

Strengthening Iowa's Nursing Workforce: Join INA in Finding the Solution



Laura L. Fuller
Executive Director
Iowa Nurses Association

The nursing profession stands as the backbone of Iowa's healthcare system, providing essential care to patients across the state. However, the current nursing workforce crisis threatens the stability and effectiveness of healthcare delivery in our communities. The Iowa Nurses Association (INA) recognizes the urgency of this issue and has outlined a comprehensive 2025 policy agenda aimed at strengthening the nursing workforce, improving working conditions, enhancing education and training, and ensuring a sustainable future for nursing in Iowa.

The nursing shortage in Iowa has devastating consequences for patient care and the well-being of healthcare professionals. This shortage leads to increased patient loads for existing staff, longer waiting times for patients, and, in some cases, the postponement of critical medical procedures. The strain on the system not only compromises patient care but also places immense pressure on nursing staff.

INA's 2025 Policy Agenda

It is clear that something needs to be done. While the solution isn't a straightforward

fix, there are many steps that can be taken today to help Iowa nurses towards a more sustainable work-life and future. In response to these challenges, the INA has developed a policy agenda focused on several key initiatives.

1. Increasing funding for Workforce Development Programs
 - a. Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant
 - b. Health Professional Recruitment Program
 - c. Health Care Award Program
2. Enhancing Compensation for Nursing Educators
3. Supporting Volunteer Nurses with Tax Credits
4. Establishing a Nursing Workforce Stakeholder Task Force

Iowa Nurses Have Power

The challenges facing Iowa's nursing workforce are profound, but they are not insurmountable. By implementing the INA's 2025

Policy Agenda, we can take meaningful steps toward alleviating the nursing shortage, enhancing the well-being of our nurses, and ensuring that all Iowans receive the quality healthcare they deserve.

By supporting the INA's initiatives, we can create a healthcare environment where nurses are empowered, valued, and equipped to provide the best possible care for their patients.

How to Get Involved

There are many opportunities to collaborate with INA in an effort to alleviate the nursing workforce crisis and advocate for changes in Iowa. The 2025 INA Legislative Day will take place on March 5th, 2025. This is a great opportunity for nurses in Iowa to advocate for better legislation. INA offers a Town Hall series which covers topics such as DEI programs, workplace safety, advocacy and innovations. There are more details found on the Education & Events page of [INA's website](#). ■

