

Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME) Waiver Waitlist Improvements

As part of the [Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments \(HOME\) project](#), The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) is redesigning its Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver system. The goal is to make services easier to understand, help people stay in their homes and communities, and connect them with the right supports.

Iowa HHS is working to improve how the waiver waitlists work in the future. The new plan will:

1. Reduce confusion by combining similar waitlists
2. Help people at higher risk of going into an institution get services faster
3. Make the waitlist process easier to understand and more transparent

To move towards these goals, Iowa HHS is proposing to start with a few small changes.

WPNA (Waiver Prioritization Needs Assessment) Updates

The WPNA is a form you can opt to fill out if you're on a waiver waitlist. It helps Iowa HHS learn more about what support you need. It asks questions about urgent problems, like whether you have a caregiver, a safe place to live, or if you're facing safety concerns. Iowa HHS is keeping all the questions that are on the WPNA now to stay focused on these urgent needs. They are also proposing to add new questions about the risk of someone needing to live in an institution like a nursing home.

Here is what Iowa HHS is proposing to change:

- Iowa HHS is adding two new questions to help measure your risk of needing institutional care
- Iowa HHS is rewording some questions to be clearer and easier to understand
- You'll now see space for short answers after each question
- The form will ask about your age, hospital stays, and emergency room visits

Public comment period

Before anything changes, Iowa HHS is currently asking for [public feedback](#) on the proposed updates to the current waivers. This is your chance to share your thoughts, questions, or concerns.

You can email comments about the proposed changes to:

HCBS_Public_Comment@hhs.iowa.gov

Have more questions about the plans for waitlists? Visit the updated [HOME FAQ](#).