Children and families are falling through the cracks in Iowa’s Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice systems. As the State of Iowa shifts toward a prevention-focused philosophy in alignment with the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), there will always be a need for services for children with extremely complex needs. And those needs are not being met by the current system.

In 2020 and 2021, multiple Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) and Shelters have permanently closed or temporarily halted admissions, creating major gaps in the system and leading to unsuitable placements for children who cannot safely remain in their home of origin. In addition, the complexity and acuity of children who need out-of-home care has increased significantly. The reimbursement rates the state pays providers to treat and heal these children have never kept pace with providers’ cost to do business. Without investment, services for children and families will continue to close, putting children, families, and their communities at greater risk.

With appropriate support, Iowa’s providers can create positive, durable outcomes for families in the child welfare system. We can prevent youth in the juvenile justice system from becoming adults in Iowa’s prison system. We can help children return to their homes and be successful in their schools and communities. Please partner with us to support Iowa’s providers and the children and families they serve.
QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS (QRTP)

Youth enter QRTP through the Child Welfare or Juvenile Court system.

SHELTER SERVICES

Youth enter Shelter through Child Welfare, Juvenile Court, or local law enforcement.

All children who enter QRTP and Shelter have experienced trauma; many have survived significant trauma and multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Almost two-thirds of the youth who receive QRTP services in Iowa have delinquent status from Juvenile Court Services. In order to prevent recidivism and prevent these youth from entering the adult court system, QRTPs must have appropriately trained staff and programming to ensure youth have the treatment they need to heal and de-escalate.

129 CHILDREN in Iowa shelters (monthly average in 2020) (COVID likely depressed this number and we expect it to increase again in 2022)

THIS WORKFORCE IS IN CRISIS: Staff turnover among Iowa’s QRTP and Shelter providers was 70% in 2021.

Wait time for an appropriate QRTP placement for youth in juvenile detention:

- **Average:** 46 DAYS
- **Girls average:** 65 DAYS

TWO SHELTERS CLOSED AND 28 AVAILABLE BEDS WERE REMOVED FROM THE SYSTEM

This workforce is in crisis: Staff turnover among Iowa’s QRTP and Shelter providers was 70% in 2021.

- **SFY 2023 agreed-upon rate**
- **Coalition proposed rate**

CURRENT: $210

SFY 2023 agreed-upon rate: $224

UNFILLED BED PER DAY

FILLED BED PER DAY

G UARANTEED BED PER DAY

MINIMUM INVESTMENT NEEDED: $6.2 MILLION

MINIMUM INVESTMENT NEEDED: $600,000