**Our Overarching Question: What will it take to build, implement, sustain, and fully fund components for an Iowa Disability Care System?**

**Study Topic and Research Questions**:

1. What will it take?

Passage and implementation, at the state level in Iowa, an overarching mandate to secure the right of eligible individuals qualifying for institutional level care under Medicaid equal access to receive those services and supports in a home community-based setting.

1. What would it cost?

Explore initial cost investments to build and sustain money follows the person policy infra structure to reverse the current over dependency the state of Iowa has on institutional care settings, cited in the DOJ investigation and final report, dated 12/08/2021.

1. Address the challenges and seek viable solutions to the shortage crisis of direct care workers available to provide services and supports in these ways: a) establish a starting wage of $25.00 per hour for direct care staff; b) provide a pool of benefits that include insurance; paid vacations, sick leave, parental leave, and retirement. Other career growth topics:

On-line learning

Group Classroom Settings

Mentoring 1:1 Coaches: Self-advocates; Families; and specific to transitioning into new home community settings using the Transition Specialist MFP Model

**The RWJ Guidance:**

o Study Topic and Research Questions: The study topic and research question(s) and their significance to the community of focus.

o Community-Engaged Approach: How members of the community of focus or their representatives (such as advocates or community-based organizations) led or participated in the development of the project, including how the proposed work reflects community goals, priorities, and values.

o Research Methodology: The research methodology and data sources to be used, including how members of the community of focus or their representatives will be involved in carrying out the proposed research.

o Target Audiences and Dissemination Strategy: Target audiences for project findings and potential deliverables and dissemination strategies for reaching these audiences.

o Potential Impact: The potential of the project to generate evidence that helps policymakers and other decision makers improve the affordability of health care for communities most impacted by structural racism, inequities, and discrimination.