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Inside DHS

Staff News for the Iowa Department of Human Services



Aftercare Annual Outcomes Report Released

The [State Fiscal Year 2021 Aftercare Annual Outcomes Report](#), prepared by the [Youth Policy Institute of Iowa](#), has been released, and it offers several bright spots regarding Iowa youth aging out of foster care.

The [recently released report](#) shows that during the 2021 fiscal year, the last placement of just over half (52%) of new participants was a family like setting (Licensed Family Foster Home, relative, adoption or subsidized guardianship, or suitable other placement), an increase from 34% of new intakes last year, as DHS has emphasized the use of family like placements for all children and youth in foster care over the last few years.

Another highlight of the report pertains to youth having positive connections to supportive adults, which is critical to a successful transition to adulthood. Although youth aging out of the system are not being discharged to permanency, the report shows that they still feel connected to their families and other important adults in their lives with more than nine out of 10 (92.7%) young people saying they had at least one family member they "will always be able to turn to for support, advice, (to) share or celebrate personal achievements, (or to) help solve problems."

A few other numbers to note: In an increase from last year, just over half of new Aftercare participants who aged out of foster care reported being employed full- or part-time at intake

(51.4%), rising from 39.5% last year. Also, youth exiting foster care are largely enrolled in Medicaid - 91.5% of new intakes to the Aftercare program (serving youth aging out of foster care) reported Medicaid coverage.

Amid improvements, Iowa youth aging out of foster care still face challenges. Finding and maintaining safe and affordable housing can be a challenge for youth transitioning from foster care, and the cost of housing is often mentioned as a significant barrier to self-sufficiency for these young people. [According to the Annual Outcomes Report](#), about 45% of youth are paying rent at the time of intake to the Aftercare program, and of those, nearly half reported that more than half their monthly income goes toward rent and utilities.

Young people exiting foster care or other placements also frequently report mental health struggles, behaviors considered high risk, and other challenges that can complicate the transition into adulthood. The Iowa Aftercare Services Network believes youth don't have to face the world alone and offers information and resources for these youth at <https://iowaaftercare.org/>.

Young adults who have been in foster care can also find information on [additional support and financial assistance on the Aftercare website](#). More than 1,400 young people have received assistance, and more help is on the way. Information on the extension or modification of key provisions is now available [on the website](#) as well.

The Iowa Aftercare Program values the voice of youth to help improve the program and to identify ways they can help each participant. When asked about their experience in Aftercare, this is what Iowa youth said:

- “It really has helped me stay on my feet and my worker has provided amazing support.”
- “[My Advocate] is always is professional but very caring! People coming out of foster care, take advantage of this program. It is very beneficial.”
- “[My Advocate] is a very sweet and caring person, always helping me with my problems and helping me find a solution to them.”
- “I’m glad I’m in aftercare because without the help I’m getting, I would be lost and wouldn’t know anything, but I’m just thankful.”

The DHS-contracted [Iowa Aftercare Services Program](#) is available to help young adults who have experienced foster care or other court-ordered placement as a teenager. [YSS](#) and the network of providers help youth in all 99 Iowa counties reach personal goals for education, employment, housing, health, life skills and relationships. Visit the website for more information: <https://iowaaftercare.org/>.



NOW HIRING

DHS Featured Jobs

DHS is now hiring for the following featured jobs. Browse all open DHS positions here: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/iowa> and filter by agency or location.

Social Worker 2 - Linn County

DHS has an urgent need for Social Worker 2 candidates in Linn County. Qualified candidates will manage a caseload of children and families that require ongoing service provision to ensure child safety, evaluate the ongoing safety and risk of the child by conducting home visits with the children and parents involved, and work with families to create family-centered plans in accordance with the Code of Iowa that analyze and assess the strengths and needs of the child and family and address ongoing safety and risk concerns. Position closes February 14.

[A detailed job description is available here.](#)

Human Resource Assistant

DHS is seeking a Human Resource Technical Assistant. This is a full-time opportunity with a five-day work week. As the face of the Central Office Human Resources (COHR) team, this position is assigned to and located at the State Training School (STS) in Eldora, Iowa. The HRTA role has a significant impact on employees by creating a positive experience starting at the new hire process and continuing throughout their career. Position closes January 9.

