



HOME UPDATE

Iowa Medicaid, LTSS Policy

December 2025

Agenda

- ▶ HOME Overview
- ▶ January 1, 2026, HCBS Waiver Changes
- ▶ HOME Implementation
- ▶ HOME Phase I Public Comment Informational Sessions
- ▶ Where to Find More Information

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.

HOME Timeline

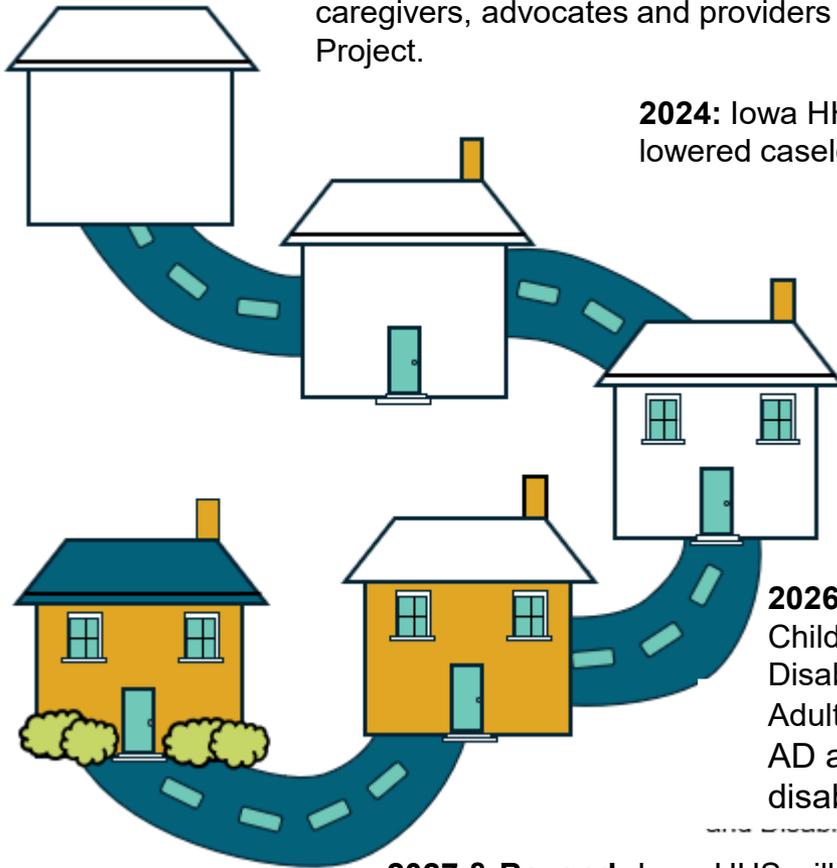
2022 & 2023: Iowa HHS evaluated the HCBS system and spoke with members, caregivers, advocates and providers across Iowa to identify key areas for the HOME Project.

2024: Iowa HHS rolled out standardized case management training and lowered caseloads to give case managers more time with members.

2025: Iowa HHS submitted amendments to their existing HCBS waivers that will go into effect in January 2026. Changes from these amendments include, moving assessments from managed care organizations (MCOs) to an independent assessor and combining a few similar services to make them easier to use and help members find the right services to match their needs.

2026: In October, Iowa HHS will transition members enrolled on the Children's Mental Health (CMH), Health and Disability (HD), Physical Disability (PD) and AIDS/HIV (HIV) waivers into the HOME waivers: the Adults with Disabilities (AD) and Children and Youth (CY) waivers. The AD and CY waivers will also serve Iowans with developmental disabilities and autism.

2027 & Beyond: Iowa HHS will transition members enrolled on the Intellectual Disability (ID), and Brain Injury (BI) waivers into the HOME waivers and will add Supported Community Living, Residential Based Supported Community Living, Day Habilitation and Enabling Technology for Remote Supports onto the HOME waivers.



Findings about the current HCBS system

CHALLENGES

Waitlists are not timely, efficient or needs-based

Services do not align with Iowans' needs

It isn't easy to find and access services and supports

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Streamline waitlists to understand needs and prioritize waiver slots

- Transition to a waiver system that is needs-based, person-centered and equitable
- Expand service offerings to address the whole person
- Use My Service Plan Limits to meet each person's needs and make sure waiver funds are used efficiently

- Develop a system that is easier to understand and navigate

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.

