



# 2025 Legislative Agenda

Iowa Mental Health Counselors Association

The Legislative and Public Policy Committee distributes an annual survey to IMHCA's members and stakeholders to gather information about the key issues impacting our members and the clients that they serve.

## Summary

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| <b>Workforce Development and Issues</b>            | <p>Recruitment and retention of new counselors</p> <p>Unpaid student internships</p> <p>Increasing ease of licensure in Iowa</p> <p>Student loan forgiveness options and funding</p>   |
| <b>Mental health needs of specific populations</b> | <p>Mental health of K-12 students/in schools</p> <p>Advancing perinatal mental health care</p> <p>LGBTQIA rights and mental health care</p>  |
| <b>Professional Issues</b>                         | <p>Name protection for counselors</p>  |
| <b>Federal Priorities (with AMHCA)</b>             | <p>Engage where we can on developing artificial intelligence (AI) regulations that protect those seeking services while also allowing us to benefit from AI innovation in care and practice.</p> <p>Continue to support the entrance of licensed clinical mental health counselors in the realm of Medicare.</p> <p>Supporting behavioral health innovation on a national level with the development of integrated behavioral health, CCBHCs, and other models of behavioral health care that include mental health and workforce opportunities for licensed clinical mental health counselors.</p> <p>Support programs that make students safer at school, improve school climate, and improve access to mental and behavioral health services at school by ensuring support is given to increase funding for school mental health resources.</p> |

# Relevant Resources

Learn about IMHCA's Advocacy Efforts




<https://imhca.net/annual-day-on-the-hill/>

**Register Online for Day on the Hill 2025 & Legislative Breakfast**

IMHCA members have two opportunities to engage with Iowa policymakers in 2025:

- February 27th, 7 - 9am Breakfast; 9 - 12pm Lobbying
- April 2: Mental Health Day on the Hill with NAMI, Mindspring, CAMi4Kids, NASW of Iowa, ACA of Iowa and many more 12pm - 4pm in the Rotunda of the Capitol.

## Learn More About IMHCA!

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|  | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/IMHCA/">https://www.facebook.com/IMHCA/</a>  |
|  | <b>Join IMHCA as a member. Levels of membership to fit your need.</b><br><a href="https://imhca.net/membership/">https://imhca.net/membership/</a>                                   |
|  | <b>The LPP Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at 12pm. Contact <a href="mailto:IMHCAgovernment2@gmail.com">IMHCAgovernment2@gmail.com</a> for more information!</b> |