (Table 45). A low rate of vacant housing means there is less housing available to renters.

Also described in Table 45, the rental cost burden in the service area is high. It is highest in Fayette and Winneshiek Counties as well as within highlighted zip codes within counties. A high rental cost burden can strain a family's finances and make it difficult to sustain stable housing and have enough income available to support other expenses (food, medical care, etc.).

**Table 45. Housing Characteristics by Geographic Area (2019)** <sup>lxxiii</sup>

Geographic Area	Rental Vacancy Rate <sup>39</sup>	Households Spending 30% or More of Monthly Income on Rent <sup>40</sup>	Households Spending 35% or More of Monthly Income on Rent <sup>41</sup>
52140 (Dorchester)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
52146 (Harpers Ferry)	17.3%	25.0%	2.3%
52151 (Lansing)	15.0%	50.0%	1.3%
52160 (New Albin)	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
52162 (Postville)	6.9%	33.4%	4.8%

<sup>38</sup> Values lower than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>39</sup> Rates less than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>40</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>41</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

Geographic Area	Rental Vacancy Rate <sup>39</sup>	Households Spending 30% or More of Monthly Income on Rent <sup>40</sup>	Households Spending 35% or More of Monthly Income on Rent <sup>41</sup>
52170 (Waterville)	7.5%	35.0%	3.2%
52172 (Waukon)	10.2%	41.0%	7.6%
Allamakee County	9.0%	34.6%	4.4%
50622 (Denver)	25.0%	47.5%	1.0%
50631 (Frederika)	n/a	n/a	n/a
50647 (Janesville)	0.0%	27.5%	2.8%
50666 (Plainfield)	0.0%	25.5%	7.0%
50668 (Readlyn)	0.0%	37.9%	0.0%
50647 (Sumner)	14.7%	13.9%	1.4%
50676 (Tripoli)	0.0%	28.8%	1.9%
50677 (Waverly)	5.7%	45.5%	3.0%
Bremer County	9.2%	39.2%	2.5%
50603 (Alta Vista)	10.5%	9.1%	1.5%
50630 (Fredericksburg)	6.0%	22.2%	3.0%
50645 (Ionia)	6.8%	17.0%	1.1%
50658 (Nashua)	11.3%	29.6%	4.2%
50659 (New Hampton)	6.6%	41.6%	4.8%
52154 (Lawler)	12.3%	58.3%	3.1%
Chickasaw County	8.1%	35.0%	4.0%
52042 (Edgewood)	20.3%	27.4%	9.2%
52043 (Elkader)	5.2%	38.8%	11.1%
52044 (Elkport)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
52047 (Farmersburg)	0.0%	35.1%	1.5%
52048 (Garber)	0.0%	6.3%	2.5%
52049 (Garnavillo)	11.9%	27.1%	4.1%
52052 (Guttenberg)	4.2%	26.2%	4.4%
52066 (North Buena Vista)	0.0%	50.0%	15.6%
52072 (Saint Olaf)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
52076 (Strawberry Point)	9.7%	42.2%	6.1%
52077 (Volga)	0.0%	45.5%	2.5%
52156 (Luana)	0.0%	40.0%	1.4%
52157 (McGregor)	11.0%	51.4%	4.7%
52159 (Monona)	6.2%	45.6%	3.5%
Clayton County	7.7%	34.8%	5.4%
50606 (Arlington)	9.6%	32.0%	3.7%
50655 (Maynard)	22.4%	28.6%	1.6%
50662 (Oelwein)	14.9%	58.9%	7.4%
50664 (Oran)	n/a	n/a	0.0%
50681 (Westgate)	12.5%	33.3%	1.1%
52135 (Clermont)	0.0%	86.7%	2.9%
52141 (Elgin)	9.1%	28.8%	7.3%
52142 (Fayette)	16.7%	46.5%	5.2%
52147 (Hawkeye)	6.6%	28.2%	0.5%
52164 (Randalia)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
52169 (Wadena)	0.0%	22.7%	1.4%
52171 (Waucoma)	0.0%	6.5%	2.5%
52175 (West Union)	14.0%	39.5%	6.6%
Fayette County	13.1%	45.1%	5.1%
50466 (Riceville)	0.0%	30.9%	8.2%
50628 (Elma)	9.7%	38.8%	5.8%
52134 (Chester)	0.0%	33.3%	3.2%
52136 (Cresco)	15.6%	24.0%	6.1%
52155 (Lime Springs)	7.5%	52.4%	2.0%

Geographic Area	Rental Vacancy Rate <sup>39</sup>	Households Spending 30% or More of Monthly Income on Rent <sup>40</sup>	Households Spending 35% or More of Monthly Income on Rent <sup>41</sup>
Howard County	14.5%	26.7%	5.5%
52101 (Decorah)	1.1%	48.6%	4.0%
52132 (Calmar)	11.1%	32.7%	2.3%
52133 (Castalia)	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%
52144 (Fort Atkinson)	0.0%	50.0%	1.0%
52161 (Osian)	7.9%	16.5%	1.0%
52165 (Ridgeway)	0.0%	13.9%	0.6%
Winneshiek County	3.4%	45.7%	3.4%
Iowa	6.5%	43.1%	5.8%

In addition to challenges with homelessness (described in the Eligible Children and Pregnant Women section), other factors also impact housing stability and affordability. In Iowa, the percent of households that are experiencing severe housing problems is 12%. In the service area, the rate is equal to or less than the statewide rate and is highest in Allamakee County (Table 46).

**Table 46. Percentage of Households with at Least 1 of 4 Housing Problems<sup>42</sup> by Geographic Area (2013-2017)<sup>lxv</sup>**

Geographic Area	Percent of households experiencing at least 1 of 4: Overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen, lack of plumbing
Allamakee County	12%
Bremer County	8%
Chickasaw County	8%
Clayton County	11%
Fayette County	10%
Howard County	11%
Winneshiek County	9%
Iowa	12%
Top U.S. Performers	9%

## Income Inequality

In the Head Start/Early Head Start service area, median household income is below the statewide rate in Allamakee, Clayton, and Howard Counties (Table 47).

**Table 47. Median Household Income by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>lxv,43</sup>**

Geographic Area	Median Household Income
52140 (Dorchester)	\$52,216
52146 (Harpers Ferry)	\$46,898
52151 (Lansing)	\$54,583
52160 (New Albin)	\$53,676
52162 (Postville)	\$45,781
52170 (Waterville)	\$55,278
52172 (Waukon)	\$61,250
Allamakee County	\$49,819
50622 (Denver)	\$81,563
50631 (Frederika)	n/a
50647 (Janesville)	\$81,563
50666 (Plainfield)	\$79,880
50668 (Readlyn)	\$75,795
50647 (Sumner)	\$71,250

<sup>42</sup> Overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities

<sup>43</sup> Rates lower than the countywide rate are highlighted.

Geographic Area	Median Household Income
50676 (Tripoli)	\$67,734
50677 (Waverly)	\$66,447
<b>Bremer County</b>	<b>\$69,485</b>
50603 (Alta Vista)	\$52,639
50630 (Fredericksburg)	\$58,092
50645 (Ionia)	\$61,000
50658 (Nashua)	\$61,111
50659 (New Hampton)	\$62,963
52154 (Lawler)	\$59,583
<b>Chickasaw County</b>	<b>\$60,523</b>
52042 (Edgewood)	\$59,236
52043 (Elkader)	\$48,490
52044 (Elkport)	\$75,833
52047 (Farmersburg)	\$54,375
52048 (Garber)	\$58,214
52049 (Garnavillo)	\$61,354
52052 (Guttenberg)	\$52,366
52066 (North Buena Vista)	\$31,250
52072 (Saint Olaf)	\$66,094
52076 (Strawberry Point)	\$53,197
52077 (Volga)	\$67,500
52156 (Luana)	\$48,462
52157 (McGregor)	\$41,815
52159 (Monona)	\$49,932
<b>Clayton County</b>	<b>\$53,152</b>
50606 (Arlington)	\$50,577
50655 (Maynard)	\$56,154
50662 (Oelwein)	\$43,219
50664 (Oran)	n/a
50681 (Westgate)	\$62,250
52135 (Clermont)	\$51,750
52141 (Elgin)	\$54,583
52142 (Fayette)	\$40,179
52147 (Hawkeye)	\$60,625
52164 (Randalia)	\$69,750
52169 (Wadena)	\$71,964
52171 (Waucoma)	\$61,447
52175 (West Union)	\$53,065
<b>Fayette County</b>	<b>\$60,523</b>
50466 (Riceville)	\$51,146
50628 (Elma)	\$57,070
52134 (Chester)	\$51,042
52136 (Cresco)	\$53,939
52155 (Lime Springs)	\$59,167
<b>Howard County</b>	<b>\$55,060</b>
52101 (Decorah)	\$66,647
52132 (Calmar)	\$53,218
52133 (Castalia)	\$67,500
52144 (Fort Atkinson)	\$69,128
52161 (Osian)	\$70,682
52165 (Ridgeway)	\$62,500
<b>Winnebago County</b>	<b>\$65,263</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>\$60,523</b>

Within counties, there is a wide range of median household income by zip code as described in the above table. This income inequality is further described in Table 48. A higher income inequality ratio indicates greater division between the top and bottom ends of the income spectrum. The greatest income inequality in the service area is in Allamakee County and Fayette County.

**Table 48. Income Inequality by Geographic Area (2015-2019)<sup>lxxvi</sup>**

Geographic Area	80 <sup>th</sup> percentile income	20 <sup>th</sup> percentile income	Income Ratio <sup>44</sup>
Allamakee County	\$96,824	\$23,283	4.2
Bremer County	\$119,975	\$32,202	3.7
Chickasaw County	\$101,670	\$29,250	3.5
Clayton County	\$94,643	\$24,692	3.8
Fayette County	\$91,790	\$23,800	3.9
Howard County	\$98,667	\$30,153	3.3
Winneshiek County	\$107,966	\$29,093	3.7
Iowa			4.2
Top U.S. Performers			3.7

Many families depend on a wide range of social services to support their families, including subsidized child care, cash assistance, and WIC. Public assistance is described in the Eligible Children and Families section.

### Community Safety and Incarceration

In NEICAC's service area, the rate of reported violent crime offenses is low compared to the statewide rate. The exception is Bremer County, where the rate of violent crime offenses is 378 per 100,000, well above the statewide rate, 282 per 100,00 (Table 49).

**Table 49. Number of Reported Violent Crime Offenses (per 100,000) by Geographic Area (2014-2016)<sup>lxxvii,45</sup>**

Geographic Area	Violent Crime Rate
Allamakee County	39
Bremer County	378
Chickasaw County	173
Clayton County	60
Fayette County	279
Howard County	63
Winneshiek County	43
Iowa	282

Bremer County similarly stands out in juvenile arrest data. Bremer County and Fayette County have a rate of juvenile arrests that is greater than the statewide rate (Table 50).

**Table 50. Rate of Juvenile Arrests (per 1,000) by Geographic Area (2018)<sup>lxxviii,46</sup>**

Geographic Area	Juvenile Arrest Rate
Allamakee County	26
Bremer County	45
Chickasaw County	*
Clayton County	11
Fayette County	39
Howard County	23
Winneshiek County	15
Iowa	37

<sup>44</sup> A higher inequality ratio indicates greater division between the top and bottom ends of the income spectrum.

<sup>45</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted. Per County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, violent crimes are defined as offenses that involve face-to-face confrontation between a victim and a perpetrator, including homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Crimes are counted in the county where they are committed.

<sup>46</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

The adult incarceration rate in Iowa is 568 per 100,000, low compared to the nationwide rate of 698 per 100,000 people. There are approximately 18,000 Iowa residents incarcerated, most of whom (50.0%) are in state prisons, while 23.9% are in local jails, and 20.6% are in federal prisons. The incarceration rate in Iowa has increased dramatically in recent decades and has stabilized in more recent years. There are significant racial and ethnic disparities in the incarcerated population, which may suggest inequities in the criminal justice system. The incarceration rate by race/ethnicity is: White – 324 per 100,000, Hispanic – 692 per 100,000, American Indian/Alaska Native – 2,274 per 100,000 and Black – 3,473 per 100,000.<sup>lxxix</sup>

## Technology

In NEICAC's service area, a majority of counties have rates of household access to broadband internet access that is less than the statewide rate (Table 51). Allamakee County has one of the lowest rates of access among counties in Iowa, where rates range from 65% to 89%.

**Table 51. Percent of Households with Broadband Internet Connection by Geographic Area (2015-2019)<sup>lxxx,47</sup>**

Geographic Area	Percent of Households
Allamakee County	72%
Bremer County	83%
Chickasaw County	76%
Clayton County	74%
Fayette County	76%
Howard County	73%
Winneshiek County	82%
Iowa	81%

The shift to engaging in services remotely during the pandemic may have further revealed limited access to broadband Internet services for families. Recognizing that cost may also be a factor to access, NEICAC administrators report purchasing and offering families “hot spots” and providing direct financial assistance for Internet access costs to address technological challenges, such as access to the Internet. NEICAC administrators also report that most families have access to smartphones to access program materials online, and few families have sought financial or technological assistance to address barriers to Internet access or devices.

<sup>47</sup> Rates less than the statewide rate are highlighted.

## EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE, AND TRANSPORTATION



### Labor Force, Industries, and Occupations

In NEICAC's service area, the percent of the population in the labor force ranges from 62.8% in Fayette County to 70.0% in Winneshiek County. The percent of the population in the labor force is consistent with the statewide rate in many counties in the service area (Table 52). Also described in Table 52, many young children have both parents in the labor force, more than 70% across the service area and as high as 100% in some communities.

**Table 52. Percent of the Population in Labor Force (Age 16+) by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>lxxxi,48</sup>**

Geographic Area	Population Age 16+	Living in Households with Children Under Age 6, All Parents in the Family in the Labor Force
52140 (Dorchester)	63.5%	77.4%
52146 (Harpers Ferry)	43.3%	100.0%
52151 (Lansing)	57.2%	54.1%
52160 (New Albin)	73.1%	95.7%
52162 (Postville)	66.6%	45.6%
52170 (Waterville)	58.6%	100.0%
52172 (Waukon)	68.2%	82.0%
Allamakee County	63.4%	70.7%
50622 (Denver)	69.1%	60.3%
50631 (Frederika)	n/a	n/a
50647 (Janesville)	66.4%	93.2%
50666 (Plainfield)	70.3%	100.0%
50668 (Readlyn)	68.7%	73.1%
50647 (Sumner)	70.7%	95.0%
50676 (Tripoli)	69.5%	85.1%
50677 (Waverly)	65.6%	76.4%
Bremer County	67.4%	79.2%
50603 (Alta Vista)	59.3%	12.2%
50630 (Fredericksburg)	63.1%	70.6%
50645 (Ionia)	60.2%	59.5%
50658 (Nashua)	66.3%	89.3%
50659 (New Hampton)	73.7%	84.6%
52154 (Lawler)	72.2%	94.4%
Chickasaw County	69.1%	81.0%
52042 (Edgewood)	62.7%	49.4%
52043 (Elkader)	58.7%	95.0%
52044 (Elkport)	75.0%	100.0%
52047 (Farmersburg)	68.5%	48.6%
52048 (Garber)	63.2%	69.4%
52049 (Garnavillo)	66.4%	73.3%
52052 (Guttenberg)	62.7%	70.1%
52066 (North Buena Vista)	43.1%	100.0%
52072 (Saint Olaf)	78.9%	47.7%
52076 (Strawberry Point)	67.7%	84.7%
52077 (Volga)	60.9%	100.0%
52156 (Luana)	79.0%	88.0%
52157 (McGregor)	58.6%	100.0%

<sup>48</sup> Rates greater than the countywide rate are highlighted.



