

Coalition Charter

September 10, 2020
Updated 02/01/2026



CHARTER OVERVIEW

This Charter expresses the shared commitment of partners participating in the Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition (IFPC) to work together to reduce falls and fall-related injuries across Iowa. It defines the Coalition's purpose, mission, guiding principles, and collaborative structure, and establishes a common understanding of how partners contribute to this collective effort.

This Charter serves as a living foundation for collaboration clarifying how the Coalition works together, supporting shared accountability, and ensuring that IFPC remains responsive to community needs while advancing a statewide vision of fewer falls and healthier communities.

I WHY WE EXIST

The name of the organization is the ***Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition***. It has been in existence since 2012. The Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition serves communities across the state of Iowa, supporting both statewide initiatives and locally driven efforts to prevent falls.

The **mission** of the Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition is to facilitate collaboration among state, community, and health care partners to reduce falls by building awareness, expanding education, and supporting the implementation of effective fall prevention efforts across Iowa.

Our **vision** is that all Iowans experience fewer falls and fall-related injuries, allowing them to maintain independence, safety, and quality of life as they age.

The **purpose** of the Coalition is to coordinate falls prevention efforts statewide and build community-clinic linkages that connect clinical care with community-based initiatives.

The Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition works to expand both the availability and diversity of falls prevention strategies across the state by:

- Raising statewide awareness and understanding of fall risk and prevention through education, outreach, and events such as Falls Prevention Awareness Week and the Iowa Falls Prevention Symposium
- Supporting clinicians in implementing STEADI-based fall risk screening and referral practices
- Strengthening referral pathways between healthcare settings and community-based programs
- Building and supporting local and regional falls prevention coalitions
- Expanding access to evidence-based programs that address fall risk, fear of falling, balance, strength, and physical activity

Through these coordinated efforts, the Coalition seeks to ensure that all Iowans at risk for falls are identified early and equitably connected to the right supports at the right time. This work is carried out in partnership with local falls prevention coalitions, which are uniquely positioned to understand community needs, reduce barriers, and connect individuals to services where they live.

To advance inclusive and responsive falls prevention efforts statewide, the Coalition supports local falls prevention coalitions to:

- Elevate education and awareness about fall risk and prevention through community outreach, training, and events
- Implement and sustain a diverse range of evidence-based programs that reflect local needs, abilities, and circumstances
- Build and maintain a network of trained, inclusive program leaders and instructors
- Expand and improve the accessibility of falls prevention programs and services within their communities
- Incorporate local perspectives and lived experiences to inform relevant and effective prevention strategies
- Strengthen community-clinic screening and referral pathways that contribute to a coordinated statewide system serving both rural and urban areas

II ACTION PLAN GOALS: 2025-2027

1. Increase awareness of falls in Iowa and support more falls prevention education.
2. Expand falls screening activities across the state to better detect fall risk.
3. Enhance statewide capacity and sustainability for falls prevention programs through a community care hub model.
4. Support community-clinical linkages across the state for coordinated falls prevention efforts.
5. Effectively grow the policy and advocacy work of the Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition.

III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Eligibility

Membership in the Coalition is open and inclusive, and is not limited to the entities or individuals listed below:

- Public and private health organizations
- Aging services
- National, state, city, and county government(s)
- Business and corporate entities
- Community members
- Associations
- Emergency personnel (e.g., EMS, fire, law enforcement)

- Academic institutions
- Community advocates and policy makers

To become a member, potential partners are encouraged to complete the [Partner Commitment Form](#), confirming their commitment of time and expertise.

Membership types:

- Individual – an individual member who does not represent an agency/organization may participate in coalition activities
- Agency/organization – an agency or organization may participate in coalition activities through one or more representatives of the agency/organization

A current list of members: see Addendum 1

Section 2 – Responsibilities

To advance the Coalition’s mission, members are asked to actively engage in Coalition activities and contribute their time, expertise, and resources in the following ways:

- Attend scheduled and ad hoc Coalition meetings and events to support planning, coordination, and implementation of coalition activities.
- Participate in action planning and goal-setting to shape Coalition priorities and strategies.
- Actively contribute input and feedback through surveys, breakout sessions, and other structured engagement activities to ground coalition work in the needs of Iowa communities.
- Review minutes, reports, and other materials to remain informed about Coalition decisions and activities.
- Share relevant information with organizational staff, members, and partner organizations via newsletters, websites, or listservs.
- Keep the Coalition updated on your organization’s related programs, initiatives, and activities.
- Contribute staff time and resources to support Coalition projects and initiatives.
- Provide connections to key organizations and individuals to strengthen the Coalition network.

