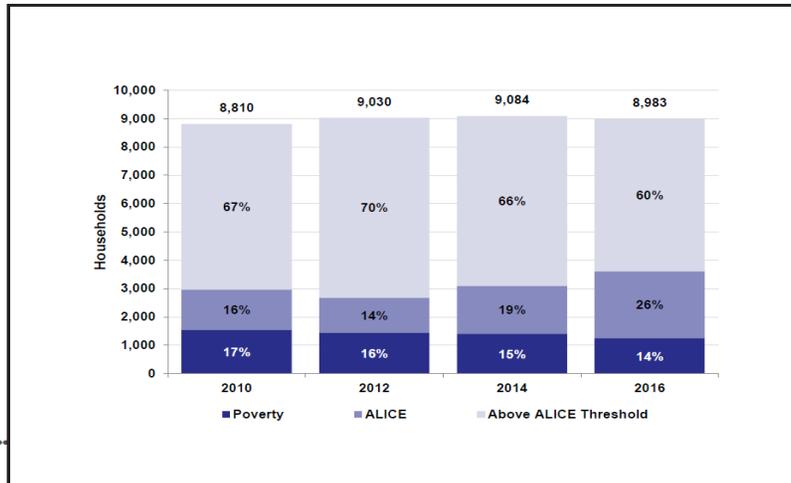


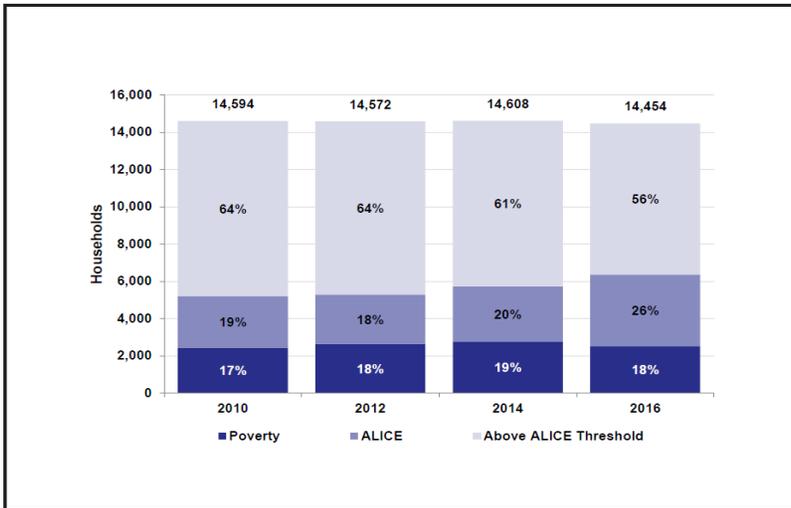
Mahaska County

Households by Income, 2010 to 2016



Wapello County

Households by Income, 2010 to 2016



Income / Poverty Data

ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mloyed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). Combined, the number of ALICE and poverty-level households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. The number of households below the ALICE Threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE status as their circumstances improve or worsen. The recovery, which started in 2010, has been uneven across the state. Conditions have improved for some families, but with rising costs, many still find themselves struggling.

The cost of living continues to increase...

The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum that a household needs to live and work today. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college. In 2016, costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$11,880 for a single adult and \$24,300 for a family of four. Family costs increased by 41 percent statewide from 2010 to 2016, compared to 9 percent inflation nationally.

...and wages lag behind

Employment and wages vary by location; firms generally pay higher wages in areas with a higher cost of living, although those wages still do not always cover basic needs. Employment and wages also vary by firm size: Large firms tend to offer higher wages and more job stability; smaller businesses can account for more jobs overall, especially in rural areas, but may pay less and offer less stability. Medium-size firms pay more but typically employ the fewest workers.

(Source: Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey, 2016. and the ALICE Threshold, 2016)

Mahaska County

➤ Median household income \$49,599 / below state average \$56,247; Households below federal poverty level 14.0% / higher than state average 12%; ALICE Households 26% / higher than state average 25%.

Wapello County

➤ Median household income \$42,494 / below state average \$56,247; Households below federal poverty level 18.0% / higher than state average 12%; ALICE Households 26% / higher than state average 25%.