Geographic Area	Population Age 16+	Living in Households with Children Under Age 6, All Parents in the Family in the Labor Force
52159 (Monona)	69.9%	73.8%
Clayton County	65.3%	71.6%
50606 (Arlington)	60.0%	50.0%
50655 (Maynard)	68.4%	41.7%
50662 (Oelwein)	57.3%	70.5%
50664 (Oran)	54.3%	100.0%
50681 (Westgate)	68.6%	58.3%
52135 (Clermont)	70.8%	100.0%
52141 (Elgin)	59.7%	69.1%
52142 (Fayette)	54.6%	87.5%
52147 (Hawkeye)	71.0%	75.0%
52164 (Randalia)	70.6%	57.5%
52169 (Wadena)	63.9%	64.7%
52171 (Waucoma)	70.5%	100.0%
52175 (West Union)	66.8%	78.0%
Fayette County	62.8%	72.7%
50466 (Riceville)	61.3%	40.3%
50628 (Elma)	57.6%	41.5%
52134 (Chester)	62.7%	78.0%
52136 (Cresco)	71.6%	86.2%
52155 (Lime Springs)	66.5%	66.7%
Howard County	67.8%	68.7%
52101 (Decorah)	70.0%	94.1%
52132 (Calmar)	68.6%	82.8%
52133 (Castalia)	64.5%	89.5%
52144 (Fort Atkinson)	67.9%	100.0%
52161 (Osian)	70.2%	100.0%
52165 (Ridgeway)	82.7%	93.5%
Winnebago County	70.0%	93.5%
Iowa	67.3%	75.1%

Labor force data speaks to the need for child care services for families, as many communities have a high percentages of families in which all parents are in the workforce. Considering the poverty rates in communities (described within Service Area Demographics) with labor force data suggests that many families are employed in low paying jobs.

Individuals are employed in a variety of occupations and industries, and a majority of individuals are private wage and salary workers.<sup>lxxxii</sup>

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, using Census-defined occupation categories, the top occupations across the service area are management, business, science, and arts occupations; sales and office occupations; and production, transportation, and material moving occupations (Table 53). Allamakee County also has a high rate of individuals employed in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations. The top industries across the service area are manufacturing, retail trade, educational services, and health care and social assistance (Table 54).

**Table 53. Percentage of the Employed Workforce (Age 16+) by Occupation and Geographic Area (2019)** lxxxiii,<sup>49</sup>

Occupation	Allamakee County	Bremer County	Chickasaw County	Clayton County	Fayette County	Howard County	Winnebago County	Iowa
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	28.8%	36.0%	29.0%	28.1%	29.9%	30.9%	34.3%	36.2%
Service occupations	14.8%	16.1%	14.6%	16.8%	17.9%	14.4%	16.3%	16.3%
Sales and office occupations	19.2%	20.0%	18.8%	17.1%	19.3%	16.7%	19.4%	20.7%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	18.1%	9.8%	14.7%	12.9%	11.8%	14.3%	12.2%	9.5%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	19.1%	18.1%	22.9%	25.2%	21.1%	23.6%	17.7%	17.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 54. Percentage of the Employed Workforce (Age 16+) by Industry and Geographic Area (2019)** lxxxiv,<sup>50</sup>

Industry	Allamakee County	Bremer County	Chickasaw County	Clayton County	Fayette County	Howard County	Winnebago County	Iowa
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	10.1%	3.5%	9.1%	11.1%	8.6%	8.6%	8.4%	3.7%
Construction	9.8%	5.6%	6.7%	7.6%	7.0%	6.9%	7.7%	6.4%
Manufacturing	12.6%	19.6%	26.4%	19.9%	14.2%	23.5%	14.7%	14.9%
Wholesale trade	3.1%	2.4%	3.8%	3.0%	3.4%	2.3%	3.4%	2.8%
Retail trade	13.7%	10.8%	9.5%	11.7%	11.3%	7.5%	9.7%	11.6%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	5.8%	3.9%	4.0%	4.3%	4.8%	3.2%	4.1%	4.9%
Information	0.4%	1.1%	0.4%	0.9%	1.2%	0.6%	1.1%	1.6%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	3.3%	7.7%	3.7%	4.0%	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%	7.7%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	4.0%	4.6%	3.9%	5.1%	4.4%	5.6%	3.7%	7.3%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	25.3%	29.3%	21.1%	21.0%	26.2%	26.3%	30.4%	24.4%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	4.5%	5.2%	3.9%	6.5%	6.0%	3.7%	6.5%	7.4%
Other services, except public administration	3.4%	4.1%	3.6%	2.9%	5.4%	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%
Public administration	4.0%	2.3%	3.8%	2.1%	2.6%	3.2%	2.0%	3.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

<sup>49</sup> Top three occupations highlighted for each county.<sup>50</sup> Top three industries highlighted for each county.

## Employment

According to data on unemployment, NEICAC offers services in a geographic area where most counties have an unemployment rate higher than the statewide rate, as highlighted in Table 55.

**Table 55. Unemployment Rate by Geographic Area and Month/Year (2019-2020)**<sup>lxxxv,51</sup>

Date	Allamakee County	Bremer County	Chickasaw County	Clayton County	Fayette County	Howard County	Winneshiek County	Iowa
Jan. 2020	5.5%	3.1%	4.5%	6.6%	5.2%	4.1%	5.0%	3.6%
Feb. 2020	5.1%	2.6%	4.0%	6.4%	4.6%	3.9%	4.3%	3.2%
March 2020	5.6%	3.0%	4.4%	6.4%	5.1%	4.3%	4.6%	3.5%
April 2020	10.3%	8.8%	12.4%	11.0%	10.4%	11.2%	10.7%	11.0%
May 2020	6.8%	6.9%	5.8%	7.6%	7.4%	5.3%	6.7%	8.3%
June 2020	5.8%	5.2%	5.0%	6.1%	6.8%	4.5%	6.5%	7.3%
July 2020	4.7%	4.3%	4.1%	5.0%	6.2%	4.2%	5.3%	5.9%
August 2020	3.6%	3.2%	3.9%	3.9%	4.5%	3.2%	3.6%	4.9%
Sept. 2020	3.1%	2.8%	2.0%	3.7%	3.8%	2.9%	3.0%	4.2%
October 2020	2.4%	2.1%	3.6%	2.7%	3.2%	2.8%	2.6%	3.4%
Nov. 2020	3.2%	2.5%	2.8%	3.4%	3.7%	2.7%	2.9%	3.7%
Dec. 2020	4.6%	3.0%	3.4%	5.2%	4.7%	3.8%	4.0%	4.1%
Jan. 2021	6.3%	3.6%	4.2%	7.3%	5.9%	5.1%	5.8%	4.8%
Feb. 2021	6.9%	3.7%	4.7%	7.6%	5.9%	5.7%	6.0%	5.0%
March 2021	5.9%	3.4%	4.1%	6.6%	5.1%	4.8%	5.3%	4.4%

A majority of NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start families have at least one parent who is employed, but not to the same degree as the larger population. Approximately 20% of families served are single-parent families in which the parent is not working (Table 56). Data highlight a potential need for job coaching and job search supports in the community.

**Table 56. NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start Families Employment Status (2018-2019)**<sup>lxxxvi</sup>

Program	Two Parent Households			Single-Parent Households		Total Number of Families
	Both employed	One employed	Both not working	Employed	Not working	
Early Head Start	24 (26.1%)	30 (32.6%)	6 (6.5%)	12 (13.0%)	20 (21.7%)	92 (60 two-parent; 32 single-parent)
Head Start	56 (24.6%)	45 (19.7%)	10 (4.4%)	74 (32.5%)	43 (18.9%)	228 (111 two-parent; 117 single-parent)

Across the service area, the unemployment rate was elevated at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment rates saw a sharp increase from March 2020 to April 2020. This coincides with the issuance of a state-at-home guidance for Iowa residents. Recovery in employment rates took place mid-2020, though unemployment rates remain above the statewide rate across counties in the service area, with the exception of Bremer and Chickasaw Counties.

NEICAC administrators reflect that local employers express difficulty recruiting and hiring employees. Fewer applications are submitted for jobs than in the past; NEICAC has experienced this as well when seeking to fill open positions. There are many factors that could be impacting recruitment and hiring challenges, some of which may be due to the impact of COVID, and others that may be due to population changes such as an increasing number of retirees in the service area.

<sup>51</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

In Iowa, the COVID-19 pandemic had substantial impact on the number of jobs. The greatest percent decrease in job loss – from January 2020 to January 2021 – was in Leisure and Hospitality (-18.1%). This includes Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (-26.0%) and Accommodation and Food Service (-16.7%).<sup>lxxxvii</sup>

As described in Table 57, the numbers of jobs in counties in the service area have declined more than the statewide rate, from January 2020 to January 2021, in Allamakee, Clayton, and Winneshiek Counties.

**Table 57. Total Non-Farm Jobs by Month/Year and Geographic Area**<sup>lxxxviii,52</sup>

Geographic Area	January 2020	April 2020	July 2020	October 2020	January 2021	% Change Jan. 2020 to Jan. 2021
Allamakee County	4,821	4,523	4,574	4,687	4,571	-5.2%
Bremer County	*	*	*	*	*	*
Chickasaw County	4,631	4,314	4,431	4,629	4,513	-2.5%
Clayton County	6,291	5,877	6,350	6,334	5,911	-6.0%
Fayette County	7,302	7,080	6,536	7,379	7,135	-2.3%
Howard County	3,896	3,702	3,933	3,858	3,771	-3.2%
Winneshiek County	10,281	9,046	9,689	10,462	9,575	-6.9%
Iowa						-4.9%

\*Data unavailable

NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start service area is part of two Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) Regions. IWDs are designated throughout the state to better interpret data and identify workforce development activities. Activities for each region are managed by Regional Workforce Investment Boards.

<sup>lxxxix</sup>

Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties (in addition to two counties outside NEICAC's service area) are part of IWD Region 1. The one-stop service center in Region 1 is located in Dubuque, Dubuque County. Bremer County is located in IWD Region 7, in addition to four counties outside of NEICAC's service area. The one-stop service center in Region 7 is located in Waterloo, Black Hawk County.<sup>xc</sup>

Table 58 describes the top ten major private industry employers by IWD. Manufacturing and health services industries are well represented, which aligns with occupational and industry data for the service area.

**Table 58. Top Ten Major Private Industry Employers (Listed Alphabetically) by IWD**<sup>xi</sup>

IWD Region	Name of Company	Industry
IWD Region 1	Agri Star	Manufacturing
	Agriprocessors Inc.	Manufacturing
	Eagle Window & Door Manufacturing, Inc.	Retail Trade
	IBM	Manufacturing
	John Deere Dubuque Works	Utilities
	Luther College	Educational Services
	Mercy Medical Center, Dubuque	Health Services
	Prudential Retirement	Finance and Insurance
	Unity Point Health-Finley Hospital	Health Services
	WS Live	Professional Services
IWD Region 7	CBE Group Inc.	Administrative & Support
	Covenant Convenient Care	Health Services
	Covenant Medical Center	Health Services
	CUNA Mutual Group	Finance & Insurance
	Ertch Cabinet Manufacturing, Inc.	Manufacturing

<sup>52</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

IWD Region	Name of Company	Industry
	John Deere Waterloo Operations	Manufacturing
	Omega Cabinetry	Manufacturing
	Tyson Fresh Meats	Manufacturing
	Unity Point Health-Allen Hospital	Health Services
	Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare	Health Services

Looking ahead, Iowa Workforce Development projections through 2028 indicate that no formal education or high school diploma or equivalent will be required for the top job openings in the service area. Some jobs (heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, phlebotomists) will require a post-secondary non-degree award, and few will require a bachelor's or advanced degree (Table 59). The projected top job openings align with the occupations in which NEICAC administrators report many families are employed: manufacturing and farming, health services, and service occupations.

**Table 59. 2018-2028 Occupational Projections by IWD<sup>xvii</sup>**

IWD Region	Top Five Projected Occupations by Increase in Number of Jobs <i>Career Preparation</i>	Top Five Projected Occupations by Percent Annual Increase <i>Career Preparation</i>
IWD Region 1	Personal Care Aides (+415) <i>High school diploma or equivalent</i>	Home Health Aides (+3.3%) <i>High school diploma or equivalent</i>
	Registered Nurses (+360) <i>Bachelors degree</i>	Taxi Drivers & Chauffeurs (+3.3%) <i>No formal education</i>
	Food Preparation and Service Workers, including Fast Food (+335) <i>No formal education</i>	Personal Care Aides (+3.3%) <i>High school diploma or equivalent</i>
	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers (+215) <i>Post-secondary non-degree award</i>	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary (+2.9%) <i>Doctoral or Professional Degree</i>
	Janitors and Cleaners (+170) <i>No formal education</i>	Phlebotomists (+2.9%) <i>Post-secondary non-degree award</i>
IWD Region 7	Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers, Handlers (+540)	Physical Therapist Assistants (+3.3%) <i>Associate's degree</i>
	Registered Nurses (+366) <i>Bachelors degree</i>	Personal Care Aides (+3.3%) <i>High school diploma or equivalent</i>
	Food Preparation and Service Workers, including Fast Food (+295) <i>No formal education</i>	Nurse Practitioners (+3.3%) <i>Master's degree</i>
	Personal Care Aides (+280) <i>High school diploma or equivalent</i>	Phlebotomists (+3.1%) <i>Post-secondary non-degree award</i>
	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers (+255) <i>Post-secondary non-degree award</i>	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary (+2.9%) <i>Doctoral or Professional Degree</i>

## Education and Training

There are educational opportunities within and outside the service area that are accessible to service area residents, discussed further in the Resources Available in the Community to Meet the Needs of Eligible Children and Families section of this report.

Training opportunities vary within the service area. Community and technical schools provide trades training to students in the service area; however these opportunities are limited. And, as noted above, while regional IWDs provide workforce support in all counties in Iowa, they are sparsely located; only one is located within NEICAC's service area, Decorah in Winneshiek County.

Workforce support is also provided by Goodwill Industries of Northeast Iowa (Goodwill) through their Hire Performance program. This program collaborates with public and private employers to make connections to prospective employees and provides skill building and guidance to evaluate and support new employees.

At NEICAC, the TEACH program provides financial assistance for Head Start/Early Head Start staff members to increase their educational attainment in the early childhood field.

Engaging in education and training opportunities can be limited by some of the factors described above related to obtaining and maintaining employment. Child care, transportation, distance, and scheduling (e.g., the time of day classes may be offered) are all challenges that may be experienced by families interested in engaging in education and training opportunities.<sup>xciii</sup>

## Transportation

Public Transportation. Public transportation is not widely available in NEICAC's service area, leading to transportation challenges for families.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) administers federal and state transit grants and provides technical assistance to Iowa's 19 urban public transit systems and 16 regional public transit systems. Every county in Iowa is served by a regional system. Transit systems coordinate with human services agencies to implement transportation services.<sup>xciv</sup>

NEICAC provides transportation services to Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties (Region 1) through its EARL Transit Program. This door-to-door transportation service is open to the public and is ADA compliant to serve individuals with disabilities.<sup>xcv</sup>

The Iowa Northland Regional Transit Commission (RTC) Service Area serves Bremer and Chickasaw Counties, in addition to Buchanan, Butler, and Grundy Counties. Like EARL Transit Program, RTC provides door-to-door transportation service that is open to the public, including individuals with disabilities.<sup>xcvi</sup>

Some communities within the service area, particularly the town of Decorah in Winneshiek, and parts of Bremer and Chickasaw Counties, are served by cab and ride-sharing services. NEICAC administrators report that public transit is unaffordable for some families, and transportation funding assistance is necessary for families to regularly access those services.

Access to Vehicles. The percent of the population with limited access to personal vehicles varies within the service area and is consistent with or lower than the statewide rate (Table 60). In some communities, as highlighted in the table, rates are much higher. Households without a vehicle (and households with one vehicle for two working parents) have to rely more heavily on alternative transportation such as sharing vehicles or relying on limited public transportation.

