

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Chris Cournoyer, Lieutenant Governor

Kelly Garcia, Director

March 4, 2025

Dear County Official,

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) is committed to promoting health and wellness for all Iowans. Last year, Governor Kim Reynolds proposed landmark legislation to build an integrated behavioral health service system and create disability access points to serve all Iowans. Passed with bi-partisan support, HF2673 creates a new legal framework to bring the Governor's vision to reality.

Iowa HHS has been hard at work with our partners statewide, including behavioral health and disability service providers, system beneficiaries, family members, advocates, contractors, MHDS Regional administrators and local officials to plan for the transitions necessary to effect the new law. We recognize that Iowa's county officials also need clear information for their planning and budgeting purposes. We've also heard that not all feel that they have the clarity they need. Iowa HHS is sharing the information attached to this message to help answer questions from our partners in counties across the state.

In addition, Iowa HHS' Aging and Disability Services Director, Zach Rhein and Behavioral Health Director, Marissa Eyanson, will join the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC)'s weekly Legislative Webinar on Friday, March 7, 2025 at 10:30AM. If you have further questions after you've reviewed the materials that accompany this letter, please submit the questions directly to Iowa HHS via this link: [Submit questions ahead of time.](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting Iowans.

Attachments:

Regional Operational Guidance letter

County Official Questions and Answers

Administrative and County Employee Expenditures by County (SFY24) – *if needed, counties can work through ISAC and/or with MHDS Regional Administrators for more recent financial information*