

*Washington
County
Empowerment*



*Empowering others to provide children
opportunity for success*

**Community Plan
September 2007**

Washington County Empowerment
110 N Iowa Ave, Suite 300
Washington, IA. 52353

Tasha Beghtol
Program coordinator
319-461-1369

**Community Plan
Re-designation
September 2007**

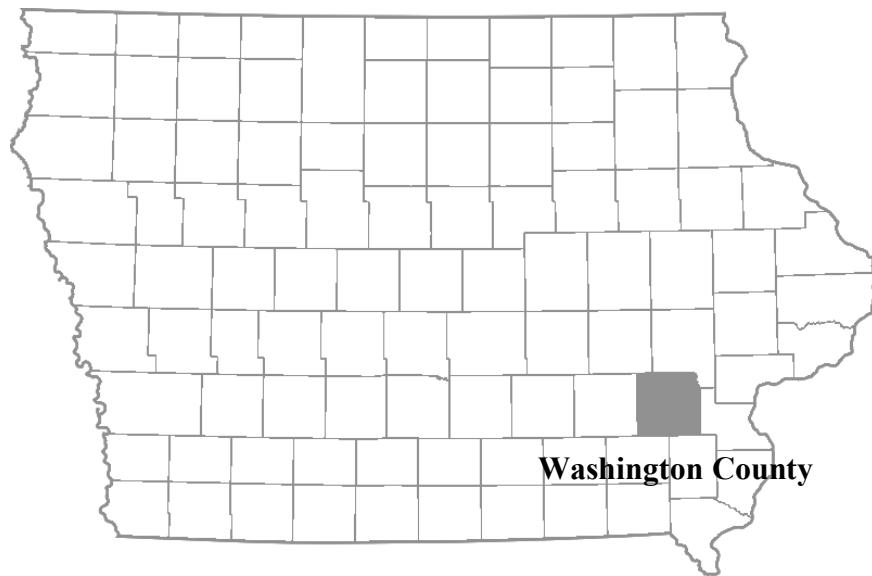


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: General Information

Vision and Mission

Geographical Overview

Demographics

Section 2 : Community Resources

Family Resources

Early Childhood Education & Care Resources

Funding Resources (children 0-5)

Section 3: Community Needs Assessment

Feasibility Study

 General overview

 Method

 Outcomes and recommendations

Community indicators

Identified needs and priorities

Section 4: Community collaboration and planning

Results- new priorities

 Family transportation system

 Provider quality improvement grants

 Resource center

Section 1: General Information

Vision and Mission

Washington County Empowerment (WCE) operates under the guiding principles that:

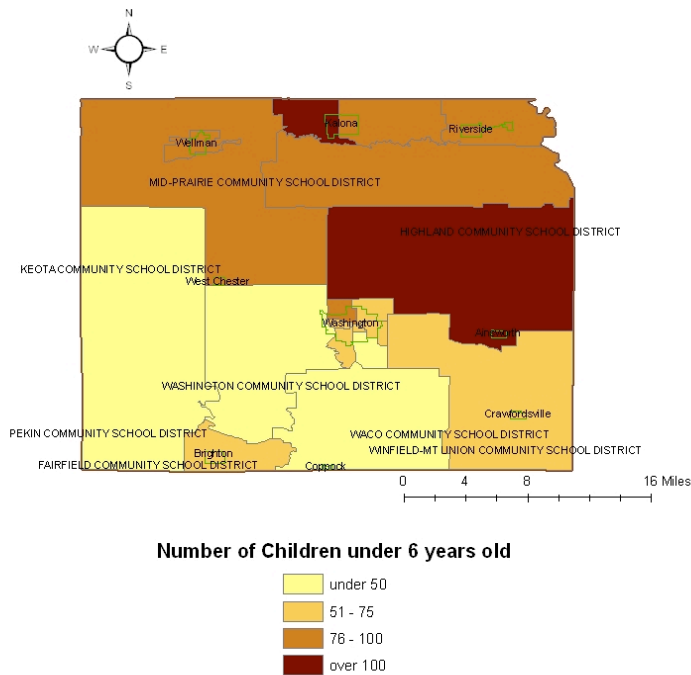
- Vision – Empowering others to provide children opportunity for success
- Mission – All individuals within the Washington County Empowerment Area will have a community that values and provides the opportunity to maximize their potential in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment, through partnering and collaborative efforts.

