

Boost4Families

Cass/Mills/Montgomery
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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.

Cass County Circles4Success Success Story

A couple that joined the Cass County Circles4Success group in December, 2008 was fortunate to receive an overdue cost free dream wedding. During one of the Circles meetings, it was shared that the couple would like to get married (the couple have been together for twelve years), but didn't have the resources to afford a wedding. It was a unanimous decision to give them a wedding. It turned out to be a community event with people donating their time, treasures and talents. Various individuals in the Circles group, local businesses, and community members donated the wedding cake, punch, food, photography, videotaping, music, decorations, and the serving at the reception. The wedding night was donated by a local bed and breakfast. The couple has experienced many challenges with the groom's serious illness, and the daughter having special needs. With the help of the Circles, JEL, and community members, the couple was able to have their dream wedding at no cost. This was a very special day for the whole family.

Did you know?

89% of all kindergarten students in Cass/Mills/Montgomery Counties (all ten school districts) had a preschool experience and were school ready when they entered kindergarten.

WHY ARE THE PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT IMPORTANT TO REACHING OUR VISION AND MISSION?

- ✓ By providing information, education, and support for parents, they can be their child's best teacher;
- ✓ By increasing preschool enrollment, Boost4Families helps to prepare children for a positive, successful kindergarten experience;
- ✓ Widening child care options, we help accommodate non-traditional needs of working parents; and
- ✓ By preparing child care providers with training suited to the challenges they face serving an increasingly at-risk population.

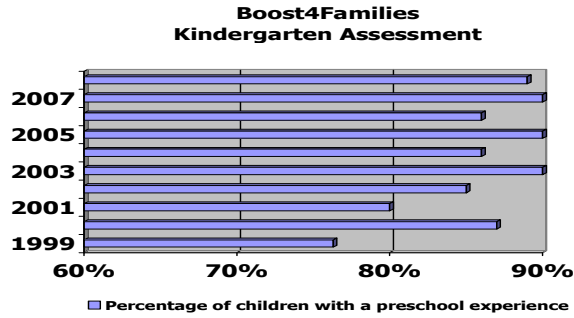
COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Expand and create quality preschool opportunities
2. Offer and support parent education
3. Improve the quality of child care available in our three county area

What services/programs/activities do we support?

- **Parents as Teachers in all three counties**
- **Child Care Specialist that covers all three counties**
- **Preschool tuition grants and preschool transportation**
- **Child Care Nurses Consultants**
- **Preschool Oral Health Services**
- **Preschool Support/Professional Development**
- **Circles4Success**

1. Indicator or Performance Measure the CEA is tracking



How are we doing? 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.

2. Indicator or Performance Measure the CEA is tracking

Immunized Children by Age 2

1999 79.1% (average of 3 counties)	2006 96.67% (avg. of 3 counties)	2007 99% (avg. of 3 counties)	2008 94% (avg. of 3 counties)
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How are we doing? Cass/Mills/Montgomery Counties have maintained the percentage of immunized children due to our programs helping parents realize the importance of getting their children immunized.

- The rest of our indicators are new this year, so we are utilizing the information we gather this year as a baseline.

What can you do to help?

- Be involved and part of a local community group that helps to identify gaps in services for child and families, and strategizes possible solutions.
- Be part of implementing new projects – from neighborhood watch groups to community gardens – anything that helps community members to know each other and what community programs are available.
- Offer your expertise to children and families in your community.
- Be a helper to a parent you observe to be struggling.
- Be a friend or mentor to families in your neighborhood.

Others within our community working on similar issues:

City Councils
 Atlantic & Red Oak & Glenwood YMCA
 County Board of Supervisors
 County Public Health Agencies
 Cass County Memorial Hospital
 AEA13/14
 Iowa State University Extension - Cass
 Iowa State University Extension - Mills
 Iowa State University Extension - Montgomery

 Montgomery County Memorial Hospital
 CPPC Activities – Neighborhood Networks

Child Care Providers
 Crisis Child Care Programs
 Head start Programs
 Child Care Centers
 Service Providers
 Department of Human Services
 Juvenile Court Services
 County Ministerial Associations
 PTA/PTO Groups
 Child Abuse Prevention Councils
 School districts of Atlantic, Anita, Cumberland-Massena, Griswold, Red Oak, Stanton, Villisca, Glenwood, Nishna Valley and Malvern