



Iowa Rural Healthcare Workforce Initiative

IOWA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

AUGUST 18, 2022

Welcome!



IOWA
MEDICAL
SOCIETY



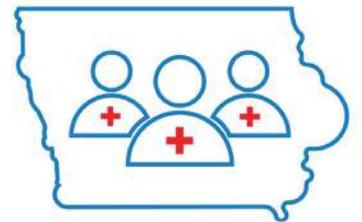
IOWA HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION



Objectives

- Detail project purpose & offer context establishing the foundation for this intentional work.
- Overview the strategic collaboration efforts & activities to-date to gain insight from diverse stakeholders from across the healthcare continuum and local communities
- Outline the next steps in creating a statewide, multi-champion strategy to advance healthcare workforce across all disciplines.

Initiative Introduction & Overview



Background & Goals

IDPH Iowa Healthcare Workforce Strategic Planning & Stakeholder Engagement Project

Collaborative application by IMS, IHA, IPA, and Iowa PCA. Funded November 2019.



Input from Local Communities

Actionable Solutions

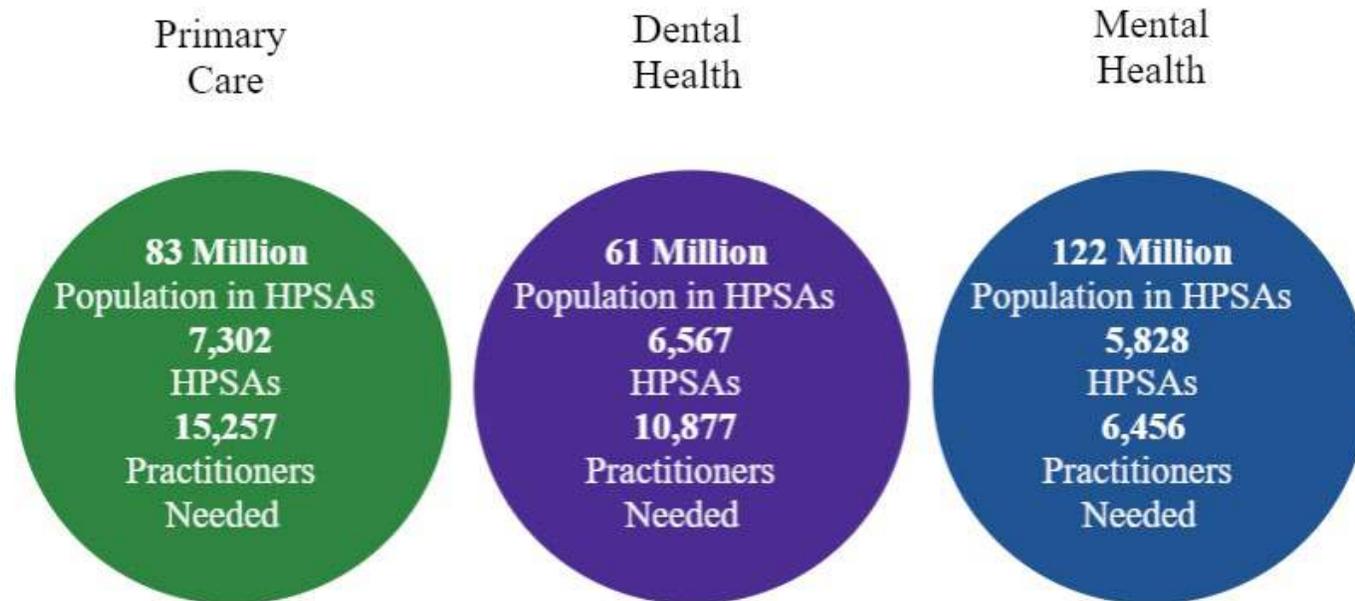
Collaboratively Developed Action Plan

Initiative Intentions

- **Rural focused, but not exclusive**
- Build off and amplify existing resources and relationships
- Bring additional, valuable stakeholders to the table
- Engage communities in the effort
- **Solutions-focused, purposeful collaboration**
- Specific strategies and identified leaders

Workforce Shortage Issue

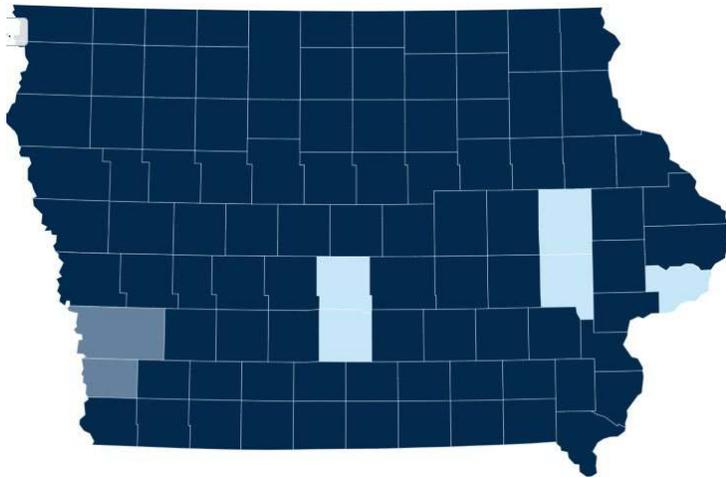
HRSA Health Professional Shortage Areas, National Summary