Geographical Overview

The WCE Area is defined by county boundaries and includes 3 school districts. Washington Community Schools, Mid-Prairie Community Schools, and Highland Community Schools.

Number of Young Children by Census Block Group
in Washington County, Iowa

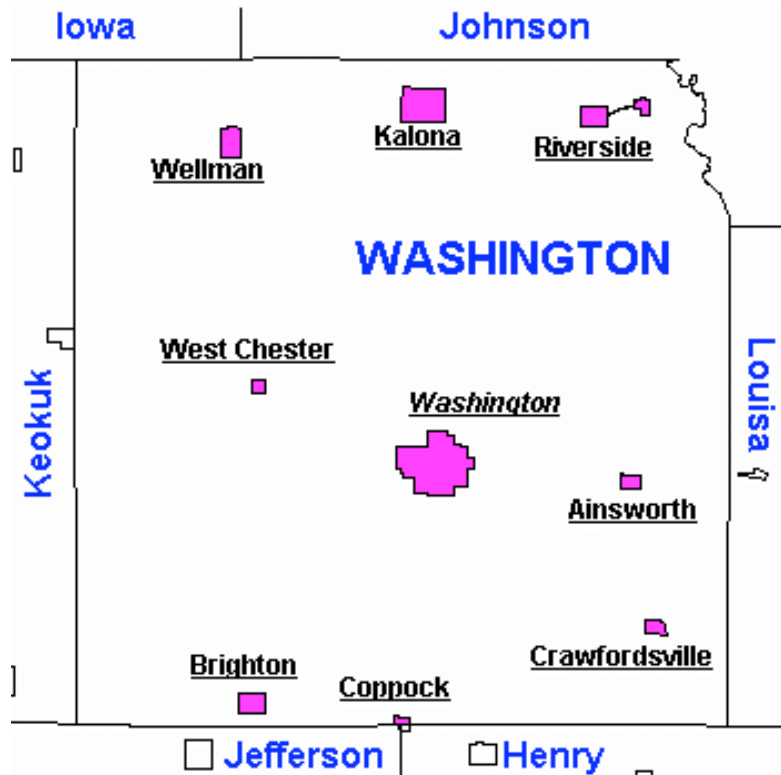
based on 2000 U.S. Census



Washington County is located south of Iowa City and includes the cities of Washington, Kalona, Wellman, Riverside, Brighton, Ainsworth, Crawfordsville, West Chester, and Coppock.

Washington County is within a 30-minute drive to the Iowa City area. Major highways include U.S. highway 218/27, Iowa highways 92, 22, 78 and 1.

All children 0-5 and their families who reside in Washington County are eligible for services funded by WCE. Preschools located outside county boundaries are eligible to receive preschool tuition grants for children who reside in Washington County. *Preschools must maintain compliance of standards set by the empowerment area in which they are located.*



Washington County Demographics

Population

(Source: Iowa Data Center, US Census, projections by Woods & Poole)

Washington County total population estimated for 2006 was 21,600. Washington is the largest city located in the County with estimated population of 7174 (2004).

	2000	2010
Total population	20,670	22,044
Percent 17 or younger	26.1	24.0
Population 17 or younger	5389	5295
0-4	1382	1508
5-9	1521	1547
10-14	1538	1396
15-19	948	844
Minority population		
17 or younger	370	323
0-4	109	78
5-9	114	78
10-14	98	92
15-19	49	75

School District

2006-2007 PreK-12 Enrollment by district

(Source: Iowa Department of Education)

	PreK	K-12	Total	Total White	Total NonWhite
Highland	63	633	696	657	39
Mid-Prairie	37	1191	1228	1167	61
Washington	9	1717	1726	1447	279

2007-2008 Enrollment by private school

	PreK	K-6
St James	41	109

General demographics

(Source: Iowa Data Center, U.S. Census 2000)

