

Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN) Permanency Vision Statement **“Every child deserves a forever family.”**

The purpose of this document is to articulate IASN’s vision for permanency planning and principles to guide decisions that impact participants served by IASN who are enrolled in PAL or Aftercare. Permanency is a goal of IASN and this vision statement will provide guidance to self-sufficiency advocates implementing this goal.

IASN believes that IASN participants deserve permanent family relationships. A permanent family relationship offers safe, stable, and committed parenting, unconditional love and lifelong support, and legal family membership status. Achieving permanency can be the result of reunification with birth or adoptive family, or legal guardianship or adoption by kin or other committed adults, or lifelong connections and relationships with caring adults in the community.

Foundational Principles of Permanency

IASN programs, practices, services, and support should be developed and implemented in ways that:

- Demonstrate a commitment to the right of every participant to a permanent family relationship.
- Empower young people to be full partners in all decision-making and planning for their future.
- Involve multiple systems and the community-at-large in the effort to identify and support permanent relationships.
- Acknowledge permanence and includes: a stable, healthy, and lasting living situation within the context of a family-like relationship with at least one-committed adult; reliable, continuous and healthy connections with siblings, birth parents, extended family, and network of other significant adults.
- Honor the cultural, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious/spiritual backgrounds of the participant and their family and respect differences in sexual orientation.
- Acknowledge and build upon the strengths and resilience of the participant, their parents, their family, and/or other significant adults.
- Ensure that services and support are provided in ways that are fair, responsive, and accountable to IASN participants, and do not stigmatize them, their families, or their friends.