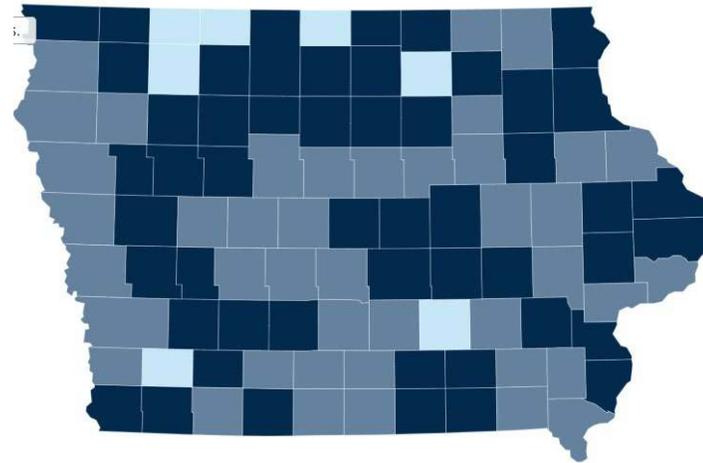
Designated Shortage Areas

HRSA Health Professional Shortage Areas by County

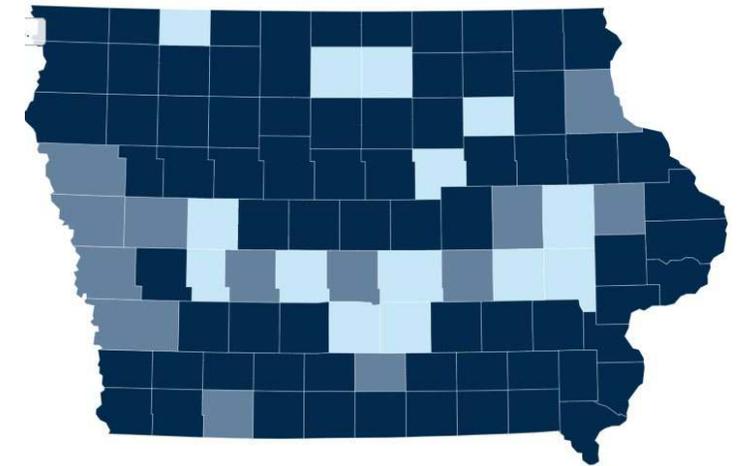
Mental Health



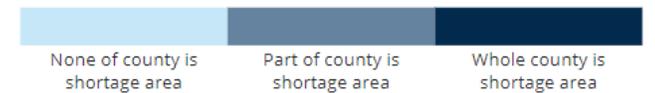
Primary Care



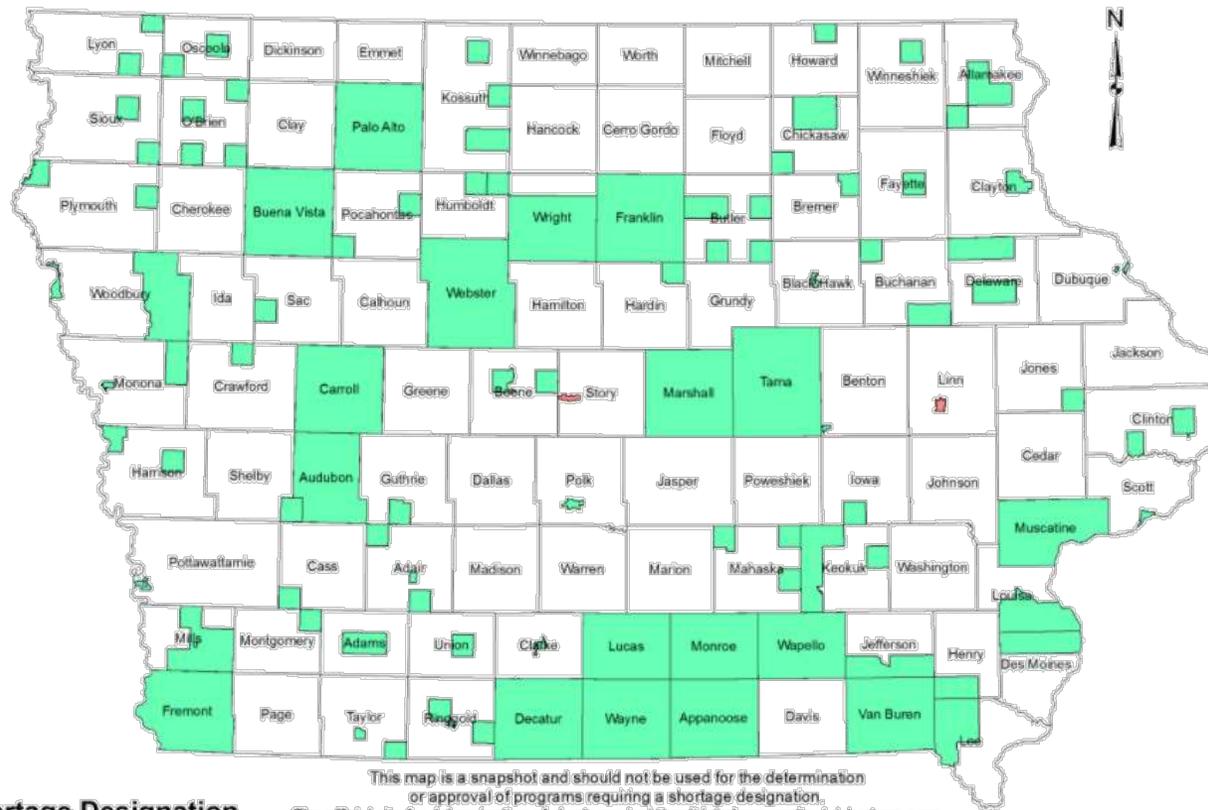
Dental Health



Source:
Data: data.HRSA.gov, January 2021
Graphic: RuralHealthInfo.org



Designated Shortage Areas



Shortage Designation

- Medically Underserved Population
- Medically Underserved Area

Created by: Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Policy and Workforce Services
Source: Health Resources and Services Administration Data Warehouse
Created: December 31, 2019

