

2021 Legislative Priorities

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

We request consideration of the following legislative actions in support of Iowa's children and families.



1) Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Legislation requiring schools to provide annual training and supports for awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse to all school staff, including warnings signs of child sexual abuse and boundary violating behaviors, age appropriate child sexual abuse prevention training to all students in grades pre K-12 and make available resources and information to parents and caregivers of all students on child sexual abuse prevention including warning signs of child sexual abuse, referrals and supports.



2) Children's Mental Health

Assurance of adequate, sustainable, and predictable funding for mental health system throughout the lifespan either through Medicaid or other avenues should the individual not be eligible for Medicaid and not have private insurance to cover the services. The services need to cover every step of the process from counseling to prescriptions to hospitalization. Add new services where there are gaps in either the children's or adult's system. This funding should be adequate for implementation of recommendations from the children's mental health board and increased funding for evidence based primary prevention efforts across the state.



3) Support for Families

Enact policies that ensure support of funding and programing increasing protective factors of child abuse and neglect and strengthening families including expansion of First Five services to all 99 counties in the state, increase access to childcare assistance to 185% of federal poverty level, and increase Earned Income Tax Credits for low- and moderate-income wage earners.



4) Child Welfare System

Provide Department of Human Services with resources necessary to ensure that the Child Welfare System has appropriate resources necessary to successfully enact recommendations previously made in system reviews including, funding to maintain appropriate staffing levels and caseloads, employee retention policies and practices, improvements to or replacement of current data system to ensure that workers readily have all available information for accurate and timely decision making.