**Table 60. Households with No Vehicle Available by Geographic Area (2019)** <sup>xcvii,53</sup>

Geographic Area	Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available
52140 (Dorchester)	0.0%
52146 (Harpers Ferry)	2.3%
52151 (Lansing)	1.3%
52160 (New Albin)	2.1%
52162 (Postville)	4.8%
52170 (Waterville)	3.2%
52172 (Waukon)	7.6%
Allamakee County	4.4%
50622 (Denver)	1.0%
50631 (Frederika)	n/a
50647 (Janesville)	2.8%
50666 (Plainfield)	7.0%
50668 (Readlyn)	0.0%
50647 (Sumner)	1.4%
50676 (Tripoli)	1.9%
50677 (Waverly)	3.0%
Bremer County	2.5%
50603 (Alta Vista)	1.5%
50630 (Fredericksburg)	3.0%
50645 (Ionia)	1.1%
50658 (Nashua)	4.2%
50659 (New Hampton)	4.8%
52154 (Lawler)	3.1%
Chickasaw County	4.0%
52042 (Edgewood)	9.2%
52043 (Elkader)	11.1%
52044 (Elkport)	0.0%
52047 (Farmersburg)	1.5%
52048 (Garber)	2.5%
52049 (Garnavillo)	4.1%
52052 (Guttenberg)	4.4%
52066 (North Buena Vista)	15.6%
52072 (Saint Olaf)	0.0%
52076 (Strawberry Point)	6.1%
52077 (Volga)	2.5%
52156 (Luana)	1.4%
52157 (McGregor)	4.7%
52159 (Monona)	3.5%
Clayton County	5.4%
50606 (Arlington)	3.7%
50655 (Maynard)	1.6%
50662 (Oelwein)	7.4%
50664 (Oran)	0.0%
50681 (Westgate)	1.1%
52135 (Clermont)	2.9%
52141 (Elgin)	7.3%
52142 (Fayette)	5.2%
52147 (Hawkeye)	0.5%
52164 (Randalia)	0.0%
52169 (Wadena)	1.4%
52171 (Waucoma)	2.5%
52175 (West Union)	6.6%

<sup>53</sup> Percentages higher than the countywide rate are highlighted.

Geographic Area	Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available
Fayette County	5.1%
50466 (Riceville)	8.2%
50628 (Elma)	5.8%
52134 (Chester)	3.2%
52136 (Cresco)	6.1%
52155 (Lime Springs)	2.0%
Howard County	5.5%
52101 (Decorah)	4.0%
52132 (Calmar)	2.3%
52133 (Castalia)	0.0%
52144 (Fort Atkinson)	1.0%
52161 (Osian)	1.0%
52165 (Ridgeway)	0.6%
Winneshiek County	3.4%
Iowa	5.8%

Most residents in the service area drive themselves to work in their own cars (Table 61), adding to the cost of living for the area. Commute times vary within counties in the service area (Table 62) and are relatively low (consistent with the statewide rate). Winneshiek County stands out with an exceptionally high percent of individuals that walk to work, nearly 15%, which may reflect the culture and accessibility of the county.

**Table 61. Transportation to Work by Geographic Area (2019)** <sup>xcviii,54</sup>

Geographic Area	Car, truck, or van: drove alone	Car, truck, or van: carpooled	Public transportation	Walked	Other means	Worked from home
Allamakee County	76.8%	9.5%	0.1%	4.6%	1.7%	7.2%
Bremer County	80.4%	6.6%	0.4%	6.0%	0.6%	6.9%
Chickasaw County	80.8%	7.9%	0.4%	3.5%	1.7%	5.7%
Clayton County	78.9%	8.3%	0.1%	3.9%	1.7%	7.0%
Fayette County	78.3%	8.4%	0.3%	4.5%	1.5%	7.0%
Howard County	74.2%	10.1%	1.0%	6.2%	1.4%	7.3%
Winneshiek County	68.2%	5.4%	0.0%	14.8%	1.7%	9.9%
Iowa	81.1%	8.3%	1.1%	3.3%	1.4%	4.9%

**Table 62. Mean Travel Time to Work by Geographic Area (2019)** <sup>xcix,55</sup>

Geographic Area	Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)
Allamakee County	23.3
Bremer County	20.7
Chickasaw County	19.7
Clayton County	22.1
Fayette County	19.1
Howard County	19.2
Winneshiek County	18.3
Iowa	19.3

Availability, reliability, and affordability of vehicles may be barriers to transportation for Head Start/Early Head Start families. To help address families' transportation barriers, NEICAC coordinates with public school districts to provide transportation to a majority of children enrolled in the Head Start program. Many Head Start sites are located within public school buildings, creating efficiencies for transportation services.

<sup>54</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>55</sup> Values greater than the countywide rate are highlighted.



Exceptions to local school districts providing transportation to Head Start children are Decorah School District (due to widespread need from community-based preschools) and Waverly, in which NEICAC's Head Start classrooms are not located within a public school building. NEICAC provides direct transportation for children enrolled at these sites. Additionally, public schools are not permitted to transport 3-year-old children, creating challenges for families with children this age.

## Work and Training Schedules

While specific work and training schedules of families in the service area are not readily available, the top industries in the service area suggest a variety of schedules. With a mix of service occupations, manufacturing jobs, and education options, it can reasonably be assumed that some individuals work traditional business hours while others may have second or third shift employment.

## ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN



To be eligible to participate in Head Start or Early Head Start, children must meet the age requirement of 0-2 years old for Early Head Start or 3-5 years old for Head Start. Children are eligible to receive Head Start or Early Head Start services if they meet one or more of the eligibility requirements: their family has an income at or below the federal poverty level, the family is eligible for public assistance (e.g., TANF, SSI), the child is homeless, the child is in foster care, or the child has a disability.

Table 63 provides estimated numbers of eligible children in the service area by primary eligibility type as compared to the current number of children served by NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program. Primary eligibility captures only one factor by which a child is eligible for services, and many children have needs that fall into multiple categories.

**Table 63. Estimated Number of Children in Service Area Eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start Services Compared to the Number of Head Start/Early head Start Children Currently Served by NEICAC (based on primary eligibility)<sup>56</sup>**

Eligibility Criteria	Number of Eligible Children (Ages 0-5) Currently Served by NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start <sup>c</sup>	Total Number of Eligible Children (Ages 0-5)
Income-eligible children	195 (66 EHS, 129 HS)	681
Income-eligible pregnant women	9 (9 EHS)	138
Children experiencing homelessness	6 (2 EHS, 4 HS)	>7
Children in foster care	9 (1 EHS, 8 HS)	77
Children receiving public assistance	63 (17 EHS, 46 HS)	<1,052
Children with disabilities	68 (19 EHS, 49 HS)	<256
Over income/Exceeding over income	103 (40 EHS, 63 HS)	n/a

<sup>56</sup> The source for each of the data points in this table will be described throughout the report.

## Child Poverty and Geographic Location

In NEICAC's service area, the rate of child poverty (0-18) ranges from 2.3% in Bremer County to 29.8% in Howard County. The child poverty rate in Howard County is more than double the statewide rate (Table 64).

**Table 64. Child Poverty by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>ci,57</sup>**

Geographic Area	Child Poverty Rate (2019)
Allamakee County	13.9%
Bremer County	2.3%
Chickasaw County	12.6%
Clayton County	13.8%
Fayette County	6.1%
Howard County	29.8%
Winneshiek County	9.2%
Iowa	13.8%

There are an estimated total of 681 children birth to age 5 in NEICAC's service area who are eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start services based on having a family income at or below the federal poverty level (Table 65).

**Table 65. Poverty Rate and Number of Children Under Age 5 Living in Poverty by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>cii,58</sup>**

Geographic Area	Poverty Rate for Children <5 Years Old	Number of Children <5 Years Old	Number of Children <5 Living in Poverty	Number of Children <3 Living in Poverty
52140 (Dorchester)	0.0%	31	0	0
52146 (Harpers Ferry)	0.0%	34	0	0
52151 (Lansing)	7.9%	89	7	4
52160 (New Albin)	10.3%	39	4	2
52162 (Postville)	43.8%	336	147	88
52170 (Waterville)	46.2%	26	12	7
52172 (Waukon)	5.3%	393	21	13
Allamakee County	16.7%	939	157	94
50622 (Denver)	3.3%	212	7	4
50631 (Frederika)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
50647 (Janesville)	4.0%	100	4	2
50666 (Plainfield)	0.0%	48	0	0
50668 (Readlyn)	24.0%	75	18	11
50647 (Sumner)	4.3%	279	12	7
50676 (Tripoli)	2.4%	165	4	2
50677 (Waverly)	5.2%	621	32	19
Bremer County	5.1%	1,434	73	44
50603 (Alta Vista)	0.0%	28	0	0
50630 (Fredericksburg)	12.4%	105	13	8
50645 (Ionia)	0.0%	45	0	0
50658 (Nashua)	10.9%	137	15	9
50659 (New Hampton)	3.9%	335	13	8
52154 (Lawler)	7.8%	51	4	2
Chickasaw County	7.8%	715	56	34

<sup>57</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>58</sup> Rates greater than the countywide rate are highlighted.

Geographic Area	Poverty Rate for Children <5 Years Old	Number of Children <5 Years Old	Number of Children <5 Living in Poverty	Number of Children <3 Living in Poverty
52042 (Edgewood)	0.0%	158	0	0
52043 (Elkader)	4.6%	65	3	2
52044 (Elkport)	0.0%	4	0	0
52047 (Farmersburg)	44.1%	34	15	9
52048 (Garber)	14.3%	35	5	3
52049 (Garnavillo)	0.0%	83	0	0
52052 (Guttenberg)	0.0%	132	0	0
52066 (North Buena Vista)	0.0%	2	0	0
52072 (Saint Olaf)	0.0%	36	0	0
52076 (Strawberry Point)	5.7%	106	6	4
52077 (Volga)	0.0%	40	0	0
52156 (Luana)	8.7%	46	4	2
52157 (McGregor)	28.2%	71	20	12
52159 (Monona)	6.8%	133	9	5
Clayton County	9.6%	920	88	53
50606 (Arlington)	5.0%	40	2	1
50655 (Maynard)	21.1%	38	8	5
50662 (Oelwein)	15.5%	316	49	29
50664 (Oran)	0.0%	7	0	0
50681 (Westgate)	8.3%	12	1	1
52135 (Clermont)	0.0%	18	0	0
52141 (Elgin)	1.6%	129	2	1
52142 (Fayette)	40.6%	32	13	8
52147 (Hawkeye)	0.0%	22	0	0
52164 (Randalia)	30.0%	40	12	7
52169 (Wadena)	0.0%	15	0	0
52171 (Waucoma)	28.6%	21	6	4
52175 (West Union)	17.2%	274	47	28
Fayette County	14.3%	1,063	152	91
50466 (Riceville)	14.6%	103	15	9
50628 (Elma)	21.4%	103	22	13
52134 (Chester)	23.1%	39	9	5
52136 (Cresco)	12.1%	307	37	22
52155 (Lime Springs)	33.3%	66	22	13
Howard County	15.0%	601	90	54
52101 (Decorah)	8.3%	544	45	27
52132 (Calmar)	3.5%	114	4	2
52133 (Castalia)	11.8%	17	2	1
52144 (Fort Atkinson)	0.0%	48	0	0
52161 (Osian)	0.0%	78	0	0
52165 (Ridgeway)	0.0%	24	0	0
Winneshiek County	7.8%	831	65	39
Service Area Total	10.5%	6,503	681	409

The poverty rate for children under age 5 is greatest in Howard County and Fayette County, while Allamakee County and Fayette County have the highest number of income-eligible children. Combined, these two counties account for approximately 45% of income-eligible children in the service area.

There are exceptionally high rates of young children living in poverty in Postville and Waterville in Allamakee County as well as certain zip codes throughout the service area. This illustrates pockets of need within counties. In some zip codes, while population is small, poverty rates are very high. NEICAC administrators report high demand for Head Start/Early Head Start services in Postville (Allamakee County) and Oelwein (Fayette

County), where data show high numbers of eligible children. NEICAC administrators also report that families often enroll their children for services where the family works (e.g., centrally located, more populous towns), rather than where the family lives. This is an important factor to consider when examining need for Head Start/Early Head Start services by geographic location.

The number of income-eligible pregnant women in the service area can be estimated based on data for live births and poverty. As described in Table 66, the greatest numbers of live births in the service area are in Bremer County and Fayette County. Based on the poverty rate of children under age 5-years-old and the number of live births per year, it is estimated that there are 138 income-eligible pregnant women in the service area, with the highest number in Allamakee and Fayette Counties.

**Table 66. Income-eligible Pregnant Women**

Geographic Area	Poverty Rate for Children <5 Years Old <sup>ciii</sup>	Number of Live Births per Year (2018) <sup>div</sup>	Number of Income-Eligible Pregnant Women <sup>59</sup>
Allamakee County	16.7%	196	33
Bremer County	5.1%	273	14
Chickasaw County	7.8%	147	12
Clayton County	9.6%	165	16
Fayette County	14.3%	219	31
Howard County	15.0%	111	17
Winneshiek County	7.8%	186	15
Service Area Total	10.5%	1,297	138

## Race and Ethnicity of Eligible Children in Poverty

Data for the number of young children living in poverty by race is not readily accessible from public sources. As described in the Overview of Service Area section, there are disparities with regard to poverty rate and race. Poverty rates are highest among Black individuals, individuals of two or more races, and Hispanic individuals.

NEICAC serves a population of children enrolled in its Head Start/Early Head Start program that mirrors diversity of the general population.

## Language of Eligible Children

The primary language of individuals in NEICAC's service area is English. Table 67 describes the percent of people over the age of 5 in the service area, by language spoken at home and county of residence.

**Table 67. Language Spoken at Home (Age 5 and Over) by Geographic Area and Percentage of Population (2019)<sup>cv, 60</sup>**

Geographic Area	English	Spanish	Other Indo-European	Asian and Pacific Island	Other
Allamakee County	88.7%	6.0%	4.0%	0.2%	1.1%
Bremer County	97.5%	0.7%	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%
Chickasaw County	94.2%	2.7%	3.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Clayton County	94.0%	2.0%	2.6%	0.3%	1.2%
Fayette County	96.8%	1.8%	1.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Howard County	95.9%	0.6%	3.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Winneshiek County	96.5%	1.7%	1.1%	0.4%	0.3%
Iowa	91.7%	4.2%	1.7%	1.6%	0.7%

<sup>59</sup>Calculated by applying the poverty rate for children under age 5 in each of the counties in the service area to the number of live births per year.

<sup>60</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

During the 2018-2019 program year, a majority of families of children enrolled in Head Start spoke English as their primary language at home (89.6%). Spanish was the next most common language spoken at home by enrolled families (9.2%). A majority of Head Start/Head Start staff members speak English as their primary language, with few staff members also speaking Spanish.<sup>cvii</sup> The linguistic diversity of Head Start/Early Head Start families is consistent with rates within the service area.

## Cultural Trends

The percent of the population in the counties in the service area that is foreign born is small. In all of the counties in the service area (Table 68), it is equal to or less than the statewide rate of 5.3%. Most foreign-born individuals in the service area were born in Latin America or Asia; fewer individuals are from Africa, European countries, or other areas of the world.<sup>cvii</sup>

**Table 68. Foreign-Born Population by Geographic Area (2019)**<sup>cviii, 61</sup>

Geographic Area	Percent Foreign-Born	Percent of Foreign-Born Population that is non-US Citizen	Predominant Region of Birthplace of Foreign-Born Population
Allamakee County	5.3%	55.8%	Asia (20.0%), Africa (16.6%), Latin America (7.2%), Europe (6.3%), Oceania (0.0%), Northern America (0.0%)
Bremer County	1.4%	53.4%	Asia (53.7%), Latin America (19.5%), Africa (17.8%), Europe (6.2%), Northern America (2.8%), Oceania (0.0%)
Chickasaw County	1.7%	72.7%	Latin America (88.0%), Asia (7.2%), Africa (3.8%), Northern America (1.0%), Europe (0.0%), Oceania (0.0%)
Clayton County	2.6%	53.5%	Latin America (31.4%), Africa (31.2%), Asia (13.5%), Europe (13.1%), Northern America (10.8%), Oceania (0.0%)
Fayette County	0.9%	63.0%	Latin America (27.7%), Europe (27.2%), Asia (27.2%), Africa (16.8%), Oceania (1.1%), Northern America (0.0%)
Howard County	0.8%	55.1%	Asia (51.3%), Africa (24.4%), Latin America (24.4%), Europe (0.0%), Oceania (0.0%), Northern America (0.0%)
Winneshiek County	1.9%	67.3%	Asia (37.4%), Europe (26.5%), Latin America (19.8%), Africa (14.2%), Northern America (2.1%), Oceania (0.0%)
Iowa	5.3%	60%	Latin America (36.6%), Asia (36.4%), Africa (13.0%), Europe (11.5%), Northern America (1.5%), Oceania (0.9%)

<sup>61</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

## Children Experiencing Homelessness

In Iowa, in January 2019, there were an estimated 2,315 individuals experiencing homelessness on any given day. This includes 227 family households, 149 Veterans, 146 unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24), and 340 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.<sup>cix</sup>

Precise data on the number of young children experiencing homelessness in Iowa is not readily available, however, there are data sources that describe the extent and characteristics of homelessness for children and youth in the communities.

