

DRAFT – Not ready for distribution

Policy Priorities 2024

Working together to create an Iowa where people with disabilities LEARN, WORK and THRIVE.

IOWANS with disabilities LEARN

PRIORITY - Students with disabilities at all ages receive a quality education with the supports they need to learn and thrive

- Ensure that students in **public schools and nonpublic schools** receive special education programs and services equitably
 - Implement recommendations provided in the [Special Education Support for Students Enrolled in Nonpublic Schools Legislative Task Force 2197 Report](#). (issued Dec. 2022)
- Support and invest in opportunities for Iowa students to attend **comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs** that allow students with developmental disabilities to receive a college education.
- Support in-school programs and trainings for teachers, staff and students on health conditions and disabilities such as epilepsy, autism safety response and mental health to **positively impact the safety and learning of all students** during school and school-sponsored activities

IOWANS with disabilities WORK

PRIORITY – Iowans with disabilities are employed and working toward financial independence

- Make **competitive integrated employment** the only option for publicly funded employment services for Iowans with disabilities
 - Implement Employment First values to ensure that Iowans with disabilities are paid at minimum wage or higher

- Invest in vocational rehabilitation services at a level that maximizes federal match to **build and sustain employment and self-employment programs** for lowans with disabilities
 - Increase staffing levels at Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) to support the self employment program to support entrepreneurial disabled lowans
- Ensure Governor Reynolds' initiative to **increase Iowa's workforce programs** for targeted populations includes lowans with disabilities as a target population

IOWANS with disabilities THRIVE

PRIORITY - lowans with disabilities live independently in their community by getting the support they need

- Establish a livable wage for direct support professionals (DSPs) **to decrease their dependence** on public assistance
- **Prioritize** home and community based services by eliminating gaps in waiver services and waiting lists
- Revise evaluation **requirements for an intellectual disability (ID) diagnosis** by allowing for additional trained medical professionals to administer tests and evaluate skills

IOWANS with disabilities VOTE!

Affirm the right to vote for people with disabilities by ensuring their access to participation by:

- Lengthening early voting options
- Additional and accessible voting places
- Expanding days to receive and return an absentee ballot
- Increasing absentee ballot drop box options
- Approving assistance to deliver an absentee ballot

NOTES on this document:

1. This document contains the key priorities but is not exclusive to other issues and bills that the council may monitor and educate on during the 2024 legislative session.
2. For each priority bullet point a detailed policy/issue brief or "fact sheet" will be produced for distribution to the council, lawmakers, advocates and others
3. Each priority area will include one or two stories and others in the policy or issue brief