

# EveryStep

Formerly HCI Care Services & Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa



## When Life Changes, We're With You at EveryStep.

EveryStep will serve more than 65,000 Iowans this year.

We offer services for every step of life — from prenatal care and early childhood development, to home care and hospice for aging seniors.

As one of Iowa's oldest and largest non-profit healthcare and human services organizations, it is our vision that all individuals have access to healthcare and support services to live their best lives.

By educating, empowering and improving the health of people, we create stronger families, healthier economies and more united communities.



### Innovative Aging

*Home and community-based care for the aging*

### Community and Family Advocacy

*Education, access and support*

### Family Empowerment

*Strong, healthy and thriving families*

### Emotional Well-Being

*Resiliency in trauma, grief and loss*

# 2020 Legislative Priorities

## Children's Resiliency in Trauma and Loss



- Lawmakers have appropriated funds to reduce waiting times for children's mental health services and to establish a much-needed hotline, as well as to support psychiatric training for physicians and other medical professionals.
- Grief and loss impacts children and the adults who care for them in many ways. For kids, one result of unresolved grief may be poor school performance. For adults, it is work absenteeism and loss of productivity.
- It is estimated that over their lifetime, each high-school dropout costs states more than \$292,000 and 8 of 10 incarcerated individuals are high-school drop outs.

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Invest \$200,000 to expand a grief and loss program with the EveryStep organization that will reduce the burden on our mental health system and reduce overall health costs.
- ✓ Adequately fund the recently created Children's Mental Health System, and ensure that trauma-informed care is a component of the system.

## Medicaid



- While there have been numerous challenges with managed Medicaid over the past few years, the Iowa Dept. of Human Services has worked diligently with the MCOs and providers to develop solutions.
- There are still areas of unmet need; two specifically identified here:

### Medicaid – Dental Coverage for Children

- Approximately only 1 in 3 dentists accept Medicaid as a form of payment. Even fewer pediatric dentists accept Medicaid.
- Medicaid reimbursement, on average, is 49.4 % of fees charged by dentists for children.

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Require Medicaid to increase the minimum provider adequacy threshold.
- ✓ Require Medicaid to negotiate effective reimbursement rates to adequately cover costs.

### Medicaid Managed Care – Prior Authorization for Hospice Care

- There has not been consistency with MCOs pre-authorizing requests for hospice services, including room & board.
- Medicaid hospice is a benefit that follows Medicare standards. Medicaid reimbursement for nursing facility room and board is completely a financial determination and not based on medical necessity. These prior authorizations are unnecessary and only add time, complexity and cost to hospice providers. End of life is not a time to add undue stress and uncertainties for patients and families.

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Pass legislation to prohibit MCOs from requiring prior authorization for hospice services.

## Workforce Shortage



- While Iowa reports a low unemployment rate, the lowest in 17 years, there is a critical need for funding, demonstrated by a mismatch of Iowa's qualified workers to available jobs.
- The Future Ready Iowa Act is a significant stride forward in addressing the workforce shortage, but there are still pockets of unmet need as indicated here.

### Workforce Shortage – Refugees

- In order to strengthen talent acquisition/retention, business development and economic growth in Iowa, pro immigration-related legislation will continue to improve the economy.

### Workforce Shortage – Direct Care

- Direct care is one of the largest and most in-demand occupations in the state. Current estimates show that Iowa has approximately 61,000 individuals in direct care occupations, and that we'll need 71,000 or more by 2024.

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Maintain RefugeeRISE appropriation at current funding level: \$200,000 through the Health and Human Services budget.
- ✓ Create statewide refugee task force, appointed by the governor, that includes participation of service providers and refugees, to address the challenges and create efficient methods of resettlement.
- ✓ Establish a state centralized direct care worker database to ensure accurate numbers of those working in direct care and/or continuing on a health and LTSS career.
- ✓ Establish a Direct Care and Child Care Workforce Innovation Fund that supports recruitment and retention initiatives.
- ✓ Eliminate the \$14/hour eligibility threshold in the Future Ready Iowa Initiative.

## Early Childhood Iowa (ECI)



- ECI is focused on the premise that local communities and state government can work together to improve the well-being of our youngest children.
- There has been a funding decrease of 40% since the inception of ECI in FY 08 (from \$45.6 million to the current FY 20 funding of \$27.3 million).

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Restore funding to FY 08 level of \$45.6 million through a 3-year graduated increase plan
- ✓ The restored funding will result in additional children and families receiving services across the state.

## Children's Health

- Investing in children's health and well-being supports and reinforces successful interventions that promote positive outcomes in youth, including the promotion of a pattern of healthy lifestyles.
- 5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count stands for: 5 servings of fruits & vegetables, 2 hours or less of screen time, 1 hour or more of physical activity, and 0 sugary drinks & more water
- 1<sup>st</sup> Five is a program to support primary care providers in the early detection of social-emotional delays, developmental delays, and family risk-related factors in Iowa children 0 to 5 years old.
- Currently there are 18 1<sup>st</sup> Five sites that serve 88 of Iowa's 99 counties. FY18 shows 2,816 children were referred to the program.