Recognized Shortage Issue

Allied Health

Behavioral Health

Geriatricians

Health Care Support

Long-Term Services and
Support

Nursing

Oral Health

Pediatricians

Physicians

Primary Care

Women's Health

Recognized Shortage Issue

Consistent & Pervasive

All disciplines

All settings

All care levels

Healthcare Workforce Programs

The Iowa Health Professions Tracking Center

The Primary Care Recruitment and Retention Endeavor (PRIMECARRE)

PRIMECARRE Dental Loan Repayment Program Expansion

Delta Dental Loan Repayment Program

The Mental Health Professional Shortage Area Program (MHPSAP)

The Cherokee Mental Health Training Program

The UI Mental Health Training Program

The Iowa Psychological Association Psychologist Rotation Program (IPAPRP)

Medical Residency Training State Matching Grants Program

Volunteer Health Care Provider Program (VHCPP)

Primary Care Office (PCO)

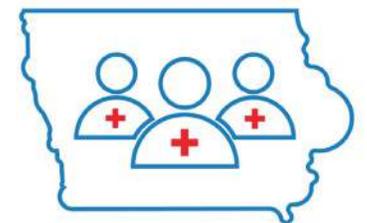
J-1 Waiver Visa

National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Program

The Shortage Area Designation Process

[Health Workforce Program Analysis for IDPH, 2016](#)

Stakeholder Engagement & Defining the Issues



Gather Info & Better Understand

Regional Meetings – Multi-Sector, Community-Driven

Focus Groups – Multi-Specialty, Tailored Conversations

Survey Results – Broad Participation, Baseline Affirming

Inclusive Regional Meetings

Three in-person community-based meetings:

- Mason City
- Fairfield
- Dubuque

Three virtual district meetings:

- Southwest Iowa
- Central Iowa
- Northeast Iowa



Iowa Healthcare Workforce Initiative Regional Community Meeting

Iowa communities are facing challenges recruiting and retaining the workforce population, especially for healthcare. Iowa is ranked 43rd in the country for the number of overall physicians per capita. And this issue is reflected across healthcare, impacting nursing, pharmacy, direct care, public health, and others.

The Iowa Hospital Association, along with partner organizations are working together to assess and evaluate the current landscape and future of rural healthcare workforce in Iowa. From these meetings a statewide action plan to address current workforce challenges and opportunities will be created.

We want to hear from YOU! We want to hear from people within communities about their communities. Join us on February 7th to be part of the solution for healthcare workforce!

Where: Jefferson County Health Center
2000 South Main Street
Fairfield, Iowa

When: February, 7 2020
1:30 - 2:30 pm

Who Should Attend: Physicians, pharmacists, nurses, direct care workers, public health personnel, all healthcare professionals & administrators, community organizations, local business, patients & families, and community members



Focus Groups & Tailored Conversations

More than 19 meetings and workforce focused conversations.

Mix of facilitated focus groups, existing workforce committees, and targeted agenda topics.

Goal to facilitate peer professional sharing and open dialogue.

Many meetings made possible thanks to additional partner connections and collaboration.

What is the consistent across all sectors?

What is unique to certain providers?

Workforce Stakeholder Survey

Opportunity to engage diverse stakeholders in the absence of in-person meetings & outreach

Released August 2020 and remains open

Survey open to all interested respondents

Brief – 9 questions; utilizes same questioning as regional meetings & focus groups

Disseminated by and among partners on this call

286 total responses

Diverse Representation

Academic Institutions	Business Sector	Chiropractors	Direct Care Workers
Federally Qualified Health Centers	Health Systems	Hospitals	Mental Health
Physicians	Nursing	Oral Health	Pharmacy
Physician Assistants	Public Health	Telehealth Providers	Emergency Medical Services
Rural Healthcare	Physical/Occupational Therapy	Community Health Workers	Long Term Care
Home Health	Insurers/Payer Community	Community-Based Services	Veterans Services
Maternal Health	Healthcare Students	Patients and Families/ Advocates	General Community Members
Disability Services and Advocates	Healthcare Administrators	Healthcare Human Resources	Healthcare Leaders

Work Settings

Behavioral Health

Primary Care Clinic

Dental Clinic

Outpatient Clinic

Hospital

Independent Practice

Community Pharmacy

Long Term Care

Dental Office

Government

Home Health

Homeless Shelter

Home – Family Caregiver

Community College

Medical Education

Diabetes Education Center

Medical-Legal Death
Investigation

Pediatrics

Pharmacy

Rural Health Clinic

State Agency

Public Health

University

Research & Consulting

Emergency Department

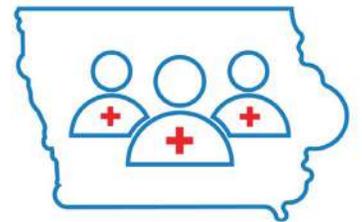
Critical Access

Healthcare Administration

Insurance/Payor Office

Hospice

Developing the Strategy



Small Group Strategic Planning

Break Task Force large group into four work groups

Two virtual, facilitated work group meetings:

