

# LUTHERAN DAY ON THE HILL

## ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR QUALITY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES



*But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." —Matthew 19:14*

As people of faith, it is our duty to lift up children and build bright futures for them. It is even more crucial for us to protect and speak up for the most vulnerable children in our communities, those who have experienced abuse, neglect, and trauma.

At LSI, we walk alongside Iowa children through Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency services, as well as LSI Foster Care and Adoption. Every day, our passionate staff members work to strengthen Iowa families and create hope and healing for parents and children across the state.

As Iowa faces continued revenue shortfalls, it is our responsibility to ensure families do not suffer the consequences. **We oppose any budget cuts that would impact the Department of Human Services or the state's ability to fund quality child welfare services, including family safety work and foster and adoptive care.** Please ask your representatives to stand with Iowa's most vulnerable children and families.

When we invest in Iowa child welfare services, we are investing in a stronger community.

- To provide effective services to children and families, we must invest in healthy workforces at the Iowa Department of Human Services and agencies like LSI who partner with DHS to keep children safe.
- Child welfare caseloads have been on the rise. Following the recent deaths of two children, Sabrina Ray and Natalie Finn, Iowa has seen a spike in referrals to the DHS child abuse hotline, and children are being referred into LSI's family safety and foster care services in record numbers. These workers deserve our support as they perform some of the most challenging and intensive work in the state.

Any further cuts to child welfare services will be unsustainable for our communities. We cannot balance our state budget on the backs of Iowa children and families.

Please encourage your legislators to support the important work DHS, LSI, and other service providers do to keep Iowa children safe.



**Lutheran Services in Iowa**  
Toll free 866.584.5293  
[www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org)

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