In Iowa, many homeless children enrolled in public schools are unaccompanied homeless youth or children with disabilities. There is also a high number of homeless students who are limited English proficient (Table 69).

**Table 69. Subgroups of Homeless Children/Youth Enrolled in Public Schools in Iowa (2018-2019)<sup>cx</sup>**

Subgroup Type	Number of Homeless Children/Youth
Migratory children/youth	109
Unaccompanied homeless youth	1,101
Children with disabilities	1,672
Limited English proficient (LEP) students	767

As described in Table 70, the most common living arrangement of homeless children enrolled in public school is doubled up (e.g., living with a friend or another family). NEICAC administrators reflect that families living doubled up is a common trend within the service area.

**Table 70. Percentage of Homeless Children/Youth Enrolled in Public Schools in Iowa by Primary Nighttime Residence (2018-2019)<sup>cx</sup>**

Primary nighttime residence	Percentage of Homeless Children/Youth (Prek-12)
Doubled up (e.g., living with another family)	70.8%
Hotels/motels	8.3%
Shelters, transitional housing, awaiting foster care	19.2%
Unsheltered	1.7%

In NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program, a total of 8 families served experienced homelessness during the 2018-2019 program year, representing a small portion of total families served (Table 71).<sup>cxii</sup>

**Table 71. Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness During the 2018-2019 Program Year<sup>cxiii</sup>**

Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness	Early Head Start	Early Head Start
Total number of children experiencing homelessness served during the program year	1 (<1% total enrollment)	6 (2.4% of total enrollment)
Total number of families experiencing homelessness that were served during the program year	2	6
Total number of families experiencing homelessness that were served during the program year	0	3

Since precise numbers of homeless children ages 0 to 5 is not available for the service area counties, it is estimated that the number of homeless children who are eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services is greater than seven.

There are many factors that impact families' housing status, one of which is eviction. Data show low rates of eviction filings and evictions in the service area, below the statewide rate (Table 72).

**Table 72. Eviction Data by Geographic Area (2016)<sup>cxiv</sup>**

Geographic Area	Eviction Rate <sup>62</sup>	Number of Evictions	Eviction Filing Rate <sup>63</sup>	Number of Eviction Filings
Allamakee County	0.99%	14	1.27%	18
Bremer County	1.08%	23	1.36%	29
Chickasaw County	0.84%	9	1.68%	18
Clayton County	0.69%	13	0.85%	16
Fayette County	0.87%	20	1.52%	35
Howard County	1.87%	16	2.34%	20
Winneshiek County	0.24%	5	0.44%	9
Iowa	2.01%	7,358	3.97%	14,520

NEICAC serves as a vital resource to families experiencing homelessness in the service area. As a provider of crisis assistance, NEICAC serves families experiencing homelessness through rental assistance programs and provides support to identify and maintain housing. Homeless shelters are very limited within the service area, and therefore support to families experiencing homelessness to maintain housing is essential.

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds established a moratorium on evictions and foreclosure early in the pandemic; however, these protections expired last year, in May 2020.<sup>cxv</sup> In Iowa, renters are still protected from eviction by the federal CARES Act eviction moratorium. CDC's Emergency Order, *Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19*, is in place until June 30, 2021; in October 2020, the Iowa Supreme Court issued guidance that evictions for tenants covered by the moratorium (nonpayment of rent) must be postponed until after June 30, 2021.<sup>cxvi</sup>

The eventual expiration of eviction protections (anticipated in summer 2021) may cause some families to face eviction from their residences. Repayment barriers and challenges agreeing upon a repayment schedule could also make it difficult for families to maintain affordable housing.

## Children in Foster Care

In Iowa, the rate of children in foster care has been stable in recent years, 9 per 1,000 children.<sup>cxvii</sup> As described in Table 73, the number of children in foster care in the service area fluctuated between 2018 and 2020. Fayette County accounts for approximately 42% of all children in foster care in the service area.

**Table 73. Number of Children (0-18) in Foster Care by Year and Geographic Area (2020)<sup>cxviii</sup>**

Geographic Area	2018	2019	2020	Three-Year Trend
Allamakee County	21	24	14	Fluctuating
Bremer County	30	33	20	Fluctuating
Chickasaw County	24	24	12	Decreasing
Clayton County	17	21	16	Fluctuating
Fayette County	51	73	73	Increasing
Howard County	21	19	16	Decreasing
Winneshiek County	28	29	24	Fluctuating
Service Area Total	192	223	175	Fluctuating

Eight percent of children in foster care in Iowa are less than 1-year-old. Children ages 1 to 5-years-old make up 36% of children in foster care.<sup>cxix</sup> Table 74 describes the number of children in foster care by age group. There are an estimated 14 infants (less than 1-year-old) in foster care, and 63 toddlers and preschool-age

<sup>62</sup> Number of evictions per 100 renter homes

<sup>63</sup> Number of eviction filings per 100 renter homes

children. Total, there are an estimated 77 total foster children birth to age 5-years-old who are categorically eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services.

**Table 74. Number of Children in Foster Care by Geographic Area (2018)**

Geographic Area	Number of Children (0-18) <sup>cxx</sup>	Number of Children < Age 1 <sup>64</sup>	Number of Children Age 1-5 <sup>65</sup>	Total Children in Foster Care Birth to Age 5
Allamakee County	14	1	5	6
Bremer County	20	2	7	9
Chickasaw County	12	1	4	5
Clayton County	16	1	6	7
Fayette County	73	6	26	32
Howard County	16	1	6	7
Winneshiek County	24	2	9	11
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>77</b>

High rates of children in foster care correspond with substance abuse challenges in Fayette County along with high rates of child abuse and neglect, further described in the Needs of Eligible Children and Families section.

During the 2018-2019 program year, NEICAC served 14 children who were in foster care at any point during the program year (3 EHS, 11 HS) (3.7% of total enrollment). In Early Head Start, the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) referred one child to the program, and in Head Start nineteen children were referred by DHS.<sup>cxxi</sup> NEICAC administrators reflect on the importance of engaging biological and foster families to support children in foster care, a common practice in the agency's Head Start/Early Head Start program.

## Children with Disabilities

In NEICAC's service area there are a total of approximately 256 children ages birth to 5-years-old with an identified disability. This includes 149 children between the age of birth and 3-years-old, and 107 children 3- to 5-years-old.

Early ACCESS is Iowa's statewide early intervention program, providing services to children birth to age 3 with developmental disabilities and their families. Area Education Agencies (AEAs) are responsible for implementation of early intervention. Keystone AEA (AEA Region 1) serves Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties. All counties in the service area, with the exception of Bremer County, are located in the Keystone AEA. Bremer County is served by the Central Rivers AEA (AEA Region 7), which also serves a wide surrounding geographic area.

Table 75 describes the number of children receiving early intervention services by AEA as well as the percent and number of children receiving initial services within 30 days of receiving an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The timeline for initial services is consistent with the statewide rate. The percent of children birth to age 3 with an IFSP is slightly less in the AEAs serving NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start service area than it is statewide.

<sup>64</sup> Calculated by multiplying the number of children in foster care (ages 0-18) by 8%.

<sup>65</sup> Calculated by multiplying the number of children in foster care (ages 0-18) by 36%.



**Table 75. Number and Percentage of Children (Age 0-3) Receiving Early Intervention Services by Area Education Agency (AEA) Region (2018-2019)<sup>cxxii</sup>**

Geographic Area	Number of Children Birth of Age 3 with IFSP	% and # of Children Receiving Initial Services within 30 days of IFSP	Percent of Children Birth of Age 3 with IFSP
Keystone AEA (AEA Region 1): Includes Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties	68	91.18% 62 out of 68	2.31%
Central Rivers AEA (AEA Region 7): Includes Bremer County	81	86.42% 70 out of 81	2.46%
Iowa		87.26%	2.59%
Service Area Total	<149		

The Iowa Department of Education administers Part B funding, implemented by local school districts, for special education services for preschool age children (children ages 3 to 5 years). The percent of students with disabilities (K-12) as well as the number of 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities, by school district, is described in Table 76. As highlighted in Table 26, about half of the school districts in the service area are serving high percentages of students with disabilities; the highest rate, 20%, is in Oelwein School District in Fayette County.

**Table 76. Number of Preschool Age Children (Ages 3 to 5) with IEP By School District (2020-2021)<sup>cxxiii</sup>**

Geographic Area	School District	Percent of Students (K-12) with Disabilities <sup>66</sup>	Number of Preschool Children (Age 3-5) with IEP
Allamakee County	Allamakee	13%	7
	Eastern Allamakee	9%	0
	Postville	13%	6
Bremer County	Denver	8%	1
	Janesville	12%	3
	Sumner-Fredericksburg	15%	2
	Tripoli	18%	6
	Wapsie Valley	10%	5
	Waverly-Shell Rock	12%	15
Chickasaw County	Nashua-Plainfield	15%	2
	New Hampton	10%	7
Clayton County	Central	14%	1
	Edgewood-Colesburg	10%	0
	Clayton Ridge	11%	8
	MFL Marmac	14%	2
Fayette County	North Fayette Valley	17%	2
	Oelwein	20%	12
	Starmont	14%	1
	West Central	16%	4
Howard County	Howard-Winneshiek	16%	10
	Riceville	10%	6
Winneshiek County	Decorah	13%	5
	South Winneshiek	15%	1
	Turkey Valley	12%	1
Iowa		13%	
Service Area Total			107

NEICAC administrators report having partnerships in place with AEAs to support the identification and referral of children birth to age 3 with suspected and diagnosed disabilities. These partnerships – focused on early

<sup>66</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

identification – are essential to help address high rates of children with disabilities in the K-12 systems across much of the service area. Further, NEICAC administrators reflect on opportunities to strengthen partnerships with local elementary schools and public school districts to streamline recruitment, referral, and service provision to children ages 3 to 5 with a disabilities; maximizing public school and Head Start settings to serve children with disabilities.

In NEICAC's Head Start program, 19.2% of the total enrollment had a diagnosed disability during the 2018-2019 program year, and the rate was 15.1% in Early Head Start (Table 77). Both rates are well above the Head Start/Early Head Start requirement that children with disabilities make up at least 10% of total enrollment.

**Table 77. Children Served by NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start with a Disability (2018-2019)<sup>cxxiv</sup>**

Program Type	Number and Percent of Enrolled Children	Primary Disability
Head Start	48 out of 250 (19.2%)	Speech or language impairments (28) Non-categorical/developmental delay (14) Emotional disturbance (3) Health impairment (1) Intellectual disability (1) Orthopedic impairment (1) Specific learning disability (1)
Early Head Start	19 out of 126 (15.1%)	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>67 out of 376 (17.8%)</b>	

The predominant disability diagnosed among preschool-age children during the 2018-2019 program year was speech or language impairment, followed by non-categorical/developmental delay. Many children with disabilities enrolled in NEICAC Head Start and Early Head Start were determined eligible for special education services prior to their participation in the program, showing the strength of local referral systems as well as NEICAC's screening procedures.

## Children Receiving Public Assistance

WIC and SNAP are the most common types of public assistance utilized by NEICAC Head Start families (Table 78).

**Table 78. Number and Percent of NEICAC Head Start and Early Head Start Families That Received Federal or Other Assistance (At Enrollment, 2018-2019)<sup>cxxv</sup>**

Program	TANF	SSI	WIC	SNAP
Early Head Start	13	9	76	30
Head Start	39	26	110	140

Many children in the service area are living in households that receive public assistance. Rates are highest in Clayton, Allamakee, and Fayette Counties, at approximately 20% of children birth to age 18. In Chickasaw County, only 9.9% of children are living in households receiving public assistance, less than half of the statewide rate (Table 79).

**Table 79. Children (0-18) Living in Households that Receive Public Assistance<sup>67</sup> by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>cxxvi,68</sup>**

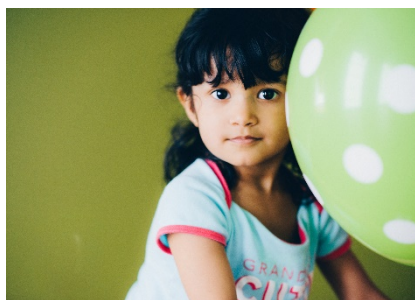
Geographic Area	Percent of Children
Allamakee County	19.9%
Bremer County	12.2%
Chickasaw County	9.9%
Clayton County	22.2%
Fayette County	21.5%
Howard County	12.2%
Winneshiek County	13.6%
Iowa	21.6%

Since Head Start/Early Head Start eligibility based on receipt of public assistance is limited to SSI or TANF, information is provided in Table 80 to serve as a proxy for estimating the number of eligible children. Based on this data, there are an estimated 1,052 children birth to age 5 in the service area living in households that receive public assistance who are eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services.

**Table 80. Estimated Number of Children Birth to Age 5 Eligible for HS/EHS Based on Receipt of Public Assistance by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>cxxvii</sup>**

Geographic Area	Percent of Children Receiving Public Assistance <sup>cxxviii</sup>	Number of Children Birth to Age 5	Number of Children Birth to Age 5 Living in Households Receiving Public Assistance <sup>69</sup>
Allamakee County	19.9%	939	187
Bremer County	12.2%	1,434	175
Chickasaw County	9.9%	715	71
Clayton County	22.2%	920	204
Fayette County	21.5%	1,063	229
Howard County	12.2%	601	73
Winneshiek County	13.6%	831	113
Service Area Total			1,052

## AGENCIES SERVING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN



### Child Care Centers and Family Child Care

NEICAC is one of several options for families within the service area. These range from center-based child care (licensed and license exempt) and Child Development Homes (registered and non-registered) to home visiting programs and state-run preschool programs.

In NEICAC's service area, there are 146 licensed child care and registered child development (RCD) home programs available to families (Table 81), with the capacity to serve 4,492 children (birth to school age), and an additional 23 license exempt and non-registered child development home programs (Table 82).

Approximately one third of the providers in the service area participate in the voluntary Quality Rating System (QRS) and 43 participate in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP).

<sup>67</sup> Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance, food stamps/SNAP

<sup>68</sup> Rates greater than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>69</sup> Estimated by applying the percent of children 0-18 living in households receiving public assistance to the population of children birth to age 5.

