

# HCBS Updates

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# Agenda

- ▶ HCBS Waiver and Habilitation updates-January 1, 2026, changes
- ▶ HOME project updates
- ▶ Intensive Residential Services (IRS) Certification and Recertification
- ▶ Provider Self-Assessment Solution-2025 Self-Assessment

# HCBS Waiver and Habilitation updates- January 1, 2026 changes

# Proposed Waiver Amendments



HHS released proposed waiver amendments to the current HCBS waivers for public comment on Aug. 20, 2025



HHS intends to request CMS approval 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 Proposed Waiver Changes

- ▶ Transition Individual Consumer Directed Attendant Care (I-CDAC)
- ▶ Implement and collect data on core set of interRAI items
- ▶ Use of InterRAI-Early Years for 0-3
- ▶ Implement amended Waiver Prioritization Needs Assessment (WPNA)
- ▶ Align service definitions (see slide 8)
- ▶ Make technical changes, such as:
  - Move to a single assessment entity
  - Update Independent Support Broker (ISB) to optional
  - Minor language updates (e.g., “exception to policy” verbiage)

For details on updates to the Waiver Priority Needs Assessment (WPNA), please see the slide deck from the 05.30.2025 HOME MCO Check-In Meeting

# 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

# Anticipated January 2026 Service Code Changes (1 of 2)

Pending CMS waiver amendment approval, HHS will modify the following waiver service names and codes for Jan. 1, 2026:

Current Service Name	Current Code	Anticipated New Service Name	Anticipated New Code and Service Name
ICDAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• T1019</li><li>• T1019 U3</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-directed personal care</li><li>• Skilled self-directed personal care</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• T1019 Self-directed personal care unskilled</li><li>• T1019 U3 Skilled self-directed personal care</li></ul>
Agency Consumer-Directed Attendant Care (unskilled and skilled)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S5125</li><li>• S5125 U3</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attendant Care</li><li>• Skilled Attendant Care</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S5125 Attendant Care</li><li>• S5125 U3 Skilled Attendant Care</li></ul>
Senior Companion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S5135</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Companion Care</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S5135 Companion Care</li></ul>
Homemaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S5130</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home Maintenance Support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S5130 Home Maintenance Support</li></ul>
Chore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S5120</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home Maintenance Support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S5130 Home Maintenance Support</li></ul>

# Anticipated January 2026 Service Code Changes (2 of 2)



HHS is starting the process of updating the service codes in MMIS.



MCOs will receive official notification of the changes in advance of the service code update to allow time for system updates.

*Fee schedule files will be posted on HHS website at: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid/provider-services/covered-services-rates-and-payments/fee-schedules>*



# Hope and Opportunity in Many Environment (HOME)

# Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (**HOME**) Overview

Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME) is a project in Iowa that is working to improve and ensure that everyone has access to high-quality behavioral health, disability and aging services in their communities.

# Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (**HOME**) Overview



## ALIGN PROGRAM DESIGN TO MEET IOWANS' NEEDS

- ✓ Restructure waivers to simplify options, provide a broader service array, and better address the needs of all age groups and disability types including children, older adults, and Iowans with autism
- ✓ Support for transitioning from diagnosis-based to needs-based waiver structure
- ✓ Address provider capacity issues alongside waiver changes to ensure Iowans can access needed waiver services

# Proposed Waiver Structure Update

## Change waiver structure

- Remove six diagnosis-based waivers
- Add two age-based waivers

## Keep the current Elderly Waiver for members age 65+ who are not otherwise disabled

- Members on the Adult with Disabilities Waiver who have a disability will stay on that waiver after age 65
- Services in the Elderly Waiver will not change at this time
  - May change over time to include services that delay or divert institutional care

# Proposed New Waiver Structure



**ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT** | To be eligible, individuals must meet two criteria: **(1)** they need the level of care that would be provided in an institution, and **(2)** their disability fits into one of the categories below.

