

Iowa REACH Implementation Team

January 14th, 2026



Health and
Human Services



Agenda

- ▶ Subcommittee Updates
- ▶ Updates on Department Initiatives
 - Healthy Hometowns
 - HOME Public Comment Period
- ▶ Public comment

Subcommittee Updates

Meeting	December Topics	January Topics
Implementation Team	Review subcommittee recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy Hometowns• HOME Public Comment Period
Consumer Steering Committee	Review subcommittee recommendations	Cancelled due to conflicts with HOME Public Comment Information Session
Intensive Care Coordination Subcommittee	Review draft recommendation memo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy Hometowns• HOME Public Comment Period
Services and Providers Subcommittee	Review draft recommendation memo	
Quality Subcommittee	Review draft recommendation memo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review next steps for QIA Plan
Communications Subcommittee	Assessment communications examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cancelled



Healthy Hometowns Iowa's Rural Health Transformation Program

Healthy Hometowns

- Iowa has been awarded \$200 million from the federal government for investments related to our Rural Health Transformation Program, Healthy Hometowns
- Healthy Hometowns includes several initiatives to improve rural healthcare
- Today, we'll highlight some of the initiatives that may intersect with REACH

Centers of Excellence

Summary of Initiative

- ▶ The state would amend existing Centers of Excellence contracts and add up to 10 new contracts.
- ▶ Contracts would formalize referral partnerships and community investment strategies.
- ▶ Efforts would include enhanced outreach and integration of wraparound social services.
- ▶ Eligible services include maternal and child health and mental and behavioral health.
- ▶ Subcommittees emphasized the need for integrated services that address underlying factors contributing to serious emotional disturbance (SED).

Health Hubs Technical Assistance Provider

Summary of Initiative

- ▶ Supports building partnerships, negotiating agreements, developing payment models, and business planning.
- ▶ Assesses needs and provides tailored technical assistance, including drafting legal agreements and engaging stakeholders.
- ▶ Helps rural facilities navigate the grant application process.
- ▶ Subcommittees recommended technical assistance centers to support small providers and community organizations in implementing new services.

Best and Brightest – Provider Recruitment

Summary of Initiative

- ▶ Offers one-time recruitment and retention incentives with a five-year service commitment.
- ▶ Provides relocation assistance and bonuses.
- ▶ Subcommittees and the Services and Providers Capacity Assessment identified provider shortages that limit the delivery of effective REACH services.

Health Hubs

Summary of Initiative

- ▶ Provides significant funding to support large-scale changes in service delivery.
- ▶ Supports workforce expansion, equipment purchases, and telehealth integration.
- ▶ Subcommittee members emphasized the need to improve workforce availability and access to telehealth services.
- ▶ May help smaller providers implement REACH services more effectively.

School-Based Services

Summary of Initiative

- ▶ Provides contracts to hospitals, rural health centers, FQHCs, local public health agencies, and community health centers to partner with rural schools.
- ▶ Supports staffing, mobile health units, telehealth, training, medical equipment, supplies, and tools for parent engagement.
- ▶ Subcommittees identified a need to strengthen school-based behavioral health services to better support youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED).

Discussion

- ▶ Do any of these opportunities strike you as especially beneficial for youth involved with REACH?
- ▶ Are there any opportunities for the Healthy Hometowns program to intersect with REACH that we may not be considering?

HOME Public Comment Period

Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME) Project

- The HOME project is a statewide initiative to transform Iowa's Medicaid-funded Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) system
- 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.

HOME Project (cont.)

- ▶ Currently, there are 6 diagnosis-based waivers and one elderly waiver to access services
 - Members have expressed concerns about long waitlists and limited information about services under the current system
- ▶ HOME is streamlining the current waivers by replacing them with three age-based waivers
 - The new waiver system is designed to deliver consistent support based on needs rather than diagnoses

What would change under the new Children and Youth Waiver?

Waitlist updates

- ▶ People on a waitlist can choose to fill out the **Waiver Priority Needs Assessment (WPNA)**. The WPNA collects information about your needs and recent medical history, including urgent needs. The WPNA will be expanded to better understand the needs of people on waitlists, including if people are at risk of needing to go into an institution, starting in January 2026.

Eligibility updates

- ▶ The waiver population will be expanded to include individuals with developmental disabilities and autism

Service updates

- ▶ Services that are currently only available through the Brain Injury and Intellectual Disability waivers will be added to the Child and Youth waiver
- ▶ Some waiver services will transition to state plan services

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

Iowa HHS provides Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) through Medicaid waivers. Federal rules require a public comment period when changes to these waivers are proposed.

A public comment period is a set time when the public can review the changes and share feedback before they are finalized. This ensures people who use the services, along with their families and communities, have a chance to voice their input and concerns.

How does the public comment period work?