**Table 81. Number and Capacity (including School Age) of Licensed and Registered Child Care Programs by Type  
(as of April 2021)<sup>xxxix</sup>**

Geographic Area	Licensed Center		RCD Home A		RCD Home B		RCD Home C		Total	
	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity
52140 (Dorchester)	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	1	12
52146 (Harpers Ferry)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52151 (Lansing)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52160 (New Albin)	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	1	12
52162 (Postville)	2	130	0	0	2	24	0	0	4	154
52170 (Waterville)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52172 (Waukon)	3	190	2	16	4	48	0	0	9	254
Allamakee County	5	320	2	16	8	96	0	0	15	432
50622 (Denver)	1	191	0	0	2	24	0	0	3	215
50631 (Frederika)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50647 (Janesville)	1	117	0	0	2	24	0	0	3	141
50666 (Plainfield)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16	1	16
50668 (Readlyn)	3	84	0	0	1	12	0	0	4	96
50674 (Sumner)	1	28	0	0	4	48	0	0	5	76
50676 (Tripoli)	1	30	0	0	2	24	2	24	5	78
50677 (Waverly)	7	449	2	16	6	72	3	48	18	585
Bremer County	14	899	2	16	17	204	6	88	39	1207
50603 (Alta Vista)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50630 (Fredericksburg)	1	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	72
50645 (Ionia)	0	0	0	0	1	12	1	16	2	28
50658 (Nashua)	1	50	0	0	1	12	2	32	4	94
50659 (New Hampton)	3	114	1	8	4	48	0	0	8	170
52154 (Lawler)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickasaw County	5	236	1	8	6	72	3	48	15	364
52042 (Edgewood)	1	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	76
52043 (Elkader)	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100
52044 (Elkport)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52047 (Farmersburg)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52048 (Garber)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52049 (Garnaville)	1	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	45
52052 (Guttenberg)	2	67	0	0	0	0	1	16	3	83
52066 (North Buena Vista)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52072 (Saint Olaf)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52076 (Strawberry Point)	1	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	70
52077 (Volga)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52156 (Luana)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52157 (McGregor)	2	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	67
52159 (Monona)	2	87	0	0	1	12	0	0	3	99
Clayton County	10	512	0	0	1	12	1	16	12	540
50606 (Arlington)	2	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	83
50655 (Maynard)	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	1	12
50662 (Oelwein)	3	299	2	16	4	48	0	0	9	363
50664 (Oran)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50681 (Westgate)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52135 (Clermont)	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	1	12
52141 (Elgin)	1	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	50
52142 (Fayette)	1	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	68
52147 (Hawkeye)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52164 (Randalia)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Geographic Area	Licensed Center		RCD Home A		RCD Home B		RCD Home C		Total	
	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity
52169 (Wadena)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52171 (Waucoma)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52175 (West Union)	3	159	0	0	1	12	0	0	4	171
Fayette County	10	659	2	16	7	84	0	0	19	759
50466 (Riceville)	1	82	0	0	2	24	0	0	3	106
50628 (Elma)	1	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	34
52134 (Chester)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52136 (Cresco)	2	157	0	0	9	108	1	8	12	273
52155 (Lime Springs)	1	60	0	0	1	12	0	0	2	72
Howard County	5	333	0	0	12	144	1	8	18	485
52101 (Decorah)	6	277	0	0	11	132	1	8	17	288
52132 (Calmar)	2	105	0	0	1	12	0	0	3	117
52133 (Castalia)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52144 (Fort Atkinson)	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	1	12
52161 (Ossian)	2	111	0	0	2	24	0	0	4	135
52165 (Ridgeway)	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	1	12
52168 (Spillville)	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	1	12
Winnebago County	10	493	0	0	17	204	1	8	28	705
Service Area Total	58	3452	7	56	68	816	12	168	146	4492

**Table 82. Number and Capacity (Including School Age) of License Exempt and Non-Registered Child Care Programs by Type (as of April 2021)<sup>cxxx</sup>**

Geographic Area	License Exempt		Non-Registered Child Care Home		Total	
	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity
52140 (Dorchester)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52146 (Harpers Ferry)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52151 (Lansing)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52160 (New Albin)	1	*	0	0	1	*
52162 (Postville)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52170 (Waterville)	1	*	0	0	1	*
52172 (Waukon)	2	*	0	0	2	*
Allamakee County	4	0	0	0	4	*
50622 (Denver)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50631 (Frederika)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50647 (Janesville)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50666 (Plainfield)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50668 (Readlyn)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50674 (Sumner)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50676 (Tripoli)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50677 (Waverly)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bremer County	0	0	0	0	0	0
50603 (Alta Vista)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50630 (Fredericksburg)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50645 (Ionia)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50658 (Nashua)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50659 (New Hampton)	1	*	0	0	1	*
52154 (Lawler)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickasaw County	1	*	0	0	1	*
52042 (Edgewood)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52043 (Elkader)	2	*	0	0	2	*
52044 (Elkport)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52047 (Farmersburg)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52048 (Garber)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52049 (Garnaville)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Geographic Area	License Exempt		Non-Registered Child Care Home		Total	
	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity	Number	Capacity
52052 (Guttenberg)	3	*	0	0	3	*
52066 (North Buena Vista)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52072 (Saint Olaf)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52076 (Strawberry Point)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52077 (Volga)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52156 (Luana)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52157 (McGregor)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52159 (Monona)	1	*	0	0	1	*
Clayton County	6	*	0	0	6	*
50606 (Arlington)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50655 (Maynard)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50662 (Oelwein)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50664 (Oran)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50681 (Westgate)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52135 (Clermont)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52141 (Elgin)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52142 (Fayette)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52147 (Hawkeye)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52164 (Randalia)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52169 (Wadena)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52171 (Waucoma)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52175 (West Union)	1	*	0	0	1	*
Fayette County	1	*	0	0	1	*
50466 (Riceville)	0	0	0	0	0	0
50628 (Elma)	1	*	0	0	1	*
52134 (Chester)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52136 (Cresco)	2	*	0	0	2	*
52155 (Lime Springs)	2	*	0	0	2	*
Howard County	5	*	0	0	5	*
52101 (Decorah)	3	*	0	0	3	*
52132 (Calmar)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52133 (Castalia)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52144 (Fort Atkinson)	0	0	0	0	0	0
52161 (Ossian)	3	*	0	0	3	*
52165 (Ridgeway)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winneshiek County	6	*	0	0	6	*
Service Area	23	*	0	0	23	*

\*Data unavailable

The Iowa Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) is a voluntary child care rating system administered through the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) for DHS registered child development homes, licensed child care centers (including preschools, Head Start, Early Head Start, and afterschool programs) and child care programs that are operated by school districts. The Iowa QRS was developed to raise the quality of child care in the state, increase the number of children in high-quality child care settings, and to educate parents about quality in child care.<sup>cxxxii</sup>

Participating providers are rated between level 1 to level 5 (highest quality ranking). Level one programs must be licensed or operating under the authority of an accredited school district. Programs rated at level 2 must meet a set of specific criteria, including participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and additional self-assessments and trainings for staff. Levels 3-5 are based on a point system where additional points are earned within quality categories (Health and Safety, Environment, Family and

Community Partnership, Leadership and Administration, Professional Development). The number of child care programs participating in the QRIS in the NEICAC service area are represented by level and geographic area in Table 83.<sup>cxxxii</sup> Achievement bonuses are available for participating programs and are based on the QRS level, type of program, and number of children enrolled.

Of the programs that participate in the QRIS, the largest majority are level 4 in the QRIS system, followed by level 1. Many programs in the service area are not rated, with an approximate 33% participation rate in the QRS. NEICAC administrators report that currently the agency's programs do not participate in the QRIS. This is due to the duplicative nature of the system with HSPPS. When the state of Iowa establishes a timeline for the QRIS, NEICAC will plan to fully participate.

**Table 83. Number of Child Care Programs (License, License Exempt, Registered, Non-Registered) by Quality Rating as of (as of April 2021)<sup>cxxxiii</sup>**

Geographic Area	0 (not participating)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Total Programs*	Total Participating
Allamakee County	10 (53%)	2 (10.5%)	2 (10.5%)	2 (10.5%)	2 (10.5%)	1 (5.3%)	19 (100%)	9 (47%)
Bremer County	29 (74%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	7 (18%)	0 (0%)	39 (100%)	10 (26%)
Chickasaw County	11 (69%)	2 (13%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	2 (13%)	0 (0%)	16 (100%)	5 (31%)
Clayton County	12 (67%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (28%)	1 (6%)	18 (100%)	6 (33%)
Fayette County	16 (80%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (5%)	3 (15%)	0 (0%)	20 (100%)	4 (20%)
Howard County	16 (70%)	2 (9%)	2 (9%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	23 (100%)	7 (30%)
Winneshiek County	20 (59%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	8 (24%)	1 (3%)	34 (100%)	14 (41%)
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>114 (67%)</b>	<b>9 (5%)</b>	<b>7 (4%)</b>	<b>7 (4%)</b>	<b>28 (17%)</b>	<b>4 (2%)</b>	<b>169 (100%)</b>	<b>55 (33%)</b>

\*totals may be larger than 100% due to rounding

The Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral agencies report the percent of requests they receive by county, by the age of the children requesting care. Table 84 indicates that infant child care is a higher need in Bremer, Chickasaw, Fayette, and Winneshiek Counties; toddler care is in higher demand in Clayton and Howard Counties; care for school age children is the greatest need in Allamakee County. This is likely reflective of both the age of children and the capacity of child care, by age group, in each county.

**Table 84. Percent of Requests for Child Care by Age and County (2020)<sup>cxxxiv,70</sup>**

Geographic Area	Infant	Toddler	2 year olds	3 & 4 year olds	5 year olds	6-8 year olds
Allamakee County	17%	17%	17%	0%	17%	33%
Bremer County	36%	16%	12%	19%	3%	9%
Chickasaw County	44%	22%	17%	6%	0%	6%
Clayton County	29%	43%	14%	14%	0%	0%
Howard County	0%	60%	0%	20%	20%	0%
Fayette County	29%	0%	5%	24%	5%	19%
Winneshiek County	30%	20%	5%	15%	10%	20%

<sup>70</sup> The age category with the greatest request rate is highlighted for each county.

The number of children under 5 years old in the service area (6,503 children) exceeds total child care capacity, which is likely inflated as it includes school age capacity (4,492 slots). The child care capacity is lowest in Allamakee, Chickasaw, and Clayton Counties, where capacity ranges from 46%-59%. Allamakee County also has the greatest percentage (17%) of children in the service area, under age five, living in poverty (Table 85).

**Table 85. Number of Children Under 5 Years Old and Number of Children Under 5 Years Old Living Below Poverty Compared to Total Child Care Capacity**

Geographic Area	Number of Children < Age 5 <sup>xxxxv</sup>	Number of Children < Age 5 Living in Poverty <sup>xxxxvi</sup>	Child Care Capacity (including School Age) <sup>xxxxvii</sup>
52140 (Dorchester)	31	0	12
52146 (Harpers Ferry)	34	0	0
52151 (Lansing)	89	7	0
52160 (New Albin)	39	4	12
52162 (Postville)	336	147	154
52170 (Waterville)	26	12	0
52172 (Waukon)	393	21	254
<b>Allamakee County</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>157 (17%)</b>	<b>432 (46%)</b>
50622 (Denver)	212	7	215
50631 (Frederika)	n/a	n/a	0
50647 (Janesville)	100	4	141
50666 (Plainfield)	48	0	16
50668 (Readlyn)	75	18	96
50674 (Sumner)	279	12	76
50676 (Tripoli)	165	4	78
50677 (Waverly)	621	32	585
<b>Bremer County</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>73 (5%)</b>	<b>1207 (84%)</b>
50603 (Alta Vista)	28	0	0
50630 (Fredericksburg)	105	13	72
50645 (Ionia)	45	0	28
50658 (Nashua)	137	15	94
50659 (New Hampton)	335	13	170
52154 (Lawler)	51	4	0
<b>Chickasaw County</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>56 (8%)</b>	<b>364 (51%)</b>
52042 (Edgewood)	158	0	76
52043 (Elkader)	65	3	100
52044 (Elkport)	4	0	0
52047 (Farmersburg)	34	15	0
52048 (Garber)	35	5	0
52049 (Garnaville)	83	0	45
52052 (Guttenberg)	132	0	83
52066 (North Buena Vista)	2	0	0
52072 (Saint Olaf)	36	0	0
52076 (Strawberry Point)	106	6	70
52077 (Volga)	40	0	0
52156 (Luana)	46	4	0
52157 (McGregor)	71	20	67
52159 (Monona)	133	9	99
<b>Clayton County</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>88 (10%)</b>	<b>540 (59%)</b>
50606 (Arlington)	40	2	83
50655 (Maynard)	38	8	12
50662 (Oelwein)	316	49	363
50664 (Oran)	7	0	0
50681 (Westgate)	12	1	0



Geographic Area	Number of Children < Age 5 <sup>xxxxv</sup>	Number of Children < Age 5 Living in Poverty <sup>xxxxvi</sup>	Child Care Capacity (including School Age) <sup>xxxxvii</sup>
52135 (Clermont)	18	0	12
52141 (Elgin)	129	2	50
52142 (Fayette)	32	13	68
52147 (Hawkeye)	22	0	0
52164 (Randalia)	40	12	0
52169 (Wadena)	15	0	0
52171 (Waucoma)	21	6	0
52175 (West Union)	274	47	171
<b>Fayette County</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>152 (14%)</b>	<b>759 (71%)</b>
50466 (Riceville)	103	15	106
50628 (Elma)	103	22	34
52134 (Chester)	39	9	0
52136 (Cresco)	307	37	273
52155 (Lime Springs)	66	22	72
<b>Howard County</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>90 (15%)</b>	<b>485 (81%)</b>
52101 (Decorah)	544	45	288
52132 (Calmar)	114	4	117
52133 (Castalia)	17	2	0
52144 (Fort Atkinson)	48	0	12
52161 (Ossian)	78	0	135
52165 (Ridgeway)	24	0	12
52168 (Spillville)	0	0	12
<b>Winneshiek County</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>65 (8%)</b>	<b>705 (85%)</b>
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>6,503</b>	<b>681 (10%)</b>	<b>4492 (69%)</b>

Due to the need to implement state and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) social distancing and cleaning/sanitizing measures, along with smaller adult to child ratios and group sizes, child care providers may face substantial financial, health, and operational challenges to providing services during and following the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Home Visiting

In Iowa, the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program supports maternal, infant, and early childhood home visitation programs with the use of evidence-based home visiting models that aim to demonstrate improvements in maternal and child health, childhood injury prevention, school readiness and achievement, crime or domestic violence prevention/intervention, family economic self-sufficiency, and coordination with community resources and support.<sup>xxxxviii</sup>

The 2020 MIECHV Statewide Needs Assessment identified 26 high risk counties; in the NEICAC service area, Fayette County was included and was ranked number 25 (1 being highest risk). Currently, the MIECHV programs support 649 families located in 13 high risk counties in Iowa, all outside the NEICAC service area. All 26 high need counties operate at least one family support program and at least one evidence-based MIECHV-eligible model (in Fayette County those are the Early Head Start and Parents as Teachers models).

The Iowa Family Support Network (IFSN) is a statewide system that also supports home visiting programs that aim to provide skills related to parenting, child development, strengthening problem solving techniques and family relationships. Home visiting programs, by county, in the NEICAC service area are outlined in Table 86, by lead agency and program.

**Table 86. Home Visiting Programs by County (2021)<sup>xxxxix</sup>**

Geographic Area	Lead Agency	Program
Allamakee County	Helping Services for Northeast Iowa	Parents as Teachers
	NEICAC	Family Development & Self Sufficiency Program (FaDSS)
	NEICAC	Early Head Start
Bremer County	NEICAC	Family Development & Self Sufficiency Program (FaDSS)
	Lutheran Services in Iowa	Families Together II
	Operation Threshold	Partners for Healthy Families
	Together 4 Families	Together 4 Families
	Visiting Nursing Association – Waterloo	Homes with Healthy Children
Chickasaw County	NEICAC	Family Development & Self Sufficiency Program (FaDSS)
	Floyd, Mitchell, and Chickasaw Early Childhood Iowa Area	FMC Early Childhood Iowa Area
	Lutheran Services in Iowa	Families Together
Clayton County	NEICAC	Family Development & Self Sufficiency Program (FaDSS)
	HAWC Partnership for Children	HAWC Family Education
	Helping Services for Northeast Iowa	Parents as Teachers
	NEICAC	Early Head Start
Fayette County	NEICAC	Family Development & Self Sufficiency Program (FaDSS)
	Building Directions for Families	Building Direction for Families
	NEICAC	Early Head Start
	Parent Share And Support	Parents as Teachers
Howard County	NEICAC	Family Development & Self Sufficiency Program (FaDSS)
	HAWC Partnership for Children	HAWC Family Education
	Helping Services for Northeast Iowa	Parents as Teachers
Winneshiek County	NEICAC	Family Development & Self Sufficiency Program (FaDSS)
	HAWC Partnership for Children	HAWC Family Education
	Helping Services for Northeast Iowa	Parents as Teachers

## Publicly Funded Preschool

In Iowa, the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) is a publicly funded preschool program to provide 4-year-old children voluntary access to quality preschool curricula to promote school readiness. Three-year-old children are not served in the state-funded pre-k.

SWVPP funds support an early childhood licensed teacher responsible for designing and implementing developmentally appropriate and effective instructional strategies aligned with high quality program and learning standards, a minimum of ten hours per week of quality instruction and opportunities for family involvement. The program is offered in a variety of settings (e.g., public schools, private center-based, faith-based) and operating schedules are determined locally.<sup>cxl</sup>

In 2019-2020, Iowa's state-funded preschool program funded the enrollment of 25,330 preschool children, in 321 of its 327 school districts. The state ranks 6th for four-year old access to public quality preschool programming.<sup>cxli</sup> In the NEICAC service area, 43 schools participate in the SWVPP program; Bremer and Winneshiek Counties have the greatest number of schools participating, with ten each (Tables 87 and 88).