## CURRENT HCBS WAIVERS (2023)

WAIVER	GROUPS SERVED	AGES SERVED
Elderly	Aging	65+
Intellectual Disability	Intellectual Disability	0+
Brain Injury	Brain Injury	0+
AIDS/HIV	AIDS/HIV	0+
Health & Disability	Physical disability; blind or disabled	0-64
Physical Disability	Physical disability; blind or disabled	18-64
Children's Mental Health	Serious emotional disturbance (SED)	0-17



## PROPOSED WAIVER REDESIGN (2025/2026)

WAIVER	GROUPS SERVED	AGES SERVED
Children & Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intellectual disability</li> <li>Brain injury</li> <li>AIDS/HIV</li> <li>Physical disability, including blindness</li> <li>SED</li> <li>Developmental Disabilities <b>NEW</b></li> </ul>	0-20
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intellectual disability</li> <li>Brain injury</li> <li>AIDS/HIV</li> <li>Physical disability, including blindness</li> <li>Aging</li> <li>Developmental Disabilities <b>NEW</b></li> </ul>	21+

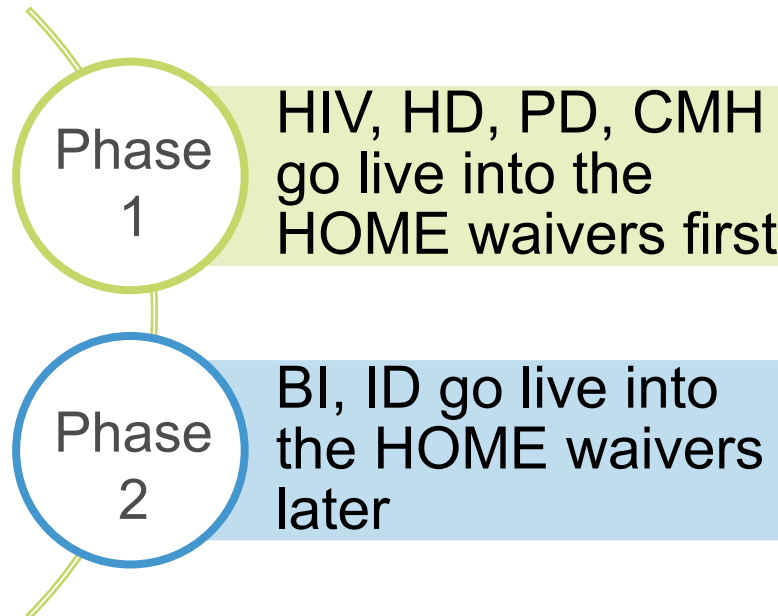
# HOME Next Steps



Health and  
Human Services

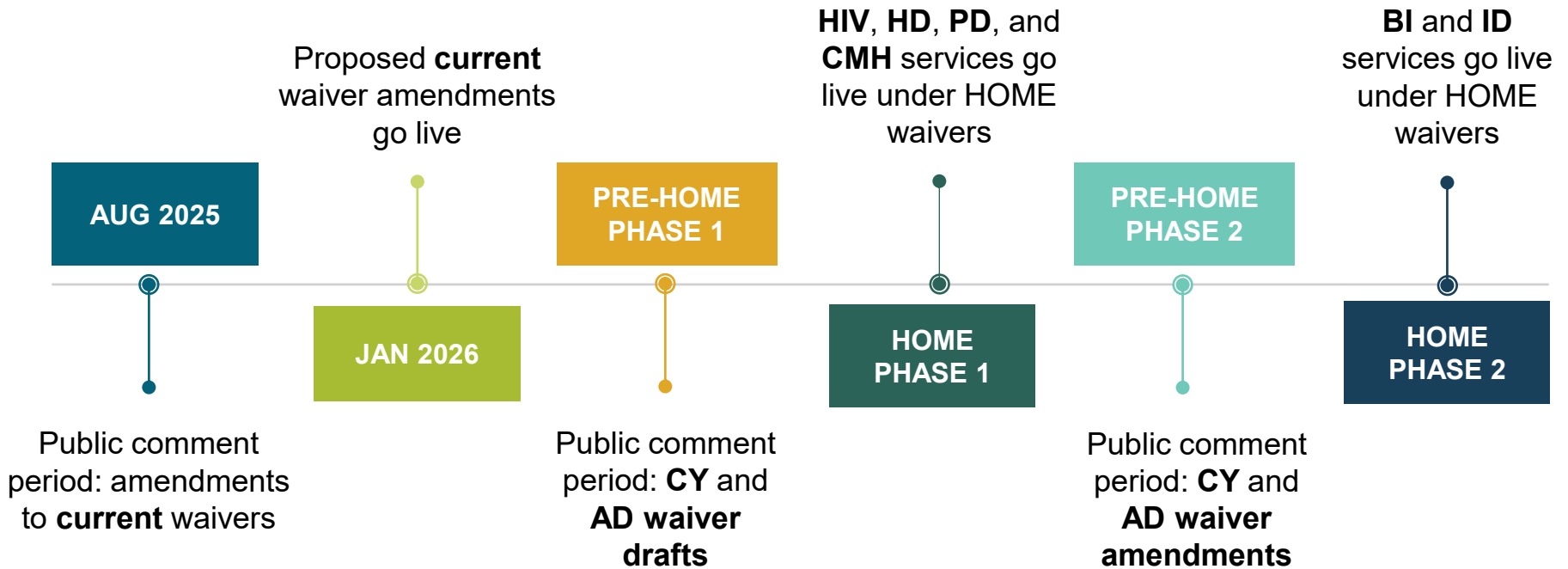
# HOME Waiver Implementation Phasing

**The implementation of HOME waivers will be phased; not all services will be transitioned in initially.**



Note: Elderly waiver is not currently part of the phasing plan and will remain in place after HOME waiver implementation.

# HOME Implementation Overview





# HOME Activities

## Individual Budgets

- Year 1 implementation approach
- Budget review process
- Systems impacts

## Continue drafting the HOME Waiver Applications

- Child and Youth Waiver
- Adults with Disabilities Waiver
- Targeting Public Comment for December 1, 2025, through January 8, 2026
- Targeting submission to CMS by February 01, 2026

## Uniform Assessment

- Continue planning for implementation of the collection of the core supplemental questions to be added to the interRAI tools

# HOME Activities

## Continue HOME Domain IT and HHS Systems Work – Requirements mapping

- Waiver Redesign
- Waitlist Management
- Case Management

## Ongoing Public Engagement

- Steering Committee
- Medicaid Townhalls
- Website updates - Drafting informational pages
- Updating HOME FAQs Documents
- Home Newsletter
- Provider Communication Plan
- Member Communication Plan

# HOME Resources

- ▶ **Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME)**

