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IOWA'S DISABILITY POLICY RESOURCE



CAPITOL Chat



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- **Session has ended!**

- Day 129 (May 19)
- Governor has 30 days to sign, veto, line-item veto (June 18)
- Special Session (August)

- **2021 Issues**

- Tax Cuts (property tax, income tax, inheritance tax, older lowans, childcare)
- Broadband
- Mental health (funding, telehealth)
- Childcare
- Guns
- Abortion
- Masks
- Education Reform – vouchers (failed) & charter schools
- Bottle Bill (failed)
- New Renewable Fuel Standards (failed)
- Vaccine Laws (failed)



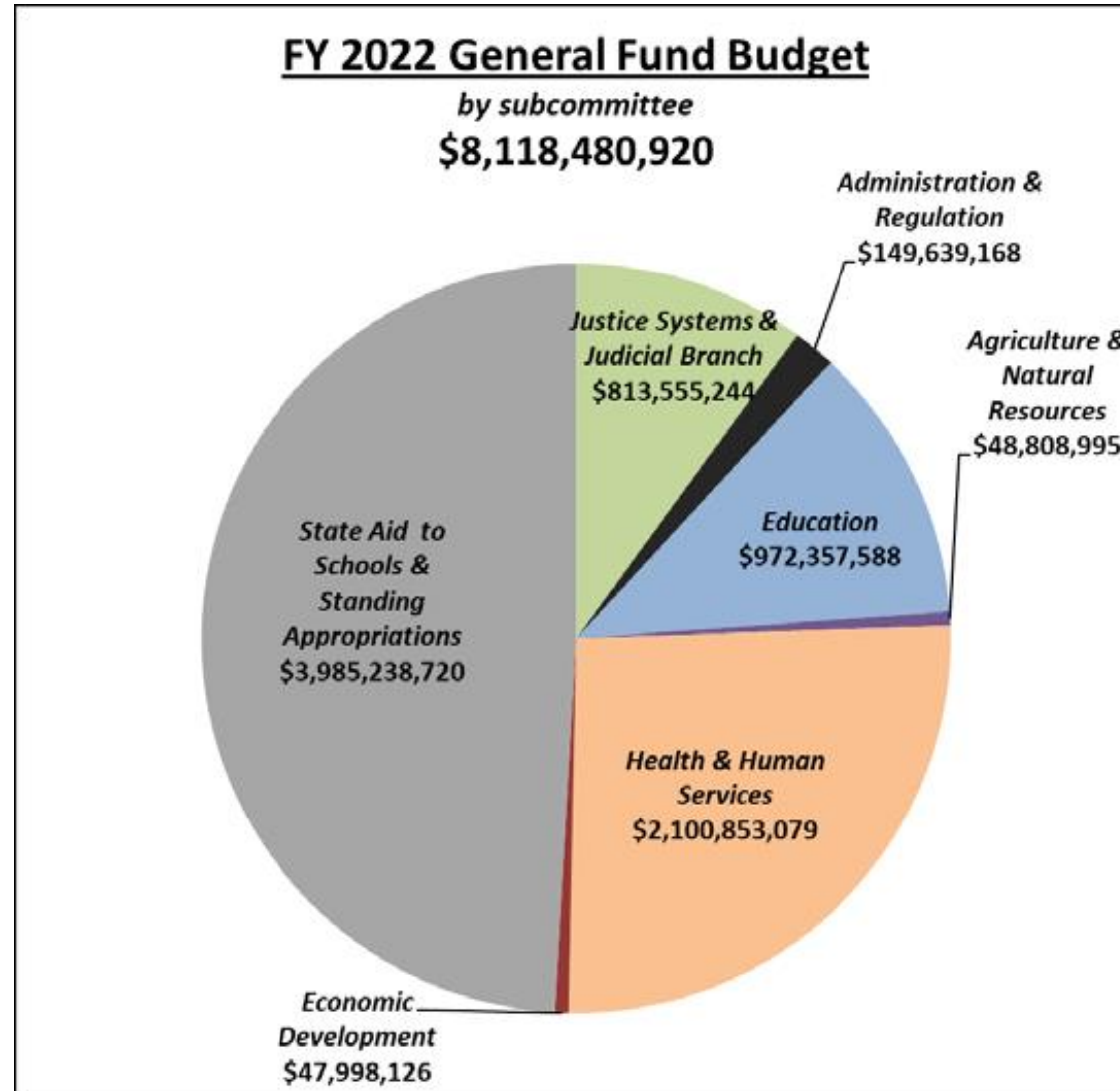


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Budget (\$8.1 billion – increase of \$291 million – spends 97.7%)