**Table 87. Schools Participating in SWVPP programs (2020-2021)<sup>cxlii</sup>**

School District	School	County, City, Zip Code
Allamakee Community	St. Patrick's Catholic Preschool	Allamakee County Waukon, 52172
	Growing Bear Daycare and Preschool, Inc.	Allamakee County Waukon, 52172
	West Campus Elementary School	Allamakee County Waukon, 52172
Central Community School District	Central Elementary	Clayton County Elkader, 52043
Clayton Ridge Community School District	St. Mary's Preschool	Clayton County Guttenberg, 52052
	Clayton Ridge Elementary School	Clayton County Garnavillo, 52049
Decorah	Northeast Iowa Montessori School	Winneshiek County St. Decorah, 52101
	Kinderhaus Preschool	Winneshiek County Decorah, 52101
	Nisse Preschool	Winneshiek County Decorah, 52101
	Sunflower Daycare Ctr	Winneshiek County Decorah, 52101
	St. Benedict's Preschool	Winneshiek County Decorah, 52101
	West Side Elementary School	Winneshiek County Decorah, 52101
Denver	Denver Early Elementary School	Bremer County Denver, 50622
Eastern Allamakee	New Albin Elementary School	Allamakee County New Albin, 52160
Edgewood-Colesburg	Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary School	Delaware County Colesburg, 52035
Janesville	Janesville Elementary School	Bremer County Janesville, 50647
MFL Marmac	MFL MarMac Elementary School	Clayton County Monona, 52159
Nashua-Plainfield	Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School	Chickasaw County Nashua, IA 50658
New Hampton	St Joseph Community School Sunrise Preschool	Chickasaw County New Hampton, IA 50659
	New Hampton Elementary School	Chickasaw County New Hampton, IA 50659
North Fayette Valley	Rainbow Land Daycare and Preschool	Fayette County Fayette, 52142
	Valley Elementary School	Fayette County West Union, 52175
	West Union Elementary School	Fayette County West Union, 52175
Oelwein	Little Husky Learning Center	Fayette County Oelwein, 50662
Postville	Postville Child Care Services	Allamakee County Postville, 52162

School District	School	County, City, Zip Code
Riceville	Riceville Elementary School	Howard County Riceville, 50466
South Winneshiek	St. Teresa of Calcutta - Ossian	Winneshiek County Ossian, 52161
	St. Teresa of Calcutta - Calmar	Winneshiek County Ossian, 52161
	Winneshiek Elementary School	Winneshiek County Ossian, 52161
Starmont	Starmont Elementary School	Fayette County Arlington, 50606
Sumner-Fredericksburg	Fredericksburg Elementary School	Chickasaw County Fredericksburg, 50630
	Durant Elementary School	Bremer County Sumner, 50674
Tripoli	Tripoli Elementary School	Bremer County Tripoli, 50676
Turkey Valley	Turkey Valley Elementary School	Winneshiek County Jackson Junction, 52171
Wapsie Valley	Community Lutheran Preschool	Bremer County Readlyn, 50668
	Readlyn Elementary School	Bremer County Readlyn, 50668
	Fairbank Elementary School	Buchanan County Fairbank, 50629
Waverly-Shell Rock	Discoveries Learning Center	Bremer County Waverly, 50677
	St. John Lutheran Preschool	Bremer County Waverly, 50677
	St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool	Bremer County Waverly, 50677
	Waverly Childcare and Preschool	Bremer County Waverly, 50677
	Shell Rock Elementary School	Butler County Shell Rock, IA 50670
West Central	West Central PK - 8 School	Fayette County Maynard, 50655

**Table 88. Number of Schools Participating in SWVPP programs in NEICAC Service Area by County (2020-2021)<sup>cxliii</sup>**

County	Total Number of Programs
Bremer County	10
Winneshiek County	10
Fayette County	6
Allamakee County	5
Chickasaw County	4
Clayton County	4
Butler County	1
Buchanan County	1
Delaware County	1
Howard County	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

Due to the availability of SWVPP programs in some areas, families with four-year-old children have multiple program options, which can strain NEICAC program enrollment, particularly in areas with multiple Head Start and Pre-K classrooms. NEICAC administrators report the most significant enrollment impacts are in Monona (Clayton County) and in Postville School Districts (Allamakee County), as they plan to add a Pre-K program

for 2021-2022. In areas where NEICAC maintains the strongest partnerships with the public schools, such as Waukon (Allamakee County) and Oelwein (Fayette County), the schools districts and Head Start program work collaboratively to engage parents in making the best choice for programming for their children, with the understanding that some children will be better suited for voluntary preschool and other families benefit from the comprehensive nature of Head Start programming.

## FAMILY, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY INSIGHTS



Family, staff, and community input are valuable sources of data to guide program options and services and to enhance collaborations among partners. In spring 2021, NEICAC conducted a Head Start/Early Head Start Family Survey, Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey, and Community Provider Survey as an important source of data to inform this Community Assessment. Surveys are provided in the Appendix. Responses to the surveys were collected between April 27 and May 14, 2021.

### Family Input

NEICAC conducted a Family Survey in late April/early May 2021 to gather information from Head Start/Early Head Start families about their experiences and ideas related to the Head Start/Early Head Start program. Responses to the survey were submitted by 156 parents/caregivers. This is a 53.0% response rate based on approximately 295 families served (230 Head Start, 65 Early Head Start), as reported by NEICAC. Respondents mirrored the demographic makeup of the Head Start/Early Head Start program.

Most respondents have one child enrolled in the NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start program (73.2%); 21.8% (34) have two children enrolled; and 4.5% (7) have three or more enrolled. The majority of respondents' children attend Center Based Head Start, and about a third (31.4%) report receiving Home Based Early Head Start Services. Families enrolled at all Head Start centers responded to the survey.

Many respondents live in Fayette (30.9%) and Allamakee Counties (30.2%). Additionally, families live in Clayton County (10.1%), Howard County (8.1%), Winneshiek County (6.0%), Bremer County (5.4%), Chickasaw County (4.7%), and Buchanan County (4.0%). About half of respondents work full time (55.0%); some work part-time (20.8%). 22.8% of respondents are unemployed and not enrolled in an education or training program.

Nearly all respondents are most comfortable communicating in English, 80.1%. 17.7% of respondents prefer communicating in Spanish. The majority of families prefer to receive information from NEICAC via text messages (66.0%), face-to-face (62.6%), Facebook Messenger (53.7%) and phone calls (53.1%).

As part of the Family Survey, parents were asked whether the program schedule meets their family's needs. Among respondents with children enrolled in Head Start, for nearly all, the location of their children's Head Start center meets their needs (97.4%). 3 families indicated the location does not meet their needs (2.6%). Similarly, for the nearly all respondents, the program schedule meets their families' needs (96.5%). Transportation, earlier hours, and later hours were the top responses as to how the program could better meet families' needs. For Early Head Start families, 89.2% find the program schedule (hybrid and virtual options) meets their needs; for 10.8%, the program schedule does not meet their needs.

Families demonstrate a high level satisfaction with NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program. 95% of families responding to the survey agree that they are satisfied with the services they receive from the Head Start/Early Head Start program. There is also strong agreement that the Head Start/Early Head Start program keeps families informed about issues and events, connects families with resources, helps to prepare children for school, gives children a safe place to learn, and provides families with opportunities to better understand how to support learning at home.

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*95% of families responding to the survey agree that they are satisfied with the services they receive from the Head Start/Early Head Start program.*

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When asked whether the Ready Rosie app provides useful learning opportunities, 66.7% of respondents agreed. A large percentage, nearly 25% selected "don't know," while the remaining 8.6% disagreed. Results were similar regarding the usefulness of the Seesaw app (Head Start only).

The most common means of communication to support children's learning at home include face-to-face communication (65.7%), Facebook Messenger (57.7%), and flyers, letters, and newsletters (52.6%). Families indicated the program has provided them with informational support in child development (90.5%), community resources (62.0%), health and dental (53.3%), mental health (29.2%), and disabilities (19.0%). Families also indicated the program has enabled them to understand their role as the primary educator (70.8%), accomplish and pursue their goals (58.4%), and define their own life goals (48.2%).

Families experience a variety of barriers to participation in Head Start/Early Head Start. Work obligations are the most substantial barrier, indicated as such by approximately 18% of respondents, followed by transportation challenges (17%), access to technology (16%), child care needs (13%), access to Internet (12%), and language barriers (6%).

When asked what is best about the community they live in, the top three areas indicated include parks and playgrounds, services offered by community organizations, and housing affordability. Alternatively, the top areas where parents indicated they would like to improve their community include affordable housing, availability of jobs, and better neighborhood relationships.

The services families most need or want that they cannot currently access include dental care (20.3%), child care (12.8%), mental health services (12.8%), and housing support (12.0%). Families find the most challenges around paying utilities (50% of respondents); reliability of their family's vehicle (29%); having trouble doing things that you normally enjoy, or feeling sad, empty, or blue (24%); and having enough room in their home for the people that live there (23%).

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*The services families most need or want that they cannot currently access include dental care (20.3%), child care (12.8%), mental health services (12.8%) and housing support (12.0%).*

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The biggest personal stressor for families is COVID-19, indicated by 32.9% of respondents. Families indicated many other stressors, some of the most frequent being work/life balance (32%), financial (22.4%), their child's behavior (17.6%) and access to dental care (16.0%).

In open-ended responses, families largely reflected on their positive experiences with NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start.

## Staff Input

As part of its 2021 Community Assessment, NEICAC also conducted a Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey. The response was strong, as 72 staff responded to the Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey. This is a 96.0% response rate based on approximately 75 Head Start/Early Head Start staff members, as reported by NEICAC.

Four categories of staff were represented in survey responses: 47 Instructional Staff (65.3%), 17 Management and Content Specialist Staff (23.6%), and 8 Family Services Staff (11.1%). 58 staff (80.5%) support Head Start Centers, 12 staff (16.7%) support Home Based Early Head Start, and 12 (16.7%) staff support the Corporate Office. All Head Start centers are represented by the staff respondents.

Staff members live in all counties in NEICAC's service area. 11.1% of staff reside in other counties, including Buchanan (2), Black Hawk (2), Crawford County WI (2), Butler, and Fillmore. Most staff agree (83.6%) that the location of the Head Start/Early Head Start centers is convenient for them. 16.4% disagree (11 staff). Many staff members commute less than 30 minutes to work (66.8%), while 28.4% commute 30 minutes to 1 hour. 3% (2 staff members) have a more than 1 hour commute.

As part of the Staff Survey, respondents were asked to consider their professional needs and personal stressors. When asked what they feel would be helpful for them to advance in their professional role, the top areas that emerged include and time and/or scheduling flexibility (43.3%), professional development or training (23.9%), and supplies and materials (28.4%). There were some differences in top responses depending on category of staff; Instructional Staff more often requested time and/or scheduling flexibility (48.9%) than compared to Management and Content Specialist Staff (26.7%). A high rate of Management and Content Specialist Staff also requested management/leadership training (26.7%), and a high rate of Family Services Staff requested technology support (28.6%). Staff members' top responses for important factors that would encourage them to maintain employment with NEICAC include increased salary/pay (86.6%), followed by scheduling flexibility (43.3%), enhanced benefits (41.8%), and additional professional development or training (20.9%).

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*A majority of staff members, more than 95%, believe the Head Start/Early Head Start program is preparing children for school.*

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When asked about stressors in their personal lives, respondents indicated their biggest personal stressors are work/life balance (43.3%) and financial (35.8%). This was followed by marital/personal (15.0%), mental health (15.0%), and COVID-19/Coronavirus (13.4%).

Reflecting on the Head Start/Early Head Start program, 91.0% of staff think the program schedules meet families' needs. Most respondents (73.1%) think the locations of Head Start centers meet families' needs. Some, 25.4%, think that some but not all locations meet families' needs. Concerns about center locations focused on transportation issues and the availability of programming outside of the school district locations.

Considering the needs of families served, a majority of staff (95.3%) indicated that they believe the program is preparing children for school. When asked about families' biggest stressors, data suggests there are multiple factors impacting families' lives. The top areas that emerged as families' biggest stressors are financial (75.4%), employment (72.3%), transportation (64.6%), housing (61.5%), and food insecurity (60.0%).



The services that staff indicated they believe families most need or want are transportation (61.5%), housing support (55.4%), child care (53.9%), food assistance (50.8%), and parenting (50.8%). When asked what barriers families face to accessing resources, the majority said limited knowledge of what resources are available (62.5%), fear/reluctance to access services (57.8%), and affordability of needed services (51.6%). Additionally, approximately 53% of staff indicated NEICAC can establish new or improved partnerships with community agencies to better meet families' needs. This was followed by improving referrals to community service providers (45.3%).

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*Staff responses when asked about families' biggest stressors suggest there are multiple factors impacting families' lives. The top stressful areas that emerged are financial, employment, transportation, housing, and food insecurity.*

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In response to open-ended questions, themes arose related to a need for additional support for immigrant/non-English speaking families; need for increased wages, flexible schedules, smaller caseloads, and better communication; as well as the need for transportation for enrolled children.

## Community Input

A Community Provider Survey gathered information from community agencies about their experiences serving the service area population and their ideas for improved collaboration and coordination. There were 56 respondents completing the Community Provider Survey, representing all counties within the service area as well as ten Iowa counties outside the service area and two counties in Illinois.

Agencies responding to the survey provide a vast array of services such as food assistance, housing support, mental health, parenting, education, transportation, health, child care, and public assistance providers, among others. More than a third of respondents to the Community Provider Survey are current partners of NEICAC. Respondents also included non-partners, former partners, and NEICAC agency staff. The majority of providers (85.7%) offer their services for free, 7.1% provide services for an income-based fee, and 7.1% provide services for a fixed cost not based on income.

Respondents to the Community Provider Survey indicated that the best ways to communicate with families include face-to-face (80.0%) and phone calls (77.8%), followed by text messages and email (both 55.3%).

Reflecting on what they think is best about the community where their agency provides services, many respondents (73.3%) selected services offered by community organizations, followed by parks and playgrounds (44.4%) and neighborhood relationships (33.3%).

Respondents to the Community Provider Survey reported observing increases in their communities in the past year.

- 58.1% of community providers observed an increase in drug abuse in the community;
- 55.6% of community providers observed an increase in the number of low-income families contacting their agency; and
- 50% of community providers observed an increase in transportation needs.

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*58.1% of respondents to the Community Provider Survey have observed an increase in drug abuse in the community in the past year.*

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Many respondents indicated observing a decrease in low income housing availability (54.6%). A majority of respondents reported no change in homelessness, number of teen pregnancies, number of female head of households, number of individuals slightly over the agency's income guidelines, and multi-generational families.

When asked about the most common barriers to low-income families accessing resources, the top responses included limited knowledge of what resources are available (77.8%), fear/reluctance to access services (68.9%), and availability of needed services (60.0%). Technology is also a barrier cited by just about half of all respondents: access to internet/WiFi (55.6%) and access to technology (devices) (48.9%). A majority of respondents believe low-income families may not be able to find or access child care in the community (73.3%), as well as dental care (60.0%), mental health services (55.6%), and housing support (51.1%).

When asked what they believe are families' biggest stressors, community providers indicated many areas such as financial (73.3%), mental health (62.2%), how to manage their child's challenging behavior (53.3%), COVID-19/Coronavirus (48.9%), and housing (48.9%). This was followed by transportation, employment, and food insecurity, all indicated by at least 40% of respondents. The top five services that the respondents believe low-income families may not be able to find or access in the community correspond with these biggest stressors.

In response to open-ended questions, community providers offered suggestions about opportunities to better meet the needs of children and families in the service area. This included suggestions such as training, education/awareness, and enhanced referrals.

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



In NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start service area, there are social services resources available to families in addition to those offered by the agency. NEICAC also has formal and informal partnerships that help the agency to provide comprehensive services to children and connect families to resources. The agency's position as a community action agency is a significant strength in its ability to provide direct services and collaborate with local stakeholders.

As reflected in NEICAC's 2021 agency-wide Community Needs Assessment, NEICAC's service area is a large geographic area; there are communities with small populations throughout. This creates access challenges for community residents to obtain the resources they may need. In NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program, Family Service Specialists serve as point person for family crisis intervention, helping to connect families with community resources.

Education. Community education resources – early education, K-12, and higher education, in addition to educational opportunities – provide a continuum of education support. Having resources available to support child development and student achievement enhances the overall economic welfare of a community. In NEICAC's service area, there is some disparity in the quality of and access to these resources.