	County	State
Total Households	8056	
Total Families	5631	
Average household size	2.5	
Average family size	3.04	
Percent households with children under 18	31.4%	
Percents Population under 18	26.1%	
Median household income	\$39,103	\$39,469
Median family income	\$45,636	\$48,005
Percent families under poverty level	5.1%	6.0%
Percent 18 or younger under poverty level	10.3%	9.3%
Percent 5 or younger under poverty level	11.5%	12.7%
Percent families with children under 6 (all parents in work force)	77.4%	71.4%

Section 2: Community Resources

Family Resources

Washington County Family Resources	Location	Services Provided
Department of Public Health	Washington	Provide information and services dealing with Children's Health, Women's Health, Communicable diseases, Immunizations, Senior's health, and Home health.
YMCA	Washington	Recreation activities, summer camps, childcare, community events and enrichment.
HAACAP	Washington	Local transitional housing program, low-income energy assistance, Head Start preschool, emergency food box program, Good Will vouchers, Friendship Emergency Assistance Program
Parents as Teachers	Washington	In home parent education and child development resources
American Red Cross	Washington	Volunteer organization providing relief to victim of disasters and families in crisis
Parents Place	Washington	Incentive based parent program supporting families in parenting and child development education
Washington Chamber of Commerce	Washington	Private, non-profit voluntary organization of and for the Washington business community
Family counseling Service	Washington	Marriage, family, child, and individual counseling
Family Practice	Washington	Family oriented health care
Habitat for Humanity	Washington	Non-denominational Christian housing program partnering with families in need of housing
Hospital	Washington	Medical Care
Washington Ministerial Association	Washington	General family support services
Washington Public Library	Washington	Services for all ages including: computer public access, children programs, teen book club, & summer reading programs
ISU Extension	Washington	Programs include: Ag & Natural Resources, Business a& Industry, Community, Family, 4-H Youth Development, & Continuing Education

Systems Unlimited	Washington	Non-profit human services agency
Washington County Mental Health Department	Washington	Division of Department of Human Services
Methodist Church	Washington	Daycare facilities, counseling
Washington County Mini Bus	Washington	Transportation for all ages
WCDC	Washington	Workshop for physically and mentally handicapped individuals. Placement and training available with local employers.
Women's Healthcare of Washington	Washington	Obstetrics, women's healthcare
DECAT (Nurturing Families)	Brighton	Community based organization promoting collaboration, innovation, and pooling of resources to address needs of children and families
Department of Human Services	Washington	DHS offers a wide variety of services including child abuse reporting, mental health services, juvenile facilities, safe haven for infants, welfare, and many others.
MECCA	Washington	Community-based non-profit organization offering substance abuse and behavioral health services.
Washington County Empowerment Board	Washington	Vision and Mission: All individuals within the Washington County Empowerment Area will have a community that values and provides the opportunity to maximize their potential in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment, through partnering and collaborative efforts.
Child Crisis Line	Washington	Provides respite care for children for short periods of time when parents feel too stressed to provide their children with a safe environment.
Johnson County Health Department (WIC)	Iowa City	Supplementary Food Program for women, infants, and children
Wellman Food Bank	Wellman	Collects food donations and disperses them to families in need.
Kalona Food Bank	Kalona	Collects food donations and disperses them to families in need.
4C's Community Coordinated Child Care Resource and Referral	Iowa City	Help parents find permanent and occasional child care, provide trainings for parents and child care providers, help child care providers with issues such as state regulations, nutrition, child behavior, and infant care, operate toy library and resource center for parents, grandparents, and educators in the eastern Iowa area, and provide temporary, emergency, childcare for families in need.

Community School Districts	Washington County	Washington Community Schools, Mid-Prairie Community Schools, Highland Community Schools, & St James (private school, preK - 6)
Planned Parenthood	Washington	Planned Parenthood health centers offer high-quality sexual and reproductive health care, including family planning, gynecological care, STI/STD testing and treatment, pregnancy testing, and abortion services.
Rape Victim Advocacy Program (RVAP)	Iowa City	Provides crisis line support, counseling, advocacy, and education services to Washington County.

