



2011 Legislative Priorities

Please restore and maintain funding to critical programs and services for children to support child safety, permanency and well-being.

The Coalition for Family and Children's Services believes that the State of Iowa should provide a comprehensive array of prevention, intervention and treatment services and supports to improve child **safety** and **permanency**, and to promote child and family **well-being** in instances where children have been or are at risk.

The federal government holds the State of Iowa accountable for achieving **safety**, **permanency** and **well-being** outcomes. It does so through the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The review examines Iowa's performance in helping children to grow up safely, in permanent homes, and in communities that are focused on their well-being. In other words, the review evaluates whether the State of Iowa is actually improving outcomes for the children and families whom they serve through child and family services programs.

Here is a Checklist for Determining Whether Legislation

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Meets the Mandate of the Federal Government

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To ensure that the safety, permanency and well-being of children in Iowa is protected

As you review the budget and make policy decisions please ask yourself...

Does this promote Safety?

- Children are first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their homes when possible and appropriate.

Does this promote Permanency?

- Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved.

Does this promote Well-Being?

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive services to meet their physical and mental health needs.