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid/about-medicaid/medicaid-projects/home>

- ▶ **Home Milestones**

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid/about-medicaid/medicaid-projects/home/home-milestones>

- ▶ **Stakeholder Engagement**

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid/about-medicaid/medicaid-projects/home/stakeholder-engagement>

- ▶ **Wavier Redesign FAQ**

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid/about-medicaid/medicaid-projects/home/waiver-redesign-faq>

- ▶ **Medicaid Townhalls**

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/public-meetings/medicaid-town-halls>

If you have questions about HOME, please send us a line at [iowahcbs@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:iowahcbs@mathematica-mpr.com)



Health and  
Human Services

# Intensive Residential Services (IRS) Certification and Recertification

# IRS

- ▶ Intensive Residential Services (IRS) are intended to serve adults with the most severe and persistent mental health conditions who have functional impairments and may also have multi-occurring conditions.
- ▶ This service provides intensive **24-hour** supervision, behavioral health services, and other supportive services in a community-based residential setting.
- ▶ Providers of intensive residential service homes (IRSH) are enrolled with Medicaid as providers of home and community-based services (HCBS) habilitation home-based habilitation (HBH) **or** HCBS intellectual disability (ID) waiver supported community living (SCL), & meet additional criteria specified in rule, manual, the waiver application and State Plan Amendment (SPA)

# Certification for IRS

- ▶ The Mental Health Disability Services Regions were transitioned to Behavioral Health Districts July 1, 2025.
- ▶ Iowa Medicaid is assuming responsibility for certification and recertification of IRS providers and IRSH locations.
- ▶ To be eligible for IRS certification, a provider must delivered Supported Community Living (SCL) or a Home-Based Habilitation (HBH) service for a minimum of one year or more and be a provider in good standing with Iowa Medicaid.
- ▶ IRS certification is granted for a maximum of one (1) year, and annual recertification is required to maintain eligibility.