Early Childhood Education & Care Resources

Up With Kids	Washington
SCHOOL BASED PRESCHOOLS	
Ainsworth Elementary	Ainsworth
Riverside elementary	Riverside
Wellman elementary	Wellman
Kalona Elementary	Kalona
Washington Township	Washington township
A to Z (4 yr – Mid-Prairie classroom)	Kalona
Kids country Club (4 yr – Mid-Prairie classroom)	Kalona
WACO Elementary	Crawfordsville
FAITH BASED PRESCHOOLS	
St James	Washington
Kingdom Kids	Washington
Washington Preschool	Washington
First Baptist	Washington
LICENSED PRESCHOOLS	
A to Z	Kalona
Head Start	Washington
Washington Community Y Preschool	Washington
LICENSED CENTERS	
Red Bear Daycare	Washington
Washington Community Y Childcare	Washington
Kids country Club	Kalona
Sunrise childcare	Wellman

Funding Resources (children 0-5)

The WCE Community Assessment Committee identified organizations that provide services for families and/or children 0-5 in Washington County. Letters were sent to identified organizations explaining goals and current process of WCE.

Organizations were asked to complete and return a funding report form provided by WCE. Several organizations reported offering services not targeted directly for children 0-5. The WCE Committee agreed to not pursue funding details from certain entities due to concerns for excessive efforts required to break down funding streams specifically for children 0-5.

Funding indicated below is an estimate for 2005-2006 and was reported by the organization listed. All inquires for information or clarification of funding should be directed to the organization providing the service.

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE/PROGRAM	AGES	FUNDING	SOURCE OF FUNDING
Department of Public Health	Child Health (Washington, Des Moines, & Henry)	0-21	47,810	Federal
Department of Public Health	Child Health (Washington, Des Moines, & Henry)	0-21	12,154	State
Department of Public Health	Maternal health	Prenatal	23,680	Federal
Department of Public Health	Maternal health	Prenatal	6,679	State
Department of Public Health	I-smiles (Washington, Des Moines, & Henry)	0-21	32,505	Federal
Department of Public Health	Fluoride Varnish	3 to 5	19,873	County/State/Federal
Department of Public Health	I-4	0-2	6,222	Federal
Department of Public Health	I-4	0-2	3,022	State
Department of Public Health	Parents as Teachers	0-3	15,500	PCAI
Department of Public Health	Parents as Teachers	0-3	140,744	Empowerment
Department of Public Health	The Parents Place	0-3	11,652	Empowerment
Department of Public Health	Child Care Nurse consultant	0-18	4,183	Empowerment

Health				
Mahaska County Extension CCR&R	Child Care consultant & Professional Development	0-18	18,978	Empowerment
4Cs	Child Care consultant & Professional Development	0-18	10,093	Empowerment
4Cs	Child Care support and referral (Johnson & Washington)	0-13	60,000	State
Washington Community Y	Crisis child Care	0-18	12,000	PCAI
Decat	Community Partnership for Protecting Children	0-18	5,000	Federal/State
Decat	Neighborhood Network	0-18	2,000	PCAI
Decat	Child Welfare funding	0-18	48,837	Federal/State
Washington County Minibus	Preschool Transportation	3 to 5	9,938	Empowerment
Washington County ISU	Child care professional development	0-5	3,941	Empowerment Federal/State
Grant Wood AEA	Childcare professional development			
MECCA	Washington Co Tobacco Grant	0-18	21,363	Federal/State
Washington County Community Mental Health Center	Counseling	4 to 18	16,000	Federal/State
Kalona Public Library	<i>No response</i>			
Washington Public Library	<i>No response</i>			
HACAP	Headstart Preschool	3 to 5	180,631	Federal
HACAP	Headstart Preschool (wrap around)	3 to 5	68,208	State
HACAP	Headstart (CACFP)	3 to 5	47,602	Federal
Wellman Area foundation	Parkside Activity Center	All	4.3 Million (Pending)	Federal, State, & Private
Wellman Area foundation	Sunrise Childcare	0-12	1.1 Million (pending)	Federal, State, & Private
United Way	<i>Local funds do not specifically relate to children 0-5</i>			
Washington County Empowerment	Provider Grants	0-5	58,422	Empowerment
Department of Public Health	WIC	Prenatal -6	51,647	State

Section 3: Community Needs Assessment

Feasibility Study

General overview

WCE identified the need for a family resource center and/or childcare facility in the original community plan established in 2000. Progress toward planning and implementation has been slow due to lack of a unified community agreement of the type and size of facility needed.

