



IOWA CAREGIVERS 2016 ISSUE PRIORITIES

Recommendations to assist in the recruitment and retention of the entirety of the health and long term service workforce, inclusive of direct care workers, and to support family caregivers who are also critical to ensuring lowans receive the care and services they need.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION (Stakeholder)

(Stakeholder Day at Capitol Jan 27, 2016)

Educate elected officials about how vital the health workforce and family caregivers are to lowans receiving the services and supports they need regardless the location; Iowa's employers; and the economy overall.

DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE INITIATIVES (Legislative Action)

- ✓ Invest in systemic and technological infrastructure needed to: **1)** support Prepare to Care and its specialties; **2)** provide the state the ability to track the supply and demand of the direct care workforce and their various trainings or certifications and; **3)** make it possible for the system to align with other health workforce data banks or pipelines.
- ✓ Continue Support for Direct Care Workforce Initiatives Within Iowa Department of Public Health:
 - Expand outreach efforts to increase awareness of the State's "Prepare to Care" training for direct care workers.
 - Increase access to State's "Prepare to Care" training for direct care workers via community colleges, employers, and other venues.
 - Establish and test a "Prepare to Care" training fund for new and existing direct care workers.
 - Expand the "Prepare to Care" oral health specialty.
 - Examine the feasibility of opening "Prepare to Care" to family caregivers to align with family caregiver advocate's efforts to "Prepare" family caregivers.
- ✓ Eliminate regulatory burdens that prevent direct care workers from improving their position in life and careers in direct care.

COMPENSATION (Legislative Action)

- ✓ Create a Compensation Committee to define compensation; identify potential strategies to increase compensation for direct care workers across all work place settings; and determine the feasibility of implementing the identified strategies to increase direct care workforce compensation.
- ✓ Explore strategies to boost family caregiver supports via tax credits or other incentives and options.

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