

Key Iowa Systems Change Initiatives

A streamlined summary of major systems transformations that have reshaped Medicaid, behavioral health, disability services, and long-term supports in Iowa.



Expanded Medicaid Coverage

Statewide Medicaid enrollment grew by approximately 28% after coverage was extended to more Iowans, improving access to essential healthcare services.



Transition to Managed Care

Long-term services and supports, as well as most Medicaid benefits, transitioned to managed care, modernizing how services are coordinated and delivered.



Redesign of Mental Health and Disability Services

Iowa's mental health and disability services moved from a county-funded structure to a regional, state-funded system, later separating into two distinct systems beginning July 2025.



"No Wrong Door" Service Approach

Disability Access Points and the Behavioral Health System were developed using a "No Wrong Door" philosophy, improving entry points for individuals seeking services.



Shift Toward Community-Based Mental Health Care

With strengthened community-based services, two of Iowa's four mental health institutes were closed, shifting focus toward local supports.



Reduction in State Resource Center Populations

Populations at both state resource centers decreased significantly, and Glenwood State Resource Center formally closed on July 1, 2024.
