

Presented to the Iowa Health & Human Services (HHS) Council

Prepared by: Maggie Ferguson, Disability & Injury Prevention Project Director

Date: May 28, 2026

# Brain Injury Advisory Committee Report

## **ACTION ITEM: State Plan for Brain Injury (2026-2029)**

*The Iowa Advisory Committee on Brain Injuries requests approval of the **2026–2029 State Plan for Brain Injury**. The plan outlines statewide priorities to improve service delivery, strengthen prevention efforts, and enhance quality of life for Iowans impacted by brain injury. A full draft plan has been submitted with this report for review.*

## Overview

Brain injury affects thousands of Iowans each year and has long-term impacts on health, employment, independence, and family stability. An estimated 11,145 traumatic brain injury related emergency visits, hospitalizations and deaths occur annually, with more than 600,000 Iowa adults endorsing a lifetime history of head injury.

The 2026-2029 State Plan for Brain Injury is a comprehensive, community-centered plan developed through statewide listening sessions, needs assessment surveys and facilitated advisory committee planning. The plan is organized around two focus areas:

1. Service Delivery
2. Prevention and Education

These focus areas reflect both the immediate needs of individuals seeking services and the long-term goal of reducing preventable brain injuries and improving awareness statewide. Strategies outlined in the plan align with Iowa's State Health Assessment priorities, including access to care, mental health and healthy living, underscoring the intersection of brain injury with overall health and quality of life.

The plan is designed as a living document, with updates to be made as new needs emerge, evaluation results become available, or system changes occur. The Brain Injury Program staff will maintain ongoing community engagement to ensure the plan's continued alignment with Iowans' needs.

## Next Steps

Following approval, the Advisory Committee will draft implementation and evaluation plans that will outline timelines and responsibilities and establish outcome indicators. Progress will be reported to the HHS Council at least annually.

Questions and comments regarding this report may be emailed to [Brain.Injury@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:Brain.Injury@hhs.iowa.gov).