(Source: Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey, 2016. and the ALICE Threshold, 2016)

Addressing Unemployment / ALICE Household Survival Budget

Household Survival Budget, Mahaska County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$474	\$670
Child Care	\$-	\$1,094
Food	\$158	\$525
Transportation	\$349	\$697
Health Care	\$214	\$800
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$151	\$440
Taxes	\$256	\$542
Monthly Total	\$1,657	\$4,843
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$19,884	\$58,116
Hourly Wage	\$9.94	\$29.06

Although data (page 13) indicates that unemployment rates have decreased significantly since 2010 by almost 50%, (8.0% to 4.6%) and the usage of both FIP and SNAP continue to decrease, the **ALICE Household Survival Budgets** indicate that families continue to struggle to make ends meet every month. They are often one flat tire, or one emergency room visit away from crisis.

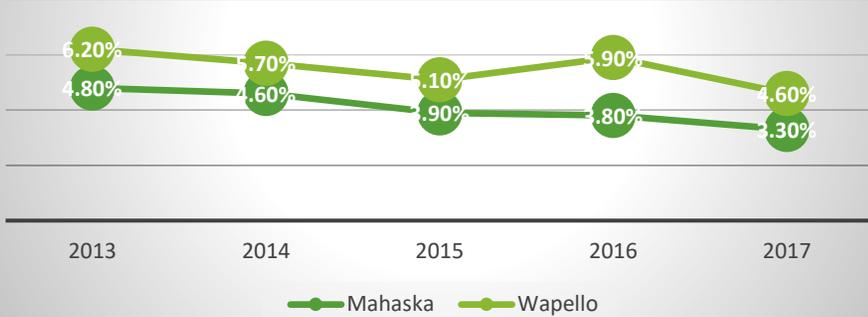
Among the solutions Iowa lawmakers could pursue in helping families struggling to make ends meet include raising the state's minimum wage and ensuring it increases along with inflation, strengthening collective bargaining, pushing for fair housing and investing in education.

(Source: Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey, 2016. and the ALICE Threshold, 2016)

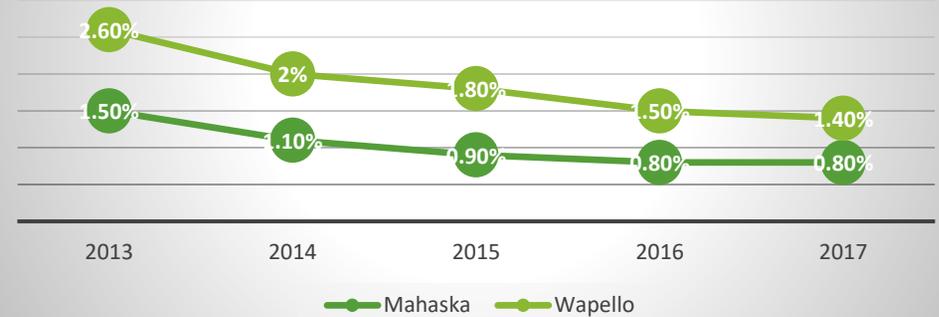
Household Survival Budget, Wapello County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$424	\$688
Child Care	\$-	\$988
Food	\$158	\$525
Transportation	\$349	\$697
Health Care	\$214	\$800
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$144	\$428
Taxes	\$241	\$509
Monthly Total	\$1,585	\$4,710
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$19,020	\$56,520
Hourly Wage	\$9.51	\$28.26

A copy of the current MWECE Community Plan and any other documents referred to in this plan are available by contacting the MWECE Area Director or the MWECE Board Chair.

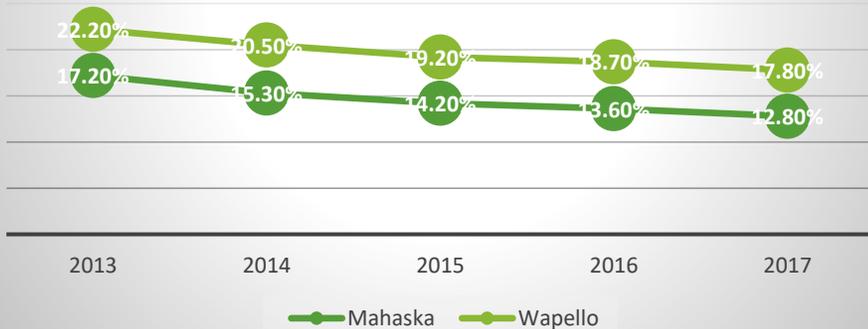
Percentage of individuals over 16 who are in the labor force but unemployed during the year



Percentage of individuals receiving Family Investment Program financial assistance during the year



Percentage of individuals receiving financial assistance for food during the year (nationally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation / KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER Iowa Indicators by County 2018

