

2021 Legislative Priorities



**A Resource for
The Community**

Impact of DSP Workforce Crisis

- DSP Turnover has doubled since 2015
- Inability to accept referrals due to inadequate staffing levels
- Reduced progress to individual goals
- Exposure to possible harm as a result of fatigue

How Can You Help Us Help Others?

- Increase rates for HCBS/ID, HCBS/BI, and Habilitation to support DSP wage increases and to attract and retain support staff
- Require IME to utilize Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) during cost reporting.
- Require telehealth rate parity for mental health services.

What Have Other States Done For DSPs?

State	Implementation Years	Method	Impact
Indiana	2018-2019	5% increase to rates	Majority passed through to wages
Ohio	2020-2021	HCBS rate increase	19% increase to wages
Wisconsin	2018-2019	3% increase to rates	Majority passed through to wages
	2019-2020	3% increase to rates	
Kansas	2018-2020	8.5% increase to rates	No direct passthrough requirement, state reports vast majority utilized to increase wages

We have a serious workforce crisis. The LTSS system of supports for 40,000 Iowans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, brain injuries or mental challenges is directly impacted. Direct Support Professionals provide important services but current reimbursement rates are not sufficient to recruit and retain quality workers.

- 38% of providers have eliminated services as a result of workforce shortages.
- 99% of providers have DSP vacancies.

Mission Statement:

First Resources Corp. provides community based programs with integrity and respect. We strive to inspire hope and to contribute to the well-being of the people we serve.

Core Values

- Service Excellence
- Open Communication
- Constant Respect
- Professional Development
- Innovation



A Resource for The Community

Children's Mental Health Funding

Currently, there is inadequate funding to the Children's Mental Health Program in the State Of Iowa. Legislation has been discussed for at least two years, and rules have been put into place, but the funding stream has been ignored, to date.

As a result, in Wapello County:

- The Mental Health levy is maxed at \$47.50/\$1,000, with no way to increase the funding stream, as a result of the spend-down and requirement to add a Director of Children's Mental Health position.
- Required to spend down budget surplus over 2 years, but service requirements increased.
- Jail diversion program will be cut as a result, if no changes are made.
- Potential to cut \$120K block grant from SIMH.

Visit us online at www.firstresources.us

Drug Abuse and Prevention

- We ask that the reimbursement rate for residential inpatient treatment be adjusted for cost neutrality. Current rates do not cover costs.
- We ask that community block grant dollars for community action centers become more competitive. Currently, clients do not have choice in providers.
- We ask that drop-in centers become a core service for regional dollars.
- We ask that Licensed Independent Social Worker credentialing expectations be aligned to make the profession more available to clients.

Managed Care Impact on Service Delivery

Since the inception of Managed Care in the State of Iowa in 2016, we have seen a tremendous change in how services are approved and paid for.

- Habilitation Rates
 - Have not seen an increase since 2017
 - Inflation has averaged 5.7% in the same time period
 - Requirements for infrastructure and outcomes have increased
- Payment issues have plagued the industry
 - Inconsistent denials for submitted claims
 - Untimely payment history from MCOs
 - No stability as MCOs move in and out of the state
 - Inability to bill 3rd Party Payers
- Transportation
 - Habilitation transportation is not a covered service
 - Outside of normal business hours, public transportation is not available, and there is no alternate funding
 - Rules are unclear, between supported employment and other programs as to whom will pay for transportation
- Waiver waiting lists are currently out over a year because of lack of funding
- Assessments
 - No independent contractor for annual standardized assessment to determine level of care and funding
 - Service authorization timeframes are inconsistent