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ✓ Continue funding to support/promote healthy habits through 5-2-1-0 messaging and technical assistance resourced by childhood obesity funding at the Iowa Dept. of Public Health
- ✓ Expand the 1st Five program from the current 88 counties to all 99 to ensure healthy outcomes for Iowa's children.



Formerly HCI Care Services & Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa

## Our Mission

We empower individuals, support families and strengthen communities.

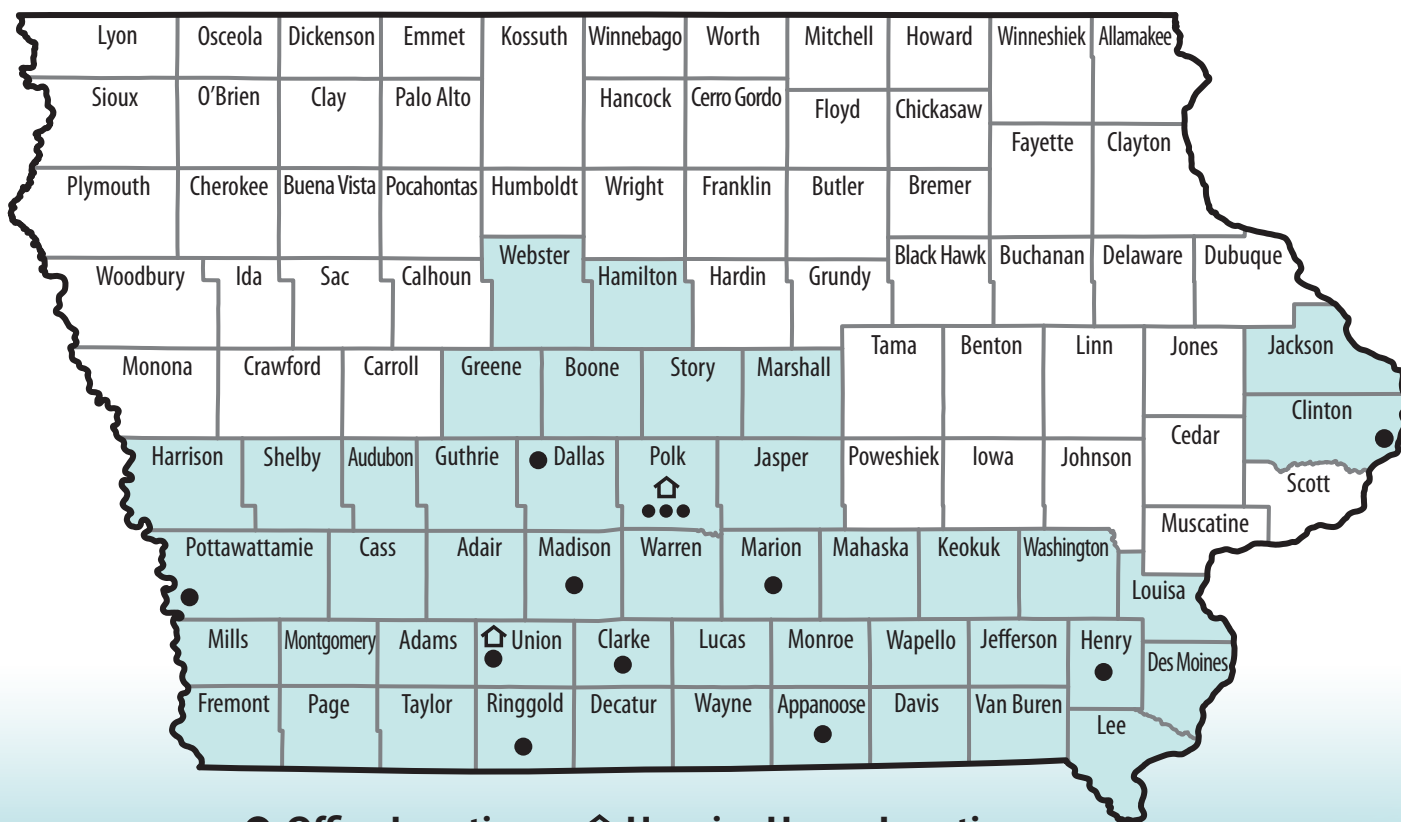
## Our Vision

All individuals have access to health care and support services to live their best lives.

### For questions about our legislative priorities, contact:

Darby Taylor, Vice President - Community Health Services  
(515) 557-9012 or DTaylor@everystep.org

Jim Knoepfler, Vice President - Administration  
(515) 271-1318 or JKnoepfler@everystep.org



● Office Locations    🏠 Hospice House Locations

While services are concentrated in the 46 counties shown, EveryStep's programs extend across all of Iowa. There is at least one EveryStep program available to residents in every Iowa county.

1-800-806-9934 | [everystep.org](http://everystep.org)

3000 Easton Boulevard, Des Moines, IA 50317