**Health.** The health, mental health, oral health, and nutrition service providers and partners within each county are critical to NEICAC's comprehensive services. With the exception of Winneshiek County, the ratios of individuals to health providers (primary, dental, mental health) are high. The need for mental health resources, in particular, is also echoed in NEICAC's 2021 agency-wide Community Needs Assessment. Access to pediatric, particularly providers that accept Medicaid, create local challenges for families; NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program helps families to overcome this barrier by bringing health providers on site to Head Start centers.

Food pantries are located within each of the counties in the service area, as are mobile food pantries (via Northwest Iowa Food Bank) to support meeting the nutrition needs of families. Social services (e.g., WIC, SNAP) also provide a vital resource to families, and NEICAC collaborates with the Iowa Department of Human Services to connect families with public assistance to meet their nutrition needs.

There are seven hospitals located within NEICAC's service area, one in each county: Veteran's Memorial Hospital, located in Waukon (Allamakee County); Community Memorial Hospital, located in Sumner (Bremer County); MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center, located in New Hampton (Chickasaw County); Guttenberg Municipal Hospital, located in Guttenberg (Clayton County); Gunderson Palmer Hospital, located in West Union (Fayette County); Regional Health Services of Howard County, located in West Union (Howard County); and Winneshiek Medical Center, located in Decorah (Winneshiek County). There are medical clinics and primary care doctor offices in each of the counties in the service area, as well as neighboring counties.

**Social Services.** NEICAC is one of the primary providers of social services within the counties in the service area, along with public assistance providers. Across the service area, organizations provide social services such as clothing assistance, food assistance, senior assistance, or public assistance coordination to individuals. Families also have access to public health departments, housing authorities, and WIC providers, among other state and local departments supporting the public assistance needs of service area families. Data points to limited resources available in NEICAC's service area to meet the continued need for affordable housing.

**Family Support and Well-being.** There is a significant need in the areas of transportation, employment, and child care. Additionally, data regarding employment qualifications reveal opportunities to develop a partnership with workforce development

organizations to help workers gain employment. NEICAC's Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) home visiting program provides essential advocacy and support for families as well as assistance with accessing resources and family goal-setting.

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*In NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program, Family Service Specialists serve as point person for family crisis intervention, helping to connect families with community resources.*

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**Services for Vulnerable Populations.** NEICAC serves a critical role in supporting vulnerable populations. Through the various services provided through Head Start/Early Head Start, NEICAC partners with other community organizations to meet the needs of young children with disabilities, children who have experienced abuse and neglect or domestic violence, families experiencing homelessness, foster children, single-parent families, and/or grandparents caring for grandchildren.

## REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Drawing from the data and key findings of NEICAC's 2021 Community Assessment, and reflections from NEICAC administrators, the following recommendations will be considered to improve services to children in the agency's Head Start/Early Head Start service area.



### Recommendations

**Recommendation 1: Program Design.** Review Head Start/Early Head Start slot allocations and community-wide trends (e.g., availability of publicly funded pre-kindergarten, demand for infant/toddler care) to explore strategies to support full enrollment across the program. Explore updates to program schedules and transportation services to ensure the needs of working families are met.

**Recommendation 2: Staff Support and Retention.** Explore work/life balance and scheduling flexibility needs of staff. Learn more from staff about their professional development and training needs to help them meet their professional goals. Review staff's expressed interest in management/leadership training more closely and leverage this interest to support staff members' professional growth within the agency.

**Recommendation 3: Awareness of NEICAC Services.** Review and confirm internal roles and processes for partnership management, including formal and informal partnerships at the administrative and service delivery level. Continue to leverage partnerships to increase visibility of NEICAC's Head Start/Early Head Start program. Promote agency services among families and community members to enhance knowledge and use of available resources.

**Recommendation 4: Public School District Relationship-Building.** Continue and enhance relationships with local school districts to support a coordinated approach to serving eligible children, aid in smooth transitions into kindergarten, and leverage community resources (e.g., homelessness support to families with children in the early learning and public school systems). Create or enhance new partnerships by modeling improvements after successful existing partnerships with school districts. Consider shared recruitment strategies so that families of children most likely to benefit from Head Start are aware of the program and encouraged to enroll.

**Recommendation 5: Parent Training and Employment.** Continue to leverage internal resources and community partnerships, and explore new strategies and partnerships, to provide educational counseling, job training, and resources to families related to employment skill building and job search. Collaborate with community partners and local employers to address specific barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment (e.g., child care, work history, transportation).

**Recommendation 6: Affordable Housing and Homelessness.** Continue to advocate for and provide support to families experiencing homelessness and those on the brink of homelessness, including help preparing those who may experience housing challenges when rent moratoriums and eviction protections cease. Ensure that families are aware of and understand the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and how it impacts eligibility for and services available from the Head Start/Early Head start program.

**Recommendation 7: Preventive and Primary Care.** Continue to collaborate with local health services providers, including dental health providers, to promote the importance of preventative and primary care and address barriers to maintaining an on-time health schedule, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Recommendation 8: Mental Health.** Collaborate with community-based mental health providers to develop a shared understanding of needs within communities and to identify strategies to address the need for mental

health resources and counseling services. Advocate for the availability and accessibility of family-centered, culturally sensitive care and services that meet the needs of families with young children.

**Recommendation 9. Impact of COVID-19.** Regularly review community data to adapt to the impact of COVID-19 on families. Consider data such as unemployment, food insecurity, child welfare, substance abuse, and housing stability. Leverage partnerships and community resources to support vulnerable families, including those on the verge of homelessness, single parents, grandparents (and other relatives) raising children, and families who may need job search or employment support.

## LOOKING AHEAD



NEICAC will use the data and key findings emerging from the 2021 Community Assessment to improve the ability of the Head Start/Early Head Start program to meet children and families' needs. The NEICAC Board, Policy Council, staff, and parents will be provided with an update on Community Assessment findings and be engaged in dialogue about how to use this information to establish or modify short and long-term goals for the programs.

The HSPPS requirement to annually review and update the Community Assessment provides NEICAC with an opportunity to continuously reflect and improve upon data monitoring, data use, and implementation of data-driven, outcomes-oriented goals. With Community Assessment data as a driving factor for understanding and meeting needs, NEICAC will continue its mission to advance community development and improve social and economic conditions for individuals and families with limited resources.

### Monitoring Community Data in Response to COVID-19

Due to lag times in the collection and reporting of community data, more data and information helpful for Head Start program planning will become available in coming weeks, months, and years. Monitoring data on a monthly and quarterly basis will assist the Head Start/Early Head Start program to collect and respond to evolving community needs.

2020 Census data, which will contain key information about children and families in the service area, will be released by summer 2021. Census data will include information such as: poverty rate of the general population, poverty rate for children birth to age 5 years old (and thereby the number of Head Start/Early Head Start income-eligible children), and many other population demographics and characteristics of families.

A monthly review of public assistance data will provide insight into Head Start/Early Head Start eligible populations. Child care program operating information will also be an important factor for understanding availability of services and how communities can continue to meet families' early education needs.

Information reported by community-based organizations will serve as a critical input into community needs assessments during the pandemic and until formal data collection measures are complete. Governmental agencies, homeless serving agencies, food banks, and child welfare agencies, for example, provide valuable insight into the experiences of children and families in response to COVID-19.

Head Start/Early Head Start providers may experience increasing demand for services as families face high rates of unemployment and mounting economic challenges. Regular analysis of community data will assist NEICAC to adapt and respond to the most pressing needs of eligible children and families in the service area.

## APPENDIX

### Appendix A: Head Start/Early Head Start Family Survey

#### Head Start/Early Head Start Family Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Head Start/Early Head Start Family Survey. Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) is interested in your opinions about Head Start/Early Head Start services provided by our agency. Sharing your ideas and experiences will help us to ensure services meet your needs. We value feedback from our families and would like to hear from you. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and is confidential. The deadline to complete this survey is **May 14, 2021**.

**Instructions:** Please read each statement about your child(ren)'s Head Start/Early Head Start program and respond with the current school year in mind. If your family has more than one child enrolled in the program, please complete the survey only once. If more than one member of the same household would like to provide responses to the survey, you may complete multiple surveys.

#### Your Child(ren)'s Head Start/Early Head Start Program

1. How many children do you have enrolled in NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start program?
  - ☐ One
  - ☐ Two
  - ☐ Three or more
2. What Head Start/Early Head Start program type does your child(ren) currently attend? (Select all that apply.)
  - ☐ Early Head Start Home-Based
  - ☐ Head Start Center-Based
3. If your child(ren) attends Head Start, which center does your child(ren) currently attend? (Select all that apply.)
  - ☐ Cresco Head Start Center
  - ☐ Decorah Child Development Center
  - ☐ Guttenberg Head Start Center
  - ☐ Monona Head Start Center
  - ☐ New Hampton Head Start Center
  - ☐ Postville Head Start Center
  - ☐ Oelwein Head Start Center
  - ☐ Waukon Head Start Center
  - ☐ Waverly Head Start Center
  - ☐ West Union Head Start Center
  - ☐ My child only attends Early Head Start home based services

#### Demographics

4. What is your relationship to the child(ren) enrolled in the Head Start/Early Head Start program? (Select one option.)
  - ☐ Mother
  - ☐ Father
  - ☐ Guardian
  - ☐ Both Parents
  - ☐ Extended Family Member (e.g., grandparent, aunt, uncle)
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is your family's race/ethnic group? (Select all that apply.)
  - ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
  - ☐ Asian
  - ☐ Black or African American
  - ☐ Hispanic/Latino
  - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - ☐ White
  - ☐ Multi-Racial
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you work, attend school, or participate in training? (Select all that apply.)
- ☐ Working full-time
  - ☐ Working part-time
  - ☐ In school full-time
  - ☐ In school part-time
  - ☐ Participating in a training program (e.g., nurse aid, child care, carpentry, electrician)
  - ☐ Unemployed
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is your highest education level? (Select one option.)
- ☐ Under 9<sup>th</sup> grade
  - ☐ Some high school
  - ☐ High school graduate/GED
  - ☐ Associate's degree
  - ☐ Bachelor's degree
  - ☐ Advanced degree (Master's, PhD, etc.)
  - ☐ I did not attend school
8. What is your family's current housing situation? (Select one option.)
- ☐ Renting
  - ☐ Homeowner
  - ☐ Living with a family member or friend
  - ☐ Temporary housing/"doubled up" with non-family member
  - ☐ Homeless
9. What county does your family currently live in? (Select one option.)
- ☐ Allamakee County
  - ☐ Bremer County
  - ☐ Chickasaw County
  - ☐ Clayton County
  - ☐ Fayette County
  - ☐ Howard County
  - ☐ Winneshiek County
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Communication**

10. What language are you most comfortable communicating in? (Select one option.)
- ☐ English
  - ☐ Spanish
  - ☐ Somali
  - ☐ Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
11. What are the ways you prefer that your child's program communicate with you about your child's education? (Select all that apply.)
- ☐ Email
  - ☐ Face-to-face
  - ☐ Facebook Messenger
  - ☐ Flyers, letters sent home, newsletters
  - ☐ Phone calls
  - ☐ Text messages
  - ☐ Video chat (e.g., Facetime, Zoom, Google Meet)
  - ☐ WhatsApp
  - ☐ Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Satisfaction with Head Start Program**

If your child attends Head Start, please answer the following questions:

12. Does the location of your child(ren)'s Head Start center meet your family's needs?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
13. Does the current program offer a schedule of services that met your family's needs?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
14. If the program schedule does not meet your family's needs, what would better meet your needs? (Select all that apply.)
- ☐ Earlier hours
  - ☐ Later hours
  - ☐ Transportation (e.g., bus services to pick up and drop off child from home)
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Satisfaction with Early Head Start Home Based Program**

If your child attends the Early Head Start Home Based program, please answer the following questions:

15. If you participated in the program last year (2019-2020), did the pre-COVID program schedule meet your family's needs?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ I did not participate in 2019-2020; this is my first year in the Early Head Start Home Based Program.
16. During this year, did the virtual program schedule meet your family's needs?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
17. Which Early Head Start program option are you currently participating in?
- ☐ All virtual
  - ☐ Hybrid (some virtual, some home visits)

### **Satisfaction with Head Start/Early Head Start Program**

18. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements about your child(ren)'s Head Start/Early Head Start program. (Select one option.)

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
When my child's program communicates with my family it is easy for us to understand.					
My child's program keeps our family informed about important issues and events.					
My child's program connects my family with the appropriate staff or resources to address our questions or concerns.					
Staff at my child(ren)'s program greet my family warmly when we call or visit.					
My family is satisfied with the services we receive from the Head Start/Early Head Start program.					



	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child's Head Start/Early Head Start program provides my family with opportunities to participate in program events.					
The Head Start/Early Head Start program is helping my child to get ready for school.					
The Head Start/Early Head Start program gives my child a safe place to learn.					
My child's program provides my family opportunities to better understand how to support my child's learning at home.					
The Ready Rosie app provides useful learning opportunities for both my child and my family. (Head Start/Early Head Start)					
The Seesaw app provides useful learning opportunities for both my child and my family. (Head Start)					

**Barriers**

19. How big of a problem are the following issues for becoming involved with your child's Head Start/Early Head Start Program? (Select all that apply).

	Not a problem	Small problem	Medium problem	Large problem	Very large problem
Child care needs					
Transportation challenges					
Work obligations					
Language barrier					
Access to technology (e.g., devices)					
Access to Internet					

**Your Family**

20. How has the Head Start/Early Head Start program communicated information with your family about how to support your child(ren)'s learning at home? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Email
- ☐ Face-to-face
- ☐ Facebook Messenger
- ☐ Flyers, letters sent home, newsletters
- ☐ Phone calls
- ☐ Text messages
- ☐ Video chat (e.g., Facetime, Zoom, Google Meet)
- ☐ WhatsApp
- ☐ Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

21. What type of information has your child(ren)'s Head Start/Early Head Start program provided to you to support your family? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Child development
- ☐ Community resources
- ☐ Disabilities
- ☐ Mental health
- ☐ Health/dental health
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



22. How has the Head Start/Early Head Start program empowered your family? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Define my own life goals
- ☐ Accomplish and pursue my goals
- ☐ Understand my role as the primary educator for my child(ren)

23. What do you think is best about the community your family lives in? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Availability of jobs
- ☐ Diversity
- ☐ Housing affordability
- ☐ Immigrant friendly
- ☐ Parks and playgrounds
- ☐ Neighborhood relationships
- ☐ Services offered by community organizations
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

24. If there was something you or your family could improve about your community, what would it be? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Availability of jobs
- ☐ Diversity
- ☐ Affordable housing
- ☐ More immigrant friendly
- ☐ More parks/playgrounds
- ☐ Better neighborhood relationships
- ☐ Services offered by community partners
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

25. Are there services that you or your family needs or wants that you're not able to currently find or access in your community (not just through the Head Start/Early Head Start program)? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Child care
- ☐ Dental care
- ☐ Drug treatment
- ☐ Education (e.g., computer, literacy, language, High School Diploma/GED, degree programs)
- ☐ Foster care
- ☐ Food assistance
- ☐ Health care
- ☐ Housing support
- ☐ Immigration services (e.g., assistance with forms, case evaluation, referral)
- ☐ Job search or training
- ☐ Legal aid and assistance (e.g., immigration, family, criminal, tenant relations)
- ☐ Mental health services (e.g., counseling, crisis intervention)
- ☐ Parenting
- ☐ Senior services
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

26. How big of a problem are the following issues for your family? (Select all that apply).

	Not a problem	Small problem	Medium problem	Large problem	Very large problem
Having enough room in your home for the people that live there					
Having enough money to pay for home utilities (e.g., heat, electricity)					
Having enough money to buy food					
Having someone to talk to when things go wrong					
Reliability of your family's vehicle					
Legal issues that prevent you from driving					
Health insurance coverage					
Having a doctor you can go to					
Having trouble doing things that you normally enjoy, or feeling sad, empty, or blue					
Having trouble getting financial, medical, and other help because I don't know what services are available					
Having trouble getting financial, medical, and other help because I am uncomfortable asking for help					
Having trouble getting financial, medical, and other help because of my immigration status					

27. What are your family's biggest stressors? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Access to dental care
- ☐ Access to medical care
- ☐ Community violence
- ☐ COVID-19/Coronavirus
- ☐ Domestic violence
- ☐ Drug abuse in the community
- ☐ Educational/job training
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Financial
- ☐ Food insecurity
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Immigration issues (e.g., citizenship)
- ☐ Marital/personal
- ☐ Mental health
- ☐ My child's behavior
- ☐ My child's disabilities
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Work/Life Balance
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

28. Which of the stressors above have increased since the COVID restrictions began? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Access to dental care
- ☐ Access to medical care
- ☐ Community violence
- ☐ Domestic violence
- ☐ Drug abuse in the community
- ☐ Educational/job training
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Financial
- ☐ Food insecurity
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Immigration issues (e.g., citizenship)
- ☐ Marital/personal
- ☐ Mental health
- ☐ My child's behavior
- ☐ My child's disabilities
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Work/Life Balance
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

29. Please use the space below to provide any additional feedback, ideas, or suggestion you have related to how the Head Start/Early Head Start program can best meet your family's needs.