Anticipated January 2026 Service Code Changes

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

Anticipated January 2026 Service Code Changes (2 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
Self-Directed Community Support and Employment	T2018 UC	NA	This service is removed from BI and ID Waiver since those waivers have Supported Employment available to self-direct
Family Counseling and Training	H2021	Family Training	H2021 UC Family Training Services, 15-minute unit
Behavioral Programming - Mental Health Assessment and Plan Development	H0031 and H0032	Positive Behavioral Support and Consultation	H0004 UC Positive Behavioral Support and Consultation, 15-minute unit
Behavioral Programming - Mental Health Assessment and Plan Development	96158 96159	Positive Behavioral Support and Consultation	H0004 UC Positive Behavioral Support and Consultation, 15-minute unit

Anticipated January 2026 Service Code Changes

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

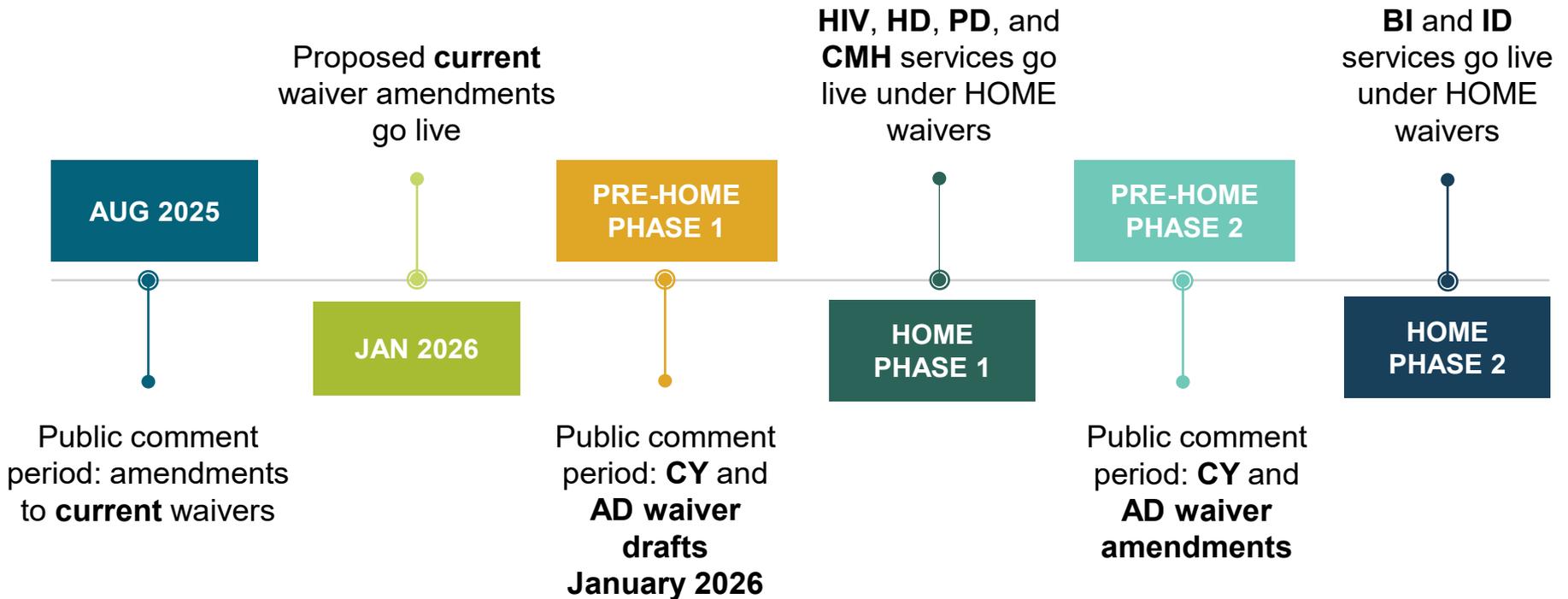
MCOs received official notification of the changes in advance of the service code updates to allow time for system updates.

HHS Iowa Medicaid has published [IL 2722-MC-FFS](#) and an **Implementation Guide**