School Districts

- **Mahaska County:** North Mahaska CSD, Oskaloosa CSD, and Eddyville/Blakesburg/Fremont CSD
- **Wapello County:** Eddyville/Blakesburg/Fremont CSD, Ottumwa CSD and Cardinal CSD

High School Graduation Rates

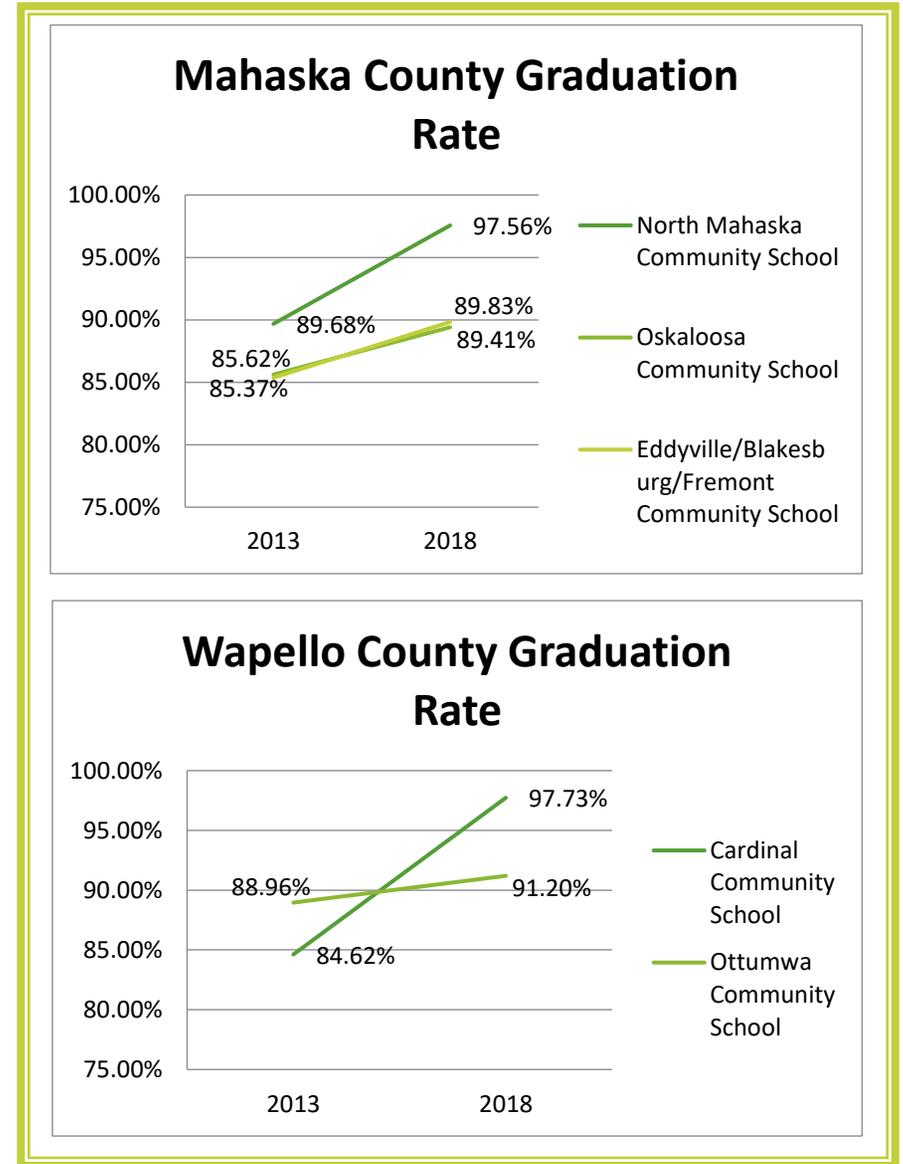
Graduation rates for 2018 for individual school districts are below. State of Iowa rate is 91.41% (Up 1.73% from 2013 / 89.68% 2013)

Mahaska County

- North Mahaska Community School – 97.56% (40/41) 2018
Up 10.6% from 2013 / 86.96% (40/46)
- Oskaloosa Community School – 89.41% (152/170) 2018
Up 3.79% from 2013 / 85.62% (131/153)
- Eddyville/Blakesburg/Fremont Community School – 89.83% (53/59) 2018
Up 4.46% from 2013 / 85.37% (70/82)

Wapello County

- Cardinal Community School – 97.73% (43/44) 2018
Up 13.11% from 2013 / 84.62% (33/39)
 - Ottumwa Community School – 91.20 (259/284) 2018
Up 2.24% from 2013 / 88.96% (290/326)
- (Data source: Iowa Dept. of Education Iowa School Profile 2018 Graduation Rates)*



School Districts - There are five public school districts and three nonpublic faith-based schools located within the region.

