



# SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR IOWA'S CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Iowa has created the framework for a new children's mental health system but has not yet invested sufficient funding to make this system work. This is an investment in future healthy outcomes for children and families, but it is currently being built on the back of an adult mental health system that is already broken and underfunded at a regional level. Iowa needs a separate and stable, permanent funding mechanism in order to effectively improve the lives of Iowa children.

## Stabilize the Existing System

**The current adult mental health system is not working in all of our 14 Iowa regions.**

Some are underfunded. Others have not sufficiently offered the required core services. For instance, the Polk County Health Services region has the second highest population in the state, yet has the fifth lowest levy cap across the state.

**In addition to stabilizing the existing adult system, the children's system needs a separate and permanent funding source.**

## Workforce and Rate Reimbursement

**Iowa is facing unprecedented human services workforce challenges.**

Without a sustainable investment and sufficient rate reimbursements, providers are unable to recruit and retain high quality therapists, nurses, educators, and direct care workers necessary to provide the service Iowans deserve.

**The pressures of COVID-19 have increased the strain on our workforce, especially at the direct care level.**

## Prevention and Early Intervention Programming

**Prevention and early intervention services promote overall long-term health for our state's most vulnerable families.**

Research proves that children who experience Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) suffer negative health and financial outcomes throughout adulthood. A total of 56% of Iowa adults report at least one Adverse Childhood Experience, with 14.5% experiencing four or more ACEs.

**Funding preventative services — as one piece of a continuum of care — is key to a strong children's mental health system.**

**LSI has a more than 150-year legacy of providing a broad spectrum of human services. From prenatal care, early childhood services, and behavioral health services, to crisis stabilization and intense residential treatment like Psychiatric Medical Institute for Children and Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), LSI promotes positive outcomes for Iowa children, adults, and families.**



**65 IOWA COUNTIES**

have access to LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services.



**1,490 IOWANS**

were served through LSI's Therapy Services in 2019.



**11,564 HOME VISITS**

were provided for families of young children through LSI's Early Childhood Services.



Lutheran Services in Iowa

[LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org)

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