

The Homestead

Innovative solutions for people with autism

The Homestead CAMPUS RENOVATION PROJECT

We understand that the state has made the decision in recent years to close many residential facilities due to costs and other methods of treatment to people who suffer from profound disabilities. We also recognize that unfortunately there will always be a place on the spectrum of care for those facilities. In the absence of state facilities, there does need to be some capacity in the private not for profit provider sector.

In 1994 The Homestead created Iowa's first autism specific program. Since then, The Homestead has developed a wide range of services to support children and adults with autism. After 21 years of operation, the original farm is now in need of major remodeling to extend its useful life. The program has been home to adults with significant challenges. Consequently, the homes have been well used and are unfortunately beginning to significantly deteriorate. Kitchen cabinets, flooring, door frames and exteriors all need to be replaced with parts suitable for the heavy use and abuse these homes experience.

The farm consists of six homes, each serving 4 adults. The homes receive staff support 24 hours a day. The program is licensed as an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

As Iowa explores more efficient investment in programming while matching individuals with integrated community settings, The Homestead farm remains a viable and important component of our service models. The home size remains small and the participants engage in integrated daily living activities, work in farm jobs, and access community events. Most importantly, when an urgent crisis develops staff can be quickly re-deployed to the home needing extra support in a matter of seconds. This type of emergency support is what makes serving some adults impossible or very expensive in other community-based settings.

The Homestead's farm program is efficient. We are much more affordable than the state resource centers that can run 2½ times as expensive as this program.

Glenwood is \$770.11 per day and Woodward is \$821.62 per day.

Additionally, although these are the published rates, in many budget years the state does appropriate additional monies to support deficits in operating funds.

The Homestead (Campus) is \$325.94 per day. This is a difference of \$180,000 per year per person. Our farm serves 24 adults for a savings of \$4,282,675 per year.

Medicaid pays roughly 60% of that so **the state portion is \$1,713,070 per year in state savings for our campus program.**



We respectfully request that the state of Iowa invests \$485,000 in RIIF funds to help ensure that The Homestead's homes are prepared to support individuals with autism for the next 20 years.

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