Big Helpers

An organization, program, or resource that provides reliable support or services and serves as a point of contact to offer specialized expertise to individuals with disabilities or special healthcare needs. This is not a complete list, but instead a resource to help with general categories and common options/service terms for support.

Big Helpers related to Children's services

- **ASK Resource Center**
  - A parent training, information, and advocacy center for families of children with special needs across the state of Iowa. ASK is a family-driven, non-profit organization.
- **Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC)**
  - Family Navigators with lived experience help support families, and they specialize in Autism related support.
- **ChildServe, Center for Disabilities and Development, and Children's Nebraska**
  - Pediatric health care for children with special health care needs. Offers diagnostic, clinical, and family support services for individuals with disabilities.
- **Iowa Family Support Network**
  - Early intervention and family support programs.
- **Medicaid**
  - Hawki and EPSDT programs

Big Helpers related to people of all ages with disabilities

- **Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)**
  - Agencies that help older adults, their families, and their caregivers find the services and support they need.
    - Aging Resources of Central Iowa
    - Connections AAA
    - Elderbridge AAA
    - Milestones AAA
    - Northeast Iowa AAA
    - Heritage AAA
- **Centers for Independent Living**

    - A consumer-controlled, community-based, non-profit organization designed and operated by people with disabilities. Their services assist Iowans with disabilities to live independently in the communities of their choice.
- **Disability Access Points (DAP):**
    - Local places that help people with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers find the services and support they need.
        - Collaborative Individual & Community Supports (CICS)
            - Districts 2, 3, and 6
        - Eastern Iowa Disability Alliance
            - District 7
        - Polk County Behavioral Health & Disability Services (BHDS)
            - District 5
        - Western Iowa Service Collaborative (WISC)
            - Districts 1 and 4
- **Disability Rights Iowa (DRI)**
    - DRI provides legal support and advocacy for Iowans with disabilities with their disability rights issues.
- **Easterseals**
    - Statewide Assistive Technology Program
- **Employment services for people with disabilities:**
    - Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS)
    - Iowa Workforce Development (IWD)
    - Ticket to Work program
- **Iowa Compass**
    - Connects older adults, people with disabilities and complex health-related needs of all ages, and caregivers to services and supports in their communities throughout Iowa.
- **Iowa Primary Care Association**
    - To advance community health through a strong network of health centers and other safety net providers.
- **Managed Care Organizations (MCOs):**
    - A Managed Care Organization, or MCO is a health plan that coordinates care for a person enrolled in certain Medicaid programs. You have three MCOs in Iowa to choose from:
        - Iowa Total Care
        - Molina Healthcare of Iowa
        - Wellpoint Iowa, Inc.

        - For those on full Medicaid or medically exempt, case management and care coordination services/medical-related transportation.
- **Medicaid**:
    - Waiver programs
    - Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (HIPP)
    - Fee for Service
    - Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities (MEPD)
    - Consumer Choices Option (CCO)
    - and more
- **Scanlan Center for School Mental Health Clinic**
    - Increase access to mental health care for K-12 students, parents/caregivers, and school staff. They work with Iowa K-12 school districts, Area Education Agencies (AEAs), and Iowa mental health systems to provide post-crisis services and mental health support.
- **Specialized organizations by condition:**
    - Brain Injury Association of Iowa
    - Alzheimer's Association – Iowa Chapter
    - Huntington's Disease Society of America
    - Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
    - Parkinson's Foundation
    - American Parkinson Disease Association
    - and more