The smallest school, **North Mahaska Community School District**, has 532 students PK – 12th grade (2017-2018). Mission statement: North Mahaska Community Schools will prepare students to be positive, productive citizens, with the passion and skills for lifelong learning. All school district buildings are located on the same campus southeast of New Sharon, Iowa.

The mission of the **Cardinal Community School District** is to foster an enriching environment and channel the energies of students to achieve their fullest potential. All school district buildings are located on a single campus in the county near Eldon, Iowa, and has an enrollment of 882 students 3y, PK-12th grade (2017-2018).

Consolidation of very small public districts is not uncommon in recent decades and has resulted in districts that cover multiple small rural communities. The **Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont Community School District** is unique with buildings located in three different towns and has a combined enrollment of 988 students PK through 12th grade. Mission statement: Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont Community School District will provide a quality education in which students become lifelong collaborative learners and innovative problem solvers in a global society.

The mission of the Oskaloosa Community Schools is to engage all students to embrace the power of learning. The **Oskaloosa Community School District** is comprised of one high school, grades 9-12, one middle school, grades 6-8, one elementary school grades Kindergarten - 5 and Webster School which includes their community preschool program, our alternative high school program, and Indian Hills Career Academy, all of which are located on three separate school campuses (NW campus / elementary, NE campus / middle school & high school, and South Central / community preschool) and has an enrollment of 2,328 students 3y, PK through 12th grade (2017-2018).

Ottumwa is the largest school with 4,655 students PK – 12th grade (2017-2018). The mission of the Ottumwa Community Schools is to inspire every student to think, learn, achieve, and care. The **Ottumwa Community School District** is comprised of one high school, grades 9-12, one middle school, grades 6-8, six elementary school grades K-5th and one early childhood center for 3Y and 4Y preschool. Each of the elementary schools are located in their historic local neighborhoods. The brand-new early childhood center was built on the former Pickwick Elementary site and opened for the 2018-2019 school year with an enrollment of 360 students (3-4 year olds).

There are three nonpublic, faith-based schools located in the two-county area. The vision of **Seton Catholic School** is to provide a quality, Catholic Christian education that stimulates lifelong learning and nurtures responsible, productive citizens. They provide PK through 5th grade education services (151 students / 2018-2019). Seton's Preschool programming is part of the Ottumwa Schools SWV4Y program. The **Ottumwa Christian School's** mission is to provide opportunities for all students to discover their God-given potential and purpose, to become who God intended them to be and to equip them for a life of service. They provide PK through 12th grade education services (78 students / 2018-2019). **Oskaloosa Christian School** has been established and maintained by an association of parents who believe that it is their duty as Christians to provide Christian education for their children, and believing that this can best be accomplished by joint action, are committed to Christian training for their children in keeping with the teachings of the Holy Word of God. They provide PK through 8th grade education services (180 students / 2018-2019).

School Districts and Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) and Community Partners

Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children (SWVPP) is an important part of the state's comprehensive early childhood effort, providing more opportunities for young children to access quality preschool and enter school ready to learn. The preschool programs are expected to serve four-year-old children with a range of abilities representing the social, linguistic, cultural, and economic diversity of families within the communities.

The SWVPP along with other state and federally funded preschool programs and community partners in Iowa—such as Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education, Title I, and Shared Visions—make up Iowa's comprehensive preschool. The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program was established in 2007 by the Iowa Legislature (HF877), providing funding to public districts to offer no cost 4-year-old preschool. Districts participate on a voluntary basis and program structures vary from school to school. Some offer the minimum 10 hours per week while others have increased to offer full day services, reducing mid-day transportation challenges.

In the Fall of 2018, approximately 26,710 Iowa preschoolers in 323 school districts benefited from the SWVPP by providing at least 10 hours per week of developmentally appropriate instruction. More children than are reflected in the funded enrollment count have access to this preschool program through other funding sources.

The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program continues to meet high quality standards that support positive effects on Iowa's incoming kindergarteners. Participating school districts follow the Iowa Early Learning Standards. These standards identify the knowledge, skills, motivation, and attitudes needed by preschoolers that lead to success as students enter school and as adults. Additionally, participating programs must meet one of three program standards: Head Start Program Performance Standards, Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, or National Association for the Education of Young Children Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items. Each set of program standards is indicative of high-quality programming efforts.