## Appendix B: Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey

### Head Start/Early Head Start Staff Survey

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) is in the process of gathering information for its community needs assessment that will inform the agency's Head Start/Early Head Start program. Your feedback as a Head Start/Early Head Start team member is important. Sharing your ideas and experiences will help us to ensure we are providing services that meet children and families' needs. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and is confidential. The deadline to complete this survey is **May 14, 2021**. Thank you for your participation!

### Your Job

1. What category of staff best aligns with your current position?
  - ☐ Management and Content Specialist staff
  - ☐ Family Services staff
  - ☐ Instructional staff (e.g., Teacher, Co-teacher, Home Visitor)
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which location do you work at or support? (Select all that apply.)
  - ☐ Corporate Office
  - ☐ Cresco Head Start Center
  - ☐ Decorah Child Development Center
  - ☐ Guttenberg Head Start Center
  - ☐ Monona Head Start Center
  - ☐ New Hampton Head Start Center
  - ☐ Postville Head Start Center
  - ☐ Oelwein Head Start Center
  - ☐ Waukon Head Start Center
  - ☐ Waverly Head Start Center
  - ☐ West Union Head Start Center
  - ☐ Early Head Start – Home Based Services

### Demographics

3. What is your race/ethnic group? (Select all that apply.)
  - ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
  - ☐ Asian
  - ☐ Black or African American
  - ☐ Hispanic/Latino
  - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - ☐ White
  - ☐ Multi-Racial
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
4. What language(s) is spoken in your home? (Select all that apply.)
  - ☐ English
  - ☐ Spanish
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
5. In what county do you currently live? (Select one option.)
  - ☐ Allamakee County
  - ☐ Bremer County
  - ☐ Chickasaw County
  - ☐ Clayton County
  - ☐ Fayette County
  - ☐ Howard County
  - ☐ Winneshiek County
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Characteristics**

6. Is the location of the office or Head Start center where you work convenient for you?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
7. How long is your commute to the office or center where you work?
- ☐ Less than 30 minutes
  - ☐ 30 minutes to 1 hour
  - ☐ Over 1 hour
8. What type of supports beyond those that you're currently receiving do you feel would be helpful for you to improve in your current professional role? (Select all that apply.)
- ☐ Professional development or training
  - ☐ College coursework
  - ☐ Coaching and/or mentoring
  - ☐ Supplies and materials
  - ☐ Technology support (e.g., assistance with remote learning, data)
  - ☐ Time and/or scheduling flexibility
  - ☐ Management/leadership development or training
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
9. What are the most important factors that would encourage you to maintain employment with NEICAC? (Select two options.)
- ☐ Additional professional development or training
  - ☐ Enhanced benefits (e.g., health insurance, dental insurance, retirement benefits)
  - ☐ Increased salary/pay
  - ☐ Scheduling flexibility
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
10. What are your family's biggest personal stressors? (Select all that apply.)
- ☐ Access to dental care
  - ☐ Access to medical care
  - ☐ Community violence
  - ☐ COVID-19/Coronavirus
  - ☐ Domestic violence
  - ☐ Drug abuse in the community
  - ☐ Educational/job training
  - ☐ Employment
  - ☐ Financial
  - ☐ Food insecurity
  - ☐ Housing
  - ☐ Immigration issues
  - ☐ Marital/personal
  - ☐ Mental health
  - ☐ My child's behavior
  - ☐ My child's disabilities
  - ☐ Transportation
  - ☐ Work/Life Balance
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Head Start/Early Head Start Program and Family Characteristics**

11. Do you think the location of the Head Start centers meets families' needs?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ Some, but not all

12. If you do not think the location(s) of the Head Start centers meets families' needs, please explain.

13. Do you think the program schedules (days and number of hours per day) offered by the Head Start/ program meets families' needs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. If you do not think the program schedules meet families' needs, how do you think we could better meet families' schedule needs? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Earlier hours
- ☐ Later hours
- ☐ Transportation (e.g., bus services to pick up and drop off child from home)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Head Start/Early Head Start program. (Select one option.)

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
I believe Head Start/Early Head Start staff reflect the language and culture of children and families served.			
The communities in which <u>Head Start/Early Head Start families live</u> are safe.			
The <u>neighborhood of the office or center</u> where I work is safe.			
The Head Start/Early Head Start program is helping to prepare children for school.			

16. What do you believe are Head Start/Early Head Start families' biggest stressors? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Access to dental care
- ☐ Access to medical care
- ☐ Community violence
- ☐ COVID-19/Coronavirus
- ☐ Domestic violence
- ☐ Drug abuse in the community
- ☐ Educational/job training
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Financial
- ☐ Food insecurity
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Immigration issues (e.g., citizenship)
- ☐ Marital/personal
- ☐ Mental health
- ☐ Their child's behavior
- ☐ Their child's disabilities
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Work/Life Balance
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. What services do you believe Head Start/Early Head Start families most need or want? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Child care
- ☐ Dental care
- ☐ Drug treatment
- ☐ Education (e.g., computer, literacy, language, High school diploma/GED, degree programs)
- ☐ Foster care
- ☐ Food assistance
- ☐ Health care
- ☐ Housing support
- ☐ Immigration services (e.g., assistance with forms, case evaluation, referral)
- ☐ Job search or training
- ☐ Legal aid and assistance (e.g., immigration, family, criminal, tenant relations)
- ☐ Mental health services (e.g., counseling, crisis intervention)
- ☐ Parenting
- ☐ Senior services
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

18. In your opinion, what are some of the barriers low-income families face to accessing resources in the community? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Availability of needed services
- ☐ Affordability of needed services
- ☐ Access to technology (e.g., devices)
- ☐ Access to Internet/Wi-Fi
- ☐ Citizenship
- ☐ Language
- ☐ Lack of bilingual staff at point of service
- ☐ Limited knowledge of what resources are available
- ☐ Fear/reluctance to access services
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

19. How do you think the Head Start/Early Head Start program can do a better job to meet families' needs? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Improve communication with parents
- ☐ Improve referrals to community service providers
- ☐ Establish new or improved partnerships with community agencies
- ☐ Offer more and/or greater variety of services or training opportunities
- ☐ Provide a greater degree of case management support
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

20. Please use the space below for other comments and to provide any additional feedback, ideas, or suggestion you have related to how the Head Start/Early Head Start program can best meet children and families' needs.

## Appendix C: Community Provider Survey

### Community Provider Survey

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) is in the process of gathering information for a community needs assessment that will inform the agency's Head Start/Early Head Start program. Your feedback as a community resource provider is important. Sharing your ideas and experiences will help us identify children and families' needs and describe resources and services available to families. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and is confidential. The deadline to complete this survey is **May 14, 2021**. Thank you for your participation!

1. What county does your agency provide services in? (Select all that apply.)
  - ☐ Allamakee County
  - ☐ Bremer County
  - ☐ Chickasaw County
  - ☐ Clayton County
  - ☐ Fayette County
  - ☐ Howard County
  - ☐ Winneshiek County
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. What type of services does your agency provide? (Select all that apply.)
  - ☐ Child care
  - ☐ Dental care
  - ☐ Drug treatment
  - ☐ Education (e.g., computer, literacy, language, High School Diploma/GED, degree programs)
  - ☐ Foster care
  - ☐ Food assistance
  - ☐ Health (e.g., vision, hearing, vaccination, health care)
  - ☐ Housing support
  - ☐ Immigration services (e.g., assistance with forms, case evaluation, referral)
  - ☐ Job search or training
  - ☐ Legal aid and assistance (e.g., immigration, family, criminal, tenant relations)
  - ☐ Mental health services (e.g., counseling, crisis intervention)
  - ☐ Parenting
  - ☐ Senior services
  - ☐ Transportation
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What is the cost of services provided by your agency?
  - ☐ Free
  - ☐ For a cost, with fees based on income
  - ☐ For a cost, with fees not based on income
  
4. Is your organization a partner of NEICAC? If so, how long have you been a partner with NEICAC?
  - ☐ I work for NEICAC
  - ☐ My organization has not been a partner with NEICAC
  - ☐ My organization is not a current partner of NEICAC, but have partnered in the past
  - ☐ My organization has been a partner for less than 2 years
  - ☐ My organization has been a partner for 2 to 5 years
  - ☐ My organization has been a partner for more than 5 years



5. In your experience, what are the best ways to communicate with families that you currently serve? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Email
- ☐ Face-to-face
- ☐ Facebook Messenger
- ☐ Flyers, letters sent home, newsletters
- ☐ Phone calls
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Text messages
- ☐ Video Chat (e.g., Facetime, Zoom, Google Meet)
- ☐ WhatsApp
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you think is best about the community where your agency provides services? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Availability of jobs
- ☐ Diversity
- ☐ Housing affordability
- ☐ Immigrant friendly
- ☐ Parks and playgrounds
- ☐ Neighborhood relationships
- ☐ Services offered by community organizations
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. In the last year, to what extent has your agency seen changes in the following? (Select all that apply.)

	Increase	Decrease	No change
Average household income			
Number of low income families contacting your agency			
Number of individuals or families slightly over your income guidelines			
Number of multi-generational families you serve			
Number of female head of households			
Number of teen pregnancies			
Number of licensed child care providers			
Job availability in community			
Drug abuse in community			
Low income housing availability			
Homelessness			
Transportation needs			
Services you offer			

8. In your opinion, what are some of the barriers low-income families face to accessing resources in the community? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Availability of needed services
- ☐ Affordability of needed services
- ☐ Access to technology (e.g., devices)
- ☐ Access to Internet/Wi-Fi
- ☐ Citizenship
- ☐ Language
- ☐ Lack of bilingual staff at point of service
- ☐ Limited knowledge of what resources are available
- ☐ Fear/reluctance to access services
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are there services you think low-income families may not be able to currently find or access in the community? (Select all that apply.)
- ☐ Child care
  - ☐ Dental care
  - ☐ Drug treatment
  - ☐ Education (e.g., computer, literacy, language, High School Diploma/GED, degree programs)
  - ☐ Foster care
  - ☐ Food assistance
  - ☐ Health care
  - ☐ Housing support
  - ☐ Immigration services (e.g., assistance with forms, case evaluation, referral)
  - ☐ Job search or training
  - ☐ Legal aid and assistance (e.g., immigration, family, criminal, tenant relations)
  - ☐ Mental health services (e.g., counseling, crisis intervention)
  - ☐ Parenting
  - ☐ Senior services
  - ☐ Transportation
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
10. In the community your agency serves, what do you believe are families' biggest stressors? (Select all that apply.)
- ☐ Access to dental care
  - ☐ Access to medical care
  - ☐ Community violence
  - ☐ COVID-19/Coronavirus
  - ☐ Domestic violence
  - ☐ Drug abuse in the community
  - ☐ Educational/job training
  - ☐ Employment
  - ☐ Financial
  - ☐ Food insecurity
  - ☐ Housing
  - ☐ How to manage their child's challenging behavior
  - ☐ How to support and provide care for a child with disabilities
  - ☐ Immigration issues (e.g., citizenship)
  - ☐ Marital/personal
  - ☐ Mental health
  - ☐ Transportation
  - ☐ Work/Life balance
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
11. What do you believe are your agency's strengths when working with low-income families? (Select all that apply.)
- ☐ Ability to connect families with resources
  - ☐ Bilingual staff
  - ☐ Culturally aligned services
  - ☐ Established relationships with families
  - ☐ Staff experience and expertise
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Please use the space below for other comments to provide ideas about how NEICAC Head Start/Early Head Start could partner with your agency to better meet the needs of low-income children and families.
13. *Optional* - If you would like us to contact you regarding your ideas please provide your contact information (name, organization, e-mail address, phone number):

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- <sup>iii</sup> Office of Head Start. (2018-2019) Program Information Report (PIR). Summary Report, Grant Level.
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- <sup>vi</sup> Map Chart. (2021). USA Counties Map. Retrieved from <https://mapchart.net/usa-counties.html>
- <sup>vii</sup> Internal Revenue Service (IRS). (2018). Opportunity Zones Frequently Asked Questions. Retrieved from <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/opportunity-zones-frequently-asked-questions>
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- <sup>ix</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>x</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>xi</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
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- <sup>xiii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
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- <sup>xv</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>xvi</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>xvii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>xviii</sup> 2018-2019 Program Information Report
- <sup>xix</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020). Iowa. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/iowa/2021/overview>
- <sup>xx</sup> World Health Organization. (2020). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- <sup>xxi</sup> Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. (2021). Coronavirus Resource Center, Iowa. Retrieved from <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/iowa>
- <sup>xxii</sup> Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. (2021). Coronavirus Resource Center, Iowa. Retrieved from <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/iowa>
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. (2021). Coronavirus Resource Center, Iowa. Retrieved from <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/iowa>
- <sup>xxiv</sup> Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. (2021). Coronavirus Resource Center, Iowa. Retrieved from <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/iowa>
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- <sup>xxvi</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>xxvii</sup> 2018-2019 Program Information Report (PIR)
- <sup>xxviii</sup> Iowa Department of Education. (2020). Iowa Public School District Class 2020 Four Year Cohort Graduation Rates by School District. Retrieved from <https://educateiowa.gov/documents/graduation-rates-district-subgroup/2021/03/iowa-public-school-district-class-2020-four>
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- <sup>xxx</sup> National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University. (2017). Why Students Drop Out. Retrieved from <http://dropoutprevention.org/resources/statistics/quick-facts/why-students-drop-out/>
- <sup>xxxi</sup> Iowa Department of Education. (2020). Iowa Public School District 2019-2020 Grade 7-12 Dropout Data by School District. Retrieved from <https://educateiowa.gov/documents/dropouts-district/2021/03/iowa-public-school-district-2019-2020-grade-7-12-dropout-data>
- <sup>xxxii</sup> Iowa Department of Education. (2020). Iowa Public School District 2019-2020 Grade 7-12 Dropout Data by School District. Retrieved from <https://educateiowa.gov/documents/dropouts-district/2021/03/iowa-public-school-district-2019-2020-grade-7-12-dropout-data>
- <sup>xxxiii</sup> Iowa Department of Education. (2019). ISASP Proficiency Rates by School District and Grade. Retrieved from <https://educateiowa.gov/documents/proficiency-district/2020/03/2018-2019-isasp-proficiency-rates-district-and-grade>
- <sup>xxxiv</sup> Iowa Department of Education. (2019). ISASP Proficiency Rates by School District and Grade. Retrieved from <https://educateiowa.gov/documents/proficiency-district/2020/03/2018-2019-isasp-proficiency-rates-district-and-grade>
- <sup>xxxv</sup> Iowa Department of Early Childhood. (2020). Kindergarten Assessment Tables. Retrieved from <https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/document/kindergarten-assessment-tables>
- <sup>xxxvi</sup> Iowa Department of Early Childhood. (2021). COVID-19 Guidance and Information. Retrieved from <https://educateiowa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-guidance-and-information>
- <sup>xxxvii</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2021). Iowa. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/iowa/2021/overview>
- <sup>xxxviii</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2021). Iowa. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/iowa/2021/overview>
- <sup>xxxix</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2021). Iowa. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/iowa/2021/overview>
- <sup>xl</sup> Kids Count Data Center. (2021). Adults living in households with children who felt nervous, anxious or on edge for more than half of the days or nearly every day in the past week in Iowa. Retrieved from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/10893-adults-living-in-households-with-children-who-felt-nervous-anxious-or-on-edge-for-more-than-half-of-the-days-or-nearly-every-day-in-the-past-week?loc=17&loc=2#detailed/2/17/false/2078,2077,2076,2047,2042,2034,2033,2032,2028,2027/any/21180>
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- <sup>xlii</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2020). Iowa Opioid Summary. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/iowa-opioid-involved-deaths-related-harms>
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