

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY: CHILD AND FAMILY RESILIENCE



PCA Iowa asks the Iowa legislature to create trauma-informed policies that prioritize prevention and protective factors.

Resilience means the ability to thrive despite adversity. The Iowa Legislature and Governor must promote resilience in the state starting with its youngest citizens. Promoting child health—starting at infancy—helps Iowa grow a strong and prosperous workforce.

Adversity in childhood has a direct impact on an individual's health outcomes and social functioning. Approximately one in five Iowa children has experienced three or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), the most common being divorced or separated parents and having lived with someone with a substance-use problem or mental health condition. Children with three or more ACEs have higher odds of failing to engage and flourish in school.

The impact of ACEs in Iowa is evident through the rise in caseloads in the DHS, the acceleration of the opioid epidemic—which is both driving and affected by family dysfunction—and rising health care costs associated with adult chronic illness. The policies below will assist parents in getting the services they need and helping get and keep more money in the parents' pockets to support the family.

Expansion of First Five to all 99 counties

- Iowa must expand First Five to all 99 counties. It is currently only in 88. First Five is a public/private partnership sponsored by the Iowa Department of Public Health. It is comprised of public and private primary care providers. The program supports primary health care providers in early detection of social, emotional, and developmental delays and risk-related factors in the birth to five populations. The 11 counties without First Five access are Lyon, Sioux, Plymouth, Cherokee, Woodbury, Ida, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Iowa and Johnson.

Increase in Child Care Assistance Cap

- Iowa must increase the Child Care Assistance Cap from 145% of the poverty level to 185%. This will allow parents to continue to receive child care assistance while earning up to \$39,460 instead of losing their assistance as the point they make \$1 more than \$30,920.

Increase in Earned Income Tax Credit

- Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for low and moderate income wage earners.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa empowers community prevention efforts to provide safe and happy childhoods through collaboration with diverse partners, leading to a better future for Iowa.