



IOWA CAREGIVERS 2017 ISSUE PRIORITIES

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

HELP WANTED!

HELP WANTED: Day at the Capitol — March 2, 2017 (for more information, email us at: information@iowacaregivers.org)

Educate elected officials about how vital the health and long-term service and supports workforce, and family caregivers are to:
1) Iowans receiving the services they need regardless the location; **2)** Iowa's employers; **3)** the economy overall.

HEALTH WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

Task and fund the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to serve as the "backbone" for addressing recruitment and retention of the direct care workforce and other high demand sectors of the health and long-term services and supports (LTSS) workforce needed to meet the existing and future needs of Iowans of all ages and abilities. Align the efforts with the recommendations of the Older Iowans Legislature, Elevate Aging Collaborative, Future Ready Iowa Initiative, United Ways' Skills to Compete Coalition, and the 2016 Direct Care Workforce Summit to include:

- 1.** Expanding existing recruitment and retention efforts of the Direct Care Workforce Initiative including competency based training; specialty endorsements in Alzheimer's/dementia, oral health, mental health, and other areas; creating the needed infrastructure, policies, procedures, and repository to support accurate records and portability of training credentials and certifications; bringing to scale the current efforts that include educational and recognition events, scholarships, leadership and mentor training, and development and dissemination of workforce-tailored resources and services;
- 2.** Providing forgivable loans and scholarships for high demand sectors and place a high priority on strategies to attract new and more diverse people to the field, and create ways to help older workers and individuals with disabilities to remain in the field longer;
- 3.** Conducting research and data analysis specific to the health and LTSS workforce, and facilitate best practices through public and private partnerships;
- 4.** Support licensed dental hygienists performing educational and oral screening services without supervision of a licensed dentist and without restriction on the location of those services.

COMPENSATION AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

- 1.** Leading a multi-stakeholder and interagency initiative within the IDPH to identify and implement strategies to increase wages/compensation/benefits of those who work in direct care to include potential eligibility for IPERS and tax credits for individuals to enter and remain in high demand health and LTSS job sectors;
- 2.** Support an increase in the minimum wage that assures protection of the safety net;
- 3.** Explore strategies to boost family caregiver supports via tax credits or other incentives and options.

For more information contact Iowa CareGivers:

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