# Certification for IRS

- ▶ Iowa Medicaid's HCBS Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) will begin certifying new IRS applicants and recertifying current IRS providers and the approval of IRS settings during Fall/Winter 2025.
- ▶ Current IRS providers whose MHDS regional designation has or will soon expire will be prioritized for certification.
- ▶ Certification and recertification process will be similar to the current process for certification of Residential-based Supported Community Living (RBSCL) providers and approval of RBSCL settings.
- ▶ Initial certification and annual recertification will include onsite visits and record reviews.

# Certification for IRS

Questions regarding current IRS certification and recertification should be addressed to the provider's [HCBS Specialist](#).



# Provider Self-Assessment Solution-2025 Self- Assessment

## QIO HCBS



QIO HCBS Provider Quality Oversight consists of **6 regional provider quality specialists and 1 application specialist.**

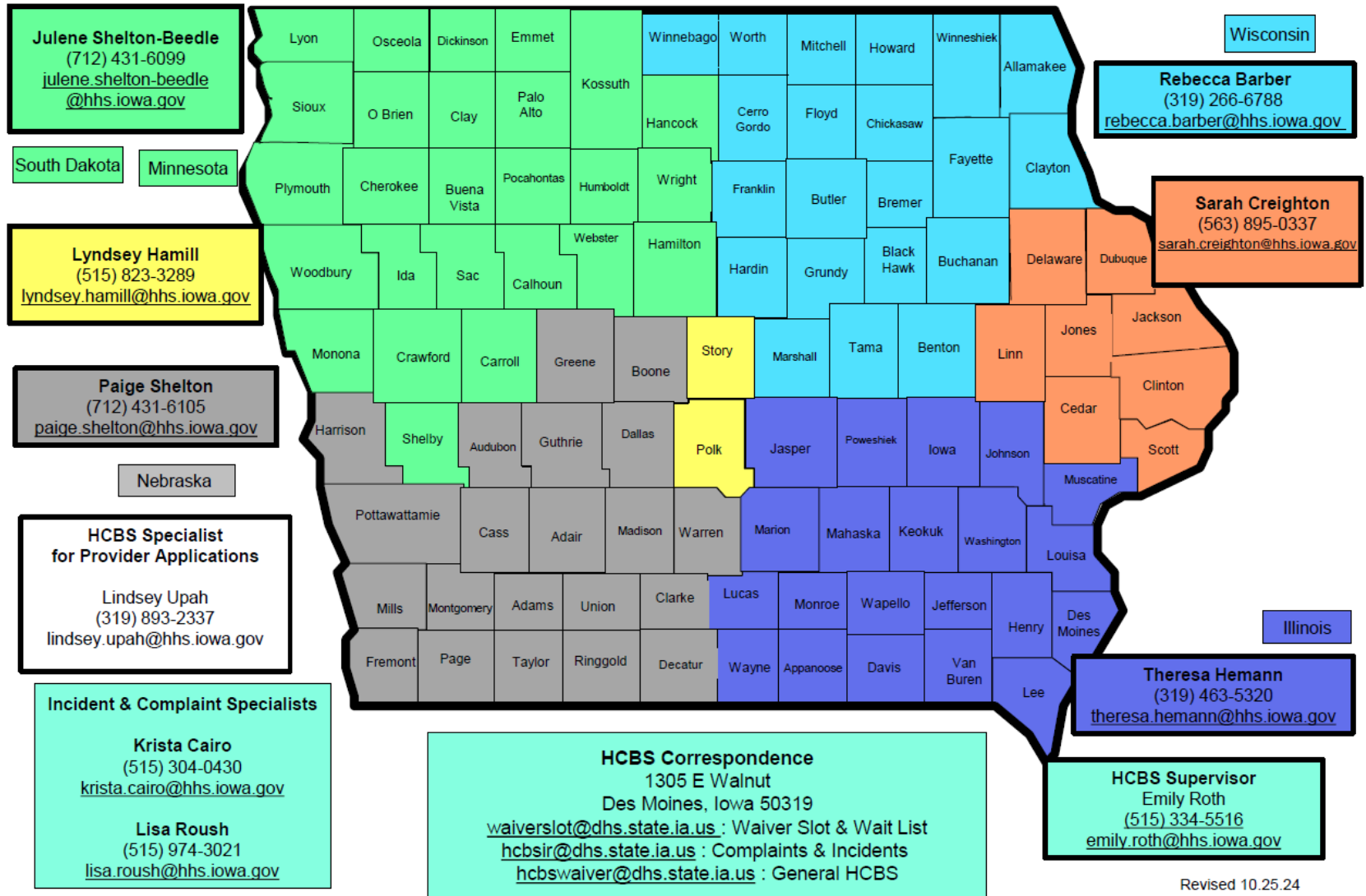


QIO HCBS is responsible for quality oversight of **over 440 Medicaid-enrolled providers of HCBS services.**



Services are provided in **over 5000 provider-owned or -controlled residential and non-residential settings** in the state of Iowa.

