



**Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
Request for Information
Healthy Hometowns Maternal Health Hub and Spoke Networks of Care**

**RFI# COMPADM26006
April 27, 2026**

Issuing Officer:

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The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
("Agency")
will receive responses to this Request For Information until:

4:30 PM on June 12, 2026

Section 1.0 Overview

1.1 Purpose for the Request for Information (RFI).

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (hereafter “Agency”) released this RFI to welcome input from the contractor community interested stakeholders (hereafter “Respondents”) on various aspects of maternal health hub and spoke networks of care to support rural Iowans and rural healthcare organizations. This RFI is issued to obtain information only and will not result in a contract or vendor agreement with any Respondent.

The Agency encourages Respondents with experience in particular segments of the services or products described herein to respond to Agency questions with information related to best practices, industry standards, technology issues, qualifications and capabilities of potential vendors, and any other information the respondent deems responsive.

Respondents are asked to complete the attachment titled Submissions in Response to RFI# RFI# COMPADM26006 and submit it to the Agency’s Issuing Officer by the due date.

This RFI does not commit the Agency to publish a procurement, such as a request for proposal, or award any contract. Should the Agency issue a procurement at a later time, it will be open to all qualified vendors, whether or not those vendors chose to submit a response to this RFI. This RFI is not a pre-qualification process for any future contract solicitation.

1.2 Background

Iowa’s rural communities face persistent and intensifying public health challenges, including limited access to care, workforce shortages, and disparities in health outcomes. In response, the Agency developed the Healthy Hometowns initiative¹ as the state’s submission to the federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), authorized under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.² This initiative is designed to transform the delivery of healthcare in rural Iowa by building a high-quality, sustainable system of care that improves health, well-being, and quality of life for rural residents.

Through the Iowa HHS Strategic Plan and Strategic Plan in Action³, the Agency has committed to elevate organizational health, advance operational excellence, and help Iowa thrive. The Iowa Rural Health Transformation Plan, Healthy Hometowns, is in direct alignment with those goals by promoting access to health and human services resources and helping individuals, families, children, and communities thrive. Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds set the foundation for Healthy Hometowns via House File 972 of the 91st Iowa General Assembly. This legislation, enacted July 1, 2025, establishes a multi-prong strategy for improving rural health care access and health outcomes for rural Iowans. This plan revolves

¹ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/initiatives/rural-health-transformation-rht>

² <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/rural-health-transformation-rht-program/overview>

³ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/about/strategic-plan>

around the concept that Iowa describes as Health Hubs, often referred to as Hub and Spoke models of care. The vision for Healthy Hometowns is to implement a robust Hub and Spoke framework that supports long-term, sustainable and high-quality health care for Iowans living in rural areas.

Healthy Hometowns has three primary goals:

1. Iowans will be able to get health care within their rural communities at the most appropriate locations for type and level of care thanks to support from newly developed partnerships, more rural primary care physicians and specialists, and upgraded equipment.
2. Iowans living in rural areas will have improved health outcomes with similar rates of morbidity and premature mortality to those living in Iowa’s more populous areas.
3. Iowa will invest in the development and utilization of innovative technology and data infrastructures to support sustainable care options close to home, seamless care partnerships, and data sharing throughout the state.

The purpose of developing Hub and Spoke networks of care for maternal healthcare is to increase access to and availability of prenatal care, labor and delivery services, postpartum care, mental health support, and behavioral health support for pregnant and postpartum in Rural Iowans. Through the Healthy Hometowns Rural Health Transformation Program, Iowa is working toward innovative and transformative models of healthcare delivery to best serve rural Iowans.

Hub and Spoke networks typically work collaboratively to increase access to maternal healthcare, including maternal mental health care, in Rural areas in a manner that keeps care available locally when appropriate, while simultaneously increasing patient volume and long-term sustainability of rural healthcare providers.

1.3 Definitions. Reserved.

1.4 RFI Timetable

Below is the anticipated timeline for this RFI. The Agency reserves the right to alter, modify, or delete activities and deadlines as it chooses. These times are provided in Central Standard Time.

Agency releases RFI	April 27, 2026
Respondent Questions Regarding the RFI due by	May 6, 2026
Agency Posts Answers to Questions	May 12, 2026
Last Day Agency will Accept Responses	June 12, 2026

Section 2.0 RFI Responses and Activities

2.1 Response Submission

Respondents are requested to utilize the documents posted with this RFI to submit written responses to the Agency's questions. Responses will be accepted through the date and time posted in the timetable above.