- Thursday, April 22, 1-3 pm
- Thursday, May 20, 1-3 pm

Focus opportunities and develop strategies for collaborative action

- What, When, Where, How, Who
- How can we align and work towards shared goals

Strategy Development

Compile, Compare, and Hone Results from Work Group

SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

Drafting of a cooperative strategic plan

Interim Review & Revision



A Statewide Strategy

Iowa Healthcare Workforce Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Engagement Initiative

Modern changes in healthcare delivery from a volume-based system to a value-centered system has increased strain on the rural healthcare providers. Rural communities currently face aging populations, higher comorbidity rates, an ongoing opioid epidemic, and lower incomes. All of these challenges shape the healthcare experience in these communities. The state of Iowa is covered in large part by rural healthcare, boasting 82 critical access hospitals and 170 rural health centers with its 78 rural counties. Iowa currently ranks 43rd in the nation in physicians per capita. In addition, the vast majority of Iowa's rural counties contain shortage areas for primary care, mental health, and dental health services. Shortage area locations can be seen on the next page. These shortages are particularly severe in rural communities and result in decreased access to medical care. Increasing and assisting rural healthcare providers is paramount to healthcare provision for Iowans across the state.

The Iowa Medical Society (IMS), in coordination with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Hospital Association (IHA), the Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA), and the Iowa Primary Care Association (IOWA PCA), leads the Iowa Healthcare Workforce Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Engagement Initiative. The goal of this project is to use input from local communities and healthcare workforce stakeholders to identify actionable solutions that would advance Iowa's healthcare workforce. Through a variety of stakeholder events and meetings with healthcare providers, this initiative has gathered the insight necessary to assemble a Strategic Action Plan.



Iowa Rural Healthcare Workforce Strategic Action Plan A Multi-Stakeholder Strategy to Improve Healthcare Workforce

Intention: To identify and develop collaborative, innovative opportunities to address cross-cutting healthcare workforce issues affecting all disciplines, all settings, and all populations served with an attention on rural workforce.

Timeline: One to three years with immediate opportunities to recognize the multi-year investment and effort required to transform.

Workforce Audience: All healthcare providers and professionals: health, pharmacy, public health, long term services & supports, administration, etc.

Priorities: Interprofessional collaboration; resource & strategy

Goal 1: Recruitment

Grassroots and Pipeline Recruitment

Increase opportunities to institute health care apprenticeship programs in smaller organizations to create apprenticeship program and amplifying resources and toolkits currently available.

Expand recruitment efforts among middle school and high school Education Agency efforts and addressing regulatory barrier educator roles.

Revive job-training and work-based learning programs, relationships between local care settings, schools, and community organizations to facilitate innovative approaches, such as integrative healthcare delivery models.

Facilitate opportunities for progressive education and training, advancing healthcare roles through scholarships and/or loan forgiveness, and restrictive to employment setting.

Utilize the Iowa Rural Healthcare Workforce Connection program to create healthcare workforce opportunities, working to actively engage community leaders, and healthcare professionals with the state. Partner with economic development for cross-promotion for quality of life and Iowa community vitality, amplifying markets to live and work.

Create training packages to help recruiting agencies better opportunities in rural areas, building off of cross-promotional successful practices of other industries, such as armed forces.

Goal 2: Education and Training

Expand Education Opportunities & Access

Increase availability and access to education and training programs (clinical, seeking to increase the number of spaces available; scholarships, reimbursement programs, and exploring health and reviewing barrier inhibiting programs and addressing local educator roles.

Seek out opportunities to increase available and willing faculty programs through analysis of current gaps, barriers, regulatory opportunities to provide adaptive faculty roles/models.

Utilize available opportunities to host internships and preceptor programs, such as AmeriCorps, to aid professional development professionals and potential permanent recruitment to Iowa.

Enhance and expand collaboration between community colleges and increase presence of curriculum to advanced degree programs. Examine avenues to improve portability of licensure, credentialing, competencies, standards, and scopes of practice, and facilitate state lines.

Explore potential and value for revival of an Area Health Education Center opportunity to further support training and development programs and facilitate successful career placements for health professions communities.

Enhance & Evolve Residency & Training Programs

Pursue full funding of medical residency and dental school programs, collaborating with national accreditation to ensure rural locations can fulfill residency and training requirements.

across disciplines and training settings, seeking to increase responsive support for residency programs in rural states with significant healthcare shortage areas.

Establish a cooperative liaison group of healthcare leaders and stakeholders to meet with federal officials to strengthen the Iowa voice, presence and advocacy efforts.

Progress opportunities to ease Iowa regulatory burdens that limit ability roles and better aid intern accessibility without adding to student financial educational affiliate agreement burden.

Examine regulatory burdens and avenues to improve portability of licensure training that streamlines competencies, standards, and scopes of practice mobilization across settings and state lines.

Goal 3: Retention

Better Payment & Incentive Packages

Amplify efforts to increase reimbursement and payment at both individual compensation, championing value-based models that are tied to rural-based services and providers and rewards delivery of quality solutions that better balance payment with cost/expense, quality.

