

Iowa Helping Community Policy Group Meeting with Senator Grassley

Senator Chuck Grassley

3:30 p.m. eastern

Monday, January 25, 2021



Agenda for Meeting with Senator Grassley

- Introduce Helping Community Policy Group and Moderate [Tammy Nyden]
- Describe Why It's Important to Iowa [Alex Watters, Fran Mancl]
- Present Overview of Iowa Helping Community Workforce (Charles Bruner)
- Invite Initial Comments and Questions
- Present Group's Specific Requests for Federal Attention (Di Findley and Denise Rathman) and Benefits of Investment (Barb Merrill)
- Answer Questions and Explore Next Steps for Working with Senator Grassley

Policy Group Mission

The Iowa Helping Community Policy Group's mission is to advance federal and state policies that recognize and support those in the helping fields – paid and unpaid – in their vital roles in society. Strengthening this workforce is core to reflecting Iowa values in policy, meeting the needs of Iowans young and old and in-between, rural and urban, advancing equity, and ensuring Iowa's prosperity.



Composition of Policy Group

- Over 150 current members across the state (and growing) who became active as volunteers to promote attention to this workforce during the Presidential election
- Representing frontline workers, child and family policy advocates, people receiving services, and persons from organizations and associations representing these workers
- Focusing upon public policies that specifically strengthen this frontline workforce
- Launching efforts to enlist a broad coalition of Iowa groups and leaders to educate policy makers and the public

Iowa's Helping Community Workforce

- 180,000 workers in health, human services and child care – 11.7% of Iowa workforce
- 77,770 in direct frontline work at low levels of compensation, 90 percent women, more than half with wages below \$15 per hour or \$30,000 per year
- Represent 9 of the 15 top job postings on iowaworks.gov
- Some employed by public sector AND most rely upon some public investments/reimbursements

When I was a young boy and saw scary things in the news, my mother would always say, "Look for the helpers."

Fred Rogers



The Why: Speaking to the Value of this Community

- Alex Watters
- Fran Mancl

Questions about the Policy Group

Federal Congressional Opportunities

- Make Investments in Workforce as Part of COVID-19 Response and Stimulus
- Provide a Down Payment on a 21st Century Caregiving and Education Workforce* (e.g. at least **\$50 billion annually in increased in federal investments to strengthen this workforce**)
- Ensure that resources are targeted to improve the compensation and workforce adequacy (number) of frontline staff, not just those in management and professional roles

* During the campaign, Presidential candidate Joe Biden outlined a 21st Century Education and Caregiving Workforce directed to this frontline workforce (\$775 billion over 10 years, creating 3 million additional jobs and substantially raising their compensation).

Multiple Benefits: Investing in the Size and Compensation of the Helping Community

- **BENEFITS TO PEOPLE SERVED BY WORKFORCE** – Meeting real need, providing continuity of quality care, quality of life, improving own self-sufficiency (and, for child care, children’s school readiness and success)
- **BENEFITS TO FRONTLINE WORKFORCE** – Valuing their contribution to society, reducing stress and burnout, offering family-sustaining employment, reducing poverty
- **OVERALL BENEFITS TO ECONOMY** – Enabling people served to work and be productive and more self-sufficient, providing new jobs and sources of work in the economy, putting resources into local economy through increased pay, reducing demands upon other safety net services
- **ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND RECOVERY** – Immediately putting money into the economy, with among the highest returns of any form of federal spending

Discussion and Next Steps



Iowa Helping Community Policy Group

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND SLIDES

Current Founding Steering Committee

- Janet Adams
- Mary Airy
- Marti Anderson
- Charles Bruner
- Di Findley
- Anne Gruenewald
- John Hale
- Sheila Hansen
- Cheryll Jones
- Fran Mancl
- Barb Merrill
- Becky and Jim Miles-Polka
- Bob Mulqueen
- Tammy Nyden
- Denise Rathman
- Tom Rendon
- Mary Richards
- Ralph Rosenberg
- Kelli Soyer
- Nancy Tepper
- Gloria Vermie
- Beth Walling
- Alex Watters
- Bob Welsh

Iowans in the Helping Professions: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2019 Data

All Iowa Workers	1,549,400
Community and Social Service Occupations (social workers, therapists, counselors, mental health workers)	21,040
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Operations (doctors, RNs, and LPNs, EMTs/paraprofessionals, and others)	85,780
Health Care Support Occupations (medical assistants, home health aides, other aides and assistants)	59,580
Child Care Workers and Preschool Teachers	13,360
Total	179,760
Percent of All Employment	11.6%
K-12 Full-time Teachers	46,680
K-12 Teaching Assistants and Substitute Teachers	32,860
Above + K-12 as Percent of All Employment	16.7%

Select Frontline Workers With Most Direct Care Contact, Median Income Levels, Iowa

Frontline Worker Classifications and Income	Number	Median Hourly	Median Annual
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	6,260	21.32	44,340
Emergency Medical Technicians/Paramedics	2,200	17.02	35,410
Rehabilitation Counselors	1,850	15.17	31,550
Medical Assistants	4,970	17.12	35,610
Social and Human Service Assistants	4,780	15.65	32,560
Nursing Assistants	22,450	14.25	29,630
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	21,830	12.54	26,090
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	4,970	12.88	26,780
Child Care Workers	8,390	9.35	19,460
		[Mean]	[Mean]
Total (90 percent women)	77,700	15.20	31,610

President Biden January 14th Economic Recovery Plan on the Helping Community

Next month, in my first appearance before a joint session of Congress, I will lay out my Build Back Better recovery plan. It'll make historic investments ... in a caregiving economy and skills and training needed by our workers to be able to compete and win in the global economy of the coming years. ...

[I]magine millions of jobs in the caregiving economy to ease the financial burden of caring for young children and aging loved ones. Let's make sure our caregivers, mostly women, women of color, immigrants have the same pay and dignity that they deserve so we can do these bold practical things now.

-- Text from January 14th Speech on the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan

Select Provisions Relating to Helping Community in Biden Campaign Plans

- \$775 billion 10-year investment in **direct care and child care workers**, creating 3 million new jobs and raising compensation, in “21st Century Caregiving and Education Workforce”
- Doubled (\$6 billion annually) funding for Community Health Centers, including adding **child development specialist** in every center
- Tripled (\$33 billion annually) for Title I and full funding (\$26 billion annually) for IDEA, including doubling number of **nurses, counselors, and mental health workers in schools**
- Doubled (\$400 million annually) funding for **home visitors** (MIECHV)