The prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) continues to rise and there is an urgent need for Iowans to have access to effective interventions and additional programs to support individuals with ASD and their families. These efforts should allow all Iowans with ASD to:

**A. GET A GOOD START**
- Expand and intensify public awareness of the early signs of ASD and educate the public on the benefits of early identification
- Ensure that Iowans are receiving timely screenings and comprehensive diagnostic evaluations at the first suspected signs of autism

**B. HAVE ACCESS TO AND OBTAIN NEEDED SERVICES**
- Increase access to high quality services throughout the lifespan
- Provide equal access to high quality services across the state regardless of age, race, ethnicity, zip code, or insurance

**C. HAVE WELL-INFORMED, EMPOWERED, AND SUPPORTED INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND CAREGIVERS**
- Empower individuals and families to advocate for the services and supports they or their family member needs as soon as autism is suspected, as well as throughout their lifespan
- Create options for crisis prevention and intervention that ensure the health, safety, and stabilization of individuals with autism and their families across the lifespan

**D. SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE**
- Make sure all autistic youth and individuals are provided appropriate and outcome-driven transition planning and associated services
- Create options for crisis prevention and intervention that ensure the health, safety, and stabilization of individuals with autism and their families across the lifespan

**E. BE ASSURED OF ONGOING COORDINATION OF SYSTEMS OF CARE AND SUPPORT**
- Increase coordination between service providers for all individuals with autism
- Promote shared service models and public-private partnerships to increase cost-effectiveness and efficiency
- Ensure a range of safe, high-quality living options are available in Iowa for people on the autism spectrum

"1 in 44 Children have ASD according to the CDC"

See the full Strategic Plan for more details: https://chsciowa.org/sites/chsciowa.org/files/resource/files/iowas_autism_strategic_plan_2022-2027.pdf