Partner directly with payers to evaluate current reimbursement models together to foster mutual understanding and build opportunities to develop expanded programs to provide similar incentivization and high demand providers and health professionals.

Work to expand the list of eligible professionals for loan reimbursement develop expanded programs to provide similar incentivization and high demand providers and health professionals.

Consider opportunities to create "career ladder" development employees in advancing their healthcare careers from entry-level roles within the healthcare organization.

Work with healthcare employers to create and boost employment as no-cost advanced training, education, or certification access employer.

Goal 4: Sustainability

Partnership & Collaboration

Establish greater collaboration among healthcare systems, professional associations, and healthcare non-profits, and support service organizations, creating unified voices towards common goals, shared advocacy and regulatory burden relief with urgency and emphasis placed on workforce.

Facilitate cross-sector collaboration, inclusive of the full spectrum of care delivery, public health, education, economic development, and others to foster shared investment, pursuit, and operations that improve health, wellness, and vitality in Iowa.

Examine opportunities to increase interoperability of data platforms, access and exchange of health information and data, and greater alignment of healthcare coding & billing processes across health professions.

Strengthen direct working relationships directly with payers, both commercial and public health insurance options, to reinforce collective development and investment in healthcare payment solutions.

Invest in and cultivate diverse partnerships, engaging directly with communities, including patients, families, and caregivers in the process of design and evolution of our healthcare system.

Create and execute a mutually-invested healthcare workforce strategy to align and prioritize strategies, drive collaboration, and accelerate progress.

Community Development & Vitality

Prioritize and invest in needed community infrastructure, such as broadband, multi-sector employment, education, childcare, housing, transportation, social and long-term support services, etc., to make Iowa a desirable place to live, work, and thrive.

Take advantage of and seek additional federal and state appropriations and programs to support funding and magnify local investments in community infrastructure development, maintenance, and sustainability.

Seek and utilize state-level infrastructure data to inform and direct community revitalization and infrastructure investments.

The Strategy



Setting the Tone & Expectations

Intention: To identify and develop collaborative, innovative opportunities to address cross-cutting healthcare workforce issues affecting all disciplines, all settings, and all populations served with an attention on rural workforce.

Timeline: One to three years with immediate opportunities to undertake and longer-term approaches, recognizing the multi-year investment and effort required to truly achieve and sustain workforce.

Workforce Audience: All healthcare providers and professionals: medical, dental, mental health, pharmacy, public health, long term services & supports, direct care, social work, healthcare administration, etc.

Priorities: Inter-professional collaboration; resource & strategy alignment; optimized influence & impact

Four Common, Consistent Goals

Goal 1: Recruitment

Goal 2: Training & Education

Goal 3: Retention

Goal 4: Sustainability

Strategy Overview – Goal 1

Goal 1: Recruitment

Grassroots and Pipeline Recruitment

Seek and Welcome Diverse Demographics

Payment & Loan Reimbursement

Market Healthcare Professions & Rural Communities

Goal 1: Recruitment

Grassroots and Pipeline Recruitment

- Increase opportunities to institute **health care apprenticeships**, making them more feasible for smaller organizations to create apprenticeship programs that work for them and their students and amplifying resources and toolkits currently available to support.
- Expand **recruitment efforts among middle school and high school students**, aligning with Area Education Agency efforts and addressing regulatory barriers to shadowing experiences and educator roles
- Revive **job-training and work-based learning programs**, taking advantage of existing relationships between local care settings, schools, and community colleges with emphasis on opportunities to facilitate innovative approaches, such remote/telehealth learning and integrative healthcare delivery models.
- Facilitate opportunities for **progressive education and practice to allow individuals to grow into advancing healthcare roles** through scholarships and/or subsidized programs that are not restrictive to employment setting.

Goal 1: Recruitment

Grassroots and Pipeline Recruitment, *continued*

- Create greater opportunities for internship incentivization and compensation, such as paid internships, transportation, childcare support, etc.
- Utilize available licensure and certification data to **assess where and how people are being trained and where they practice**, establishing point-in-time and longevity study reports.
- Utilize the **Iowa Rural Healthcare Workforce Connection** portal to disseminate and promote rural healthcare workforce opportunities to students, educators, employers, community leaders, and healthcare professionals.

Goal 1: Recruitment

Seek and Welcome Diverse Demographics

- **Recruit non-traditional students** into healthcare tracks, taking advantage of the potential and value of multi-generational and diverse ability workforce and creating adaptive, multi-level pathways to enter the field.
- Recognize **shifting generational workforce demands and expectations**, aligning with inter-professional learning efforts at medical/health professional colleges and need for appropriate training, messaging, policies from employers for inclusive employee base.
- Establish **family-inclusive recruitment strategies and wrap-around supports**, including social services, housing, childcare and family services, intentional welcoming initiatives, and aid in family member travel for international and visa-secured providers.
- Seek and aid **recruitment and training of bilingual/multi-lingual healthcare professionals**, including employer-facilitated and paid training (including health literacy competencies for native speakers) and appropriate reimbursement for healthcare interpreters.
- Improve waiver program system(s) to **ensure intended populations are served**, particularly as demographics and needs of rural communities evolve.

