

Family Support Long Term Planning

Priorities Identified June 2025

Priority Area One:

- Continue to strengthen and support Iowa Family Support Credentialing (IFSC).
- Continue the review process for the standards to ensure the standards and the process are responsive and relevant.
- Continue work to encourage programs to become or remain evidence based even though the IFSC is an option

Priority Area Two:

- Comprehensive data collection plan and system
- Develop and provide training of data usage.
- Consider adding list of all required data elements in the data dictionary.
- Monitor and lessen data burden to family support professionals.

Priority Area Three:

- Improved advocacy for family support, including in a virtual environment.
- Raise public awareness about family support programming
- Develop a common, clear message for legislators, including in a virtual environment.
- Continue Family Support Impact Project.

Priority Area Four:

- Screening and referral process – ensure we are reaching the most at-risk families

- Continue to build on the statewide coordinated intake and referral system.
- Continue to build and market local and statewide coordinated intake.

Priority Area Five:

- Professional Development for the Family Support Workforce.
- Continue to work to provide opportunities for training for those entering the field.
- Continue to emphasize training for family support professionals, including but not limited to engagement, interaction and applying strategies to help foster personal growth and awareness.
- Create an alternative pathway for family support professionals seeking Family Support Certification but face barriers to taking the exam.
 - *Example: Certification Exam is not available in family support professionals' native language*

Priority Area Six:

- Enhance compensation for family support professionals.
- Engage diverse stakeholders to identify the resources necessary to fully support and sustain a comprehensive family support program.