# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2020

## EDUCATION

**Increase the percentage of central Iowa students who graduate from high school to 95 percent by 2020.**

- **P** Eliminate the ability of high school students to dropout at age 16 and require high school diploma or equivalency completion.
- **P** Support poverty and English language learner weighting in the school funding formula to help low-income students reach their full academic potential and help stem the decline in academic success rates among these populations.
- **P** Support expansion of the child, dependent care and early childhood development tax credits to allow more Iowans to benefit from these programs.

## INCOME

**Increase the percentage of central Iowans who are financially self-sufficient to 75 percent by 2020.**

- **F** Support the recommendations of the Iowa Skills2Compete Coalition including:
  - Lead efforts to eliminate the child care “cliff effect” and increase access to quality and affordable child care by expanding income eligibility of the Child Care Assistance (CCA) program to 0-185 percent of the federal poverty level including a tiered co-pay schedule.
  - Advocate for the stabilization of the child care provider market through CCA program improvements and reimbursement rates.
  - Maintain current investments in adult basic education, PACE programs, pathway navigators, industry sector partnerships and GAP tuition assistance at $12.5 million and expand PACE programs to include apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities.
  - Support the Future Ready Iowa initiative to help grow Iowa’s workforce through new investments that build on the solid foundation of programs and funding currently in place.
  - Promote the recommendations of the SNAP Employment & Training Workgroup to increase engagement with the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training program (SNAP E&T).
- **O** Support access to justice by adequately funding the judicial branch, and supporting programs to promote efficient and fair access to the legal system.

## HEALTH

**Increase central Iowa’s Gallup National Health and Well-Being Index score to 64.5 by 2020.**

- **P** Support efforts of the Coalition to Advance Mental Health in Iowa for Kids (CAMHi4Kids) to fund the Children’s Behavioral Health System established in 2018 via HF 690.
- **P** Support the recommendations of the Well Kids of Central Iowa Coalition:
  - Promote healthy habits through 5-2-1-0 messaging and technical assistance resourced by childhood obesity funding at Iowa Department of Public Health
  - Support a direct appropriation in support of the Double Up Food Bucks program
- **P** Support the recommendations of the ACEs 360 Coalition (Adverse Childhood Experiences)

## ESSENTIAL NEEDS

- **P** Lead efforts to begin state investment in the statewide 211 coalition for resource referral and disaster recovery services provided to Iowans.
- **F** Support a sales tax exemption for food banks & pantries serving low-income Iowans.
- **P** Deregulate the Farm to Food Tax Credit to allow producers to directly donate fresh produce to food banks and pantries.
- **O** Support a direct appropriation to the food insecurity safety net system.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Dave Stone at dave.stone@unitedwaydm.org.