

Iowa Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME)

TOWNHALL



Health and
Human Services



Agenda

- ▶ HOME 2025 Priorities
- ▶ HOME Services and Providers Workgroup Overview
- ▶ Public Comment Period Updates

2025 Priorities for HOME

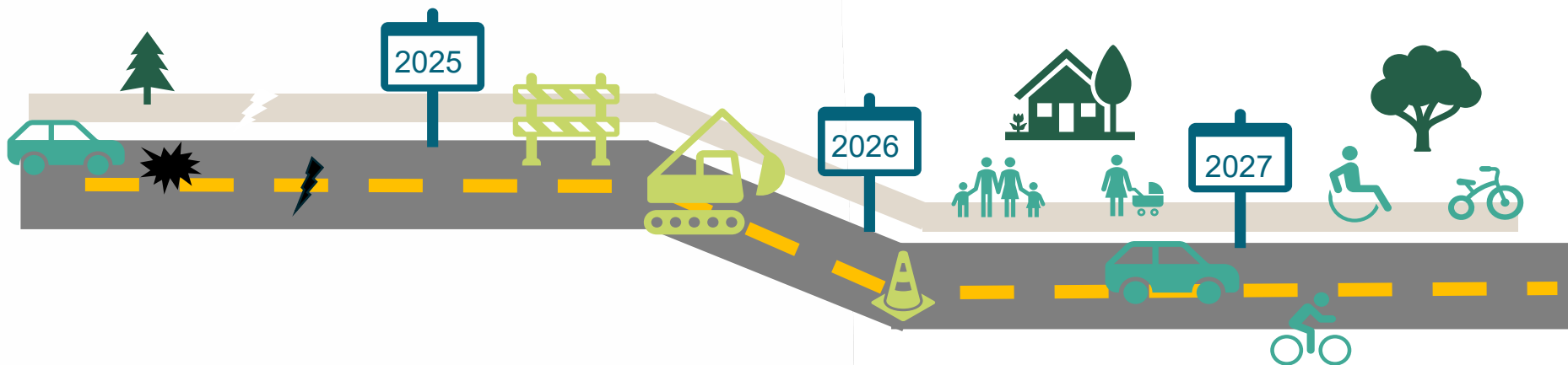
Paving the Path to Integrated Behavioral Health, Disability and Aging Services in Iowa

The guiding principles of HOME remain at the center of our work.

Currently, Iowans face roadblocks in getting behavioral health care, disability services, and support with aging.

From 2022 to 2024, Iowa HHS worked with Iowans to learn how to create a coordinated system with better access to services.

Starting in 2025, Iowans will see improvements to the programs and services that provide support for people to live independently and in their community.



HOME Check-In Meetings

- ▶ HHS has been working closely with Iowa state leadership to chart the best path forward for HOME implementation.
- ▶ HOME remains a priority for HHS as was communicated by Director Garcia to the state legislature and Medicaid townhall in January and February 2025.
- ▶ Today, we are excited to share more about the next steps for HOME in 2025!

Supporting HOME: Services and Providers Workgroup

HOME Services and Providers Workgroup



Purpose

Iowa HHS has convened a Workgroup to discuss pertinent topics related to Home and Community-Based Services under the HOME waivers. The Workgroup provides feedback and generates ideas related to a variety of areas of impact for providers.



Members

- ▶ **17** representatives from provider organizations across Iowa
- ▶ **12** representatives from Iowa's 3 Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

Workgroup Discussion Topics

Provider requirements and qualifications

Provider communications and engagement activities

Provider capacity and retention strategies

Provider enrollment and transition to HOME waivers

Key Ideas as of July 2025

► Communications and Engagement

- Share visual aids, such as diagrams, where possible.
- Use varied methods of communications to reach as many people as possible.
- Ensure robust communication with case managers.
- Host topic-specific provider town halls.