[A detailed job description is available here.](#)

Bureau Chief of Quality and Innovation

DHS's Central Office is seeking a Bureau Chief of Quality and Innovation. The qualified candidate will be responsible for overseeing quality improvement and innovation activities within Iowa Medicaid Enterprise. The Quality and Innovation Bureau Chief oversees the supplemental payment program, quality improvement and reporting initiatives, and programmatic and policy innovations including supporting health information technology utilization and other promising Medicaid practices. Position closes January 4. [A detailed job description is available here.](#)

Bureau Chief of Program Integrity and Compliance

DHS's Central Office is seeking a Bureau Chief of Program Integrity and Compliance. This critical leadership role is a member of the Medicaid strategic leadership team, and requires active participation in decisions with significant impact on the agency. The qualified candidate will represent the IME in meetings with Legislators, Administrative Rules Committee, the Council on Human Services, Medical Assistance Advisory Council, providers, provider associations, advocates, agencies and other stakeholders who are involved in shaping and changing Medicaid policy. Position closes January 3. [A detailed job description is available here.](#)

Income Maintenance Worker 2 (Bilingual)

Hamilton County is seeking an Income Maintenance Worker 2. We are in need of bilingual employees. Applicants must be able to speak, read and write Spanish fluently. The qualified candidate will be responsible for processing changes related to eligibility for the Family Investment Program (FIP), Food Assistance, Title XIX Medicaid programs and other programs administered by the Department of Human Services. Position closes December 26. [A detailed job description is available here.](#)



Tell Us Why You Love Working For DHS

The work we do is important and deeply rewarding. As we recruit to build our team, we'll highlight #TeamDHS members in a social media campaign – #IAmDHS. Posts for this campaign feature quotes on what we do and what we love most about our work. **If you'd like to be featured, email Heidi Roepke at hroepke@dhs.state.ia.us.**



Follow DHS, Share Open Positions on LinkedIn

DHS is now active on [LinkedIn](#), an online professional network with 756 million members in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide. DHS will be using the platform to boost our recruitment efforts by sharing job opportunities and more.

Follow us on LinkedIn and bookmark or add the following link as a favorite in your browser: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/iowadhs>.

For inquiries on sharing a DHS job listing or related information on LinkedIn, reach out to Heidi Roepke at hroepke@dhs.state.ia.us.

Years of Service

Thank You for Your Service:

5 years of service

Nicole Duffey, Mohawk Square
Elizabeth Brammer, Glenwood Resource Center
Yesica Taylor, Pottawattamie County CSRU
Leona Bell Butts, Hoover Building
Stacy Goodvin, Linn County DHS/CSRU

10 years of service

Keith Davis, Woodward Resource Center
Regina Bennett, Glenwood Resource Center
David Truckenmiller, Woodward Resource Center
Megan Moore, Pottawattamie County CSRU
William Carter, Cherokee MHI
Joseph Otten, State Training School

15 years of service

Dawn Teslow, Decorah CSRU
Melanie Ruffalo, Des Moines CSRU
Wendy Leuenberger, Decorah CSRU
Patrick Black, Hoover Building
Maria Contreras, Polk County River Place
Linda Bates, Clay County DHS
Robert Meyers, Cherokee MHI
Lisa Hamar, Hoover Building
Diana Buelt, Linn County DHS/CSB
Lisa Morrow, Davenport CSRU
Charles Maddex, Hoover Building
Patricia Hauersperger, Marshall County DHS
Carrie Habel, Clinton County DHS

20 years of service

Theresa Cleveland, DHS and DPH

25 years of service

Jerry Brammer, Glenwood Resource Center
Rhonda Wittmann, Black Hawk County DHS
Gordon Determan, State Training School

35 years of service

Trescha McGlade, Glenwood Resource Center

40 years of service

James Hall, Woodward Resource Center
Julie Graham, Woodward Resource Center

Every day at DHS, we work to improve the lives of our fellow Iowans. As an agency it is important to keep focused on our mission; to help Iowans achieve healthy, safe, stable, and self-sufficient lives through the programs and services we provide. If you know of a staff member or success story that exemplifies this mission, please email hroepke@dhs.state.ia.us or mhighla@dhs.state.ia.us to include it in our DHS newsletter.

For questions about Inside DHS please contact hroepke@dhs.state.ia.us.