WCE, in collaboration with Washington Chamber of Commerce, utilized the services of graduate students in the Urban & Regional Planning program at the University of Iowa to conduct an unbiased study assessing the need for a non-profit or for profit community based childcare facility and/or family resource center in Washington County. The study also addressed the feasibility of locating one or both of these facilities in an existing building or constructing a new structure.

Method

The study took place between February and May 2007. Personal interviews were conducted with childcare providers, early education providers, human service coordinators & directors, business, and community members. A focus group consisting of 8 human service representatives reviewed current resources and barriers to access. (Transportation was identified in the focus group as a key barrier to accessibility).

Over 1000 surveys were distributed to parents and childcare providers. 215 returned surveys examined community perception of: current quality of care & education, cost, accessibility, and need.

Outcomes and recommendations

It was found that the possibility of constructing one new centrally located county owned childcare facility or several smaller childcare facilities dispersed throughout the county was not feasible. The study provided 5 recommendations for improving care, education and accessibility to resources.

1. Provide small business management training for childcare providers
2. Offer a revolving loan fund and grant program for child care facility
3. Create a child care provider association with educational support benefits
4. Implement a family resource data center

5. Create a transportation system for preschool students and for county residents who need to access family resources

WCE responses

WCE reviewed all recommendations and determined that high priority should be given to # 4 and # 5 based on additional community information and services all ready in place.

#1 – WCE plans to continue supporting Childcare Consultants who offer training and various technical supports for all local providers. Members felt that this recommendation was being addressed.

#2 – WCE was able to offer quality improvement grants to several providers during 2006-2007 and many organizations were able to make improvements to facility environments. Due to lack of funding WCE was not able to extend the same grant opportunity for 2007-2008 and will be reviewing other options for financial supports that can be offered to providers seeking substantial quality improvements.

#3 –A Level 5 (QRS) provider located in Kalona has taken initiative to bring providers together as a support group. The childcare consultant plans to assist with this group and offer continued support for its success.

#4 – The recommendation for a resource center takes high priority in future planning for WCE. Several community dynamics are shaping the progress of this dream as outlined in Section 4.

#5 – A comprehensive transportation system also takes high priority in future planning for WCE. The need for transportation has been reiterated across all human service organizations as well as the County Attorney. WCE has begun conversations to assess the best possible solution and/or program to meet this need. Plans for transportation are outlined in Section 4.

Community indicators

WCE uses the following indicators to maintain a comprehensive overview of current issues effecting children and families in Washington County. Key indicators (1-4) are identified on annual reports and reflect current prioritized needs. WCE has conducted and reviewed several reports and community input during spring and summer 2007. Committees are currently in the process of evaluating new indicators to better assess identified concerns. New priorities and indicators will be implemented and refined during 2007-2008.

1. Incidence of child abuse
2. Child poverty rate
3. # of registered/licensed child care home/centers
4. # of teen births
5. # of live births
6. Rate of immunizations of children by age 2

7. # of child care slots
8. # of infant care slots
9. # of preschool aged children receiving tuition support from WCE
10. # of preschool aged children receiving transportation assistance from WCE

Identified needs and priorities

The WCE Community Assessment Committee recently revised priorities based on feasibility study results, recommendations, and focus group outcomes.

Identified needs and priorities

(Established 2001-2007)

1. Health care coverage for all children 0-5 years
2. Prevent child abuse and neglect
3. Universal network and support available for anyone involved with a child age 0-3
(Priority given to teen moms, newborns, and first time moms)
4. Preschool available for every child
5. Increase capacity and quality of child care

New Identified needs and priorities

(Revised July 2007)

1. Health care coverage for all children 0-5 years
2. Prevent child abuse and neglect
3. Universal network and support available for anyone involved with a child age 0-3
(Priority given to teen moms, newborns, and first time moms)
4. Quality Preschool available for every child
5. Increase capacity and quality of child care with an emphasis on health and safety
6. Comprehensive and affordable transportation system for families to access resources

Revised priorities indicate that needs have remained relatively consistent. Revisions made by the Community Assessment Committee reflect a focus on childcare provider health & safety practices as well as a new priority to establish a comprehensive transportation system for families utilizing human services. Future plans and strategies to address new priorities will be established 2007-2008.

