



# Iowa Wellness Plan Demonstration - Annual Forum

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Health and  
Human Services

# Purpose of Today's Forum

Annual public forum required by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for the State's operation of the Iowa Wellness Plan (IWP)

Demonstration to:

- Provide public transparency and opportunity for feedback.
- Report on access, quality, member experience, and dental care.
- Include notable themes from member comment.

# About the IWP Demonstration

- Section 1115 of the Social Security Act gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services authority to approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that promote the objectives of the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) programs.
- Under this authority, the Secretary may waive certain provisions of the Medicaid law to give states additional flexibility to design and improve their programs. (Medicaid.gov).
- May also be referred to as a demonstration, waiver, 1115 Waiver or 1115 Demonstration.

***Iowa’s Demonstration is called Iowa Wellness Plan (IWP)***

# What is IHAWP?

**Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP)** provides health coverage at low or no cost to lowans between the ages of 19 and 64.

- Eligibility is based on household income.
- May also be referred to as coverage for the “adult expansion population”.
- Some requirements of Medicaid are waived for this coverage group **through the IWP Demonstration.**

# IWP History

## 2014 -2016 | Initial Demonstration Period

Approved as “Iowa Marketplace Choice” (adult expansion group, 100-133% FPL) and “Iowa Wellness Plan” (adult expansion group, 0-100% FPL)

**May 2014:** Amended to include a tiered “Dental Wellness Plan” for the IHAWP population

**December 2015:** Amended to combine 2 initial demonstrations into Iowa Wellness Plan

**February 2016:** Amended to implement managed care for medical and dental services under IWP

## 2017-2019 | Extension

**July 2017:** Amended to expand DWP to all Medicaid and IHAWP adults and removed tiered benefit structure

**November 2017:** Amended to waive retroactive eligibility for all Medicaid beneficiaries (except pregnant women and infants)

**July 2018:** Added individuals in nursing facilities to retroactive eligibility

# IWP History (cont.)

## 2020-2024 | **Extension/Renewal**

Added all children under 19 to retroactive eligibility

**June 2021:** Amended to provide dental benefits to children through Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plans (PAHPs)

