* From The Director's Desk *

Medicaid is at risk of being dismantled in Washington, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Iowa stand to lose access to services and supports that are vital to their lives in the community.

Medicaid is the nation's primary health insurance program for people with disabilities and low-income populations. The program currently covers over 10 million non-elderly people with disabilities. Medicaid is a lifeline for people with significant disabilities who do not have access to employer-based or private coverage, have greater medical needs, and require assistance with activities of daily living throughout their lifetimes. For many people with I/DD, Medicaid is the only source of funds for them to live and work in the community with friends and families and avoid more costly and segregated nursing homes or institutions. Nationwide, state and federal Medicaid together provide over 75% of the funding for services for people with I/DD.

Medicaid is a jointly funded program with matching state and federal funds. The federal government pays for nearly 60% of the cost, though the match rate varies from state to state. Currently the federal government has a commitment to help states cover costs, and in turn states are required to provide benefits to individuals with disabilities.

The federal match varies by state and the rate is based in part on the poverty or economic status of the state's population. The rate ranges from a federal match of 50% to a high of up to 74%. When a state spends funds on providing eligible beneficiaries with services, the state is guaranteed reimbursement from the federal Medicaid program at the state match rate. If a state increases its Medicaid spending, the Federal funding will also increase. Within the basic requirements of the program, states have substantial flexibility to administer the program and to add services and additional beneficiary categories.

Congress is talking about two approaches that will change and cut Medicaid - a block grant to states or enacting per capita caps. With these proposals states will receive less federal support to administer Medicaid. States will likely have to consider reducing eligibility, limiting services and supports, and/or cutting reimbursement to providers to save money when the federal financial share is cut back.

Medicaid block grant is a funding structure that provides states with a set amount of federal money to fund its Medicaid program. A block grant would end the flexible state and federal partnership. States would be responsible for covering the costs beyond the federal allotment. Deep cuts in federal spending on Medicaid and block grants would be a cost shift to already cash strapped states. Many states have waiting lists for services, in some states numbering in the tens of thousands. These lists would grow, and those receiving supports would be at risk of a cut in benefits. Federal policy makers would need to make choices that will determine levels of federal financing as well as federal and state requirements around eligibility, benefits, state matching requirements, and beneficiary protections. A block grant would not adjust to increased

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Wrapping for a Cause

With the help from our wonderful sponsor Veridian Credit Union and with the help of 218 volunteers putting in 830 hours, we were able to raise over $18,200 during our Wrapping for a Cause fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who stopped out to support us!

* Save the Date! *

Arc March
March 25th
coverage needs as the result of an aging population or during bad economic times and would not adjust to changes in health care, drug costs, or emergencies.

Under a Medicaid per capita cap, the federal government would set a limit on how much to reimburse states per enrollee. A per capita cap model would not account for changes in the costs per enrollee beyond the cost growth limit. To achieve federal savings, the per capita growth amounts would be set below the projected rates of growth.

There's a lot at stake for people with I/DD. States will receive less federal support to administer Medicaid if either of these approaches are enacted into law. While there is no way to be certain about what states would do if faced with reduced federal funds, we know there will be real life consequences for people with I/DD.

David Thielen
Executive Director

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**The Perfect Storm**
with Dr. Erica Smothers from Awaken Family Chiropractic

**Tuesday, January 24th**
6:00 - 7:00 pm
At The Arc
680 2nd St SE | Cedar Rapids

**Exploring the hidden causes behind Autism, ADHD, and chronic illnesses in kids.**

An impactful workshop where you'll learn about the common ingredients contributing to a dramatic rise in spectrum, sensory, and other chronic disorders in kids today. You'll leave with answers and action steps for natural, drug-free ways to help your child overcome and avoid these challenges.

Please RSVP by January 20th to Lexi at lcobertly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024.

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**Project SEARCH Information Night**

**Tuesday, February 28th**
5:30 - 7:00 pm
St. Luke’s Hospital
Formal Lounge, Resource Center
1026 A Ave, NE | Cedar Rapids
*Building just to the east of St. Luke’s Hospital*

Come learn how young adults with disabilities can become involved in this unique employment internship training program. For adults age 19-30.

