



# SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR IOWA'S CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

*As our state faces continued revenue shortfalls, we must ensure Iowa's most vulnerable children and families do not suffer the consequences.*

We oppose any budget cuts that impact the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) or the state's ability to fund quality child welfare services, including residential treatment, family safety work, foster and adoptive programs, and child abuse prevention



**800 CHILDREN** referred into foster care in Western Iowa in 2017

Child welfare caseloads are on the rise. Following the recent deaths of two children, Iowa has seen an increase in referrals to the DHS child abuse hotline, and children are being referred into LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency (FSRP) Services and foster care services in record numbers. From July 2016 to September 2017, LSI's FSRP Services saw a **21% increase** in cases, and more than **800 children** were referred into foster care in western Iowa last year. These dedicated child welfare workers deserve our support as they perform some of the most challenging and intensive work in the state.



**63.81 HOURS** per week worked to keep up with need for services

Iowa's child welfare workforce is suffering. LSI's highly trained family safety professionals respond to crises 24/7. In 2017, they worked an average of **63.81 hours per week** just to keep up with the need for services.



**97.4%** children in Early Childhood Services free from abuse

LSI's Early Childhood Services empower families with parenting education to prevent child abuse. Despite limited resources, LSI ensured **97.4 percent** of all children in Early Childhood Services remained free from abuse in 2017. We must continue investing in high-quality abuse prevention programming and wrap critical care around vulnerable families before child welfare services are needed.

We are proud to partner with the Iowa Department of Human Services to help the state meet its goals for ensuring the safety and well being of every child. When we invest in this work, we create stronger communities

**Any cuts to child welfare services will be unsustainable for our communities and put quality providers like LSI and our workforce at risk. We cannot balance our state budget on the backs of Iowa children and families.**



Lutheran Services in Iowa

LSIowa.org

