

Vision Council

Call to Action & Accountability

The Vision Council is the place for Iowa leaders to hold accountability for themselves and others to build and restore child and family well-being. The fundamental belief is that children, their parents, and their caregivers experience better outcomes when they are surrounded by conditions that support safety, security, good health and overall wellness. The Vision Council takes actions that address the root causes of unstable situations, including systemic inequities and traumatic experiences. Progress is led by a group of leaders from across sectors and systems who have agreed to work in alignment with a sense of urgency.

Core Beliefs

- Be Family-Centered.
- Cultivate Collaborative and Interconnected Systems.
- Respond to Trauma.
- Support Recovery.
- Address Root Causes.
- Embed Knowledge of Human Development.
- Secure Access & Opportunity.

Purpose & Overview

The Vision Council has done the work to become an aligned coalition of leaders. They are committed to addressing the leading issues that chip away at family stability and can cause families to become involved in the child welfare system and juvenile justice system. These issues are often left unaddressed because the work to resolve them is complex and protracted. No single entity, program or action step will take care of these issues for families.

The Vision Council has developed a Results Action Plan and a From-to Culture Shift Framework that are the focal points of its work. Earlier this year, they identified near-term priorities and action steps to advance the work according to the overall, longer-term plan.

The remaining work in 2022 is for the members of the Vision Council and its Work Groups to make and fulfill action commitments during and between meetings, valuing big and small steps that deliver on the identified priorities. Toward the end of the year, they will need to assess progress, determine actions needed in 2023, and possibly identify additional priorities for 2023.

The purpose of the work is to change systems and the people working within them to, ultimately, achieve the targets in the Vision Council's Results Action Plan.

Vision Council Populations & Results

Vision: All families and children in Iowa are safe, secure, healthy, and well in their communities.

Vision Council's System Population: Families and children involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems or are at risk of becoming involved.

Vision Council's Focus Populations:

1. Iowa families living with substance use disorders (SUDs) who have young children (ages 0-10).
2. Iowa youth of color (ages 10 and older) and their families who experience risk factors and systemic inequities that put them at greater risk of involvement in the Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice Systems.

Results

Families and children in the Focus Populations:

Result 1: Thrive Together as Families

Proposed Target: By 2026, increase permanency with "family" for children and youth in the target populations by X# or %.

Data Development Agenda: Need progress indicator and data source for baseline.

Result 2: Are Connected to Permanent Housing

Proposed Target: By 2026 increase the percentage of households without severe housing problems to 92% statewide.

Progress Indicator: Percentage of households with severe housing problems (*Baseline:* 12% of households have at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities or lack of plumbing facilities; Source: County Health Rankings, 2014-2018)

Result 3: Have a family economic profile that equates to a moderate, adequate standard of living

Target: By 2026, cut child poverty from 44% to 22%.

Progress Indicator: Percent of children below 250 percent poverty in Iowa (*Baseline:* 44%; Source: National KIDS COUNT Database, 2019)

Result 4: Receive recovery-oriented, family-centered treatment for substance use disorders, when needed

Target: Safely increase the number of families who remain intact while in recovery by 10% each year beginning in 2023.

Data Development Agenda: Need progress indicator and data source for baseline.