IV COALITION BUSINESS

Member Input and Participation

All Member organizations and individual members are encouraged to actively participate in Coalition discussions, provide input, and share feedback to guide decision-making. Input from members will be used to ensure Coalition priorities, strategies, and activities reflect the needs of Iowa communities.

Decision-Making on Issues

Decisions on issues brought before the Coalition will be guided by the input and feedback of participating members. Consensus and collective discussion will inform Coalition actions and priorities.

Meetings

The Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition shall hold regular meetings every other month on the second Thursday from 8:30 to 10:00 AM CST. Special meetings may be called at the request of the Coalition Coordinator or Chair. Agendas will be prepared in advance and minutes of all meetings shall be documented and distributed to members following each meeting.

V LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE COALITION

Co-Chair: Trina Radske-Suchan, PT tsuchan@iacommunityhub.org

Co-Chair: Elizabeth Fridley RDN, LDN, liz.fridley@hhs.iowa.gov

Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition webpage: <https://iacommunityhub.org/iafallscoalition/>

Iowa Falls Prevention Symposium Coordinator: Bailey Rickels, MPH, CHES

Injury Prevention Coordinator

UIHC Trauma Program

Certified Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Instructor

bailey-rickels@uiowa.edu

Falls Prevention Awareness Week Coordinator: Kristin S. Meyer, PharmD, BCGP, CACP, FASCP

Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

kristin.meyer@drake.edu

Data and Evaluation Workgroup: Maggie Ferguson, MS, CRC, CBIST

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

maggie.ferguson@hhs.iowa.gov

see Addendum 2

VII PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE COALITION

The Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition supports and promotes the following evidence-based falls prevention programs. These programs meet the standards established by the Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging (ACL/AoA) for evidence-based initiatives funded through the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-D. While this is not an exhaustive list, it highlights the key falls prevention programs currently offered across Iowa. More details of the programs can be found on the HUB [Program Library](#) webpage.

- A Matter of Balance
- Bingocize

- Home Hazard Removal Program (HARP)
- Healthy Steps for Older Adults
- Stepping On
- Tai Chi for Arthritis for Falls Prevention
- Tai Ji Quan-Moving for Better Balance
- Tai Chi for Prime
- *Walk With Ease (shown to improve balance, though not yet officially recognized as a falls prevention program)

VIII THE IOWA COMMUNITY HUB

[The Iowa Community HUB](#) is a statewide community care hub (CCH) that serves as the central referral and navigation system, connecting individuals to evidence-based falls prevention programs offered by a network of community partners across Iowa. By strengthening community-clinical linkages, the HUB ensures seamless connections between healthcare providers and community-based organizations, facilitating timely referrals to programs that meet each individual's unique needs. Beyond referrals, the HUB plays a critical role in sustaining and expanding falls prevention efforts by supporting community-based organizations to build capacity, deliver programs effectively, and reach more Iowans statewide.

Statewide Program Locator

The Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition encourages organizations offering evidence-based falls prevention programs to reach out to the Iowa Community HUB to have their programs listed in the statewide program locator. Doing so increases visibility, connects programs to individuals actively seeking support, and helps ensure that Iowans across the state can access timely, appropriate services. By sharing program information with the HUB, organizations also strengthen the statewide network, support the Coalition's mission, and contribute to a coordinated system that links healthcare providers, community partners, and participants, making falls prevention efforts more effective, sustainable, and far-reaching.

IX MEASURING IMPACT AND DRIVING IMPROVEMENT

The Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition accesses a variety of data sources and performance indicators to monitor progress, assess effectiveness, and guide continuous improvement of statewide falls prevention efforts. These measures help the Coalition evaluate outcomes, identify opportunities for growth, and ensure that programs and initiatives are having a meaningful impact on Iowans at risk for falls. Key sources of data include:

- Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Annual Briefs
- [Annual IFPC Summary Reports](#)
- [Iowa Trauma Registry Report](#)
- Iowa Community HUB – source for referral, screening, and program data
- [Healthy Iowans – Iowa's Health Improvement Plan](#)

- Lived Experience Feedback
- National databases ([National Council on Aging](#), [Administration for Community Living](#), [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [National Association of Chronic Disease Directors](#), etc.)
- Pre- and Post-Program/Event Surveys
- Coalition Surveys

X Marketing and Communications

Marketing and outreach are a shared responsibility of all Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition members. Members are encouraged to promote Coalition activities, events, and resources to the constituents of their organizations, professional networks, and local communities.

Coalition members support these efforts by:

- Sharing IFPC updates, events, and resources through newsletters, websites, social media, listservs, and community outreach channels;
- Directing partners and community members to the [Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition webpage](#)
- Promoting evidence-based falls prevention programs
- Using consistent messaging and Coalition-branded materials, when available, to strengthen statewide visibility and recognition

XI AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW OF THE CHARTER

The charter shall be reviewed annually by the Coalition to assess relevance, update roles or procedures, and ensure alignment with the Coalition's mission and goals.

