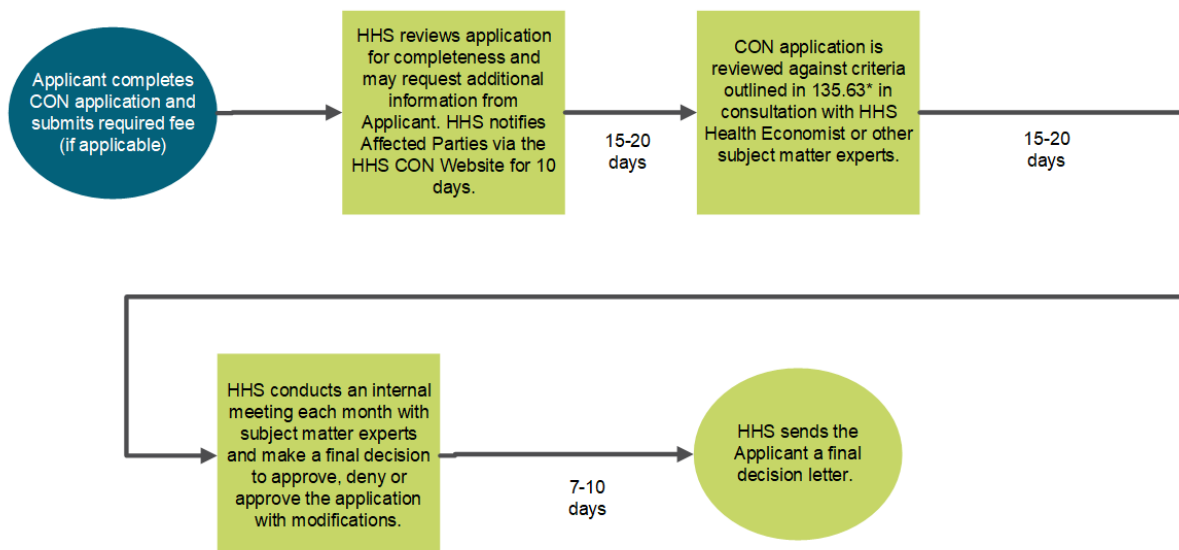


Notice of Updates to Iowa's Certificate of Need (CON) Program

Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) is implementing substantial updates to the Certificate of Need (CON) program based on recent legislative changes from **House File 2635 (HF2635)**. These updates modernize CON requirements, streamline review processes, and shift program oversight to Iowa HHS. Changes on this document are effective beginning **July 1, 2026** unless otherwise noted.

Certificate of Need (CON) Process Overview

The following flow chart provides an overview of the HHS CON process. Timeframes are intended to provide an approximate timeline of the process and may vary.



Key Updates to the CON Process:

Elimination of the Letter of Intent Requirement

- Applicants will no longer be required to submit a Letter of Intent to apply for a Certificate of Need they are able to move straight to the application stage.

Public Input Process

- Public hearings will be eliminated, and input will be collected through written comments only.

Review Timeline

HF2635 introduces several procedural refinements:

- Standardized, defined review timelines
- Electronic notices for improved transparency
- One allowed resubmission of an application
- 30-day deferral limit, unless jointly extended by the applicant and HHS

These changes simplify navigation of the CON process and introduce greater predictability.

Updated CON Definitions and Thresholds

Updated definitions under Iowa Code §135.61, including:

- Expanded facility definitions
- Revised methodology for determining project cost of leased buildings (based on market value)

New Capital Thresholds for CON Review

CON review will be required only for projects and equipment exceeding:

- \$4 million beginning January 1, 2027 through 2032
- \$4.5 million from 2032–2036
- \$5 million beginning January 1, 2037

These threshold increases significantly reduce regulatory oversight of smaller projects.

Changes to Services Requiring CON Review

Several services will no longer require a CON, including:

- Behavioral health outpatient services
- Open heart procedures
- Organ and tissue transplants
- Radiation therapy
- Cardiac catheterization

These changes encourage expansion of high-need services while maintaining oversight for larger and high-impact projects.

For More Information

Visit the Iowa HHS Certificate of Need Program webpage:

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/certificate-need-con-program>

You may also contact the program at **888-278-6017**.