Goal 1: Recruitment

Seek and Welcome Diverse Demographics, *continued*

- **Utilize opportunities provided by increased telehealth and teledentistry** to recruit providers to care for lowans without restriction of geographical presence of provider, seeking opportunities to support payment parity and quality provider credentials.
- Explore regulatory relief options to more **fully recognize provider credentials** obtained from international institutions and through armed forces service, enabling those healthcare professionals to practice without requiring additional .
- Review current licensing regulations to determine where allowances and flexibilities may exist to allow for **pilot testing of new workforce models**, exploring opportunities to increase workforce access and develop roles adaptive for rural settings while ensuring quality of healthcare personnel.
- Need to be intentional about **closing diversity gaps**, better exploring where and how those gaps exist and pursuing alignment among those needs in healthcare and policies affecting healthcare and communities served.

Goal 1: Recruitment

Payment & Loan Reimbursement

- Continue to **pursue advanced payment reform** that more appropriately reimburses for quality care provided and high outcomes achieved and is commensurate with expense need to provide and maintain that care in rural settings, thus enabling healthcare organizations to offer more competitive salaries and positions.
- Engage and better **integrate with community-based support services** that can support the healthcare community, sharing resources and responsibilities to create better outcomes – both addressing social determinants of health and clinical outcomes.
- Convene healthcare industry, including payers, to intentionally and routinely meet together to **create payment and reimbursement solutions together**.
- Explore opportunity to **utilize economic investments from outside industries**, such as lottery and gaming industry, to help fund programs and scholarships for high demand occupations, like healthcare, that directly impact economic development, both locally and statewide.

Goal 1: Recruitment

Payment & Loan Reimbursement, *continued*

- **Enhance existing loan repayment programs**, including pushing for full funding of existing program allowances, seek additional funding based on need established through supply & demand information, and explore opportunities to further expand programs and eligibility to additional provider types and disciplines.
- Opportunity for **loan repayment programs**- advertise opportunities, help with application process. Supplemental program above federal program, Use databases in Iowa to use accurate data on supply and demand to provide the loan repayment programs.
- Explore opportunities to **improve scholarship program structures** to optimally recruit and aid students to successfully complete training, obtain certification, and practice in Iowa, evaluating existing gaps/barriers experienced in existing programs.
- Bolster Iowa's utilization of **Conrad 30 J-1 visa waiver allowances**, by pursuing increased allocations either through direct state allotment increase or redirection of unutilized allotments by other states.

Goal 1: Recruitment

Market Healthcare Professions & Rural Communities

- **Increase marketing of healthcare professions**, taking advantage of the attention being paid to the healthcare industry during the pandemic, focusing messaging on rural opportunities, such as increase opportunities to cross-train and learn and practice diverse skills in rural, and including non-clinical roles critical to healthcare.
- Optimize and expand initiatives, such Future Ready Iowa and Last Dollar Scholarships, to **connect individuals to needed education, training, and support to enter the healthcare field**, emphasizing high demand roles, clinical and non-clinical, and more inclusive of programs that still need certification.
- Utilize the **Iowa Rural Healthcare Workforce Connection portal** as a marketing tool for rural healthcare workforce opportunities, working to actively engage students, educators, employers, community leaders, and healthcare professionals with the site.
- **Partner with economic development** for cross-promotion for healthcare professions with quality of life and Iowa community vitality, amplifying marketing of Iowa as a rated “best place to” live and work.
- Create **training packages to help recruiting agencies** better understand, articulate, and market opportunities in rural areas, building off of cross-promotional campaigns and adapting successful practices of other industries, such as armed forces recruitment.

Strategy Overview – Goal 2

Goal 2: Education & Training

Expand Education Opportunities & Access

Enhance & Evolve Residency & Training Programs

Ease Regulatory Barriers

Goal 2: Education & Training

Expand Education Opportunities & Access

- Increase **availability and access to education and training programs, both clinical and non-clinical**, seeking to increase the number of spaces available; reducing cost barriers through scholarships, reimbursement programs, and exploring healthcare education cost pricing options; and reviewing barrier inhibiting programs and addressing low hanging opportunities.
- Seek out opportunities **to increase available and willing faculty for education and training** programs through analysis of current gaps, barriers, regulatory burdens, incentivization, and opportunities to provide adaptive faculty roles/models.
- Utilize available opportunities to **host internships and professional volunteers** through partner programs, such as AmeriCorps, to aid professional development and training of early career professionals and potential permanent recruitment to Iowa.

Goal 2: Education & Training

Expand Education Opportunities & Access, *continued*

- Enhance and expand collaboration between community colleges and universities to strengthen and increase presence of **curriculum to advanced degree programs**.
- Examine avenues to improve **portability of licensure, credentials, and training** that streamlines competencies, standards, and scopes of practice, and facilitates mobilization across settings and state lines.
- Explore potential and value for **revival of an Area Health Education Center (AHEC)** in Iowa as an opportunity to further support training and development programs, scholarship opportunities, and facilitate successful career placements for health professionals in rural and underserved communities.

Goal 2: Education & Training

Enhance & Evolve Residency & Training Programs

- Pursue **full funding of medical residency and dental school programs**, collaborating with national accreditation to ensure rural locations can fulfill residency and training requirements.
- Improve quality and number of **Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) and direct care worker programs**, evaluating current landscape of programs; successful completion, competencies, and placement rates; and avenues to register and report credentialing.
- Evaluate the impact of 2020 on skills & education, lessons learned, successes and opportunities to adapt and **evolve training and certification programs to be more responsive** to changing needs and better prepare students to practice in a changing healthcare landscape.
- Leverage high school-based health care programs to **create school-to-work programs**, expanding observational and exploratory programs towards apprenticeship and true job training programs.
- Grow **healthcare apprenticeship, internship, preceptorship programs at all levels**, partnering with broader industry and workforce development agencies to increase availability, access, and awareness.

