

Contact: Janet Johnson

jjohnson@onevision.org

August 14, 2026

600 Glen Oaks Drive

Clear Lake, IA 50428

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One Vision Announces Dr. James Williams as New Chief Executive Officer

[Clear Lake, Iowa] — **August 14, 2026** — One Vision is proud to announce the appointment of **Dr. James Williams** as its new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, effective **Sunday, September 27, 2026**. Dr. Williams will lead the organization as it celebrates 55 years of supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and looks toward the next chapter of its mission.

“We are incredibly excited to welcome Dr. Williams to One Vision,” said **Jane Fischer, President of the One Vision Board of Directors**. “Throughout the search process, we were looking for a leader who not only has the experience to lead our organization forward, but who truly understands and believes in our mission and the people we serve. We found that in Dr. Williams. His leadership, compassion, and vision stood out to us, and we are confident he is the right person to guide One Vision into its next chapter. We look forward to the future under his leadership.”

55 Years of Turning Vision into Opportunity

One Vision's story began in 1966, when a group of families and community members came together around a shared vision: creating greater opportunities for people with disabilities. Originally founded as Handicap Village, the organization opened its doors for services in 1971. In 1994, the organization became Opportunity Village, reflecting its continued growth and evolving mission. In 2017, it became **One Vision**, a name that honors the common vision of its founders and the belief that continues to guide the organization today: **people with disabilities deserve the opportunity to pursue their best life**.

As One Vision celebrates **55 years of service**, that original vision remains at the heart of its work. While the organization has grown and evolved to meet changing needs, its commitment to independence, inclusion, choice, and opportunity has never changed.

An Experienced Leader and Disability Advocate

Dr. Williams most recently served as Executive Director of **The Arc of King County in Washington**, bringing more than two decades of experience in educational, vocational, and independent living services for people with disabilities.



Prior to his role with The Arc, Dr. Williams served in a statewide role with the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of Iowa Workforce Development. His professional experience, combined with his personal connection to the disability community, gives him a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing people with disabilities, their families, and the organizations that support them.

Dr. Williams holds a **Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Lamar University, a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Sam Houston State University.**

As he prepares to take the helm of One Vision, Dr. Williams expressed his deep honor in building upon the organization's 55-year legacy of empowering people with IDD to live self-directed and fulfilling lives.

He sees the changing landscape of disability services as an opportunity to strengthen disability rights, expand person-centered approaches, and demonstrate the impact of innovative models that give people greater choice and control over their lives.

Dr. Williams highlighted One Vision's work in **Home and Community-Based Services, Smart Living, and Supported Employment** as critical pathways to independence. He also emphasized the importance of expanding affordable, accessible housing and ensuring people with IDD have the support and resources they need to lead fully self-determined lives in their communities.

Supporting People to Pursue Their Best Life

One Vision's core work centers on **Home and Community-Based Services**, providing person-centered support built around each individual's goals, preferences, strengths, and choices. Through both traditional support models and innovative **Smart Living technology**, One Vision works alongside people to create the level of support that allows them to live as independently and self-directed as possible.

One Vision also provides **employment services**, helping people discover their strengths, develop skills, find meaningful work, and build greater independence through employment in their communities.

Supporting this mission are One Vision's **Thrift Services and Senior Living branches**, which provide valuable services to the community while contributing to the organization's financial sustainability and creating additional opportunities for people connected to One Vision.

Together, these efforts reflect One Vision's commitment to supporting the whole person—not simply providing services, but helping people have greater choice, build meaningful connections, contribute to their communities, and pursue their best lives.



Building on a Strong Foundation

Dr. Williams succeeds **Mark Dodd**, who has served as One Vision's CEO for more than nine years.

“While we will miss Mark's leadership, we are deeply grateful for his years of service and the strong foundation he leaves behind,” Fischer said. “Mark's impact extends far beyond the walls of One Vision. His vision, compassion, and commitment have touched countless lives across North Iowa.”

During his tenure, Dodd worked alongside families, community leaders, businesses, volunteers, and supporters to expand opportunities for people with disabilities to be seen, valued, included, and empowered to pursue meaningful lives in their communities.

One Vision is grateful for Dodd's leadership and the legacy he leaves as the organization welcomes its next chapter.

As One Vision celebrates **55 years of turning a shared vision into greater independence, inclusion, and opportunity**, the organization looks forward to Dr. Williams' leadership and to continuing to evolve its services to meet the changing needs and aspirations of the people it supports.

About One Vision

One Vision is a North Iowa nonprofit organization committed to standing with and supporting people with disabilities to pursue their best life. For 55 years, One Vision has partnered with individuals, families, businesses, and communities to advance independence and inclusion.

Through **Home and Community-Based Services, person-centered traditional and Smart Living support models, and employment services**, One Vision helps people build lives based on their own choices, goals, and dreams. Mission-supporting branches, including **Thrift Services and Senior Living**, further strengthen the organization's ability to fulfill its mission and create opportunities throughout the communities it serves.

