

Rebuild Iowa Commission
Education: Early Childhood

Early Childhood Impact of Disaster Recovery

Physical Structure Considerations

- Buildings for classrooms destroyed or not available due to shifting other K-12 classrooms and child care centers
- Classroom furniture, materials, and play structures destroyed
- Playgrounds destroyed leaving a lack of safe, clean environment and play equipment to promote children's motor development

Teacher and Teacher Assistants Considerations

- Loss of farm income may force families to move from the area reducing the availability of teachers and teacher associates
- Lack of available housing may force families of teachers and teacher assistants to relocate

Child Considerations

- Families may be forced to relocate to access housing thus an impact on registration of preschoolers
- Temporary housing or living with relatives will impact registration of preschoolers

Community Partnerships

- Community business no longer able to contribute to preschool partnerships with loss of business income and facilities
- Community preschool partners not available due to loss of building; available classrooms
- Families may be forced to relocate to attain housing and employment creating loss of income of childcare and preschools

Specific requests for Shared Visions Preschool Programs

HACAP-Cedar Rapids Head Start Classrooms:

The Hayes Center has been flooded. The Head Start Director, Rose Petersen, indicated that materials will be purchased this summer to restore the two classrooms. The Hayes Center will not be operational by Sept. 1 due to the damages; searching for alternate sites.

Cedar Rapids School District

The Cedar Rapids School District and many Shared Visions sites have been devastated. Taylor and other schools were badly damaged due to flooding. Several classrooms will need to be relocated and Kim Hazlett is concerned this will affect all the Shared Visions classrooms.

Specific Updates from Cedar Rapids

Monica Frey provided the following update regarding the disaster and recovery changes.

Taylor School Impact:

The entire school was flooded with 3 ft. of water and is not going to open for the school year. We had a Shared Vision preschool program in this building that was a total loss. This program also included 4 statewide preschool slots. This program has moved to Harrison Elementary School. 85% of Taylor families were impacted by the flood and these families are now living in other parts of the city. These families are considered homeless. These families will enroll at our other elementary schools which will greatly impact our preschool space that was set intended to be used for statewide classrooms.

Harrison Elementary School:

Harrison was to have 3 classrooms for statewide preschool but now we are down to 2 because the Shared Vision program is relocating to this building. We have not found a new location to move the statewide classroom at this time. The Harrison neighborhood was also impacted by the flood with about 65% of the school families being affected. These families are also moving to other areas of the community.

Community Partners:

Three of our Community Partners were impacted by the flood. Trinity Lane preschool was in the 100 year flood plan and we are not sure if they will re-open. Waypoint preschool was also impacted. The preschool classroom that was intended to have 20 preschool slots will not be available for the fall. We have not relocated these 20 slots. Linn County Child Development Center is also in the Harrison neighborhood. The enrollment at this program is greatly affected. Head Start was impacted at two of their locations. We are currently working with them to find ways to include more of the Head Start children into our district locations. We have not finalized our plans. We will continue to have 16 Head Start openings within our district schools.

Administrative Building

The main administrative building was hit with 8 feet of water with the first floor being a total loss. This was home to our Early Childhood department. All of the curriculum and resource materials that we were to use this fall for professional development were stored in our offices. This also includes a copy of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool grant and any information that was gathered. The amount of items that were lost in this facility is too great to list. This is the central hub of our district.

School enrollment:

The impact of the displaced families has not been completely determined. Preschool is being put on hold until the district knows more about enrollment in district buildings. We could lose more of our preschool classrooms depending on where families enroll their children. If there is a high enrollment at a school building then our preschool classroom will be used for other building needs. We have not hired all of the teachers that we need. We are fearful of hiring teachers and then having no place for them to go.