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✓ Medicaid Provider Rate Increases:

- \$11 million HCBS Waiver
- \$7.1 million Habilitation
- \$3.9 million PMIC (28% increase)
- \$2 million for home health care

✓ \$44.2 million overall increase in Medicaid

✓ Children's Mental Health

- \$1 million reduce Children's MH Waiver waiting list (1,129 as of 5/5)
- \$1 million increase for AEA children's MH services (\$3 million total)
- \$1.6 million therapeutic classrooms



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✓ **Tax & MH Bill (SF 619)**

- Increases funding for affordable housing and homeless programs
- Telehealth payment equity for telehealth delivered mental health.
- Makes a number of tax cuts - \$400 million total.
- Changes funding for regional MH/DS Services, beginning July 1.
 - State buys out system over two years.
 - Per capita distribution, incentive fund.
 - DHS & Regions working collaboratively.
 - Probably will need some adjustments in 2022.
 - \$60 million price tag for Fiscal Year 2022, which begins 7/1/2021.
 - No changes in services, expectations.
 - Regions will enter performance-based contracts with DHS.



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Election Law Changes (SF 413, SF 568)

- Registration deadline moved up 5 days (from 10 days to 15 days)
- Shorter period for mail-in voting requests (from 120 days before the election to 70 days)
- Shorter early voting period (from 29 days to 20 days)
- Closing polls an hour early at 8 p.m.
- Removing voters from active voter files if they miss one general election.
- Mail-in ballots must be received by close of polls (postmark no longer counts)
- Only family, household, caregiver can return ballot – except a voter with a disability or who is blind may designate someone to handle ballot, but they cannot take it to the post office – must bring it in person, with ID to auditor.
- More control over county auditors & limits number of drop boxes
- Changes to satellite voting (must be requested, can be refused)



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- Housing Voucher Discrimination (SF 252) – signed
- Public Assistance Oversight (SF 389) – did not pass
- ABLE Account transfers (HF 835) – signed
- Direct Care Worker Database (HF 692) – did not pass
- Guardianship/Conservatorship Changes - did not pass

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Federal Advocacy – Things are happening in D.C.

- HCBS Access Act
- Caregivers
- Medicaid funding
- Federal telehealth payment parity
- Infrastructure
- Join us in July to talk about these & more





Don't Take the
Summer Off!



Summertime Advocacy: Can You Say PARADE?

May 24, 2021 by Amy Campbell

That's right, summer advocacy is fun! Summer in Iowa is hot, and it's really tough for those running for office to find volunteers to help march, ride, bike, or roll in their parades. This is a fantastic way to help out the legislators that helped you, and you might get a free t-shirt out of it. Legislators will have new districts for the 2022 election, so they'll be hitting the parade circuit in every small town parade, pancake breakfast, and town festival in or near their district.

If your legislator was not responsive, or you didn't like their stand on an issue, find their opponent and help them out. A good place to start is the county party headquarters (Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, or one of the others). Those of you that have joined us for the Capitol Chats know **advocacy is about relationships**. What better (and more fun) way of doing that than waving a flag in a parade, or helping out the person YOU want to be your advocate in your courthouses, city halls, state legislature or Congress.



- Redistricting: New Opportunities for Advocacy
 - Volunteer, help on campaigns
 - Have coffee or meet at the park to talk about your issues
 - Plan a group meeting
 - Ask ID Action & Iowa DD Council for help
 - Town halls
 - Record your advocacy stories – we can help share them.

Advice from our
"seasoned"
advocates?



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THANKS!



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