

Notice of Intent to Release

To all interested parties:

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (the Agency) is providing this notice of intent to release a request for proposal (RFP) on or around the end of February or beginning of March 2026 for the Iowa Best and Brightest program. This RFP will award organizations with funds to recruit providers to rural areas. The agency expects funds for approximately 40 provider recruitment awards. Please see the Agency's Rural Health Transformation Grant website ([Rural Health Transformation \(RHT\) | Health & Human Services](#)) for additional information about the Healthy Hometowns initiative.

The RFP for the Best and Brightest Provider Recruitment and Retention, RFP # PHTHORC26012, that the Agency anticipates releasing on or around the end of February or beginning of March 2026, will be posted to [IowaGrants](#). The following is a tentative timeline for the RFP; these dates are estimates and are subject to change:

March 2026: Question and answer period after release of the RFP

Early April 2026: Deadline for bid proposals.

Late April/Early May 2026: HHS to award contract(s)

Mid-May/Early June 2026: Contract begins.

Once the RFP is released publicly, it will contain question and answer periods so the Agency may address questions that organizations may have about the RFP or procurement process at that time. When the RFP is released, please see the instructions for submitting any questions you may have.

Prior to release of RFP, questions about this release can be submitted to:

healthyhometowns@hhs.iowa.gov

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