



The Coalition

Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

Building a Brighter Future for Iowa's Youth

Who We Are

- **Mission:** Enhancing the collective impact of member agencies to support children and families.
- **Vision:** Families and children in Iowa are safe, secure, healthy, and thriving in their communities.
- **Established:** 1979, as an alliance advocating for and providing a safety net for vulnerable youth.

Why Action is Needed Now

High-Acuity Youth in Iowa

- **Complex Needs:** Behavioral challenges often accompany intellectual disabilities, severe aggression, sexual acting out behaviors and severe mental health conditions.
 - These challenges make their care particularly intensive and demanding.
- **Placement Disruptions:** Youth bounce between placements, worsening trauma and outcomes.
- **Lack of In-State Care:** Too many youth are sent out of state due to inadequate facilities.

The Solution: Invest in Iowa's Youth

1. Support Workforce Development

- Increase reimbursement rates to attract and retain qualified staff.
- Provide evidence-based training to enhance care quality.

2. Modernize Facilities

- Upgrade outdated structures to meet modern safety and therapeutic standards.
- Include measures like delayed-lock doors, alarms, advanced security systems and locked facilities.

3. Strengthen Iowa's Behavioral Health System

- Reduce reliance on out-of-state placements.
- Create stable, evidence-based environments for youth.

Impact of the High-Acuity Youth Bill

- **Safer Communities:** Fewer disruptions and improved stability for youth.
 - **Better Outcomes:** Enhanced care reduces trauma and prepares youth for productive futures.
 - **Cost Efficiency:** Investing in local facilities and staff reduces long-term expenses.
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Your Support is Vital

- Build a sustainable system that keeps Iowa's youth in Iowa.
- Secure funding for facility upgrades and workforce enhancements.

Contact:

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