



Contact Information:

Benton Office—Main Office
Benton County Co-Director
 P.O. Box 516
 Vinton, Iowa 52349
 Phone: 319/472-4543

Tama Office—Fiscal Office
Tama County Co-Director
 129 West High St.
 Toledo, Iowa 52342
 Phone: 641/484-4788

Website:
www.bettertomorrowseci.org

Community Partners

ABBE/Oaks
 Above the Influence Coalition
 Area Education Agency 267
 ASAC
 Board of Supervisors
 Child Abuse Prevention
 Child Care Providers
 Child Care Resource & Referral
 Citizens
 CPPC
 DECAT
 Department of Human Services
 Grant Wood AEA 10
 Horizons Family Support Program
 ISU Extension of Tama County
 Kirkwood Community College
 Legislators
 Libraries
 Local physicians
 Mental Health Clinic of Tama County
 Mid-Iowa Community Action & Head Start
 Ministerial Association
 Virginia Gay Home Health
 Virginia Gay Hospital
 Preschool Programs
 School Districts
 ShopKo
 SKIP (Supporting Kids in Prevention)
 SPF SIG
 Tama County Public Health & Home Care
 Tama-Toledo Kiwanis
 Tama-Toledo AAUW
 Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition
 United Way
 Vinton Unlimited
 WIC
 Women's Health & Education Center

Better Tomorrows Programs



~ Our Focus ~

The Better Tomorrows ECI Area Board supports five result areas:

- Healthy Children
- Secure and Nurturing Families
- Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Safe and Supportive Communities

School Ready Programs:

Tama Healthy Family/Infant Toddler Development Specialist—

Mid-Iowa Community Action provides prevention services for children who are at-risk of starting school less ready to learn than their peers. Regular home visitation, child screenings and assessments, and socialization opportunities are provided as well as helping parents to develop the skills they need to provide a positive, well-functioning home environment where the child can grow and develop.



Co-Directors—Staff are employed in both Benton and Tama County to assure activities are geared toward the focus priorities, assure compliance with state guidelines and requirements, attend local, state and regional meetings, compile and submit reports, inform the board of updates from the state and from provider services, coordinate sub-committees as needed and assure all reimbursements and appropriations meet Early Childhood Funding Guidelines.



The Nest— An educational incentive program coordinated by Tama County Public Health & Home Care that provides support and educational classes for pregnant women and mothers with children birth to 12 months of age. Points are earned by attending educational classes, and other healthy behaviors for mom and baby. The points can then be used to purchase items for their babies through the Stork's Nest. For more information contact Tama County Public Health & Home Care at 641/484-4788.



Preschool Scholarships—Children qualify based on family size and income. Families apply for the funds and after approval the scholarships are paid directly to the preschool. For more information contact the Mid-Iowa Community Action office at 641/484-4713 (Tama County Families) or the Better Tomorrows ECI—Benton Office at 319/472-4543 (Benton County Families).

Healthy Families America—Healthy Families America provides parents with a Family Support Worker who will partner with you and help your family towards goals that assist you in becoming self-sufficient. The program assists in identifying your strengths, needs and goals and will help you access resources in the community, advocate for your family, help find affordable housing, childcare, and transportation and assist with parenting, budgeting and time management. A family needs to have at least one child age pre-natal through 5 years old. The family has to be committed to meeting with the Family Support Worker on a regular basis. A referral to the program can be made through the Horizons Family Support Program. For more information contact the Family Support Supervisor at 319/472-3376.

Healthy Family Home Visitation Program—Home visits are provided by Tama County Public Health & Home Care to pregnant women and women with children age birth to 5 years to provide parenting education, assessment, information and referrals. For more information contact Tama County Public Health & Home Care at 641/484-4788.

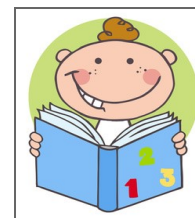
Early Childhood Programs:



Quality Early Childhood Environment (QECE)— This program utilizes trained local early childhood professionals to use a nationally recognized quality rating scale. QECE staff and volunteers evaluate early care and education classrooms in licensed centers. The project empowers early childhood professionals to assess, plan, and implement improvements in their early childhood environments. For more information contact the QECE Coordinator at 319/472-4543.

Provider Education

Free and informative classes meeting Department of Human Services requirements for licensing and registration are held within the two counties to better serve the needs of our providers. Trainings are held covering health and safety, literacy and child development. For more information on upcoming education opportunities contact Kirkwood Community College at 319/472-2318.



Programs are available to all Benton and Tama County Residents with children age 0-5 years. You may make a referral for a friend, family member or for yourself.



Vision

All children, age 0 – 5, living in Benton and Tama County will be healthy, have a safe, secure, nurturing home and childcare environment and be ready to succeed in school.

Mission

To enhance the quality of life in Benton and Tama County by promoting strong, healthy families. Barriers will be overcome and programs and services coordinated through community collaboration.

Purpose

To ensure the collaboration within our community, the organization will provide families, with children 0 – 5 years old, the resources and opportunities necessary for their children to be healthy, safe, secure, ready to succeed in school, have available affordable, high quality child care and access to a preschool opportunity.

