

# Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa

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## Legislation

Many of you may have heard that there is currently legislation moving through the House and Senate that would make changes to Early Childhood Iowa as we have known it for the past 27 years.

The bill recommending the changes is coming from the Governors Office. The first committee meetings on the bills were held the week of February 17<sup>th</sup>.

While nothing is final until bills are signed the ECI State Office is preparing ECI areas for the changes.

The most noticeable change is to move from 33 ECI areas to 7 Districts using the map that was created for the Behavioral Health Districts. With that changes Partnerships 4 Families as we know it would be divided into three Districts.

District 1 Carroll County  
District 4 Audubon & Guthrie  
District 5 Greene County

As we wait and see what will happen in the legislator meetings are being held to make transitions go smoothly should the change occur.

Reach out to me if you have questions. Cindy

## Preschool in the Fall

It is that time of year when our local school districts are signing up children for Pre-K. If you know of a family with a child who will be 4 by September 15<sup>th</sup> have them reach out to their local elementary school building for information. Each school district has a slightly different process.

If you are looking for a three year old program in your area

Email us at:  
[p4fchildren@gmail.com](mailto:p4fchildren@gmail.com)  
Or visit with other families with children your child's age.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Partnerships 4 Families**  
**Thursday March 20, 2024**  
**11:00 AM at New Opportunities,**  
**Carroll or via Zoom**

**Due to the many changes at the state level the Designation visit that was planned for this spring has been canceled.**

## March is....

March is a time to sneak out side in the afternoon to enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather.

Just as animal start to wake up from hibernation it is also great for humans to get outside and enjoy the sunshine and Vitamin D.

Be sure to schedule time outside for children and adults this March.



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# Head Start

If you know of someone who will be 3 or 4 by September 15, 2025 and might be eligible for Head Start preschool, have them give Magen a call at 712-830-9442 for Audubon, Carroll, and Coon Rapids Head Start programs, and Diane at 712-830-6990 for Jefferson or Panora..

Children attending will be provided nutritional snacks and meals, active learning experience, and health and dental services.

Head Start also offers an Early Head Start center based program in Carroll. Call 712-830-3028 for more information.

<https://www.newopp.org/services/head-start-early-head-start>

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## Notes from Cindy

The news is starting to sneak out and as of the last P4F Board meeting it became official. I will be retiring in the fall of 2025. It is time to join my husband in the retirement world and have more time to enjoy traveling to see our kids and grandkids.

While this news comes when many things are unknown for ECI and P4F my intention is to get things settled and then ride off into the fall leaves.

Who would lead ECI if Cindy is not there you ask. With the potential move to Districts I will be connecting people to the new leadership in each of the districts. Since we won't know much until April or May I will keep everyone posted as things progress. For now if you have questions please reach out to me, I would be happy to sit down and have coffee and share what I know so far.

Cindy

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## P4F Board

Last month we reported how P4F currently has a full board. With the pending legislation we are considering who may be interested in serving on one of the three districts that we could be moving into.

If you or someone you know would be interested in assisting with the new governance structure of Early Childhood Iowa we would be happy to visit with you and share information as it becomes available.

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## DCAT & CPPC Coordinator Update

Many of you know Mollie Scott, the DCAT & CPPC Coordinator for Audubon, Carroll, Greene & Guthrie Cluster along with Crawford and Sac Cluster. As of February 1 her positions has gone part time. She will still have the same email address and will respond when she is able.

# Community Coalition Meetings

Community coalition meetings are intentional meetings of community members and service providers gathering to network for the benefit of the people they serve. Anyone is welcome to attend.

**Audubon County** meets at 11:30 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in January, April, July & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is **Wednesday April 9, 2025 at 11:30 AM**, Offered in person and via Zoom

**Carroll County** meets at noon on the third Wednesday of five times a year in Feb, April, June, Sept, Nov. Their next meeting is **Wednesday at Noon on April 16, 2025 @ noon at New Opportunities, Room D in Carroll** Offered in person and maybe via Zoom There is no December meeting as the website said.

**Greene County** meets on the first Tuesday of the month five times a year at noon at ISU Extension in Jefferson. The five months are Feb, April, June, Sept & Nov. Their next meeting is **Tuesday April 1, 2025 at noon**. Offered in person and via Zoom

**Guthrie County** meets at noon four times a year in March, June, September and December on the second Thursday of the month at the ISU Extension meeting room in Guthrie Center. Their next meeting is **Thursday March 13, 2025 at noon**. Offered in person and via Zoom

The meetings are offered in person and via Zoom. The Zoom link for all the above-mentioned meetings can be found on New Opportunities website at: <https://www.newopp.org/county-resources/coalitions>

**Partnerships 4 Families is the Early Childhood Iowa Area  
Designated to serve Audubon, Carroll, Greene, and Guthrie Counties**

**PO Box 672 Carroll, Iowa 51040**

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