



SUPPORT FOR IOWA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Iowa has made significant legislative strides in the past several years regarding the adult and child mental health systems including improvements in policy and funding. But critical gaps remain.

Certain populations in Iowa face greater barriers to care: people of color, rural Iowans, people who come to Iowa as immigrants and refugees, older adults and lower-income earners. We believe Iowa has the ability and the will to address these issues and build a strong mental health system that serves everyone and leads to a brighter, healthier Iowa.

Regular Rate Review and Workforce

The much needed and appreciated rate increase for Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS) in 2022 has resulted in a higher hourly rate than Therapy services. Without a sustainable investment and sufficient rate reimbursements, providers are unable to recruit and retain high quality therapists, nurses, educators and direct care workers to provide the service Iowans deserve.

LSI supports establishing regular reviews and adjustments for provider rates for all children and family services.

With ¾ of all behavioral health services in Iowa paid by Medicaid, it is also crucial that Medicaid coverage continues to be available and sufficiently funded.

\$121 Therapy Reimbursement Hourly Rate

\$74 Therapy Medicaid Reimbursement Hourly Rate

\$105.56 BHIS Medicaid Reimbursement Hourly Rate

Prevention and Early Intervention Programming

Prevention and early intervention services promote overall long-term health for our state's most vulnerable families.

Research proves that children who experience Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) suffer negative health and financial outcomes throughout adulthood. The 2020 Iowa ACEs survey reports a total of 64% of Iowa adults report at least one Adverse Childhood Experience, with 17% experiencing four or more ACEs.

Funding preventative services - as one piece of a continuum of care - is key to a strong children's mental health system.

Access and Equity

We cannot take a one-size-fits-all approach to mental health.

It is important to offer various forms of service delivery - including in-person, group and telehealth options - to ensure services are readily available, sufficiently funded and easily accessible to all Iowans.

The state and its regions should invest in providers that offer services designed specifically for rural Iowans, people of color, immigrants and refugees and older Iowans.

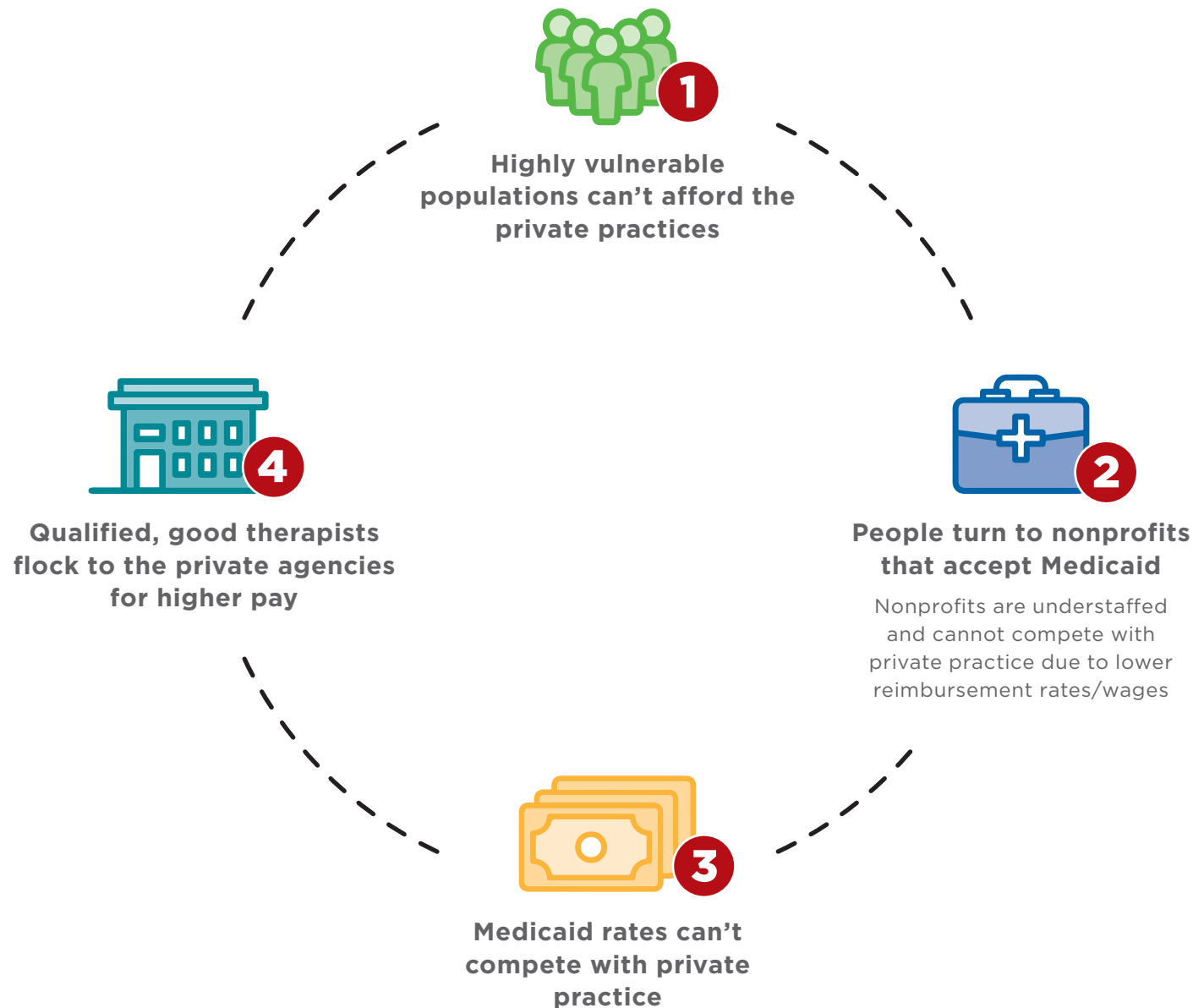


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Highly vulnerable populations are stuck in a cycle. These individuals seek care for their mental health but cannot afford the therapists at private agencies. Instead, those who often most need mental health services, turn to nonprofits that accept Medicaid. These nonprofits, however, are understaffed due to qualified therapists choosing to work at private agencies for the higher pay.



Without a competitive reimbursement rate/wage, these nonprofits find themselves unable to offer the highest quality of service to the most vulnerable Iowans. Without legislative appropriations to break this cycle, our Iowa neighbors continue to suffer.

LSI has a more than 150-year legacy of providing a broad spectrum of human services. From prenatal care, early childhood services and behavioral health services, to crisis stabilization and intense residential treatment like Psychiatric Medical Institute for Children and Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), LSI promotes positive outcomes for Iowa children, adults and families.