



Value of the Iowa Poison Control Center to Iowa's Health System

Poisoning is the #1 cause of injury death in the United States. Self-poisoning is now the leading cause of suicide attempts among adolescents, especially girls.

1. The IPCC is providing a vital service for all Iowans.

- Experts at the IPCC managed 25,651 individual cases and made 42,342 follow-up calls last year.
- Calls are answered 24/7/365 by specially trained nurses, pharmacists and physicians.
- Children <6 years of age comprise 43% of the cases; more serious cases occur in teens and adult.
- Doctors and nurses frequently rely on the poison center for expert advice on poisoning cases.
- The IPCC provides public and professional education throughout Iowa.
- The IPCC is one of 55 accredited poison centers in the U.S. participating in a near real-time poisoning surveillance system that can identify, track and report on outbreaks of poisoning, public health threats, product hazards, and emerging drugs of abuse (e.g. fentanyl analogs, "bath salts").

2. The IPCC saves lives and money.

- The IPCC saves lives and improves patient care by working with hospitals in Iowa to provide expert toxicology recommendations to healthcare providers treating drug overdoses and poisonings.
- Nearly 90% of the cases involving children <6 years of age are managed safely at home saving at least \$12 million each year in unnecessary ER visits and ambulance transports.
- 44% of callers are covered by Medicaid saving Iowa's Medicaid program \$5.5 million annually.
- Every dollar invested in the IPCC saves at least \$13.39 in health care costs.

3. The IPCC represents a unique public-private partnership.

- The IPCC is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
- The State appropriation of \$500,000, administered by the Iowa Department of Public Health, and matching federal CHIP funds are the major sources of IPCC funding.
- All Iowa hospitals partner with the IPCC and provide financial contributions to support its operation.
- U.S. HRSA grants support the nation's 55 poison centers and funds the national toll-free number.
- In-kind services are a vital part of helping the IPCC deliver services 24/7/365 for all Iowans.
- Other funding sources include private contracts, grants and donations.

Technology Funding Request: To meet the rising costs of essential toxicology databases used by poison centers to identify product ingredients and also enhance the IPCC's electronic medical record system, we request \$34,000 from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF).

The Iowa Poison Control Center is among the most successful and cost-effective public health programs in the state. The IPCC saves lives and millions of Iowan taxpayer dollars every year.