## 2025-2026 | **Temporary Extensions**

Effective until **December 31, 2026**

Application for Demonstration Renewal **starting 2027** is pending

# Demonstration Goals

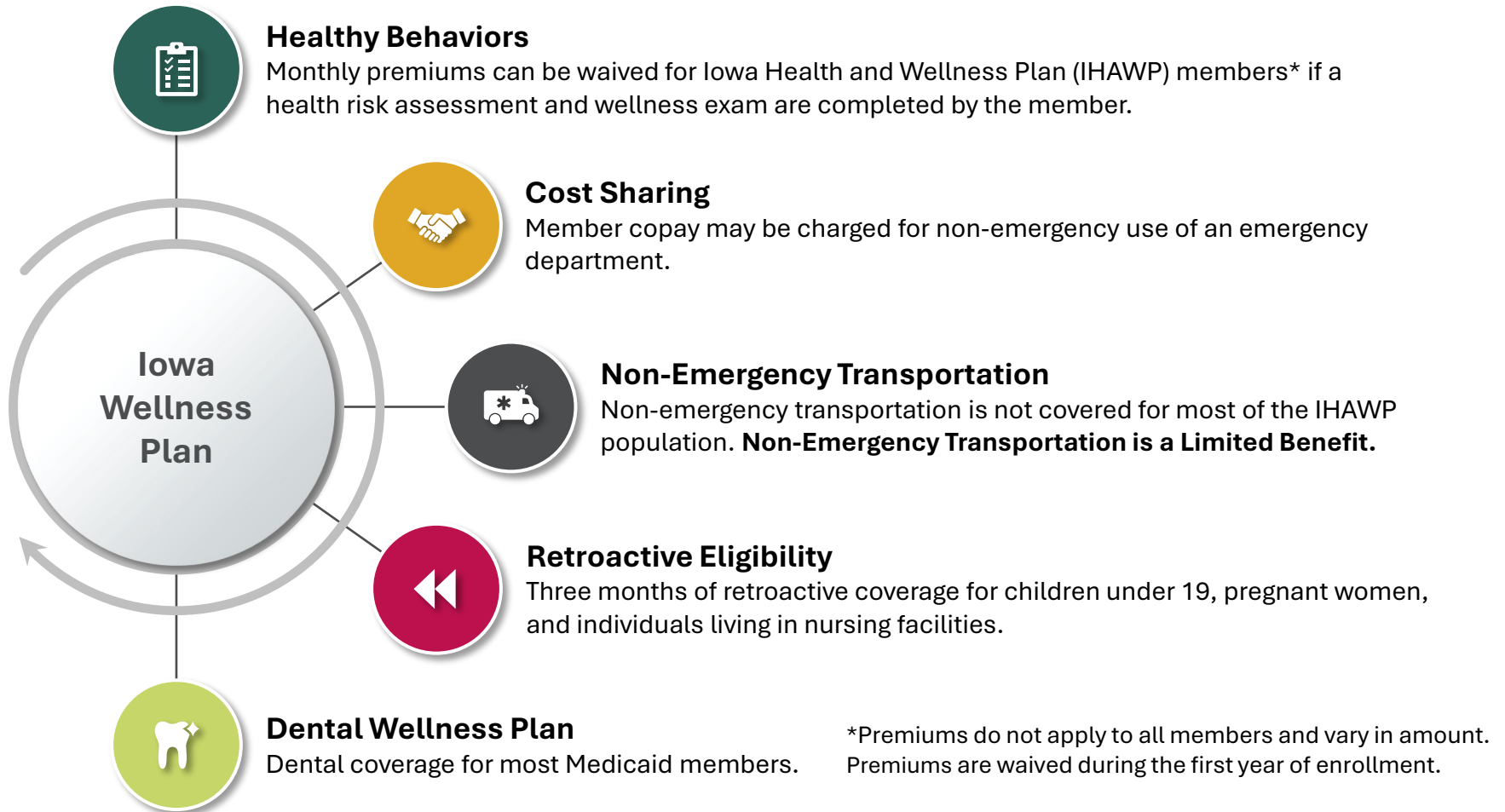
## Iowa Wellness Plan Goals

- Support better health through preventative care and healthy behaviors
- Increase member engagement and responsibility in managing their health
- Expand access to dental services

## Dental Wellness Plan Goals

- Ensure access to high-quality dental care
- Improve provider experience
- Promote oral health through preventive visits and treatment follow-through
- Connect members with a consistent dental home

# Key IWP Demonstration Features



# Demonstration Monitoring Report: Overview

- As part of the IWP demonstration, Iowa Medicaid is required to submit regular monitoring data to CMS.
- The report contains predetermined metrics as agreed upon by CMS and Iowa Medicaid.
- All monitoring reports are available on both the Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) [IHAWP website](#) and [Medicaid.gov](#).

# Monitoring Report: Key Highlights from October-December 2024



Total enrollment is slightly down (1%). Monthly new enrollment has increased from the previous quarter.



Adult provider participation has increased for both primary care and specialty care, with an 8% increase in PCP and 7% increase in specialist provider participation.



Member engagement in healthy behavior incentives has increased by 8%.



Follow-up after emergency department visits and initiation of treatment for drug and alcohol dependency increased.

# 2024 IHAWP Member Survey Overview

1115 Demonstrations require a CMS approved evaluation plan. For Iowa, the IWP evaluation plan is available on both the HHS [IHAWP website](#) and [Medicaid.gov](#).

<b>Timeframe</b>	Conducted summer/fall 2024.
<b>Sample</b>	Random selection of eligible members who were not in the previous sample <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IHAWP:</b> 1,094 respondents (14% response rate).</li><li>• <b>Medicaid:</b> 955 respondents (11% response rate).</li></ul>
<b>Recruitment</b>	Up to four mailed outreach attempts.

# Member Survey: Key Highlights



IHAWP members tended to be older and more likely male.



More IHAWP members reported fair/poor health compared to Medicaid members. (32% IHAWP vs 28% Medicaid).



IHAWP and Medicaid respondents were comparable in their self-report of overall mental health. (36% IHAWP and 37% of Medicaid reported fair or poor mental health).



IHAWP members were more likely than Medicaid members to report health conditions that interfered with daily life, including ability to work (35% vs 25%) and overall quality of life (23% vs 16%).

# Member Survey: Key Highlights of Quality of Care



More IHAWP members reported receiving a flu vaccine (35% vs 29%) and at least one COVID vaccine (28% vs 18%) than Medicaid members.



IHAWP and Medicaid members reported similar rates of visiting the Emergency Department (ED) in the six-month period (22% IHAWP and 26% Medicaid).



Both IHAWP and Medicaid members reported good communication with their providers (92% and 93%).



Similar rates of IHAWP and Medicaid members reported being informed by providers about what to do if they needed after-hours care (38% vs 37%).

# Upcoming IWP Demonstration Changes

## Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Starting January 1, 2027, NEMT services will be covered for **all** IHAWP members.

## Working Families Tax Cut Legislation (July 2025)

HHS is reviewing this legislation and how it impacts the IWP Demonstration, including the following:

- Work and community engagement requirements (Section 71119)
- Premiums and cost sharing (Section 71120)
- Retroactive coverage (Section 71112)
- Six-month Renewals (Section 71107)

**Decisions impacting the IWP Demonstration will be shared publicly once finalized, as appropriate.**

# Comment Opportunity

Written comments can be sent the address below by May 1, 2026.

**Email:** [QIMP\\_Public\\_Comment@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:QIMP_Public_Comment@hhs.iowa.gov)

All feedback will be documented and included in the next Annual Report to CMS.