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

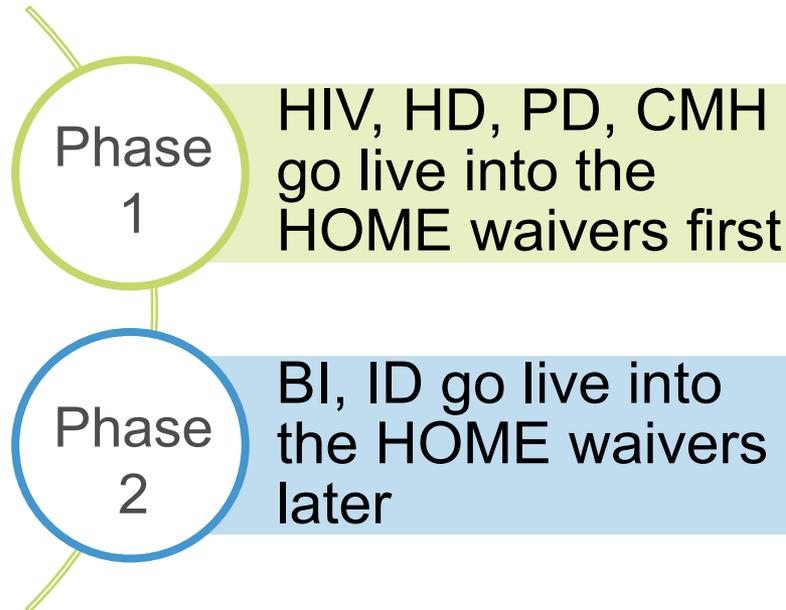
HOME Implementation

HOME Implementation Overview



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.

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

HOME impacts for key populations

- ▶ **Members with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) or serious emotional disturbance (SED)**
 - As currently, children with SED can enroll in a waiver (CY) to receive services such as Respite
 - Adults with SPMI are not eligible for a waiver unless they meet other criteria (like having an intellectual disability). The Habilitation Services program will remain available to adults with SPMI
- ▶ **Members who are aging**
 - The Elderly waiver will remain available to support members 65+ with needs related to aging
 - Members 65+ can enroll in the AD waiver if they meet eligibility criteria
- ▶ **Members with developmental disabilities, including autism**
 - Members will newly be eligible for waivers, and can apply to the CY or AD waiver starting in Phase 1
- ▶ **Members with intellectual disability (ID) or brain injury (BI)**
 - Members will continue to be served by the ID and BI waivers until HOME Phase 2 Services currently only available on these waivers (Supported Community Living, Day Habilitation) will be added to the HOME waivers service package in Phase 2

Major Service Changes proposed in HOME Waivers

▶ **The HOME waivers will include two new services:** Peer Mentoring and Community Transition Service.

▶ **Duplicative Services will end**

- Service packages will be aligned with state plan services, meaning services already offered through the state plan will **no longer be offered through the waivers.**

- Services that will end include:

- In-home Family Therapy, Interim Medical Monitoring and Treatment (IMMT) and Skilled/Unskilled Attendant Care will not be offered on the Children and Youth (CY) waiver because they are already covered through Iowa Care for Kids (EPSDT)

- Counseling is not offered on the HOME waivers due to overlap with state plan mental health services.

- HHS and MCOs are planning to work with members in early 2026 to transition them to appropriate state plan services

- Caregivers who currently provide Attendant Care to their children through the waiver will have to enroll as a provider with a Home Health Agency (HHA). HHS and MCOs will coordinate with HHAs to support this transition.

▶ **Some services that are currently only on the ID and BI waivers will be added to the HOME waiver service package until Phase 2**

- Supported Community Living (SCL) and Residential-Based Supported Community Living (RBSCL)

- Day Habilitation

What are the major updates underway and upcoming for HOME?

January 2026

- **Waitlist:** Expanding the Waiver Priority Needs Assessment (WPNA) to help HHS better understand the needs of people on waitlists, including if people are at risk of institutionalization.
- **Service packages:** Streamlining service definitions and aligning definitions across waivers.
- **Assessment:** Implementing the core questions component of the uniform assessment, with all waiver members using interRAI assessment tools.

Phase 1

- **Assessment:** Implementing last part of full uniform assessment process (utilization of the assessment questionnaire).
- **Service packages:** Aligning service packages with state plan services and adding two new waiver services.
- **Eligibility:** Expanding AD and CY waiver populations to include developmental disability and autism.
- **Service Funding:** Implementing a monthly funding limit based on level of care.

Phase 2

- **Service funding:** Implementing My Service Plan Limit (mySPL), a monthly funding limit for services based on assessed need.
- **Service packages:** Adding services currently only on BI and ID waivers to AD and CY waivers

HOME Activities

Individual Budgets

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

HOME Waiver Applications

- Children and Youth Waiver
- Adults with Disabilities Waiver
- Public Comment for targeted for January 5, 2026, through February 6, 2026
- Targeting submission in the WMS for mid-February

Uniform Assessment

- Implementation of the collection of the core supplemental questions 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 Waivers: Phase I Public Comment Informational Sessions

