

Disability Access Points Transformation



Background

On May 15, 2024, a new law called House File 2673 was signed in Iowa. This law will make some changes to how non-Medicaid disability services are managed in the state. Coordination of disability services will move from MHDS Regions to Disability Access Points (DAPs) who will be part of the state's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Network.

Why is it important?

- ▶ The **ADRC creates easier navigation and access to services**, there is no wrong door for getting access to the services you need, no matter where in the state you live.
- ▶ **Focuses on each person and their unique needs**, making sure people with disabilities and their families get the right kind of support.
- ▶ **Connects Iowans with other important programs** like Medicaid, Public Health, and Behavioral Health.

Disability Access Points

A Disability Access Point (DAP) is a local place that helps people with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers find the services and support they need—both short-term and long-term. DAPs help by giving information, making plans, making referrals and checking in to make sure people are getting the right support to live healthy, independent lives.

There are four agencies designated as DAPs across seven districts in Iowa. These agencies are part of Iowa's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Network.

In each area, DAPs will:

- ▶ **Give people and caregivers helpful information** and guide them to local service providers in their community.
- ▶ **Be part of the ADRC Network**, working as a trusted resource center for aging and disability help.
- ▶ **Team up** with local leaders, individuals with disabilities and disability programs to make sure disability services are meeting community needs.

Continuity of Care

If you or someone you care for is currently getting services through an MHDS Region, there is nothing you need to do. Your services will stay the same. Someone from your local DAP will reach out to you and your team in May and June to transition coordination of your services. The person who helps plan and connect you to services (called a service coordinator) might be different, but the service providers will stay the same.

Here's what else is happening:

- ▶ From January to June, Iowa HHS will work closely with the MHDS Regions and DAPs to make sure the switch goes smoothly.
- ▶ DAPs will work with providers (the people and places that give care and support) for short-term services and supports (STSS).
- ▶ Iowa HHS will look at special programs in each area and work with DAPs to keep services going and make sure people continue to get the care they need.



April 1

DAP
contracts
signed with
Iowa HHS



June 1

DAP
approved



May-June

Warm hand off
from MHDS Regions
to DAPs for service
coordination



July 1

DAP to
go Live