Section 4:

Community collaboration & planning

Results – new priorities

Family Transportation System

Identified Collaborators: Washington County Mini Bus, WCE Community Assessment Committee, Parents as Teachers, Public Health, the Parents Place, DHS, and other organizations with transportation services.

Planning: The human service focus group conducted in spring 2007 as a part of the childcare/resource feasibility study identified a countywide gap in transportation assistance for families utilizing services. Directors and Coordinators noted that customers were often unable to benefit from all service opportunities due to lack of transportation.

WCE invited the Washington Co Mini Bus to attend a committee meeting and discuss possible service implementation. Committee members identified concerns for a central office in which parents/guardians could access a transportation program, reiterating the identified priority for a resource center.

Outcomes: WCE plans to assess other transportation options, such as churches or YMCA, and identify partners that may be able to implement a transportation assistance program in conjunction with WCE priorities. Surveys will be sent to community partners in January 2008. The goal is to create a user-friendly program that families can access through service providers already being utilized. Organizations with identified families in need will have knowledge of and access to the transportation program. WCE will evaluate possible pilot program for FY08 based out of the WCE office.

Provider Quality Improvement Grants

Identified Collaborators: WCE Program Committee, Riverboat Foundation, Mahaska County CCR&R, 4Cs, licensed/registered providers

Planning: Washington County providers have indicated a need for financial support to complete quality improvement plans as identified in the feasibility study. WCE has reviewed possibilities of applying for additional funding through the Riverboat Foundation. It was determined that WCE could apply based on quasi government status.

The Board approved to write a grant application in spring 2008 for funding that would be accessible to local providers.

Outcomes: WCE will utilize the program committee to establish rules and guidelines of a grant application for Washington Co providers seeking funding to make quality improvements. Providers will show significant commitment to quality and match a portion of the funds requested. Through the Quality Improvement Provider Grant Program, WCE will see an increase in high quality environments and greater increase in the percentage of providers meeting higher-level achievements.

Resource Center

Identified Collaborators: Public Health, Family Practice, MECCA, Planned Parenthood, Parents as Teachers, WCE Community Assessment Committee, Rape Victim Advocacy Program, Crisis Childcare, WACAN (local Prevent Child Abuse Iowa), and YMCA

Planning: The concept of a resource center and/or childcare center has been debated heavily over the past several years. Many community, organizational, and human service meetings have discussed the possibility of a new facility. The feasibility study conducted by WCE in collaboration with the Washington Chamber of Commerce identified a central resource center as a need within the county. It was determined that parent responses to surveys did not support the building of one large childcare center. Families indicated the desire to maintain access to small home based childcare.

Washington County and the city of Washington are currently undergoing several building discussions and planning. Factors that add to the progress and direction of a new resource center include:

- New county jail, opening winter 2007-2008, will leave vacant space on the square
- Washington Public Health is temporarily located in Federation Bank and looking for a new home
- Washington County Hospital has undergone major construction and continues to discuss use of unused space
- Collaborations and meetings have taken place discussing the creation of a health park. A resource center has been noted as a viable option to be added in this development.
- Revised focus on awareness and need for further planning to meet diverse needs, specifically relating to Hispanic population

All discussions have played a part in the direction of where and how to build a new resource center. In addition to these factors WCE and Washington County Public Health have identified several organizations desiring to merge and occupy one building. The collaboration among these entities will help to ensure future success with grant application and reduced operational costs.

Outcomes: WCE will continue to collaborate with all partners seeking implementation of a new project. The WCE coordinator will work closely with Washington County Public Health as they finalize steps for a permanent location. Consideration has been given to a single building with several human service offices and one central reception area that would also act as an information point for all community members.

Current timeline for project planning is:

- Summer 2008 – Collaborators will finalize decisions for project type and location.
- Fall 2008 – collaborators will complete a CBDG application
- Fall/Winter 2008-2009 – complete applications for USDA, Empowerment, and Riverboat Foundation grant opportunities.
- Summer 2009 – Construction