

Fostering Economic Mobility

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New HHS



**Serving families
holistically**



**Focus on
preventing deep
end assistance.**



**Warm front door
to support**

Community Access and Eligibility Division

- ▶ Child Support Services
- ▶ Economic Assistance
- ▶ Community Services
- ▶ Wellness and Preventive Health

Purpose of Fostering Economic Mobility Project

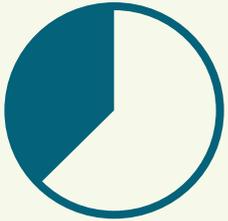
- ▶ Long-term, multi-generational goal to change income and wealth over time
- ▶ Create foundations for families to thrive, and prepare our future workforce
- ▶ Identify barriers to physical, emotional, and financial stability
- ▶ Develop multi-sector and public/private solutions



Current State

Current State

How Are Iowa Families Doing?



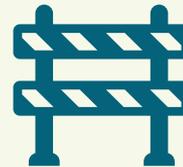
More than one-third of lowans are **struggling to make ends meet**

Measured by Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained and Employed)



Of the 20 most common occupations in Iowa in 2022, **65% paid less than \$20 per hour**

Iowa Workforce Development, 2022



Nearly 20% of those not participating in work requirements for cash assistance **have a mental health, substance use, or disability barrier.**



Of all substantiated reports to **child protection, half are for neglect.**
(the category of abuse called “denial of critical care”)

Income and Eligibility

Monthly Income	Single Adult	Family of Four
100% FPL	\$1,215	\$2,500
133% FPL (max Medicaid eligibility for adult not pregnant or disabled)	\$1,616	\$3,325
160% FPL (max SNAP and Child Care entry eligibility)	\$1,944	\$4,000
167% FPL (max Medicaid eligibility for child < 19)	\$2,030	\$4,175
ALICE (2021)	\$2,016	\$5,109