► Provider Requirements

- Consider expanding provider types for certain services to support in expanding capacity.
- Review existing state/national standards to identify opportunities for alignment.
- Adjust oversight and training protocols.
- Support providers in adapting to new requirements.

► Provider Capacity

- Enhance and streamline provider application.
- Support providers in leveraging telehealth when appropriate.
- Further publicize Iowa's Learning Management System (LMS) as a method of supporting provider training and education.
- Support interagency mentoring opportunities.

► Transition and Enrollment under HOME

- Create and share resources such as a crosswalk aligning previous and new services under HOME.
- Provide more visibility into the status of provider applications.

Next Steps

- ▶ The HOME Services and Providers Workgroup will continue to convene monthly through September 2025.
 - Upcoming topics include reviewing additional proposed provider communications and providing input on strategies for enhancing provider capacity.
- ▶ HHS is actively working on synthesizing the feedback shared by the Workgroup and will continue to investigate and identify opportunities to integrate ideas for supporting providers.

Waiver Changes for July Public Comment

About

- ▶ We're sharing these updates to keep you informed about what's coming next.
 - HHS is working on timing and fine-tuning the approach.
 - This is an early preview and some details might change.
- ▶ We'd love your input on what members and providers need to hear—so we can ensure the message is clear, relevant, and responsive to their needs.
- ▶ We'd like your feedback on how to communicate the changes to the public describing the public comment period.

Waiver Changes for July Public Comment

- ▶ HHS plans to submit amendments to the current HCBS waivers for public comment in July.
- ▶ HHS is targeting approval from CMS for proposed waiver amendments to go-live on January 1, 2026.
- ▶ The goal of making these changes now rather than waiting for the new HOME waiver go-live is to set up structures to ease the transition from the current to new waivers in the future.

Summary of Waiver Changes for July Public Comment

- ▶ Individual Consumer Directed Attendant Care (ICDAC) transition
- ▶ Move to a single assessment entity
- ▶ Implementation of uniform assessment
- ▶ Use of InterRAI-Early Years for 0-3
- ▶ Implement amended WPNA (waiver prioritization needs assessment)
- ▶ Aligning service definitions
- ▶ Other technical changes, such as:
 - Updating ISB to optional
 - Minor language updates (e.g., “exception to policy” verbiage)

Waiver Changes Details

- ▶ The next few slides provide more details about two of the proposed waiver amendments:
 - Aligning service definitions
 - Updating amended WPNA (waiver prioritization needs assessment)

Waiver Waitlist Rollout Plan Overview

Iowa's HCBS waiver waitlists will be updated to:

- 1 Improve efficiency by reducing duplication across waitlists
- 2 Expedite waiver services for individuals with higher risk of institutionalization
- 3 Improve the user experience for waitlist members by increasing transparency and accessibility

WPNA Updates

The WPNA is an optional questionnaire that members on the waitlist can fill out to describe their needs. The waiver amendment will add two new questions that will help HHS understand a members' risks for institutionalization

Added new questions

- Risk of institutionalization is a weighted scoring based on the results of confirmatory analysis

Age, overnight hospital stays, and emergency department visits

- Populations of interest are documented without scoring

Age, overnight hospital stays, and emergency department visits

Clarified language

- Minor updates made to improve clarity and conciseness of questions in response to steering committee feedback

Updated formatting

- Prompts for narrative description included after each question as opposed to one prompt

Service Alignment

- ▶ Two components of service alignment:
 - Aligning definitions across the current HCBS waivers
 - Updating service definitions to reflect merged services under the proposed HOME waivers
- ▶ Intended to simplify and smooth the transition from the current waivers to new HOME waivers in the future.
- ▶ Merging services is intended to help connect members to the right services to best match their needs.

For instance, some waiver services have different names but similar or overlapping service definitions.

Example:

Home and Vehicle Modifications and Environmental Modifications and Adaptive Devices.

Questions?



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