# HCBS PROVIDER QUALITY SPECIALIST SERVICE REGIONS



# Applicable HCBS Waiver and Habilitation Services

- ▶ Adult Day Care
- ▶ Agency Consumer-Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- ▶ Assisted Living Service
- ▶ Behavior Programming
- ▶ Counseling
- ▶ Day Habilitation
- ▶ Elderly Waiver Case Management
- ▶ Family and Community Support Services
- ▶ Family Counseling and Training
- ▶ Home-Based Habilitation
- ▶ In-Home Family Therapy
- ▶ Interim Medical Monitoring and Treatment (IMMT)
- ▶ Medical Day Care for Children
- ▶ Mental Health Outreach
- ▶ Prevocational Services
- ▶ Residential-Based Supported Community Living (RBSCL for children)
- ▶ Respite
- ▶ Supported Community Living (SCL)
- ▶ Supported Employment (SE)

# Provider-Self Assessment (PSA) Application Launch

- ▶ Web-based application was developed within IMPA that allows providers direct, real-time submission of updates to their organization information and report HCBS settings in a centralized location for review and approval by HCBS Provider Quality Specialists.
- ▶ Application usage is required for HCBS providers who are enrolled for services requiring participation in HCBS quality oversight processes, including the self-assessment.

# PSA Application Use

- ▶ Review Informational Letter #2698 for registration instructions
- ▶ View PSA Application Training, user guide, and other resources
- ▶ Access the PSA application and review existing information.
- ▶ Any updates or changes made by your organization will be reviewed by your HCBS specialist and either be accepted, or rejected with a reason provided.
- ▶ Access the application regularly to keep information current, including reporting new or closed HCBS settings prior to service delivery or within 30 days of the change.
- ▶ Complete annual self-assessment questionnaire when released each fall.
- ▶ Complete “change” self-assessment questionnaire as directed when enrolling additional HCBS services.

# PSA Application Features

- ▶ The application includes four main components:
  - Organization details,
  - Enrollments and qualifications,
  - HCBS settings,
  - Self-assessment questionnaire.

**Attention:** Please take a moment to verify your organization's information. Ensure that all details, including organization, enrollment, and settings are current and accurate, and ensure that any required actions are completed.

Organization Details	Enrollments	Settings	Self-Assessments
Organization Details	Contact Details	Organization Activity Log	Documents

# Applicable HCBS Waiver and Habilitation Services

- ▶ Adult Day Care
- ▶ Agency Consumer-Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- ▶ Assisted Living Service
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- ▶ Respite
- ▶ Supported Community Living (SCL)
- ▶ Supported Employment (SE)



## Provider Dashboard

### Organization

COMMUNITY MENTAL

Organization Status: Active Assigned HCBS Specialist: Jason

**Attention:** Please take a moment to verify your organization's information. Ensure that all details, including organization, enrollment, and settings are current and accurate, and ensure that any required actions are completed.

Organization Details

Enrollments

Settings

Self-Assessments

Organization Details

Contact Details

Organization Activity Log

Documents

### Organization Details

Tax ID* 42	Registered Name* COMMUNITY MENTAL	Common Name Community Mental Health1
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Mobile: . s . y . d . l . t . i . a .

### Physical Address

Address 1* 520			
+ Add C/O, Apt, Suite, Unit			
City* Cedar Rapids	State* IA	Postal Code* 55555	County* Linn
Validated			

### Mailing Address

☐ Same as Physical Address

Address 1* 520			
+ Add C/O, Apt, Suite, Unit			
City* Cedar Rapids	State* IA	Postal Code* 52405	County* Linn
Validated			

# Enrollments

[Overview](#)[All Organizations](#)[All Enrollments](#)[All Settings](#)[All Self-Assessments](#)

ⓘ **Attention:** There are one or more updates to your enrollment. Please complete "Action Needed".