Studies continue to show increased proficiencies in beginning reading skills among all children who attend the state's preschool program. All students in grades K-3 are required to be assessed three times per year with a universal literacy screening tool. The vast majority of districts use the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST). The number of students proficient in early literacy skills upon kindergarten entry is increasing overall. In the Fall of 2014, 53 percent of kindergarteners were proficient on the FAST assessment. In the Fall of 2018, 61 percent of kindergarten children were proficient. Continuing efforts to support quality literacy instruction, such as intentionally embedding literacy into classroom curricula, routines, and activities are recommended.

(Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Fact Sheet / Iowa Department of Education / July 2019)

2018-2019 Kindergarten Assessment by ECI Area

ECI Area	AEA	District	Number Met Benchmark	Number Tested	Percent Met Benchmark
Mahaska and Wapello Counties					
	15	Cardinal Comm School District	36	83	43%
	15	Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont CSD	54	85	64%
	15	North Mahaska Comm School District	37	44	84%
	15	Oskaloosa Comm School District	80	154	52%
	15	Ottumwa Comm School District	87	273	32%

2018-2019 First Year Kindergarten Students Preschool Participation

<p>Mahaska Wapello ECI Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Name • Cardinal • North Mahaska • Eddyville/Blakesburg/Fremont • Oskaloosa • Ottumwa 	<p>Total 1st Year KG Percentage Preschool Attendance</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">88%</p> </div>
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This information is reported to the DE by local school districts to reflect “the number of kindergarten students who attended preschool at any time twelve months prior to registering for kindergarten.” Data is collected by districts using different data collection methods including parent report and district records.

The percentage for each district describes the percentage of kindergarten children who attended a preschool program (district, local private preschool, and/or a preschool funded by Early Childhood Iowa scholarships) for some period of time during 2017-18.

* A school district may be geographically located in multiple ECI areas. In the table, each district is included in only one ECI area determined by the county location of the district office.

Students participating in kindergarten for a second year are not included in this data set.

(Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI), Fall 2019 Merged Student File.)

Community Needs Assessment: Methodology

A mixed method approach using both qualitative and quantitative data sources was used to gain a thorough understanding of local early childhood care, education, health and prevention programming, funding, community needs and risks factors of children and families in Mahaska and Wapello Counties. The approach and descriptions of each data source for the assessment are provided below.

Risk Factor Analysis

To determine the needs and risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect and multiple social indicators, the MWECI Board of Directors and Advisory Group relied primarily on information gleaned from the ***Iowa Child Maltreatment Prevention Needs Assessment / December 2017*** provided by Prevent Child Abuse Iowa. The goals of the analysis were to determine the extent to which common risk factors of abuse and neglect were of concern in Iowa and identified specific communities in the state (through a county-level analysis) that had an increased risk of abuse and neglect. Only data sources with sufficient sample size and reputable sampling techniques (for survey data) were used in the analysis. For all sources, the most recent data available was used. Each data source is described in more detail below:

American Community Survey (ACS) (U.S. Census): The ACS is an ongoing survey of the United States population which captures population and housing information (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013). Surveys are sent to a randomly selected sample of addresses in the United States each month. For the purposes of this report ACS estimates from 2011–2015 on race, ethnicity, poverty and housing costs were used.

Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS): BRFSS is a telephone survey of health-related behaviors and overall health (CDC, 2017). In Iowa, since 2008 the survey also contains questions regarding adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). County level estimates using data from 2011-2015 were used in the risk factor analysis. Data analyzed included prevalence of heavy drinking, adverse childhood experiences and mental illness.

Iowa Department of Public Health Vital Statistics: IDPH vital statistics data was used to determine the teen birth rate per county (IDPH, 2017d).

Iowa Department of Public Safety (IDOPS): IDOPS data was used to identify the number of victims of domestic violence per county, using Uniform Crime Reporting statistics from 2016 (Iowa Department of Public Safety, 2017).

