

FADSS & Outreach 12



Email me at
dhoffman@udmo.com



Julie was pretty sneaky and took a picture of Deb and Dawn working on the tree!



Here is the last Menti question of the day at the All-Staff Meeting.

All-Staff 2025

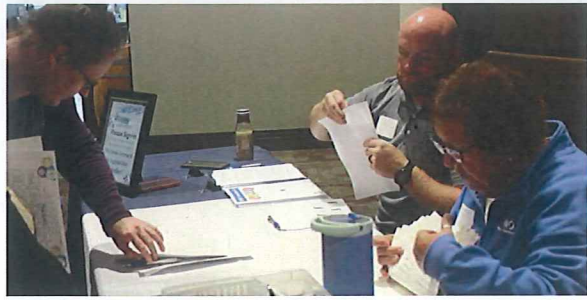
Can you find yourself in these photos?

A big thank you to Owen DeMoss, Ashley in HR's son for taking time on his lunch break to take the pictures for us!

WOW!

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.





All Things All-Staff





Legislation & Advocacy

Government Shut Down – UDMO is business as usual. Our directors continue to stay informed and follow all directives from funders to ensure uninterrupted service delivery.

Head Start's Change of Scope Enrollment Reduction, originally submitted on May 16, 2025, and revised on June 11, 2025, is still awaiting final review and approval. The Office of Head Start currently has limited staff, with only one representative at each Regional Office prioritizing items during the government shutdown, resulting in delays in the approval process.

Highlights

MIECHV – Hiring and onboarding of new staff are in progress.

Facility Search – Growth in programming and staffing in Fort Dodge has prompted a search for a larger facility to accommodate all staff serving Webster and surrounding counties.

Outreach – Construction at the Roosevelt Building in Estherville is underway.

FEMA – The reimbursement request for damages to UDMO's Outreach office in Spencer is under final review and awaiting approval.

UDMO All Staff – The annual training was held, focusing on UDMO programs and team building. We believe the first ever all staff picture was taken. The feedback survey completed by all in attendance revealed:

- Did this training feel like a productive use of your time?
113 Yes, 8 Yes/No/NA and 7 No.
- How will the training help you provide services to the families we serve?
117 were able to identify how, 9 gave a mixed example, 2 replied no

UDMO Year-End – The Fiscal Department is completing the year-end closeout and preparing for the agency's audit in November.

CSBG – The program is completing closeout activities and preparing reports for upcoming county presentations and UDMO's Annual Report.

Facilities Walk-Throughs – UDMO's insurance broker is conducting safety walk-throughs of our facilities to help improve health and safety by identifying and correcting potential hazards. The Head Start site in Storm Lake was completed in October, and the Spencer Head Start and Outreach locations are scheduled for November.

Upcoming Meetings & Dates

- **Finance Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, October 21 @ 1:00 PM
- **Board of Directors Meeting** – Tuesday, October 28 @ 5:00 PM

Tiffany Harris– HR Director



HR MONTHLY NEWS

Open Enrollment: November 1 – 15

- Open enrollment will be **passive** this year meaning ALL of your benefits will remain the same unless you take action to make changes. HR will be your point of contact for all changes.
- **Employee premiums will remain the same.**
- UDMO is going to absorb the increases this year.
 - Wellmark: 0.02% increase
 - Delta Dental: 3.5% increase
- An off cycle-renewal for Life Insurance benefits is being proposed for the Spring of 2026. More to come.

UKG is proving to be more and more beneficial as we continue through our implementation calls. We have started putting meeting times on the calendar to come out to sites and help staff with the navigation of UKG.

October Service Anniversaries:



4 Years:

Yennifer Garcia, EHS Teacher

11 Years:

Bill Tulip, ECP Data Manager

Work Comp Incident Report Recap:

July 2025: 0 incident reports

August 2025: 4 incident reports

September 2025: 3 incident reports

Incident YTD Total: **21**

Work Comp Claim YTD Total: 5

UDMO is still working to get out of the 'pool' of unwanted for workman's comp insurance. It's vital to have a year with few claims in order to accomplish this. Please remember to follow safety procedures, keep a clean and tidy work area, appropriate footwear, and be vigilant!

**** You'll notice myself, Julie and our insurance broker team out doing site walkthroughs identifying areas of concern. Follow up will be shared with each site.**



Our 2025 UDMO Wellbeing Program (10/01/24 – 09/30/25) has come to an end. With that being said, staff had to complete 80 out of 100 points to be in the random drawing for 8 hours of vacation.

