Medicaid Matters Coalition
2020 Legislative Priorities

**Protect Medicaid** from harmful changes and funding cuts

Medicaid helps Iowans get and stay healthy—so they can work, further their education and take care of their families.

- Oppose barriers that take away health care from Iowans and increase administrative costs to the state, including work reporting requirements and ongoing/repeated verification checks.

**Increase access** to essential health services by reimbursing providers fairly

To attract and retain providers—and assure availability of the services they provide—Iowa must issue Medicaid reimbursements in a timely manner and at sustainable rates.

- Direct DHS to outline how it sets Medicaid provider reimbursement rates (frequency, process, etc.) and analyze how Iowa’s current rates compare to past rates and those in neighboring states, with a focus on specialties with known shortages, including oral, behavioral and maternal health.
- Hold DHS accountable to improve efficiency and timeliness of payments by convening a task-force with participation from MCOs and providers and submitting an action plan to the legislature by December 15, 2020.

**Structure Medicaid** to better address adult and children’s mental health

Medicaid plays an important role in efforts to improve our state’s mental health system.

- Increase utilization of evidence-based mental and behavioral health services (Assertive Community Treatment teams, etc.) covered by Medicaid.
- Pilot strategies within Medicaid to increase caregiver depression and mental health screenings during well-child checks.
- Ensure young children receive the full range of preventive care and treatment under Medicaid’s comprehensive pediatric health benefit, EPSDT (Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment), known as Care for Kids in Iowa, by making data reporting, outreach/education and service requirements explicit in state MCO agreements.
Who we are

Medicaid Matters is a diverse coalition of nonprofit organizations from across Iowa partnering to improve Medicaid.

These nonpartisan organizations either:
• Directly serve Iowans who receive health care and supports through Medicaid.
• Advocate for them by developing policy recommendations that protect and strengthen Medicaid.

Values

• Health and well-being are vital to strong and thriving Iowa kids, families and communities.
• Iowans should be able to get the quality health care they need, when they need it.
• Educating and mobilizing community members, stakeholders and policymakers in supporting Medicaid is essential.

Guiding principles

• Medicaid is an effective program and a smart investment in Iowans’ health.
• Medicaid must be protected from harmful changes and funding cuts.
• Medicaid is a safety net — we are all one accident away from needing coverage through Medicaid. Medicaid must work for all Iowans.
• Medicaid must be a top priority for policymakers — cutting is not an option.