A “set of maps” from the ***Iowa Child Maltreatment Prevention Needs Assessment / December 2017*** was reviewed by both the MWECI Board of Directors and the MWECI Advisory Group (provider members) who then shared thoughts about the rankings and probable causes. Mahaska County Rankings: Almost half of individual county rankings are in the upper 50% of counties identified with the greatest needs. Wapello County Rankings: All but one individual county ranking is in the top 25% of counties identified with the greatest needs. *(See the MW Comparison Ranking Chart on the next page).*

The MWECI Board of Directors and MWECI Advisory Group also reviewed a chart comparison of the risk factors identified by prevention professionals. The risk factor analysis identified poverty, incidence of teen birth, low birthweight, domestic violence, four or more ACEs, high rent and mental illness as correlates with abuse and neglect. Alcoholism and drug addiction and mental illness were also underscored by professionals as important risk factors to address. Barriers to services included transportation and child care. Parents and youth reported they needed financial stability, good jobs and close, positive relationships with family and people they could

trust. Employment in particular was an area cited as a challenge. Both professionals and parents reported families' lack of access to concrete supports (e.g. transportation, clothing and child care). Funding restrictions and time may be impacting some parent's ability to participate in resources they need. Providers reported lack of funding and lack of flexibility in how funds can be used impact their ability to reach as many people as they could.

County Rankings: Higher rankings have higher percentages of abuse, neglect and all risk factors. (numerator = ranking # / denominator = 99 counties)	Mahaska	Wapello
Overall Child Abuse and Neglect Ranking	43	98
Child Abuse Ranking	50	37
Child Neglect Ranking	47	91
Children Living in Poverty Ranking	54	89
Teenage Births Ranking	52	94
Low Birth-Rate Births Ranking	15	83
Adults with 4+ ACEs Ranking	28	94
Children Who Experienced Domestic Violence Ranking	30	96
Children Whose Family Pay > 35% of Income on Rent Ranking	71	90
Children Ages 0-5 Years Ranking	56	80
Serious Mental Illness Ranking	64	97
<i>Source: Iowa Child Maltreatment Prevention Needs Assessment / December 2017</i>		
Green / Low Ranking Yellow / Median Ranking / Caution Red / High Ranking / Major Risks		

Strengths and Challenges of our Early Childhood Area

Numerous agencies in our MWECI area collaborate and partner with each other to provide services to children and families. This is accomplished through referrals, resources, screenings, family services, training/education and counseling, and community partners who attend the inter-agency meetings in each of our counties. These community partners are also encouraged to participate in the MWECI Advisory Group. The advisory group consists of community representatives including but not limited to: parents, childcare providers, preschools, health, school districts, Great Prairie Area Education Agency (GPAEA), service providers, mental health clinics, community action, public health, local hospitals, Maternal Child Health / Women Infant Children (MCH/WIC), Child Health Specialty Clinics, and any interested citizen. As the initial part of our community assessment, the MWECI Advisory Group and the MWECI Board of Directors provided input in the SWOT analysis to identify MWECI area strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

The MWECI Board Chair led the board members and community partners in the FY 2018 SWOT analysis activity. Input from both board members and community partners led to great discussions and the identification of the MWECI Board’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). Strengths identified were the value of the community partners input and expertise at board meetings, as well as the positive relationships between board members, the Area Director and contractors. Weaknesses identified were the lack of Mahaska County representation and the continued funding reductions (also a threat). Opportunities identified were seeking younger professionals (millennials) who are looking for opportunities to serve and utilizing media to educate the community about the work MWECI is committed to. Threats identified were MWECI funding formulas that impact the funding received every year and the viability of the sub-contractors to continue services without significant increases in funding.

FYE 2018 Mahaska Wapello Board of Directors SWOT Analysis	
STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Strengths - Strengths are the qualities that enable us to accomplish the program’s logic model goals and objectives. These are the basis on which continued success can be made and continued/sustained. Strengths can be either tangible or intangible. These are what you are well-versed in or what you have expertise in, the traits and qualities your staff possess (individually and as a team) and the distinct features that give your program its consistency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members value the expertise and information that community partners and sub-contractors provide. • Community partners and contractors drive the mission of the board. • Financial information and accountability tracking is accurate and clearly explained each month. • Director always provides information background and within applicable context. • Positive relationships between board members, area director, contractors and community partners. 	<p>Opportunities - Opportunities are presented by the environment within which your program operates. These arise when a program can take benefit of conditions in its environment to plan and execute strategies that enable it to become more profitable. Programs can gain competitive advantage by making use of such opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support additional resources in Mahaska County. • Expand board knowledge and participation via media (video tape meetings & share via social media). • New contacts in Mahaska County (new CSD Superintendent, new Police Chief, etc.)/ • Board recruitment / young professionals are looking for opportunities to serve their communities. • Education of local community needs regarding child care shortages and needs (beyond Oskaloosa and Ottumwa).