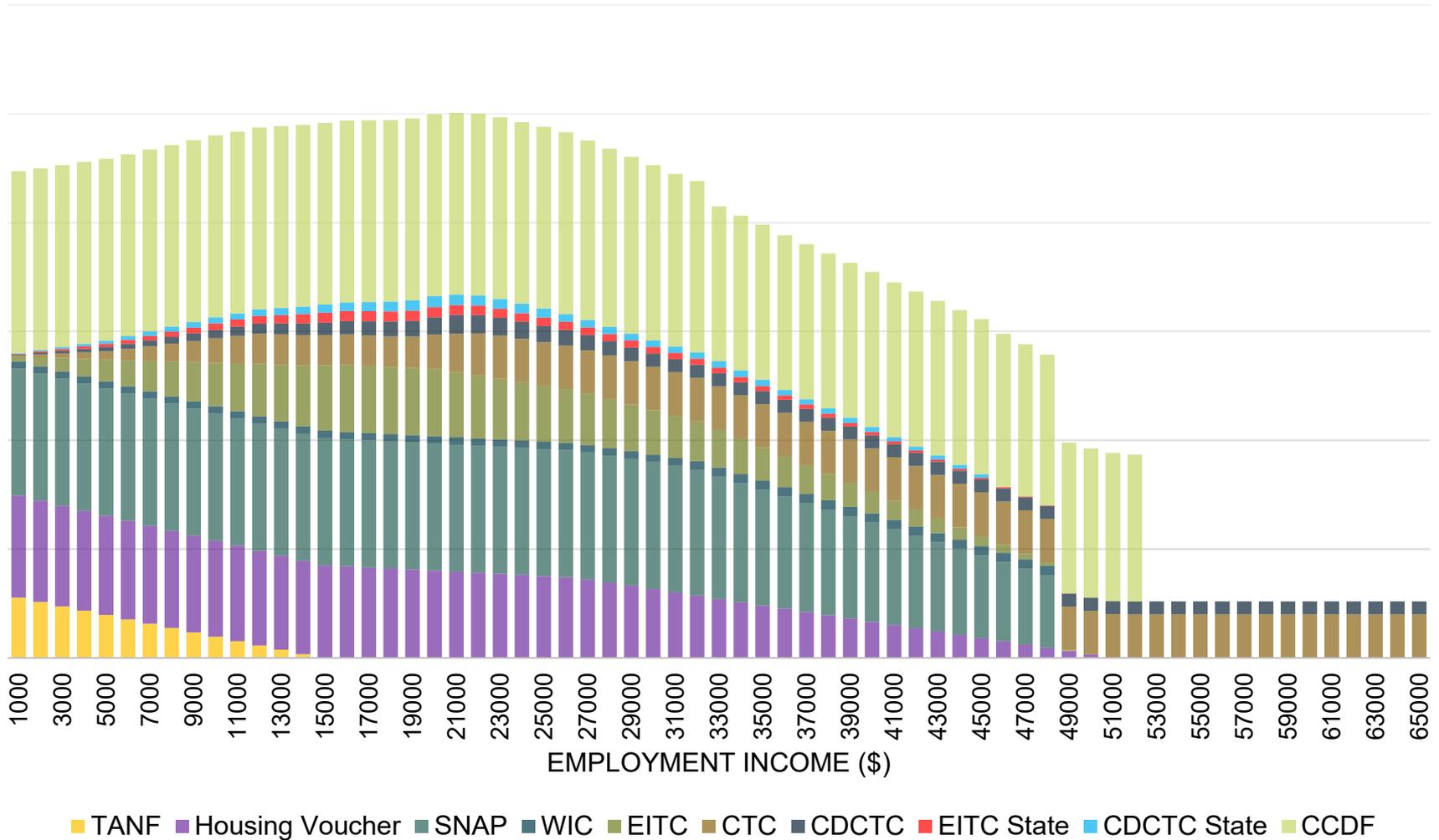
Current State

Determining Self-Sufficiency

Household Survival Budget, 2021 (2 Adults; 1 Infant; 1 Preschooler)

	State of Iowa (11% Poverty; 24% ALICE)	Appanoose County (17% Poverty; 31% ALICE)	Woodbury County (16% Poverty; 25% ALICE)
<i>Monthly Costs and Credits</i>			
Housing – Rent	\$482	\$423	\$746
Housing – Utilities	\$292	\$292	\$292
Child Care	\$1,122	\$961	\$1,126
Food	\$1,108	\$1,006	\$1,082
Transportation	\$796	\$796	\$796
Health Care	\$754	\$754	\$754
Technology	\$110	\$110	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$466	\$434	\$491
Tax Payments	\$1,139	\$1,025	\$1,225
Tax Credits	-\$1,160	-\$1,081	-\$1,163
Monthly Total	\$5,109	\$4,720	\$5,459
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$61,308	\$56,640	\$65,508
<i>Hourly Wage</i>	\$30.65	\$28.32	\$32.75

Public Assistance by Employment Income in Iowa



Case Study



- ▶ **Household consisted of dad and two teenage kids** (deceased mother).
- ▶ Dad and both kids **received social security survivor benefits**.
- ▶ Dad had an **onset of medical issues** and was not able to work.
- ▶ Dad **needed medical assistance** for himself and his teenagers.



Teens had jobs at HyVee, but had to be careful about monthly earnings to ensure they would **not go over the threshold to determine Medicaid eligibility**.



Dad was **frequently inquiring on eligibility questions**, income limits, and IRS threshold amount **to maintain Medicaid eligibility** until he could get back to gainful employment.



Dad's health improved and he **was able to return to work** and regain private insurance the following year.

Benefit Cliff Stories from Our Partners

Working parent refused higher hourly wage working 3rd shift due to earned income putting the household over income limits for assistance.

How is HHS Doing?

- ▶ Old IT systems
- ▶ Duplication of work
- ▶ Significant workload and status quo staffing
- ▶ Timeliness and accuracy errors
- ▶ Difficulty navigating eligibility and application process

Vision

Shifting Our Focus to Stability and Thriving

Focus:

Benefit Cliffs

- ▶ Poverty reduction as solution
- ▶ Narrow focus on public benefits
- ▶ Reactive intervention
- ▶ Point-in-time, short-term strategies
- ▶ Requires policy changes

Focus:

Stability and Thriving

- ▶ Stability as solution
- ▶ Holistic focus on family well-being
- ▶ Proactive prevention
- ▶ Individualized and generational strategies
- ▶ Requires community building, deep partnerships and public/private investment

Vision

- ▶ Serve families holistically, efficiently, and with the goal of family stability and economic mobility
- ▶ Modernize IT systems
- ▶ Create “front door”
- ▶ Accountability and measurement focused on outcomes and progress



Solutions

Solutions



- ▶ **Child welfare prevention and early intervention**
 - Concrete supports and closed loop referrals
- ▶ **Economic mobility strategies**
 - Address benefit cliffs
 - Unique workforce strategies (e.g., DCWs)
 - Serve families holistically with wraparound supports
 - Fatherhood programs
- ▶ **IT modernization**
 - Data-sharing
 - Integrated eligibility
 - Public assistance oversight

Public Assistance Oversight (SF 494)

Requires implementing specific strategies and tools aimed at increasing oversight of public assistance eligibility determinations **by July 1, 2025.**

- ▶ Identity Authentication
- ▶ SNAP Asset Test
- ▶ Data Interfaces
- ▶ Child Support cooperation for Medicaid applicants and members
- ▶ Implement by July 1, 2025



SF 494 Activities

- ▶ Federal approvals
- ▶ Assessment of resource, governance, and project management requirements
- ▶ RFIs for data interfaces and Integrated Eligibility System
- ▶ Asset verification RFP
- ▶ Coordination of IT modernization to reduce duplication of effort
- ▶ Decision-making regarding Medicaid referrals to child support because of IT and workforce demands





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Health and
Human Services