

# Coalition Introduction

Mission: To influence and shape policy & practice for the betterment of Iowa children and families and the organizations that serve them.

Vision: We envision a true public/private partnership providing Iowa's at risk children and their families an array of fully



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# What Matters?

The Coalition is committed to advocating for a system of care for vulnerable children, youth and families in Iowa in which:

- Family Connections Matter
- Outcomes Matter
- Resources Matter and
- Partnerships Matter.



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## A Real Story...

### Medical Complaints & Threats of Self-Harm.

- Swallowed Lego
- Threatened to Swallow Battery



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## A Real Story...

### Ongoing Aggression and Assaultive Behaviors Towards Staff.

- Biting and Scratching Staff's Hand
- Scratching and Punching Staff
- Flipping Desks



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## A Real Story...

Inappropriate Sexual Behavior  
Towards Others in Care.



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## Another Real Story...

Ongoing Aggression and Assaultive  
Behaviors Towards Peers.

- Swing Broom and Mop Handles at peers
- Tore a peers baby picture



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## Another Real Story...

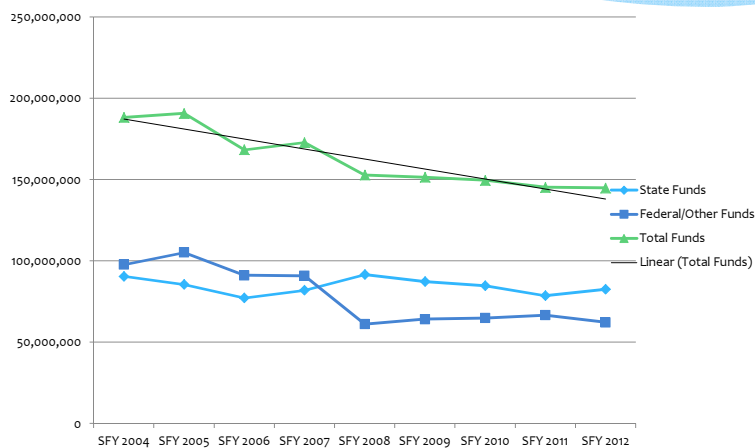
Ongoing Aggression and Assaultive Behaviors Towards Staff.

- Biting staff
- Hitting Staff
- Stabbing Staff with butter knives, forks and broken glass



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## Resources Matter



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## So What?

It is the State of Iowa's Responsibility!

- When children are at risk for harm, DHS intervenes to investigate abuse and neglect allegations, assist families in caring for their children, and provide alternative care for children when necessary.
- DHS in partnership with private agencies, is charged with meeting these children's needs to improve child **safety** and **permanency**, and to promote child and family **well-being**



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## So What?

Jobs!

- Think of the direct line staff that work with these children & families.
- We are working with tougher kids and families.



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## Goal...

- To allow provider rates to catch-up in order to meet the children's and families needs while paying marketable salaries to the direct line staff.
- It is unrealistic to expect the direct-line staff to do this work in 2014 for the same rate that agencies have been paid for years!



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## Why am I here?

1. Provide Information.
2. Request the additional funds that are needed beyond the Governor's SFY 2014 recommendation to fund the hard work that the direct-line staff do and help DHS meet the CFSR expectations with the performance based contracts.



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## System Array

Core to this array are the following services:

- Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families
- Safety Services/Family, Safety, Risk & Permanency
- Child Welfare Emergency Services
- Foster Group Care
- Supervised Apartment Living/Independent Living



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## Request...

A 5% increase to the following performance-based contracts (including incentives and base rate payments)

- Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families
- Safety Services/Family, Safety, Risk & Permanency
  - Child Welfare Emergency Services
  - Foster Group Care
  - Supervised Apartment Living/Independent Living



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## Request...

Restore the cuts from the Governor's Budget for the Child Welfare Emergency Services (shelter care)



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## Request...

Foster Care Group Care Rate Methodology Workgroup.

- Interim Rate Adjustment
  - The State of Iowa cannot turn its back on the inequity of payment.



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## Request...

\$6.4 Million above the  
Governor's Recommendation.



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## How did we get so far behind?

1. Economic Downturn
2. No mechanism built to help keep up with costs of providing services



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## Request...

Move forward with a mechanism for adjusting the rates so we can:

- Fulfill the legislative intent of SF 2425,
- Continue to work in partnership with the Iowa Department of Human Services, and
- Not have to “beg” you each year for a rate adjustment.



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## Resources Matter



The Big Squeeze

# Contact Information

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The Coalition's Request is a **5% increase** to (incentives and base rate payments):

- **Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families**
- **Family Safety, Risk and Permanency (FSRP)/Safety Plan (SP)**
- **Child Welfare Emergency Services**
- **Foster Group Care**
- **Supervised Apartment Living**

Restoration of the cuts to Child Welfare Emergency Services (**Shelter**) from the Governor's budget – if not to guaranteed beds than to the non-bed Child Welfare Emergency Services.

**An interim rate adjustment for Foster Group Care:** The Coalition has a proposal that would make sure that there is an equitable payment rate to all foster group care providers.

We are also requesting moving forward with a **growth mechanism** for the above mentioned contracts.

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