

Iowa Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME)

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Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME) Project

Iowa HHS is committed to improving its Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver system to improve the lives of Iowans who receive services.

The goals of HOME are to enhance services, support people to remain in their communities with their loved ones and make it easier for people to access the supports they need.

The proposed waivers would serve members across the lifespan and in the living situation that works best for them and their families.

In the current HCBS system...

Challenges	Recommendations
Waitlists are not timely, efficient or needs-based	Streamline waitlists to understand needs and prioritize waiver slots
Services do not align with lowans' needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition to a needs-based, person-centered, equitable waiver system• Expand services to support the whole person• Use the new <i>My Service Plan Limits</i> system to match needs and use funds efficiently
It is not easy to find and access services and supports	Develop a system that is easier to understand and navigate

Populations served on the proposed waivers

ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT : To be eligible, members must meet three criteria: (1) financial eligibility requirements, (2) their disability fits into one of the categories below and (3) they need a level of care that would be provided in an institution.

CURRENT HCBS WAIVERS (2025)

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

PHASE 1 (2026)

WAIVER	GROUPS SERVED	AGES SERVED
Elderly	• Aging	65+
ID	• ID	0+
BI	• BI	0+
Children & Youth	• AIDS/HIV • BI • ID • PD, including blindness • SED • Developmental Disabilities • Autism	0-20
Adults with Disabilities	• AIDS/HIV • BI • ID • Physical disability, including blindness • Development Disabilities • Autism	21+

PHASE 2 (2027)

WAIVER	GROUPS SERVED	AGES SERVED
Elderly	• Aging	65+
Children & Youth	• AIDS/HIV • BI • ID • PD, including blindness • SED • Developmental Disabilities • Autism	0-20
Adults with Disabilities	• AIDS/HIV • BI • ID • Physical disability, including blindness • Development Disabilities • Autism	21+

What is public comment?

What is the public comment period and why does it matter?

► What is a public comment period?

- Iowa HHS operates HCBS using Medicaid waivers. The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires states to have a public comment period for waiver changes.
- A public comment period is a set amount of time when anyone can share their feedback on a proposed change before it's finalized.
- This process makes sure the people who might use the services, and their families and communities, get a chance to share their thoughts and concerns.

Public Comment Period

- ▶ A public comment for the Adults with Disabilities (AD) and Children and Youth (CY) waivers is planned for **December 22, 2025, to January 31, 2026**
- ▶ Iowa HHS is holding 3 public comment sessions:
Monday, January 5, 12:00–1:00 PM CT
Tuesday, January 6, 4:00–5:00 PM CT
Thursday, January 8, 5:00–6:00 PM CT
- ▶ Iowa HHS is preparing a handful of guides for members and families to learn more about the AD, CY and Elderly waivers and their service packages, the assessment process and the public comment process

Next steps

Public Comment – Next Steps

Starting Monday, December 22nd, Iowa HHS will post and share information about the proposed waivers and changes on the [HOME webpage](#).

This will include:

- ▶ A link to the public notice
- ▶ Public comment materials (including quick guides to the waivers)
- ▶ CY and AD Waivers
- ▶ Meeting times and information for January public comment period

Reminder

- ▶ A public comment for the Adults with Disabilities (AD) and Children and Youth (CY) waivers is planned for **December 19, 2025, to January 31, 2026**
- ▶ Iowa HHS is holding three virtual public comment sessions:
Monday, January 5, 12:00–1:00 PM CT (Zoom)
Tuesday, January 6, 4:00–5:00 PM CT (Zoom)
Thursday, January 8, 5:00–6:00 PM CT (Zoom)



Questions?

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Health and
Human Services