

IOWA CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE REVIEW

Congress requires the federal government to conduct reviews of states to determine if they meet federal child welfare requirements. The [Child and Family Service Review \(CFSR\)](#), is a partnership between the federal and state governments. The CFSR examines the child welfare system in the state and identifies the strengths and opportunities for improvement. The ultimate goal of the review is to improve child welfare systems to achieve the following positive outcomes for children and families:

Safety

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are maintained safely in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency

- Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for families.

Family and Child Well-Being

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Highlighted are the lowest performing outcomes for Iowa in the 2018 Child and Family Service Review.



Advocacy in child welfare means balancing the child's need for protection and his/her right to personhood/well-being.

Child welfare & Medicaid funding should align with the child and family services review and Family First, in order to support policies and practices that improve outcomes for children.

Allocating fund to implement fair and equitable reimbursement rates to the PMIC, Foster Group Care and Family Centered supports and services will help children and youth heal from past trauma and make a tremendous difference for families to help children have permanency and stability.

- Trauma of all kinds is extremely common among children involved with child welfare. Studies show that as many as 9 out of 10 children in foster care have been exposed to some form of violence.

Allocations to PMIC, Foster Group Care and Family Centered Services means agencies can do more to recruit, train, and support the workforce to help children & youth heal from past trauma.

- The workforce needs to be well-equipped to provide high quality, trauma informed practices to support children and families who experience adversity as a result of child abuse, neglect, or other acts of violence. Hearing repeatedly about children's trauma histories may result in vicarious trauma (the personal transformation that occurs as a result of working with clients' traumatic experiences) or secondary traumatic stress (the stress resulting from helping or wanting to help a traumatized or suffering person) among professionals. *Left untreated, this can decrease effectiveness and lead to excessive burnout or turnover.*

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