

# IOWA'S PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL INSTITUTES FOR CHILDREN: WHY THEY MATTER AND WHY THEY DESERVE OUR SUPPORT

Iowa's PMICs play a vital role in our children's mental health system. They provide intensive mental health treatment in a highly structured residential setting. But inadequate reimbursement by the Medicaid program is putting the viability of PMICs in Iowa at serious risk.

## \$275

Estimated rate needed by PMICs to serve Iowa's kids

This allows PMICs to provide critical services, increase wages for PMIC providers, and recruit and retain high-quality specialists.

**PMIC PROVIDERS ARE REQUESTING A \$3 MILLION INCREASED INVESTMENT FROM THE STATE OF IOWA, WHICH WOULD CARRY A \$4.5 MILLION FEDERAL MATCH.**

## \$247

(to break even)

**ON AVERAGE, IOWA PMIC PROVIDERS ARE LOSING \$40 PER CHILD PER DAY TO PROVIDE CRITICAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH SOME OF THE MOST INTENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE STATE.**

Average daily cost to provide PMIC services

This keeps staffing at the bare minimum requirement, not lending itself to flexibility in coverage to focus on those youth with the highest needs.

## \$207

Average per diem PMIC rate

PMICs cannot accept youth who require higher staffing levels. This leaves seriously ill youth on long wait lists as PMICs struggle to keep up with demand.

## What is the impact of reimbursement rates not keeping up with actual costs?

- 1** PMICs serve the most complex youth in Iowa and require a highly trained work force including psychiatrists, nurses, and therapists to name a few. Recruitment and retention of professionals is difficult with poor reimbursement.
- 2** PMICs receive more than 2,600 referrals annually from mental health professionals. More than 25% of these referrals are turned down by PMICs due to inadequate funding.
- 3** MCOs carry a heavy administrative burden. For example, MCOs increased the frequency of reviews to twice as often, adding another 360 hours per month of non-care related work.

**PMICs work. Outcome data proves PMIC treatment is extremely effective in returning children safely back to their families with the skills they need to be successful at home and in school.**

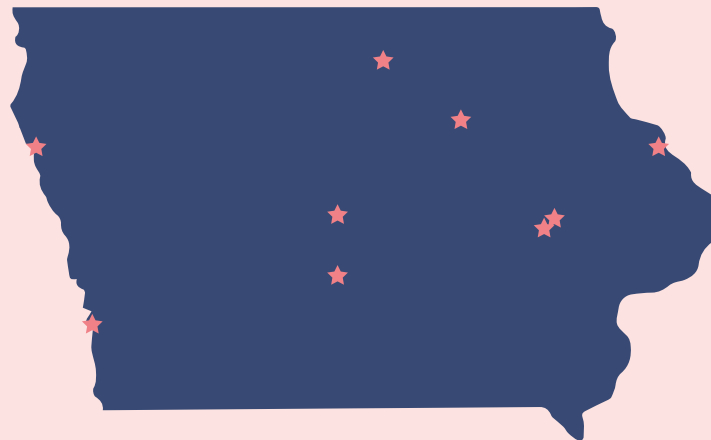
## PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL INSTITUTES FOR CHILDREN

PMICs are 24/7 residential treatment centers for children ages 5 to 18 with intensive mental, behavioral, and/or psychiatric needs. It is critical to maintain well-trained, long-term care teams — including psychiatrists, nurses, therapists, and direct care staff — to help children progress toward their goals and achieve positive outcomes. When in treatment, children receive the mental health therapy, and social, emotional, and behavioral coping skills they need to be successful in their family and school environments.

## PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL INSTITUTES FOR CHILDREN: IOWA LOCATIONS

There are currently seven agencies with about 360 total beds providing PMIC services in Iowa. (An eighth agency provides specialty substance abuse PMIC services.) Iowa PMICs receive a daily per diem rate. PMIC rates vary across the state, but all PMICS report that the cost to provide services far exceeds the reimbursement rate from the State of Iowa.

**Iowa PMICs: Dubuque, Council Bluffs, Sioux City, Waverly, Ames, Mason City, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines**



**Iowa PMIC providers include: Boys and Girls Home and Family Service, Children's Square, Four Oaks, Hillcrest Family Services, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Orchard Place, and Tanager Place.**