



The Coalition

Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

Building a Brighter Future for Iowa's Youth & Families

Thank you for supporting Children's Mental Health!

Iowa's Youth Need you!

Protecting Behavioral Health Funding for Iowa's Youth

Sustainable Medicaid Rates for Behavioral Health

- We oppose reductions in mental health and substance use services.
- Behavioral Health Providers waited 20 years for rate increases, now face potential cuts.
- Mental health and substance use services to youth and families by a variety of community-providers are proposed to be cut by 5% - 30.9%.

Scope of Work



Three out of every eight Iowa youth under age 21 rely on Medicaid for healthcare.

Nearly **90,000** Medicaid-covered youth had a serious emotional disturbance in FY2020—underscoring the need for robust, community-based mental health services.

49% of child welfare youth have a mental health disorder (**4x general population**)

The Harmful Impact for our Youth & Families

- Limiting education and understanding of what is happening.
- Reducing access for kids will limit youth employment, education, and community safety.
- Increasing emergency room visits and needs for unnecessary institutionalization.
- Raising suicide and high-risk behaviors.

To have safe healthy youth and communities, you have to have safe healthy community services.

Investing in Child Welfare: Q RTP & Shelter Rates

We support the Governor's SFY 2026 Investment in Child Welfare

- Ensuring fair and sustainable reimbursement rates to maintain high-quality care.
- Adjusting rates to reflect true service delivery costs and staffing needs.
- Providing resources for staff and youth safety in residential settings.
- Keeping Iowa's youth in-state to receive the services they need.



Supporting Youth in Crisis (HF 833/SF474)

- Ensuring youth receive care in the least restrictive, safest environment while addressing complex behavioral challenges.
- Addressing behavioral health and trauma-related behaviors.
- Reducing placement disruptions and out-of-state placements.
- Ensuring uniform standards, accountability, and effective fiscal management, Division 3 transfers Juvenile Court Services (JCS) oversight from chief judges to State Court Administration, creating a Division of Juvenile Justice in alignment with Governance Recommendation #44 from the Iowa Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Task Force.

Your Support is Vital! Help us advocate for a sustainable, well-funded system that keeps Iowa's youth in Iowa.

Contact:

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Who We Are

The Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa (The Coalition) is a statewide alliance of 22 member agencies providing critical services to children and families across Iowa's 99 counties.

- **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.

Our Work & Impact

Each year, our member agencies serve over 200,000 children and families through a comprehensive continuum of care, including:

- Child Welfare Services
- Juvenile Justice Services
- Mental & Behavioral Health Services
- Additional Family Support Services

Policy & Advocacy

The Coalition works closely with state agencies and legislative leaders to advance policies that strengthen child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental/behavioral health services. We actively engage with:

- Iowa Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
- Judicial Branch (Juvenile Court)
- Iowa Department of Education

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