

# Child Welfare Research and Training Project

## Community Partnerships for Protecting Children

Iowa State University Partnership with the Iowa Department of Human Services

*Purpose: To educate, empower, support, and partner with human service professionals and community members to ensure and protect the welfare of Iowa's children and families.*

<b>CPPC Defined</b>	<b>Community Partnerships for Protecting Children</b> (CPPC) is a community-based approach to strengthening families, keeping children safe, and creating community collaborations. Community Partnerships through ISU work to reduce negative childhood experiences, promote responsibility in protecting children, and build safety networks. The CPPC team works with communities to blend the work and expertise of professionals and community members, bolstering supports for vulnerable families and children. The team works to protect children through culture shifts and improvements in child welfare processes, practices and policies. Currently, forty CPPC local decision-making groups, involving ninety-ninety Iowa counties, guide the implementation of CPPC.
<b>4 CPPC Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Shared Decision Making</b> Provide leadership for collaborative efforts that promote community responsibility for the safety and well-being of children.</li> <li>✓ <b>Neighborhood/Community Networking</b> Promote cooperation and form alliances for accessible, relevant informal and professional supports, services and resources for families with children at risk of abuse and neglect.</li> <li>✓ <b>Individualized Course of Action</b> <b>(Family Team and Youth Transition Decision Making):</b> Genuinely engage families and youth to identify strengths, resources, and supports to reduce barriers and help families succeed.</li> <li>✓ <b>Policy and Practice Change</b> Improve policies and practices that reduce barriers and increase accessibility and relevance of service that lead to positive family outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Equity Alliance Steering Committee (CEASC)</b>	The <b>Cultural Equity Alliance Steering Committee</b> (CEASC) functions statewide with communities, providers, and state systems. The steering committee develops recommendations for systemic changes to reduce minority and ethnic disproportionality and disparity in the child welfare system. This collaborative includes: DHS (leadership and field staff), providers, courts, Parent Partners, foster care alumni, immigrant and refugee services, other child welfare partners, domestic violence agencies, juvenile justice, race and ethnic diversity and inclusion advocates.
<b>CEASC Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Cultural Equity Resources:</b> Guiding Principles for Cultural Equity; Culture Vision™; Continuing Courageous Conversations Toolkit; Race: The Power of an Illusion (RPI); and Understanding Implicit Racial Bias (UIRB) learning exchanges.</li> <li>✓ <b>Iowa Beyond the Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC):</b> Ten local community Equity Teams from across the state meet to develop, implement and track efforts to reduce disproportionality and disparity in the child welfare system for children and families of color.</li> <li>✓ <b>Recruitment, Retention and Support:</b> Review of current recruitment and retention documents to assess training and mentoring/ skill building in support of a diverse and anti-racist workforce.</li> <li>✓ <b>Training and Learning:</b> Recommendations for IDHS Training Committee to ensure training curricula offered to DHS staff uses a standardized set of criteria to address bias, inclusiveness, systemic and individual levels of racism, root causes of racism, and shared language.</li> </ul>
<b>APPC Collaboration</b>	The <b>AmeriCorps Partnering to Protect Children</b> (APPC), with matching funds from CPPC, places up to 15 AmeriCorps Members statewide in CPPC and Allied Agency sites to build local capacity to address the key strategies of the CPPC key strategies.
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