

HOME Project Steering Committee - Meeting Summary

Tuesday, August 25th, 2026, from 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. CT

Meeting Kickoff/ HOME Project Updates

Jamie Edwards, Iowa HHS

Steering Committee members were welcomed to the August 2026 meeting and provided a brief update about the work underway to support successful implementation of the HOME Project.

Allowable Medical Expenses

Avis Tripilas and Laura Brewer, Iowa HHS

Subject Matter Experts from Community Access- Avis and Laura presented information to the HOME Steering Committee about Allowable Medical Expenses in response to Steering Committee Members requesting additional information about this topic during the June Steering Committee meeting.

Topics covered:

- How allowable work-related expenses (e.g., specialized devices, medications, vehicle modifications, attendant care, durable medical equipment) can be deducted when calculating income for Medicaid eligibility.
- Distinctions between:
 - **General income deduction (\$20)**
 - **Earned income deduction (\$65 + half of remaining)**
 - **Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE)**
- Clarification that:
 - Expenses must be **out-of-pocket** (not covered by Medicaid or insurance).
 - Recurring expenses can be prorated; non-recurring can be counted in one month or prorated based on member preference.
- Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities (MEPD) eligibility requirements were reviewed:
 - Under age 65

- Disability per SSA
- Working/earning income
- Resource limits (\$12,000 individual / \$24,000 couple)
- Deductions cannot be applied toward premium calculations.
- Attendees requested clearer documentation for Income-Related Work Expenses and broader training for case managers and supported employment staff.

Follow-up:

Slides from the presentation were shared with the Steering Committee. Iowa Medicaid is reviewing how to update manuals and public-facing information based on the steering committee's suggestions and concerns but noted competing federal priorities that may delay updates.

HOME Steering Committee – Charter**Discussion: What is the Charter?**

The HOME Steering Committee was provided with the charter prior to the monthly meeting. The Charter establishes the operational guidelines for the HOME Steering Committee and outlines the shared roles and responsibilities of HHS and the Committee. The charter outlines: the purpose of the Steering Committee and guiding principles, membership, member and HHS roles and responsibilities and meeting cadence and guidance.

Highlights:

- Steering Committee was established in 2022 to support the redesign of Iowa's HCBS system.
- Reviewed accomplishments across 2022–2024, including waiver redesign feedback, participation in listening sessions, work on assessments, communication materials, and needs prioritization.
- Charter components covered:
 - Guiding principles (respectful discussion, balanced participation, forward-focused solutions).
 - Roles/responsibilities for HHS, the facilitator, Mathematica, and committee members.
 - Membership expectations:
 - 15–25 members

- New members onboard each January (no mid-year additions)
- Attendance tracked by Mathematica (4 consecutive absences may result in removal)
- Monthly meeting cadence may adjust based on the availability of topics or resources Iowa Medicaid has ready for steering committee members to advise on

Follow-up Items and Clarifications

HHS shared updates from the LTSS Policy SMEs about questions, concerns, confusion, or other feedback that had been provided during previous steering committee meetings around several key areas:

- Case Manager Roles and Responsibilities
- CY → AD Transition & Member Support
- Application Process, Timing & Documentation
- Communication & Transition Materials
- Eligibility & Disability Requirements

Overall Takeaways HHS heard from Steering Committee Members

- Documentation for reporting Income-Related Work Expenses was identified as an area needing revision and steering committee members requested broader training for case managers and supported employment staff on the topic of allowable medical expenses.
- Improve wording/formatting on materials that reference both disability determinations (obtained from Disability Determination Services or the Social Security Administration) and diagnosis of a disability (obtained from psychologist or psychiatrist) as these topics have similar terms used but are distinct from one another

Follow Up from HHS

Steering Committee Members requested Iowa HHS update them when additional information about the HOME Implementation Timeline was available.

As we are implementing the final HOME initiative stages we have identified a need for IT modernization.

The timeline is as follows:

Implementation Timeline

- Improve Access to Waitlist Support and submit the optional Waitlist Priority Needs Assessment (WPNA) (October 2026)
- Reduced administrative burden through biannual waiver assessments (also referred to as Off Year Assessment or OYA) (January 1, 2027)
- Implementation of a uniform HCBS fee schedule (January 1, 2027)
- Addition of new services within existing waivers (January 1, 2027)
- Work on standardized person-centered service plan templates, residential redesign and individualized budgets and consolidation of existing waivers from seven to three is ongoing and we will provide consistent progress updates.

The posting of the updated timeline information can also be found at [HOME Project | Health & Human Services](#).