ADDENDUM 1

Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition Member List (2026)

Name	Organization
Abigail Chihak	Dallas County Health Department
Abigail Logan	Highest Level Senior Care, LLC
Amanda McGraw	Drake University Nursing Program
Andrew Trau	UnityPoint Health Des Moines
Angela Drent	Siouxland District Health Department
Angela& Mike Lorden	Same Day Grab Bars
Angela Shanahan	University of Iowa
Ashley Forrester	Live 2 B Healthy
Ashley Phelps	Live 2 B Healthy
Aubrey Haberer	Boone County Hospital
Aubury Krueger-Kutchara	Connections Area Agency on Aging (Council Bluffs, IA)
Ashley Adams	Optimae LifeServices
Ashley DeMoss	LifeChoices at Bethany
Bailey Rickels	UIHC Trauma Program
Becky Koppen	Central Iowa RSVP
Becky Robel	Tai Chi Iowa
Brad Richardson	University of Iowa, School of Social Work
Brendalyn Shird	Habitat for Humanity
Beth Fuchsen	UnityPoint Des Moines
Carlene Russell	Community Advocate
Carri Casteel	UI Injury Prevention Research Center
Catherine Stevermer	Des Moines University
Charisse Coulombe	Compass Healthcare Collaborative
Cheryl TanCreti	McLaren's Chapel Resthaven Cemetery
Christina Peterson	Van Diest Medical Center
Cindy Feister	Linn County Public Health
Colleen Schwartz	Story County Falls Prevention Coalition
Connie Eastman	AARP
DeAndreya Searight	Humana
Denise Behrends	VA Central Iowa
Elise Bovy	Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (Waterloo, IA)
Elizabeth A. Knief (Liz)	Mercy One Northeast Iowa
Greg Welk	Iowa State University
Heather Chingren	WellPoint

Heather Olsen	University of Northern Iowa
Janet Buls	Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (Waterloo, IA)
Jennifer Nutt	Iowa Hospital Association
Jennifer Sanda	Optimae LifeServices
Jerri McCracken	Midwest Medical Alert LLC/Midwest PERS & Medical Devices
Jessica Kane	Clarinda Regional Health Center
Jill M. Bjerke	Silver Spaces
Jill Sindt	Heritage Area Agencies on Aging (Cedar Rapids, IA)
Jill Wheeler	IHHS -Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services
Jody Applegate	Elderbridge Area Agency on Aging (Carroll, IA)
Joe Sample	Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging
John McCalley	WellPoint
Jon Rech	Urbandale Fire Department
Joy Ihle	Polk County Department of Community, Family and Youth Services
Judi Van Hulzen	Marion County Public Health
Julia White	Buena Vista Medical Center
Katie Morse	CHI Health Mercy Council Bluffs
Kala Shipley	Iowa Department of Education
Karen Speicher	Speicher Wellness
Kathleen Lee	University of Iowa
Kim Bergen-Jackson	University of Iowa
Kristen Wolford	Mercy Council Bluffs
Kristin McGown	Rock Valley Physical Therapy
Kristin Meyer	Drake University
Kylie Barbour	Des Moines University
Lisa Jenison	Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa
Liz Davidson	Wesley Life
Liz Ford	Sioux City Fire and Rescue
Liz Fridley	Iowa Department of Health Human Services
Lydia Billings	Boone County Public Health
Mackenzie Martin	Access 2 Independence of the Eastern Iowa Corridor, Inc.
Maggie Ferguson	Iowa Department of Health Human Services
Marilyn Jones	Community Advocate
Matt Petersen	Mary Greeley Medical Center
Melanie Bauch	NEIA Wellness and Recreation Center
Michelle Brown	Des Moines University
Miranda Rouw	Community Advocate
Paige Healy	LifeChoices at Bethany; Bethany at Home
Paula Sheeder	Guthrie County Public Health

Polly Zwolensky	Connect America
Sarah Hobbs	Genesis Visiting Nurses Association, Jackson County Regional Health Center
Shannon Draayer	Wesley Life
Sonita Oldfield-Carlson	Milestones Area Agencies on Aging (Davenport, IA)
Stacey Koenigs	Rock Valley Physical Therapy
Stephanie Labenz	Aging Resources of Central Iowa (Des Moines, IA)
Sydney Marshman	Happy at Home Consulting; President Elect - Iowa Occupational Therapy Association
Sydney Wright	Cedar Rapids Fire Department
Tracy Keninger	Easterseals Iowa
Trina Radske-Suchan	Iowa Community HUB
Tysheonna Montoya	UnityPoint Health PACE Senior Care
Wanda Hilton	Iowa Department of Health Human Services
Wendy Neuman	Mercy Home Care

ADDENDUM 2

COALITION Co-Chair

Responsible To: Coalition Membership

Job Description: Responsible for the oversight of the short-term and long-term strategic plan of the Coalition.

