

Quality Child Care Alliance (QCCA) Subcommittees, Goals, & Activities

Steering Committee:

Provides overall planning for the QCCA. Committee members include Dubuque County Empowerment Board Members and Director, the QCCA Coordinator, Subcommittee Chairs, and any interested community members.

Public Awareness Subcommittee

Goal 1: Develop a community public awareness campaign that targets the importance of early childhood environments.

- Developing our organizational identity with a tagline, logo, and advertising.
- Creating a public awareness campaign to educate parents, businesses, and the community on the importance of quality child care and early childhood development.

Subsidy System

Goal 2: Develop a need-based subsidy system for children age 0-5 based on quality standards.

- Analyzing data on the existing cost of child care in Dubuque County.
- Local descriptive data compiled, including the number of child care slots, number of children age 0-5, annual births, and income data.
- Determine cost to provide quality child care as defined by our Dubuque County Quality Child Care Model

Quality Engagement Subcommittee

Goal 3: 50% of child care directors and 25% of in-home child care providers in Dubuque County will participate in the development of a model quality child care system.

- Hosted meeting with child care providers with a dinner and information on the QCCA.
- Developing our Dubuque County Quality Child Care Model by reviewing best practice standards from national and state resources and applying standards to our local community.
- Outreach to center and in-home child care providers for input on the proposed model.

Goal 4: Develop a comprehensive plan to increase the number of quality child care spaces.

- Five Steps to Quality handouts developed and distributed for centers and child development homes to help simplify the Iowa Quality Rating System (QRS).
- Identification of grants and funding opportunities for providers.
- Registration campaign for non-registered in-home providers.
- Efforts in progress to increase participation of in-home child care providers in QRS.
- Collaborating with the Public Awareness Subcommittee to educate parents on quality child care standards.

Professional Development Subcommittee

Goal 5: Develop a comprehensive professional development plan that includes both credit-based training and non-credit based training, with support from local higher education institutions.

- Reviewed educational requirements of the Iowa QRS and other quality initiatives.
- Identified credit and non-credit based training opportunities in Dubuque and surrounding areas.
- Developed a table of professional development opportunities in early childhood.
- Career Development Scale in progress to promote professional development through levels.
- Educational Stipend Program to provide support to current child care professionals taking early childhood courses at NICC.