

State of Iowa

Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

Vision. Children grow up safe from abuse and with permanent family connections.

Mission. To align DHS child welfare resources to achieve safety, permanency and well-being for the children and families we serve.

Results. Iowa's child welfare system is focused on achieving the following results.

Safety

Children are first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
Children are safely maintained in their homes when possible and appropriate.

Permanency

Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved.

Child and family well-being

Families have enhanced capacity to provide for children's needs.
Children receive services to meet their educational needs.
Children receive services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Guiding Principles

Customer focus. We listen to and address the needs of our customers in a respectful manner that builds upon their strengths. Our services promote meaningful connections to family and community.

Excellence. We model excellence through efficient, effective, and responsible public services. We communicate openly and honestly, and adhere to the highest standards of ethics and professional conduct.

Accountability. We maximize the use of resources and use data to evaluate performance and make informed decisions to improve results.

Teamwork. We work collaboratively with customers, employees, and public and private partners to achieve results.

Stakeholder Advisory Groups. Stakeholder groups formally provide advice to DHS related to child welfare policy, practice and budget: ♦ Child Abuse Prevention Council ♦ Child Welfare Stakeholder Panel ♦ Child Welfare Advisory Committee

Goals, Objectives, and Activities

DHS has identified the following activities to improve child and family results and meet federal standards for systemic factors for implementation in SFY 2010 - 2015. An "x" in the column means that the activity is intended to impact that outcome or systemic factor.

Note: this is a living document and the list of activities below is subject to change based on events that may impact priorities during this CFRP cycle.

SFY 2010 - 2014

Following is a summary of where DHS anticipates moving over the course of the next fiscal year. By and large, these activities build on the work already underway.

Activity ¹	Outcomes ²							Systemic Factors ³						
	S1	S2	P1	P2	W1	W2	W3	IS	CR	QA	T	SA	AR	FP
Safety														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement changes in safety and risk assessments, based on recommendations of National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment and University of Iowa School of Social Work⁴ 	X	X												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In collaboration with the Department of Public Health and the Judicial Department, implement revised protocol for drug testing, protocol serving families involved in both child welfare and substance abuse system, and improved data collection 	X	X												

¹ Strategies are listed as Activities.

² S1 = Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect. S2 = Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate. P1 = Children have permanency and stability in their living situations. P2 = The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children. W1 = Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs. W2 = Educational needs of children are identified and addressed. W3 = Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

³ IS = Statewide information system. CR = Case review system. QA = Quality assurance system. T = Training. SA = Service array. AR = Agency responsiveness to the community. FP = Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment and retention.

⁴ Most of NRC recommendations will likely be implemented by the end of SFY 2009.