

2019 ISAC Top Priorities

Iowa State Association of Counties



Mental Health and Disability Services

Addressing long term sustainable funding has long been an issue since Iowa moved to a regional based mental health and disability services (MH/DS) delivery system.

While progress was made during the during the 2017 session at addressing mental health funding, specifically levy equity for counties within MH/DS regions, the new regional caps that were established do not allow for growth within the system, provide the necessary resources to sustain complex needs services that were called for in this last session in HF 2456, or fund children's mental health services.

Further, the carry forward balance restrictions in SF 504 in 2017 of 20% or 25% depending on the size of the region, are setting up a potential funding calamity with rapid property tax swings from year to year to meet these requirements and fund the necessary services.

SOLUTION



Eliminate MH/DS Levy Caps

Eliminate the regional mental health levy caps that were established in SF 504 and allow for counties to levy what is necessary to meet their regional budgetary needs.



Remove Carry Forward Balance Restrictions

Remove the carry forward balance restrictions of 20% or 25% to provide counties/regions resources for new and existing programs without dramatic changes in property taxes.



Increase Sales Tax

If the above remedies are not advanced, an increase in the sales tax should be considered to fund MH/DS that must be constitutionally protected based on a distribution formula that is equitable for all counties in Iowa.

ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties.

We represent 16 affiliated associations. Representatives of these affiliates make up our Legislative Policy Committee and our Board of Directors.

Mission promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

Vision principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.



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