- Support the Coalition's vision, mission, and purpose
- Facilitate the strategic direction for the Coalition and ensure effective planning through the development and implementation of the 3-Year Action Plan
- Conduct literature/resource reviews to identify best practices for Coalition
- Provide leadership for the Annual Falls Prevention Symposium
- Review, maintain and expand current membership with assistance from existing Coalition members
- Develop Coalition meeting agendas with input from other Coalition leaders
- Coordinate and facilitate coalition meetings and communicate effectively with members to promote collaboration and problem solving
- Represent Coalition on national calls with NCOA, ACL or other applicable national organizations.
- Represent Coalition in the community and enhance support of Coalition mission
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain accountability

Time Commitment:

- Approximately 1-2 hours per week on average
- Attend Coalition meetings and other major Coalition activities such as the Annual Falls Prevention Symposium

Qualifications:

- Ascribe to Coalition mission, goals, and charter
- Possess strong leadership and organizational skills
- Leadership experience in Falls Prevention activities, strategies, or roles within your professional development
- Proficient with Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook) and web conferencing software.

Funding & Implementation Partner (Iowa HHS)

Responsible To: Coalition Membership and Co-Chairs

Role Description: Serves as the state agency supporting falls prevention and implementation, utilizing the coalition as an advisory body for funded initiatives.

Key Responsibilities:

- Identify and apply for grant funding, in partnership with the Coalition. Ensure compliance with grantor and state requirements.
- Align implementation activities with the 3-Year Action Plan (2025–2027).
- Coordinate project leadership meetings, with representation from the co-chairs and/or other coalition leadership.
- Prepare program updates for Coalition meetings and ad-hoc requests from Co-Chairs.

Time Commitment:

- Variable and based on funding cycle and active projects
- Attends regular Coalition meetings

Qualifications: Grant administration and budget management experience.

Administrative Support (Internship Role)

Responsible To: Iowa Department Health of Human Services and Co-Chairs

Role Description:

Provides administrative, coordination, and engagement support to the Coalition and its committees. This internship role supports the implementation of Coalition priorities and committee work that emerge from the 3-Year Action Plan, while offering hands-on experience in coalition operations, public health collaboration, and community engagement.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support and advance the Coalition's vision, mission, and purpose
- Provide administrative and coordination support to Coalition, committees and any special projects aligned with the 3-Year Action Plan
- Assist with the preparation, formatting, and distribution of Coalition meeting agendas, materials, and supporting documents
- Support meeting execution, including tracking attendance, taking meeting notes as needed, and assisting with virtual meeting logistics
- Draft, finalize, and distribute meeting minutes and action items to Coalition members in a timely manner
- Assist with maintaining, updating, and engaging the Coalition member roster and contact lists
- Support recruitment and onboarding of new Coalition members by assisting with outreach, tracking interest, and sharing membership information
- Support dissemination of Coalition communications, including surveys, webinars, trainings, events, updates, and opportunities for engagement
- Assist with planning, communications, and promotional materials related to Falls Prevention Awareness Week and other Coalition-led initiatives

Time Commitment:

- Hours vary and will be determined in consultation with the internship supervisor.
- Attend Coalition meetings and major Coalition events as able

Qualifications:

- Interest in public health, aging, injury prevention, community health, or coalition-based work
- Alignment with the Coalition's mission, goals, and charter
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Clear written and verbal communication skills
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook) and web conferencing platforms
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse partners

COALITION Coordinators

Responsible To:

Coalition Co-Chairs and Coalition Membership

Job Description:

Coalition Coordinators are responsible for facilitating, managing, and reporting on the work of Coalition committees that are established in response to priorities and needs identified in the Coalition's 3-Year Action Plan. This role supports effective implementation of committee-led activities in alignment with the Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition's vision, mission, and goals.

Key Responsibilities:

- Facilitate and support the work of assigned Coalition committees
- Coordinate committee meetings, activities, and timelines
- Assist committee members in planning, implementing, and tracking committee-led initiatives
- Ensure committee activities align with priorities outlined in the 3-Year Action Plan
- Compile and present committee updates, progress, and outcomes at Coalition meetings
- Support communication and coordination between committees and Coalition leadership

Time Commitment:

- Approximately 2-3 hours per month on average
- Attend regular Coalition meetings and committee meetings as assigned
- Attend Coalition-related events as appropriate to the scope and responsibilities of the assigned committee

Qualifications:

- Commitment to the Coalition's mission, goals, and charter
- Strong facilitation, organizational, and coordination skills
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook) and web-based meeting platforms