Goal 2: Education & Training

Enhance & Evolve Residency & Training Programs, *continued*

- Assure integration of **quality assurance and performance improvement as part of training experiences** to safeguard continuous improvement to meet accreditation and endorsement standards and ensure graduates are able to pass competencies.
- **Align community college curriculums** to build upon successful trainings across all programs, better unify competencies, and embrace the role of technology in virtual learning and training.
- Increase **inclusivity and diversity among preceptors and mentors** to better reflect the diversity and demographics, current and future, of the healthcare workforce and the populations served.
- Establish **peer support and mentorship groups** to provide greater opportunities for peer development, networking, and peer-to-peer wellness and support.
- Explore opportunities to increase **availability of residency programs in various disciplines**, taking advantage of federal program allowances and apprenticeship-eligibility guidelines, to improve practice competency, recruitment & retention across disciplines.
- Incorporate **mental wellness and professional resiliency** skills and support into residency and training programs to equip with awareness, resources, and empowerment to prevent and mitigate burnout at career start.

Goal 2: Education & Training

Ease Regulatory Barriers

- Explore **testing administration regulations** and appropriate amendments, addressing current regulations which slow and burden the process of advancing student from graduation to credential/competency testing and transition to full practice.
- Seek to adjust **federal residency cap and associated reimbursement** to support increased residency opportunities that are responsive to opportunities to better utilize network of local health systems to expand residency and training capacities.
- Research and look to revise regulations that hamper opportunities for **in-house training and education programs**, mitigating increased expense and burden experience by both facilities and employees/students in seeking external training where internal training is appropriate and reasonable.
- Pursue opportunities to establish **state income tax credits, deductions, and/or abatements** for preceptors, mentors, and trainers and healthcare providers/professionals who serve in rural and/or underserved areas.

Goal 2: Education & Training

Ease Regulatory Barriers, *continued*

- Investigate regulatory burdens impacting the **sustainment of programs for residency programs**, across disciplines and training settings, seeking to increase responsive support for residency programs in rural states with significant healthcare shortage areas.
- Establish a **cooperative liaison group of healthcare leaders and stakeholders** to meet with federal officials to strengthen the Iowa voice, presence and advocacy efforts.
- Progress opportunities to ease Iowa regulatory burdens that limit ability to support **paid intern roles** and better aid intern accessibility without adding to student financial burden or system educational affiliate agreement burden.
- Examine regulatory burdens and avenues to **improve portability of licensure, credentials, and training** that streamlines competencies, standards, and scopes of practice, and facilitates mobilization across settings and state lines.

Strategy Overview – Goal 3

Goal 3: Retention

Better Payment & Incentive Packages

Better Practice Environments

Goal 3: Retention

Better Payment & Incentive Packages

- Amplify efforts to **increase reimbursement and payment at both system/service line-level and individual compensation**, championing value-based models that are responsive and supportive to rural-based services and providers and rewards delivery of quality outcomes.
- **Partner directly with payers** to evaluate current reimbursement models and rates, working together to foster mutual understanding and build opportunities to co-create informed solutions that better balance payment with cost/expense, quality, and needs.
- Work to expand the list of **eligible professionals for loan reimbursement programs** and/or develop expanded programs to provide similar incentivization among the broader network of high demand providers and health professionals.
- Consider opportunities to **create “career ladder” development programs** that aid interested employees in advancing their healthcare careers from entry-level, in-field growth, and advanced roles within the healthcare organization.
- Work with healthcare employers to **create and boost employee investment opportunities**, such as no-cost advanced training, education, or certification access that benefits both employee and employer.

Goal 3: Retention

Better Payment & Incentive Packages, *continued*

- Support and promote potential **tax credits, deductions, and abatements for providers and professionals** practicing in rural and underserved areas with potential for increasing benefit with longer terms of service.
- **Leverage telehealth and teledental opportunities** to aid recruitment of healthcare providers desiring more flexible work environments and mitigate barriers to physical recruitment of providers to rural communities.
- Experiment with **adaptive and flexible work models**, such as remote work, shorter and/or shared shifts, to be more responsive and accommodating to shifting workforce expectations, family obligations, and burnout mitigation strategies.
- Explore strategies to create **living/housing allowances or home improvement grants** that enable healthcare workers to live and invest in the communities in which they practice.
- Support and invest in strategies to improve **access and affordability of child care**, exploring potential for employers to provide child care services or additional stipend incentives.
- Promote access and enrollment in Iowa Wellness Plan for healthcare professionals who otherwise do not have **access to healthcare coverage**, employer-based or otherwise.

Goal 3: Retention

Better Practice Environments

- Address **mental health stigma and burnout culture**, fostering access and encouraging utilization of mental wellness supports and working to design environments and practices that empower wellness and self-care.
- Reduce care system fragmentation, improving **interoperability and care coordination** across the full continuum of care, inclusive of dental, mental health, and social services.
- Allow and support professionals to **practice to the full extent of their education, training, and/or certification/credentials/licensure**, maintaining the flexibilities enacted during pandemic response and demonstrated as effective during pandemic.
- Pursue and support ongoing **tort reform efforts** to ensure a practice environment in Iowa that is supportive of high quality practitioners and protects healthcare access and sustainability.
- Recognize innovative new workforce project licensing provisions, uniquely affecting and advancing licensing levels for dental service professionals based on scope of practice.

