



### **Iowa Child Care Workforce Study – 2023**

- *Need to find sustainable ways to raise the wages of our child care workers.*
  - *52% of those who left said they would have stayed but compensation and benefits were not enough.*
  - *22% of providers reporting financial difficulties.*
  - *17.5% of providers report having a second job to make ends meet.*
- *Access to benefits such as health insurance, paid leave, and retirement supports.*
- *Ensure members of the child care workforce have a good work environment.*
- *Clarify (mis)understandings about current programs that exist in Iowa to support child care businesses.*
  - *Increase awareness of available resources to help overcome barriers that prevent workers from furthering their education.*
- *Recruiting and retaining a high-quality workforce is one of the greatest challenges facing Iowa's child care system.*

### **Jones County Childcare Market Study – 2022**

- *53.8% of programs that responded have a waiting list of 1 or more children. Waitlist numbers are higher in infant age groups.*
- *No major plans for expansion were noted for the next 5 years from current child care providers.*
- *Over 17% of families reported looking for care. Cost, location, lack of availability, and flexible scheduling options are the top reasons families are looking.*
- *Businesses shared lack of 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> shift care and overall lack of availability as concerns.*
- *Community concerns were noted regarding current programming remaining open and recruiting and retaining child care workforce.*
- *Goals: continue community engagement with businesses and community partners, increase spaces through Child Development Home incentive packages, and investigate a 5 year plan for a new child care center on the western edge of the county.*

### **Alice County Reports 2021 – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed –**

- *Households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county.*
- *Cedar County – 22% Alice Households; Jones County 26% Alice Households; State Avg. 24%.*
- *Minimal changes in data from 2019.*
- *Financial Hardship is Not Equally Distributed -- More likely to be Alice Households – Single-Female-Headed Households with children; households under 25 years of age; disparities were also noted by race.*
- *A significant portion of both full and part time workers are paid by the hour; these workers are more likely to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits – 39.4% in Cedar County and 36.4% in Jones County.*

### **Iowa HHS System Snapshots –**

- *Parts of both Cedar and Jones counties have a shortage area for Primary Care Physicians.*
- *Both counties are shortage areas for Dental Care Providers.*
- *Both counties are shortage areas for Mental Health Care Providers.*
- *Residents in Jones County have 3.9 poor mental health days per month and residents in Cedar County have 4.4 poor mental health days per month. These are compared to 4.4 days/month as the Iowa average.*
- *4.2% of households in Jones County and 3.3% of households in Cedar County do not have a vehicle.*
- *42.8% of adults in Jones County and 39.7% of residents in Cedar County have an unhealthy body weight.*
- *Life expectancy in both counties is 78.7 years.*

### **United Way of East Central Iowa – 2021 Community Impact Assessment**

- *Top three areas of concern in Eastern Iowa are housing, childcare, and safety net services.*
  - *Housing --- high rent rates, lack of safe housing, systemic racism, and communication gaps prevent individuals and families from achieving stability.*
  - *Shortage of available childcare along with an extremely high cost of childcare.*
  - *Food, shelter, transportation, and access to healthcare are just a few of many critical needs that are part of safety net services. These services are in high demand. Public health insurance is not widely accepted by providers with dental care being a leading issue. Concerning cost of prescriptions and copays.*
  - *Disproportionate rates in data amongst various race/ethnicities.*

### **Cedar County Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Plan – 2023**

- *Identified were six challenges: basic needs, recreational opportunities, chronic health conditions, mental health, transportation, and tobacco prevention & cessation.*
- *Cedar County is rated among the healthiest in Iowa, being ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of Iowa's 99 counties.*
- *Priorities include increasing access to basic living needs, to recreational opportunities, to assistance managing chronic health conditions, and to mental health care.*

### **Jones County Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Plan – 2023**

- *Jones County is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> out of Iowa's 99 counties in overall general health status.*
- *Priorities include physical activity, nutrition, and overweight & obesity, addictive behaviors (substance abuse), and the prevention of epidemics and spread of disease.*
- *Goals include:*
  - *increasing physical activity levels among Jones County residents,*
  - *decreasing food insecurity rates to 7% or less,*
  - *decreasing the percentage of the adult population that currently smokes,*
  - *decreasing the percentage of teens and high schoolers who smoke or use e-cigarettes,*
  - *increasing the number of 2 year olds receiving all recommended vaccinations to 85%,*
  - *increasing the number of adolescents who receive all recommended vaccinations to 85%, and*
  - *increasing the number of adults receiving HPV vaccination to 60% and Shingles vaccination to 30%.*