

CHILD MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

NASW, Iowa Chapter, supports the need for increased accessibility, awareness, and comprehensive services for children with mental health and disability needs.

Recommendations

- The Iowa State Legislature should fully fund the Systems of Care model, including the Integrated Health Homes program, for children's mental health services throughout the state.
- State-funded mental health providers should ensure funding for children's mental health should support the use of evidence based and promising practices that are both replicable and transferable throughout the state.
- Mental Health Providers should acquire and sustain resources and tools that are culturally sensitive and competent.
- The Iowa State Legislature should provide additional funding to children's mental health services as an investment that will ensure that children with mental illnesses and severe emotional disturbances receive the treatment that they need upon diagnosis, preventing more costly problems in the future. This will include fully funding Medicaid waiver programming to eliminate the wait list so that all children who qualify for the Children's Mental Health Waiver have access to additional services not covered by private insurance or Medicaid.
- Iowa should explore options to implement blended/braided funding from a combination of several different agencies.

The full version of this statement with references can be found at <https://nasw-heartland.site-ym.com/?183>