Goal 3: Retention

Better Practice Environments, *continued*

- Ensure and advance **evidence-based and endorsed promising practices in all settings**, fostering high functioning practice environments and cultivating cultures of safety and joy in practice.
- Champion **grassroots opportunities** for healthcare professionals, supporting an environment of healthcare workers who are invested in care in Iowa because they are Iowans.
- Uphold and reinforce **health policy development that is informed and directed by healthcare** leaders and expertise and aligned of with healthcare needs and goals.
- Engage in strategies to retain direct care workforce, including efforts to elevate the **professional status of direct care workers** and amplification of the Iowa Direct Worker Registry.
- Establish **professional mentoring networks** to facilitate connection, knowledge exchange, and peer support among early, established, and retiring professionals.

Strategy Overview – Goal 4

Goal 4: Sustainability

Partnership & Collaboration

Community Development & Vitality

Goal 4: Sustainability

Partnership & Collaboration

- Establish greater **collaboration among healthcare systems, professional associations, and healthcare non-profits, and support service organizations**, creating unified voices towards common goals, shared advocacy and regulatory burden relief with urgency and emphasis placed on workforce.
- Facilitate **cross-sector collaboration**, inclusive of the full spectrum of care delivery, public health, education, economic development, and others to foster shared investment, pursuit, and operations that improve health, wellness, and vitality in Iowa.
- Examine opportunities to **increase interoperability** of data platforms, **access and exchange** of health information and data, and **greater alignment** of healthcare coding & billing processes across health professions.

Goal 4: Sustainability

Partnership & Collaboration, *continued*

- Strengthen **direct working relationships directly with payers**, both commercial and public health insurance options, to reinforce collective development and investment in healthcare payment solutions.
- **Invest in and cultivate diverse partnerships**, engaging directly with communities, including patients, families, and caregivers in the process of design and evolution of our healthcare system.
- Create and execute a **mutually-invested healthcare workforce strategy** to align and prioritize strategies, drive collaboration, and accelerate progress.

Goal 4: Sustainability

Community Development & Vitality

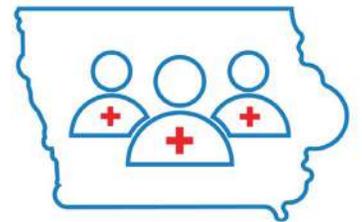
- Prioritize and invest in needed **community infrastructure**, such as broadband, multi-sector employment, education, childcare, housing, transportation, social and long term support services, etc., to make Iowa a desirable place to live, work, and thrive.
- Take advantage of and seek additional **federal and state appropriations and programs to support funding** and magnify local investments in community infrastructure development, maintenance, and sustainability.
- Seek and utilize **state-level infrastructure data** to inform and direct community revitalization and infrastructure investments.
- Prioritize **mental health funding** and implementation of **integrated care delivery models**, creating open access points across the community and holistic coordination of care.
- Deploy evidence-based models and supportive policy mechanisms to create intentionally **diverse and truly inclusive systems and communities** that not only welcome but fully integrate community members of all backgrounds and identities.

Goal 4: Sustainability

Community Development & Vitality, *continued*

- Evaluate the **Iowa Medicaid program** in its full capacity and structure to ensure maximum **support of Iowans in need** and opportunities to invest in services and programs in need of additional support.
- Continue to advance healthcare payment structure towards a **value-based care**, emphasizing health outcomes and quality over volume of care delivery and enabling investment in **population and public health**.
- **Promote and market Iowa**, adapting recent creative public campaigns, building off successful messaging and maximizing resources.
- **Empower local community stakeholders**, encompassing various commerce and industry, to engage and invest in community vitality efforts, inclusive of strategies that foster healthcare workforce advancement.

Strategy to Action



Year One of Execution

Goal-Focused Work Groups

- Connect Stakeholders, Build Relationships
- Share Work & Collaborate
- Brainstorm and Inform
- Peer Support Network

Prioritize Strategic Activities

- Examine and Identify by Impact/Effort Assessment & Opportunity Context
- Align with Cross-Sector, Cross-System Priorities
- Mix of Policy and Non-Policy Efforts
 - Jan – Jun – Policy Focus
 - July – Dec – Non-Legislative Policy Activity Focus

Capturing Activity & Progress

Progress Meetings

- Work Groups, Project Team, Workforce Coalitions & Others

Activity Sharing Survey

- Open, convenient participation
- Quarterly issuance

Stoplight Reporting Process

- Grade out progress & performance
- Consideration for timeline

Task Force Leadership

Convene Twice a Year

- Progress Reports & Updates
- Twice a Year (Fall/Winter & Summer)

Assess Development and Achievement

Continue to Inform and Advise Strategy Execution & Evolution

Public Awareness & Invitation

Public Posting of Strategy & Progress Updates

Promotion of Engagement for Additional Stakeholders

Proposed Annual Progress Notice & Feedback Survey

Support of Community-Driven Town-Hall Workforce Meetings

- Format & Structure
- Facilitation aid as able

Thank You!

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