

# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2020



**P** Policy    **\$** Fiscal Ask    **\$=** Maintain Funds    **REV↑** Revenue Increase    **REV↓** Revenue Decrease    **O** Opportunity

## 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.

- 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.
  - O**
  - \$=** 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.
  - REV↑** 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).
  - P** 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.
- \$**
- 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

- \$** Lead efforts to begin state investment in the statewide 211 coalition for resource referral and disaster recovery services provided to Iowans.
- REV↓** Support a sales tax exemption for food banks & pantries serving low-income Iowans.
- O**
- 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.
- O**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact **Dave Stone** at [dave.stone@unitedwaydm.org](mailto:dave.stone@unitedwaydm.org).