Public Comment Informational Sessions

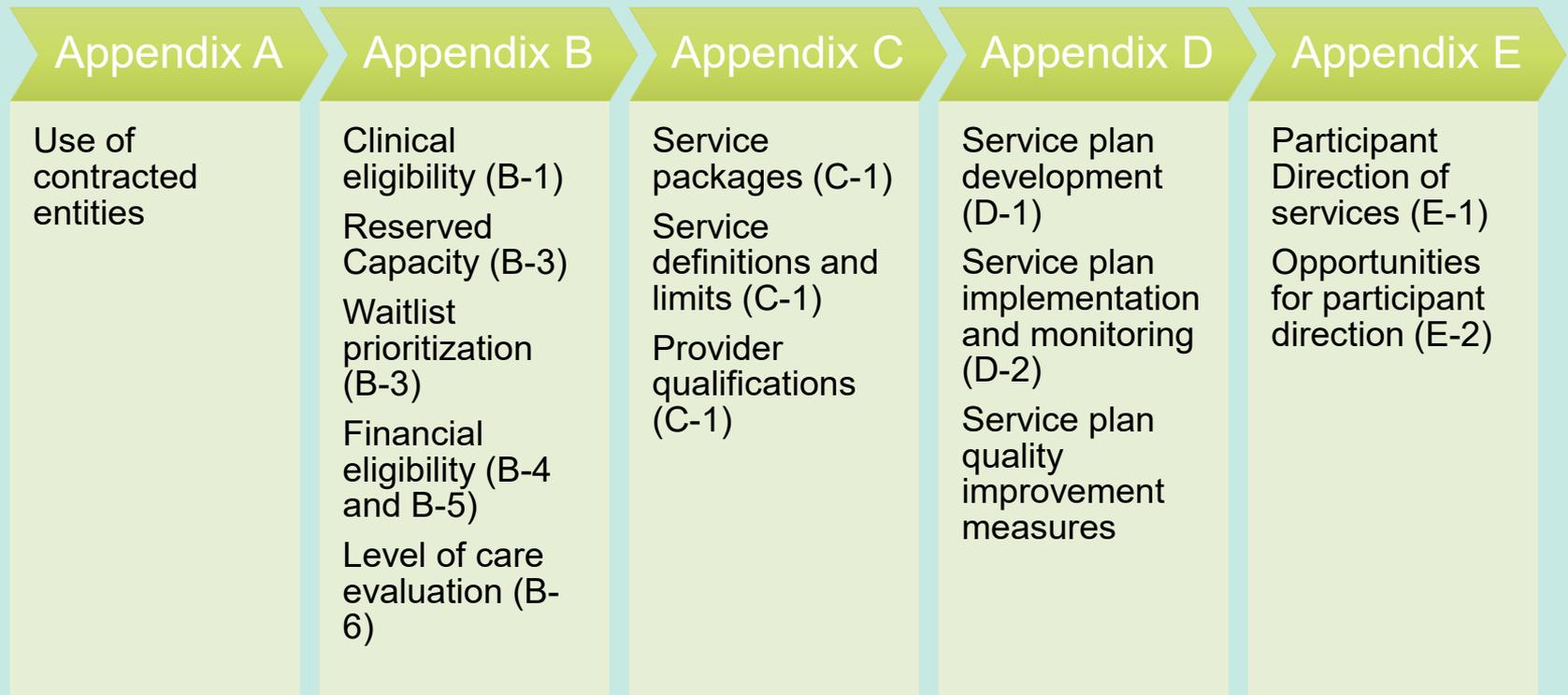
Iowa HHS is holding 3 public comment informational sessions to present an overview of the HOME project, describe important updates underway and explain the public comment period for the Children and Youth and Adults with Disabilities waivers.:

January 5, 12:00–1:00 PM CT

January 6, 4:00–5:00 PM CT

January 8, 5:00–6:00 PM CT

Overview of the waiver applications



Overview of the waiver applications

Appendix F

- Opportunity to request a fair hearing (F-1)
- Additional dispute resolution process (F-2)
- State grievance complaint system (F-3)

Appendix G

- Response to Critical Events or Incidents (G-1)
- Restraints and Restrictive Interventions (G-2)
- Medication Management and Administration (G-3)
- Quality Improvement

Appendix H

- Quality Improvement Strategy: Systems Improvement (H-1)
- Quality Improvement Strategy: Use of a Patient Experience of Care/Quality of Life Survey (H-2)

Appendix I

- Financial Integrity and Accountability (I-1)
- Rates, Billing and Claims (I-2)
- Payment (I-3)
- Non-Federal Matching Funds (I-4)
- Exclusion of Medicaid Payment for Room and Board (I-5)
- Payment for Rent and Food Expenses of an Unrelated Live-In Caregiver (I-6)
- Participant Co-Payments for Waiver Services and Other Cost Sharing (I-7)

Appendix J

- Cost neutrality demonstration

Where To Find More Information

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>

▶ **Waiver 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 HOMEwaivers@hhs.iowa.gov



Health and
Human Services



Questions

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**Health and
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