

**Empowerment Showcase FY08**



**BOOST4FAMILIES**  
Cass/Mills/Montgomery

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**VISION**

The vision of Cass/Mills/Montgomery Boost4Families is to support quality services that are integrated, comprehensive, and family- centered, resulting in nurtured, resilient, healthy, and responsible individuals.

**EMPOWERMENT GOALS**

The following are Boost4Families Empowerment goals:

- Ensure access to preschool services for at-risk children ages three to five;
- Ensure a comprehensive program for child development education for parents of children ages zero to five; and
- Increase the availability and quality of childcare.

**INDICATORS**

The following indicators will measure the success of Empowerment activities achieving Boost4Families' goals:

1. Measurement of skill level/readiness of children entering kindergarten
2. Percentage of kindergarten students who have attended preschool
3. Immunization rate at age two
4. Number of licensed/registered child care slots
5. Number of center-based infant care, sick child care, and night care slots
6. Increase/maintain families involved in Parent Education/ child development program

**How we are collaborating to impact the priorities:**

**This Empowerment Area is in many ways rich in resources to support children and families. The following groups have been consistently involved with our planning processes since 1995:**

<i>Department of Human Services</i>	<i>Montgomery County Public Health</i>
<i>Atlantic YMCA</i>	<i>Cass County Head start</i>
<i>Cass County Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>Mills County Head start</i>
<i>Mills County Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>Montgomery County Head start</i>
<i>Montgomery County Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>Juvenile Court Services</i>
<i>Cass County Memorial Hospital</i>	<i>Parents in all three counties</i>
<i>Iowa State University Extension - Cass</i>	<i>Waubonsie Mental Health Center</i>
<i>Iowa State University Extension - Mills</i>	<i>Mills County YMCA</i>
<i>Iowa State University Extension - Montgomery</i>	<i>Montgomery County YMCA</i>
<i>Loess Hills AEA 13</i>	
<i>Mills County Public Health</i>	
<i>School districts of Atlantic, Anita, Cumberland-Massena,</i>	<i>Montgomery County Memorial Hospital</i>
<i>Griswold, Red Oak, Stanton, Villisca, Glenwood, Nishna Valley,</i>	
<i>Malvern and Fremont/Mills</i>	

**In addition, many Empowerment Area board members, parents and participants are active in other long-standing local collaborations (such as child abuse councils and interagency networks), providing a valuable means of disseminating Empowerment information across the communities.**

**Identify services/programs funded by Community Empowerment:**

<b>Early Childhood Fund</b>	
Child Care Development Specialist	A Child Care Development Specialist provided 224 on-site visits to childcare providers both in homes and centers in an effort to promote quality childcare. These on-site visits served 3,887 children. Grants are available to assist licensed/registered childcare providers and centers with improving the quality of childcare services for children in our three counties. In FY07, 34 Step up to Quality grants were approved for home providers and 18 Quality Enhancement grants were issued for childcare centers. The Child Care Specialist served 94 Infants in the three county area

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<b>School Ready Fund</b> Parent Education	In FY08, the three <i>Parents As Teachers</i> programs (one in each county) served 521 children, 343 families, and made 3,015 home visits
Preschool Tuition Grants	The 11 school districts in Cass/Mills/ Montgomery counties have approved 181 families, which were helped by the preschool tuition grants to better prepare them for kindergarten. Tuition grants up to \$75 per month were available to parents.
Preschool Transportation	184 children utilized the preschool transportation service (19,164 rides for the year). 49% of surveys reflected that their child would not have attended preschool without transportation services. 73% of surveys reflected that parents plan to utilize transportation next year.
Nurse Consultants	108 visits were made to providers in Cass & Montgomery County. 24 Business agreements, 23 Owner/director surveys, 5 injury prevention checklists, 8 child record reviews, and 1 health and safety assessments were completed in both counties.

**Key Identified Need/Priority:**

- Increase the number of children going to preschool due to provided transportation service
- Increase the number of kindergarten children reporting a preschool experience when entering school

**Measurable Goal:**

- To insure access to preschool services for at-risk children ages 3-5 by increasing the number of available slots and reducing barriers to access preschool services.

**Why this important:**

- To insure that every child gets the opportunity to gain skills to prepare them for Kindergarten

**State Result Linkage:**

- Children ready to succeed in school

Key Community Indicator(s): (Baseline and trend information)	Baseline 1999	FY 2005	FY 2006	Current FY07
Measurement of skill level/readiness of children entering kindergarten	75%	90%	86%	90%

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

Performance Measure(s) (Baseline and trend information)	Baseline	FY 2005	FY 2006	Current FY07
Preschool Experience	1999 365/471	401/446 students	397/461 students	422/469 students

**Analysis of the Data/ Factors affecting the data:**

Boost4Families has maintained support to assist in achieving our key strategies. The fluctuation in percentages reported in the graph should be expected as the most significant jump was made during the initial year Empowerment funding was available to our three counties. The baseline data compared to all other years, shows a continued improvement.

(Insert Graph of Community Indicator or Performance Measure)