Congratulations to Karhyn Alcantara on being the winner this year!



Shelly Charapata– Energy Program Director



- * Outreach offices will be very busy processing the possible 2,300 plus AE applications (Automatic Eligible households) for the upcoming Liheap season.
- * Liheap (Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program) starts Oct. 1st for a household with an elderly (60 years of age or older) and/or a disabled household member. Also, any household in a crisis related situation may apply for Liheap in October.
- * We have received all of our Vendor Agreements back from the heat, electric and deliverable fuel vendors in our 12-county service area.
- * **ECIP/CRISIS:** For September, 160 households received ECIP-Crisis funds in the amount of \$41,466.52.

Becky Carlin– CACFP Coordinator



CACFP (Child & Adult Care Food Program) In Home

Monthly Board Report:

Counties Served: Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, and Sioux.

CACFP had 34 providers submit claims for September. One provider was on maternity leave. I have been working with Kris from MICA to transition my providers over to them. They do things a little different, but we can and will adjust.

CACFP In-home Providers served the following meals in September:

	September 2025	September 2024
Breakfast:	4,173	4,366
Lunches:	4,039	4,401
Snacks:	4,853	5,327
Suppers:	0	20
Total Meals Served:	13,065	14,114

Providers Served:	34	37
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Effective 10/01/2025 Mid Iowa Community Action (MICA) will have Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Palo Alto and Pocahontas counties. Buena Vista and O'Brien counties will be going with New Opportunities Inc. Lyon, Sioux and Osceola counties will be with Community Action Agency of Siouxland.

I will be contracting out to MICA to complete CACFP monitoring reviews for MICA's counties in addition to Kossuth, Humboldt and Calhoun counties.

I have enjoyed my time with CACFP and am grateful that I will be able to continue working with in-home daycare providers in some capacity. With that being said, I am also very excited to be working with other programs within UDMO.



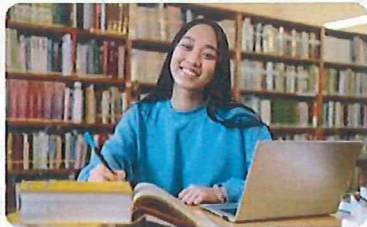
MIECHV/KIDS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

JESSIE HANSEN, DIRECTOR

✱ WWW.UDMO.COM

712-363-8466

Home visiting programs continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of families by providing personalized support, education, and resources directly in the home. This month's newsletter highlights new initiatives progress, staffing, and upcoming opportunities for community partners.



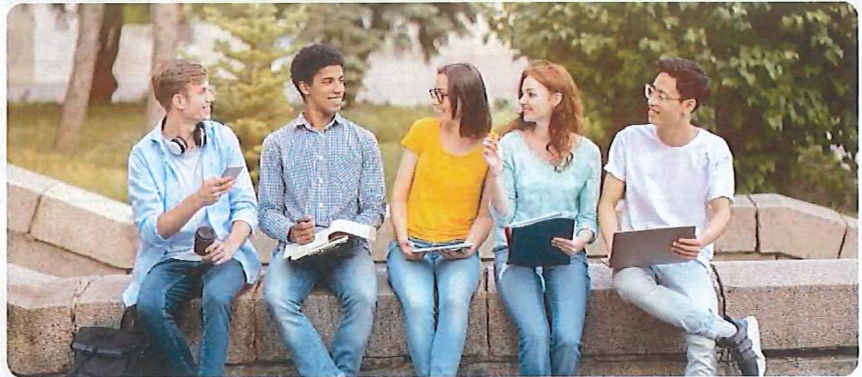
Community Partner Wanted!

Mental Health Consultation-Calling all mental health professionals. We are looking for an agency or individual that is willing to provide training related to trauma and services to families. If you know anyone feel free to reach out!

Staffing Update

Please welcome **Ashley Doss** to the MIECHV team! Ashley comes to us with experience working with youth in a shelter setting as well as a special education paraprofessional.

We tentatively have another staff starting soon! Look for updates in our next newsletter.



Early Childhood Home Visiting Services

Learning Together, Growing Stronger

KIDS Program Updates:

We have started our subcontract with Winnebago County Public Health for home visiting services under Early Childhood North Central Iowa on October 1st!

In the future we will also be getting a contract for **Kossuth County** as they will be joining our Parents As Teachers Affiliate, be on the look out for this soon!

