

Thriving Families for a Thriving Iowa

When families are healthy and well, children can learn and grow, caregivers can fully contribute, and Iowa's economy and communities can prosper.

Policies can remove barriers and create pathways—shaping the conditions that impact families' ability to thrive. Families especially need access to supportive connections and essential needs, including quality housing options, health and mental health care, and robust public schools. These community conditions enable caregivers to make choices that strengthen their family and foster their children's healthy development—reducing the likelihood of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that can disrupt lifelong well-being.

Iowans are facing tremendous stress and adversity. Intentionally making policy decisions that promote positive conditions for families will lessen the long-term impact of the pandemic on our state and lead to a robust workforce, growing communities, and a better future for our kids.



Thriving Conditions

- Trauma-informed, equitable public systems
- Quality housing options
- Health and mental health care
- High-quality, accessible child care
- Robust and inclusive public education
- Equitable and family-friendly workplaces

Thriving Families

- Nurturing caregiver-child relationships
- Strong mental, physical, and emotional health
- Safety
- Belonging
- Economic stability

Thriving Iowa

- A growing population
- Strong economy with expanding businesses
- Vibrant cultural and recreational experiences
- Strong social networks
- Safe, stable, and connected neighborhoods

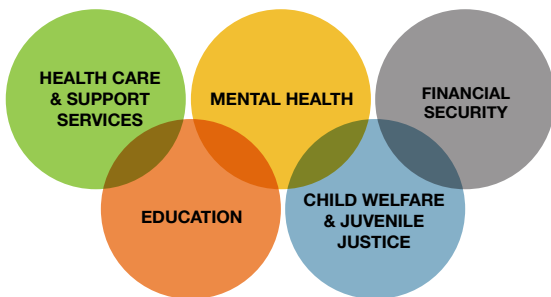


Iowa ACEs 360 provides research, tools, and a network to empower Iowans to take informed actions that promote healing and well-being within compassionate communities.

Learn more at www.IowaAces360.org

2022 ADVOCACY AGENDA

Trauma-informed, equitable systems



The Iowa ACEs Policy Coalition, representing more than 40 organizations, advocates for policies that promote positive community conditions, reduce family stress and trauma, and create a thriving Iowa for all. This includes policies that remove barriers for Iowans to access essential needs and advance systems that enable families to be healthy and well.

OUR PRIORITIES:

Trauma-informed, equitable systems

Assess policy impact on historically marginalized communities.

Disaggregate data to address health disparities.

Increase the number of providers of color in the health and human services fields.

Improve families' access to health care and support services

Protect Medicaid from harmful changes and funding cuts.

Increase access to prenatal and maternal health home-visitation services.

Extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months.

Continue developing a comprehensive Children's Mental Health System

Ensure the unique developmental needs of children and adolescents, including programs that support prevention, early identification, and early intervention services.

Ensure competitive Medicaid reimbursement rates and develop a workforce strategy that includes incentives for direct care and behavioral health providers.

Bolster the financial security of Iowa's families

Increase access to safe, affordable housing and create pathways to homeownership.

Enhance supportive learning environments in Iowa's Education System

Increase flexible funding for Iowa schools and AEA's to expand social-emotional supports for students and enhance community-based partnerships that promote whole family well-being.

Expand training on Adverse Childhood Experiences to include cultural humility and healing-centered approaches and extend training to include educators in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.

Advance trauma-informed child welfare and juvenile justice systems

Ensure IDPH and DHS alignment process articulates a cohesive vision to prevent childhood trauma, promote well-being, and provide effective healing-centered and early intervention services and supports.

Require juvenile justice referrals for all youth to community-based pre-charge diversion programs for first-time simple misdemeanor offenses.