

Goal: ChildServe Government Relations and Public Affairs will influence policy by building coalitions and collaborating with key stakeholders to improve the healthcare system for children with special healthcare needs in Iowa.

Legislative Agenda		Rational	Our Request
Autism Program Funding	<p>ChildServe's Autism Program received funding from the last two years for infrastructure. ChildServe is continuing its efforts to expand its Autism Program. The Legislature should continue its support for this program.</p>	<p>ChildServe is growing our Autism/ABA programs to serve children statewide. We served 71 of the counties in Iowa during the last year. The greatest need to increase access to ChildServe's Autism program is funding for infrastructure.</p> <p>Over the course of the last two years, the Iowa Legislature has made it possible, through RIIF funding, for ChildServe to expand our Autism programs. We will be opening two new satellite sites in FY 2022-2023 and expanding our existing site in central Iowa.</p>	<p>An infrastructure appropriation of \$750,000 for this year as part of our request last year for two-year funding.</p>
HCBS Provider Rates	<p>Recent HCBS rate increases need a sustainable source of funding.</p>	<p>The State of Iowa used one-time funding to increase the HCBS rates. While these increased rates will assist us in continuing to provide these services, we need to ensure their sustainability.</p>	<p>Legislators appropriate funding to create sustainability for the future of the HCBS rate increases.</p>
Reimbursement and Payment for Children's Services	<p>Outdated rehab agency rates are negatively affecting children with special healthcare needs' access to rehabilitation services.</p>	<p>Due to funding, access to pediatric therapy is getting more challenging each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement rates have not kept up with the increased cost to provide services. The current Medicaid Fee schedule for rehabilitation therapy rates has not increased since they were set in 2013. • Both PT and OT professionals must have a doctorate-level education. The current Medicaid fee schedule has not been adjusted to account for this professional change. • Multiple procedure payment reductions (MPPR), a Medicare payment methodology adopted by Iowa Medicaid, reduces providers' rates to less than the fee schedule rates. Without better funding, potential professionals will choose other better-paying positions. • ChildServe has 581 children on a waiting list for this service. 	<p>Sufficient funding to adjust the rates so children with special healthcare needs have access to rehabilitation services.</p>

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Reimbursement and Payment for Children’s Behavioral Health Services	<p>Outdated rates are negatively affecting children with special healthcare needs’ access to behavioral health providers and services.</p>	<p>Pediatric psychologists are essential for many Medicaid programs. For children to receive services, they need to have a psychologist’s evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a shortage of Psychologists in our state. It is even more difficult to get pediatric psychologists. • ChildServe has 636 children on a waiting list to see a pediatric psychologist. • ChildServe has 310 children on a waiting list to see a mental health therapist. <p>The current Medicaid Fee schedule for behavioral health rates has not increased since rates were set over 6 years ago. There is no administrative language that addresses any adjustments to these rates.</p>	<p>Sufficient funding to adjust the rates so children with special healthcare needs have access to Behavioral Health services.</p>
Reimbursement Mechanism for Updating Payment Rates	<p>Medicaid fee structures play a role in our ability to recruit and retain healthcare providers.</p>	<p>There is no policy mechanism for defining when the following payment /reimbursement rates are updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare with Medical Services – a Medicaid program for children with special healthcare needs • Rehabilitation Agency rates • Behavioral Health services (i.e., Psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis, Mental Health Therapy, etc.) 	<p>We request that language be developed in the HHS budget bill to address these provider types of reimbursement. ChildServe is willing to be a resource for this request.</p>