MIECHV Program Next Steps:

- Fill all family support staff positions
- Complete Training in the next three months
- Contract with a Mental Health Consultant
- Recruit and Enroll Families
- Begin Parent Groups

Message from the Director

I am combining the reports for MIECHV and KIDS Program. As they providing like services (home visitation), utilize the same curriculum, and have the same age. So naturally they fit well together.

A big shout out to Julie and the rest of the Admin team for their support during this time of change and the addition of MIECHV!

1st Five

Healthy Mental Development in The First Five Years!!

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.

We are proud to announce that
1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative
has earned the prestigious
AMCHP Best Practice
National recognition for innovation and measurable impact
on maternal and child health.



ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

Studies show that without standard tools, 70% of children with developmental delays may go unidentified at well-child visits in primary care.

1st Five is a free, voluntary program that encourages and supports Primary Care Providers in using screening tools and connects Iowa families with children (birth up to 5th birthday) to critical early intervention resources.

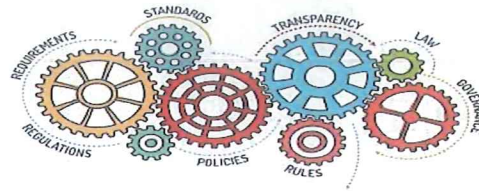
1ST FIVE
is
1 OF ONLY 3
INITIATIVES IN IOWA,
alongside
Count the Kicks
& I-Smile,
TO ACHIEVE THIS
ELITE STATUS!



L to R: Kristi Radtke, DSS,
Teresa Ball, Site Coordinator,
Jessie Hansen, Project Director,
Karhyn Alcantara, DSS, and
Meredith Mickelson, Site
Coordinator

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Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. (UDMO): Where We Began and Where We Are Today

UDMO was established in **September 1965** to address the needs of residents in **Emmet, Kossuth, Palo Alto, and Pocahontas counties (located along the Des Moines River)**. The agency initially received a **\$40,405 grant** to assess community needs, under the leadership of the UDMO Program Director Peter Hart of Emmetsburg. By **July 1966**, the grant had expanded to **\$244,000** and UDMO added **Head Start** as one of our first core programs. Today, UDMO has evolved into a vital community action agency with an annual budget nearing **\$20 million**. The organization administers **10 core programs** and operates **Outreach offices in all 12 of our primary counties**, continuing our mission; **dedicated to helping build stronger communities by addressing the effects of poverty on individuals and families.**



UDMO Funding Requests Update:

Recent Foundation/Organizational/Trust Grants Submitted & Status: September 2025	County	Program	Submitted/Pending	Amount Awarded	Not Funded
Homeland Security – EM FEMA Grant	CL	Repairs – App in Process	X		
Fort Dodge United Way	WE	Water Assistance	X		
Barkema Trust	WR	Client Services	X		
Valero Benefit for Children (Invite Only)	WE	Food Assistance	X		
Growing Iowa – CCRR/HHS	BV, CL, DI, EM, OB, OS	HS/EHS Regulatory and Quality Materials & Equipment			All 7 Apps Waitlisted
Awards Announced in Winter/Spring 2026					
Sheldon United	OB	Client Services – Sheldon	X		
United Way	BV, CL, OB	Client Services	X		
Dickinson County Good Neighbor Fund	DI	Client Services	X		
Belmond Area Community Trust	WR	Client Services Belmond	X		

Program Grants Submitted and Status: August 2025	County	Program	Submitted/Pending	Funded	Not Funded
IA BOS CoC Intent to Apply	All	Housing			X
Iowa Homelessness Prevention Fund	All	New Project Invite Only		\$80,600	
Emergency Solutions Grant – ESG IFA	All	Housing	X		
Head Start 1303	Emmet	Roosevelt HVAC	X		
Head Start – One-Time Supplemental Funding	BV, CL, DI, EM, OB, OS, PA	Nutrition Supplemental		\$123,153.00	



“Weatherization Report for September 2025”

Number of Families Served in September 2025: **10**

Number of Families Served in FY 2025: **90**

Goal for 2025: **110 Homes**

Weatherization Update:

The Weatherization Department for the month of September completed 10 homes for our clients. We should also be getting the D25 contract anytime now sounds like the state just has to allocate the money to each individual agency. We also haven’t received a priority list from the state to assist our clients, but we did reach out and they were able to provide us a list of homes that we can work with in the mean time on MEC (MidAmerican Energy) and IPL (Alliant Energy) which should allow us a break with struggling to find homes so we should be able to continue on with assisting clients.