Select Program

Select Service

Select Qualification

Q Search

Clear

+ Add NPI

≡ Bulk Edit

↺ Clear Filter

⬇ Download

🔔 Needs Action <sup>2</sup>

Registered Name	HCBS Specialist	Subsidiary	NPI	LPN	NPI Status	Actions
	Upah, Lindsey				Active	ⓘ Details     Status
	Upah, Lindsey				Active	ⓘ Details     Status

[← Back to Dashboard](#)

### NPI Overview

Organization Name:

NPI

LPN

NPI Status

Action Needed

[Change NPI Status](#)

NPI Details

NPI Activity Log

Service Enrollment

NPI & Enrollment Notes

# HCBS Settings

Overview

All Organizations

All Enrollments

All Settings

All Self-Assessments

Attention: There are one or more updates to your setting. Please complete "Action Needed".

Select Service Provided

Search

Clear

+ Add Setting

Clear Filter

Download

Needs Action 2

Registered Name	Site Name	HCBS Specialist	Address	City	Setting Status	Setting Type
		Barber, Rebecca	Apt. #1	Waterloo	Pending	Residential
		Hamill, Lyndsey		West Des Moines	Active	Residential
		Hamill, Lyndsey		Missouri Valley		

- For instructions for reporting HCBS settings, see Informational Letter (IL) No. 2571.

# Setting Detail

## Setting Overview

Organization Name: [REDACTED]

Setting Status

Active

Setting Type

Residential

Action Needed

Review Activity Log

[Change Setting Status](#)

Setting Details

Setting Activity Log

Setting Notes

## Setting Details

Address

Address 1\*

# Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Instructions

Organization Details

3 Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Data Collection

Guarantee of Accuracy

Review & Submission

Acknowledgement

2 Organizational Standard

Personnel and Training

Policies and Procedures

HCBS Settings

**Organizational Standard**  
**Attention:** Entry on each page is NOT saved unless the Save & Next button is selected.

To provide quality services to members, organizations need to have sound administrative and organizational practices and a high degree of accountability and integrity.

Organizations should have a planned, systematic, organization-wide approach to designing, measuring, evaluating, and improving its level of performance. Use this section to tell us what your organization has in place related to basic standards required by law, rule, industry standards, or best practice.

✓ Purpose And Mission

Select all as:

Does your organization:

1. Have a mission statement that aligns with the needs, ability, and desires of the members served?

✓ Yes

No

N/A

If indicating "No", you must describe a plan to meet the standard(s).

Write Here

✓ Fiscal Accountability

✓ Organizational Oversight

✓ Quality Improvement (QI) Process

✓ Additional Notes

Next

Next

# Tips and Troubleshooting

## PSA Application IS:

- Mandatory for routine provider use.
- For communication and maintenance of records with QIO HCBS only.
- Designed to time out after 10 minutes for security reasons. A 2-minute warning will pop up after 8 minutes of inactivity.

## PSA Application IS NOT:

- Used for documents related to quality oversight review activities.
- A substitute for processes with Iowa Medicaid Provider Enrollment or Provider Services or MCOs.
  - All enrollment, service application, and address change forms still apply.
- Updates in the PSA Application do not currently transfer to IoWANs, MMIS, managed care entities (MCOs), or any other provider system outside of QIO HCBS.

# Links

## ➤ IMPA

<https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/impa/Default.aspx>

- PSA Application

## ➤ HCBS Webpage

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/iowa-medicaid-programs/hcbs>

- HCBS Specialists
- Reporting Settings
- PSA Application Information



# HCBS contacts

## Issue

General HCBS questions

Report an issue or voice a complaint related to an HCBS or CNRS provider

Waiver slot or waiting list questions

Refer an HCBS setting for assessment, or report an issue

General CNRS questions

Intensive Residential Services

## Contact

[hcbswaivers@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:hcbswaivers@hhs.iowa.gov)

Incident and complaints:  
[hcbssir@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:hcbssir@hhs.iowa.gov)

[waiverslot@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:waiverslot@hhs.iowa.gov)

[hcbssettings@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:hcbssettings@hhs.iowa.gov)

[cnrs@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:cnrs@hhs.iowa.gov)

[irsproviders@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:irsproviders@hhs.iowa.gov)





# Questions

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Health and  
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