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**BBB Accredited**
The Arc of East Central Iowa becomes BBB accredited - The Arc of East Central Iowa recently became accredited by the BBB. This means BBB has determined that The Arc of East Central Iowa meets accreditation standards, which include a commitment to make a good faith effort to resolve any consumer complaints. BBB accredited businesses are monitoring for continued compliance and for support of BBB services to the public.

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**Consumer Marketplace**
Click on the links below to visit each sponsor's website
Awaken Family Chiropractic
Camp Lee Mar
Frank A. Varvaris
Discovery Living, Inc.
Options of Linn County
REM Iowa
The Arc Of The US
The Guided Tour, Inc.

**Board of Directors**
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The BBB Code of Business Practices represents standards for business accreditation by BBB. Businesses based in the United States and Canada that meet these standards and complete all application procedures will be accredited by BBB. The Code is built on the BBB Standards for Trust, eight principles that summarize important elements of creating and maintaining trust in business. To be accredited by BBB, The Arc of East Central Iowa affirms that it meets and will abide by the following standards:

1. **Build Trust** - The Arc establishes and maintains a positive track record in the marketplace.
2. **Advertise Honestly** - The Arc adheres to established standards of advertising and selling.
3. **Tell the Truth** - The Arc honestly represents products and services, including clear and adequate disclosures of all material terms.
4. **Be Transparent** - The Arc openly identifies the nature, location, and ownership of the business, and clearly discloses all policies, guarantees and procedures that bear on customer’s decision to buy.
5. **Honor Promises** - The Arc abides by all written agreements and verbal representations.
6. **Be Responsive** - The Arc addresses marketplace disputes quickly, professionally, and in good faith.
7. **Safeguard Privacy** - The Arc protects any data collected against mishandling and fraud, collect personal information only as needed, and respect the preferences of customers regarding the use of their information.
8. **Embody Integrity** - The Arc approaches all business dealings, marketplace transactions and commitments with integrity.

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### Platinum Participant

The Arc of East Central Iowa is recognized as a Platinum Participant with GuideStar. By reporting metrics through the GuideStar Nonprofit Profile, The Arc of East Central Iowa received a Platinum Seal of Transparency-GuideStar’s newest and highest level of recognition. GuideStar Platinum is an easy way for The Arc of East Central Iowa to share its progress and results. This achievement demonstrates that The Arc of East Central Iowa is an organization that is focused on measuring its ongoing progress and results with the public. This achievement also gives potential funders information they crave, shows The Arc’s growth and improvement results year over year, and provides a concrete alternative to donors evaluating The Arc.

*"This new effort by GuideStar is promising and exciting. Easily accessible data on nonprofit performance will allow donors to make better decisions, targeting resources to those who are working hard to gauge and improve their performance."* ~President/CEO, David Thielen.
Arc Receives Grant 
To Assist In Flood Recovery

September of 2016, Eastern Iowa learned it would face another historic flood event. Community members leapt to action to protect their neighborhoods and assets. Citizens, businesses and nonprofits quickly began to organize - evacuating their belongings and moving materials and inventory to higher ground. The City of Cedar Rapids put up HESCO barrier and sandbagging stations popped up to assist the potentially affected areas.

As we prepared for the worst, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation activated the Flood Fund 2016 to begin accepting charitable contributions to assist nonprofits serving flood-impacted individuals and households. Private philanthropy would be necessary in flood recovery to fill gaps in funding provided by government entities and first responders.

We were ready. Fortunately, the barriers held and the Cedar River crested lower than expected, meaning that immediate damage was minimal. Still, nonprofit organizations, like The Arc and small businesses located within the flood zone experienced evacuation expenses and lost revenue; and nonprofits saw an increase in the need for their services. Homeowners and renters in the flood evacuation zone incurred unplanned costs as they readied their homes and secured their belongings to withstand the water.

In the weeks after the flood, information was gathered regarding community needs and the Community Foundation responded by opening two additional funds to assist with expenses and revenue losses during flood recovery, evacuation and clean-up. The Nonprofit Recovery Fund 2016 was established to assist flood-impacted nonprofits; and the Jobs and Small Business Recovery Fund 2016 was established in partnership with the City of Cedar Rapids, the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, the Small Business Development Center to assist small businesses.

The Arc of East Central Iowa was a recipient of the Nonprofit Recovery Fund 2016. A big thank you goes out to The Community Foundation, the City of Cedar Rapids, the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and the Small Business Development Center for their efforts in helping us offset some of our flood costs incurred this past fall.