So, this should get us through until we receive the priority list. Also, I spoke with Bob Freese from the State of Iowa and he is saying that he will be heading to our agency to do a training with our people on QCI inspections and Evaluations and assist on their expectations of what they are looking at with Evaluations\Inspections. This is supposed to be happening late November.

Until then we will continue to push hard and create results and effectively assist our clients with their energy needs on their homes in our 17-county area that we serve.



Housing Report– Tanya Petersen Housing Director



74 households received rental assistance in the month of September.

We submitted our application for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. The rental assistance project is designed to target individuals 18 – 25 years of age. ***UPDATE* – We have been awarded \$851,894.00.** The project has been delayed but is now expected to launch 12/1/2025.

The awards were announced for the Iowa Homelessness Prevention Fund (IHPF), we received \$80,600.00.

Statewide Crisis Line Update: Clients in need of rental assistance should call the Statewide Crisis Line at 1-833-739-0065 to complete the intake process. Normal business hours are 7am – 8pm. Clients calling outside of these hours will need to leave a message and wait for a call back. Call backs are being made usually within 1-3 business days.

0-5 Early Childhood Programs– Sarina Smith

Enrollment:

Early Head Start with 183 children and Head Start Preschool with 254 children.

Disabilities:

Early Head Start students served on IFSP's: 5

Head Start Preschool students served on IEP's: 18

Total served: 23 Target: 47

TEACH – CDA, 2 year or 4-year Degree:

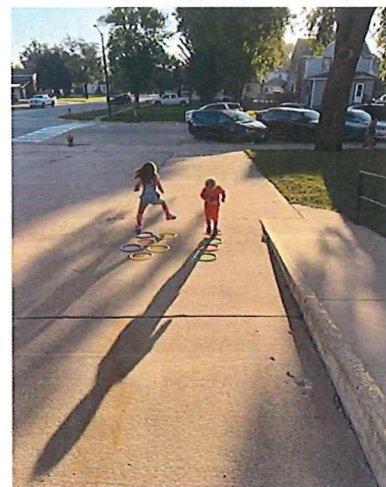
CDA certification completion: 1

Associates degree in progress: 3

Bachelor degree in progress: 1

Coaching:

Teachers – 4 and Home Base Teachers – 5



What's Happening in HS:

Healthy Smiles Ahead:

I-Smiles has begun visiting all sites this month to provide dental screenings and promote healthy oral care for our children.

Advocacy in Action:

ECP Director Sarina Smith and Program Coordinator Angie Mitchell attended the NHSA Fall Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C., as part of *Legislature in Action*. They met/attended conferences with policymakers including Senator Bernie Sanders, and Senator Joni Ernst, among others, during a day on Capitol Hill advocating for Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start.

Reflecting on Learning:

Staff and community partners participated in a professional development session with Dr. Barbara Sorrels focused on trauma-informed care and supporting the social-emotional needs of young children.



FaDSS:

Enrolled Families: 80

Target # of families per month: 76

Families in Recruitment: 12

Families on Waiting list: 30

At our FaDSS All Staff Training Ronette Rosales Brown was recognized for 5 years with the FaDSS program. Ronette has been an asset to our FaDSS program, the families that she works with and UDMO. She is dedicated to helping families reach their full potential! Thank you Ronette for all that you do! We appreciate you!



FaDSS All-Staff Meeting 2025



Outreach



Coats for Kids:

Applications for Coats for Kids are now available in the following counties: Clay, Dickinson, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas and Wright.



Hiring

We are hiring for Clay County Outreach Specialist. This is a part time position for 3 days per week (MTTH).



All things Holiday

Outreach offices have started accepting applications for all of their holiday programs!!

Santa for Senior applications are being accepted in: BV, Clay, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Webster and Wright.

Adopt a Family applications are being accepted in: BV, Clay, Dickinson, Hamilton, Humboldt, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Webster and Wright.

Bikes for Tikes applications are being accepted in: Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster and Wright.



Monster Mash Puzzle Bash

The Emmet County Outreach Office is hosting a Monster Mash Puzzle Bash on October 25th at The Garage in Armstrong starting at 6 PM! Find your team of 4 and join us to finish a 1,000 piece puzzle, a pizza, and a 12 pack of your choice of beer or seltzer. Teams that finish the fastest will receive a prize! Cost is \$120 per team and Halloween costumes are highly encouraged. Call 712-209-2391 to get your team signed up. Only 15 spots available!