Step 1: Iowa HHS puts the new waiver application documents online and notifies Iowans. For this public comment period, you will have about five weeks to review the waivers and comment.

- ▶ Information about the Children and Youth (CY) and Adults with Disabilities (AD) waivers and public notice are available at the following link: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-notices>. Paper copies will be made available for review at the HHS Field Offices.
- ▶ Quick guides of the proposed waiver changes are posted on the HHS website.

Step 2: You can submit feedback by mail or email.

- ▶ Written comments may be addressed to Long Term Services and Supports Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicaid, 321 East 12th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0114. Comments may also be sent via electronic mail to: HCBS_Public_Comment@hhs.iowa.gov
- ▶ All comments must be received by: **February 13th, 2026, at 11:59pm CT.**

Step 3: Once the public comment period ends, Iowa HHS will review all the input.

- ▶ Iowa HHS may not reply directly to all comments they receive. They may revise parts of the waiver applications based on feedback.

Where to find more information

We will share information about the proposed waivers and changes on the [**HOME webpage**](#).

- ▶ Public comment notice/overview (plain language explanation of public comment period process)
- ▶ FAQ – HOME Waiver Redesign
- ▶ Cost Neutrality Demonstration (Appendix J) Quick Guide
- ▶ AD waiver quick guide
- ▶ CY waiver quick guide
- ▶ Elderly waiver quick guide (showing no changes)
- ▶ Assessment quick guide
- ▶ HOME Phase 1 service packages
- ▶ HOME Phase 2 service packages

Discussion

- Is there anywhere the state should share information about the public comment period to improve engagement?



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Public Comment



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Appendix

Changes under the proposed waivers

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; blind or disabled • SED • Developmental Disabilities • Autism	0-20
Adults with Disabilities	• AIDS/HIV • BI • ID • PD; blind or disabled • Developmental Disabilities • Autism	21+

PHASE 2

WAIVER	GROUPS SERVED	AGES SERVED
Elderly	• Aging	65+
Children & Youth	• AIDS/HIV • BI • ID • PD; blind or disabled • SED • Developmental Disabilities • Autism	0-20
Adults with Disabilities	• AIDS/HIV • BI • ID • PD; blind or disabled • Developmental Disabilities • Autism	21+

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.

Phase 1: CY Waiver Service Package

Service packages: See Appendix C of the waivers for more information

Daily Activities and Care

- Home Delivered Meals
- Respite
- Transportation
- Medical Day Care for Children

Help with Health needs

- Positive Behavioral Support and Consultation
- Family and Community Support

Day Services

- Prevocational Services
- Supported Employment

Self-Direction Supports

- Financial Management Service
- Independent Support Broker
- Individual Directed Goods and Services

New Services

- Community Transition Services
- Peer Mentoring

Equipment and Modifications

- Assistive Devices
- Home and Vehicle Modifications
- Personal Emergency Response System

Service Crosswalk for Members Moving Onto the CY Waiver

Service packages: See Appendix C of the waivers for more information

- If you are under 21 years old and accessing waiver services, some of your existing services may not be included on the CY waiver service package. The table below shows how some current waiver services will transition to state plan services.

What you receive today	What you can receive after October 1, 2026
In-home Family Therapy (H0046) through CMH waiver	Family training and counseling (T1027) through the CY waiver
Counseling (H0004, 96164, 96165) through HIV waiver	Individual or group therapy (90832, 90834, 90836) through state plan services
Attendant Care- Unskilled (T1019, S5125) through HIV, HD, or PD waivers	Personal Care (S9122 -Rev. Code 572) through state plan services
Attendant Care- Skilled (T1019 U3, S5125 U3), Home Health Aide (T1021), Nursing (T10310, T1031, S9123, S9124), or Interim medical monitoring and treatment (IMMT) (T1002, T1003, T1004, T1004 U3) through HIV, HD, or PD waivers	Private Duty Nursing (T1000, Rev. Code 559) through state plan services

Service Crosswalk for Members Moving Onto the CY (Cont'd)

Service packages: See Appendix C of the waivers for more information

- ▶ There are other services that young adults (age 18-20) may be receiving on their current waivers (HIV, HD) that are not a part of the CY Waiver.
- ▶ These services are not included in the CY waiver because they are adult services, and they are currently used by very few members under age 21.
- ▶ These are listed below; young adults accessing these services should work with their case managers to identify which of the following alternatives may best meet their needs.

What you receive today	What you can receive after October 1, 2026
Adult Day Care (S5100, S5100 UA, S5101, S5102, S5105) through HD waiver	Young adults may instead benefit from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical Day Care for Children (T2027) through the CY waiver• Supported Employment (T2018, H2025, H2023) through the CY waiver
Homemaker (S5130) or Home Maintenance Support (S5120) through HIV and HD waivers	Young adults living on their own who accessed these supports before should instead identify natural supports and community resources to help cover these needs.