The electronic word document must be in a format that is compatible with Microsoft Word software. Respondents are encouraged to request confirmation of receipt of the emailed response from the Issuing Officer.

Responses shall be concise, but with enough detail to facilitate clear understanding. Respondents are not obligated to address each section or question. Interested parties may submit more than one response prior to the submission deadline. Please only include new information in subsequent submissions.

2.2 Questions and Communication About the RFI

This RFI contains a written question and answer process to address questions or clarifying information provided in this RFI and the process of responding to this RFI. Note that the Agency is using this process to seek feedback to assist with making future decisions and cannot address questions related to future plans at this time. Any clarifying or procedural questions related to responding to this RFI must be received by the Issuing Officer by the date and time provided in the RFI timetable.

Questions should be submitted in an electronic word processing document that is compatible with Microsoft Word software and sent as an attachment to an email directed to the Issuing Officer. Parties submitting questions are encouraged to request a confirmation of the Issuing Officer's receipt in their email.

The Agency anticipates responses to the questions will be posted with the previously posted RFI [Funding Opportunities | Health & Human Services](#) by the end of business on the date noted in the RFI timetable.

All communications about this RFI should be directed to the Issuing Officer. Should a potential bidder attempt to contact an employee of the Agency other than the Issuing Officer in an attempt to gather information about a future procurement, it may be grounds for that bidder's disqualification in that future procurement process.

2.3 RFI Presentations Reserved.

Section 3.0 General Terms and Conditions

3.1. Not a Competitive Procurement or Purchasing Instrument.

The purpose of this RFI is solely to gather information on potential methods, approaches, and solutions related to anticipated outcomes. Note that:

- Issuing this RFI does not commit the Agency to solicit services, award a contract, or make any purchase;
- The State of Iowa and the Agency will not form a contract with any entity based on responses to this RFI;

- Responses will not influence future competitive awards. Any subsequent bidding opportunity will be publicly announced in accordance with applicable procurement notice requirements; and
- If pricing is requested, it will be reviewed for informational purposes only. This RFI is not a request for a formal quote from any Respondent.

3.2 Costs of Responding to RFI. The Agency is not responsible for any costs the Respondent incurs related to the preparation or delivery of the response, any presentation, or any other activities related to this RFI.

3.3 Right to Modify. The Agency reserves the right to modify this RFI at any time or to reject responses, in whole or part.

3.4 Clarification of Responses

The Agency reserves the right to contact a Respondent for the purpose of clarifying a response to ensure mutual understanding.

3.5 Ownership of Information and Copyrights

By submitting a response, the Respondent agrees that the Agency:

- Owns Information submitted in response to this RFI,
- May copy and distribute the response for purposes of reviewing the response or to respond to requests for public records and such copying does not violate the rights of any third party, and
- Has the right to use ideas or adaptations of ideas that are presented in the responses and such usage does not violate the rights of any third party.

3.6 Respondent Requests for Confidential Treatment

With the submission of a response, each Respondent agrees that information submitted in response to this RFI will be treated as public information unless the Respondent properly requests that information in its submission be treated as confidential at the time of submitting the response to this RFI. Form 22 is the sole means of requesting confidential treatment of information. The Agency's release of information is governed by Iowa Code Chapter 22. Respondents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Chapter 22 before submitting a response to this RFI. The Agency will copy public records as required to comply with public records laws.

The Agency will treat the information marked confidential as confidential information to the extent such information is determined confidential under Iowa Code chapter 22 or other applicable law by a court of competent jurisdiction.

In the event the Agency receives a request for information marked confidential, written notice shall be given to the Respondent seventy-two (72) hours prior to the release of the information to allow the Respondent to seek injunctive relief pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 22.5 or 22.8.

The Respondent's failure to request confidential treatment of material pursuant to this section and the relevant law will be deemed, by the Agency and State personnel, as a

waiver of any right to confidentiality that the Respondent may have had.

3.7 Release of Claims

With the submission of a response each Respondent agrees it waives any and all rights to bring any all claims or legal action against the Agency or State of Iowa or any employee of the Agency or State, based on any misunderstanding concerning the information provided herein or concerning the Agency's failure, negligence, or otherwise, to provide the Respondent with pertinent information as intended by this RFI.

3.8 Governing Law and Forum

This RFI shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Iowa. Respondents are responsible for identifying and complying with all relevant legal requirements. Any litigation or other legal action arising from this RFI shall be brought exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Iowa.