

**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2269-MC-FFS**

**DATE:** October 4, 2021

**TO:** All Iowa Medicaid Providers

**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Community Integration Town Halls

**EFFECTIVE:** Upon Receipt

In June 2020, the Department unveiled its multi-year [Community Integration Plan](#)<sup>1</sup>. The plan is a result of re-evaluating existing strategies and identifying new ones to ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to the least restrictive setting to support high quality of life.

In Year One, the Department engaged with stakeholders to conduct a gap analysis of the current system. Through these stakeholder conversations, the Department heard about five common challenges:

- Workforce
- Training
- Community provider capacity for specialty supports
- Data
- Guardian reluctance

This year the Department will build off the valuable stakeholder feedback heard during Year One and begin moving to transformational work. DHS is starting a new round of stakeholder conversations to share how investments outlined in the Department's [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) plan](#)<sup>2</sup> will enhance and strengthen Iowa's systems of community-based services and supports to both meet our needs today and prepare to meet future needs.

Community Integration Town Hall meetings will be held in person across the state throughout October. There will also be two virtual options. All meetings are open to the

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<sup>1</sup> [https://dhs.iowa.gov/news\\_initiatives/community\\_integration\\_strategic\\_plan](https://dhs.iowa.gov/news_initiatives/community_integration_strategic_plan)

<sup>2</sup> <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/ARPA>

public and will include information for providers and members, as well as other interested stakeholders.

Each town hall meeting will have the same format. Department staff will provide an overview of the strategic plan, a status update, talk about what's ahead, and answer questions. The Department has invited advocates and other organizations to host and share personal stories at each respective town hall meeting.

The town hall meetings, and hosts, are as follows. All meetings will be from **4:00 to 6:00 PM**.

- **Monday, October 11, 2021:** VIRTUAL meeting hosted by the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council.
- **Tuesday, October 12, 2021:** In-person meeting at Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Ave., Des Moines; Hosted by Iowa Association of Community Providers.
- **Monday, October 18, 2021:** In-person meeting at Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids; Hosted by The ARC of Iowa.
- **Tuesday, October 26, 2021:** In-person meeting at Iowa Western Community College, 2700 College Rd., Council Bluffs; Hosted by the Glenwood Resource Center.
- **Wednesday, October 27, 2021:** In-person meeting at Hawkeye Community College, 1501 E Orange Rd., Waterloo; Hosted by Money Follows the Person.
- **Monday, November 1, 2021:** VIRTUAL meeting hosted by Upgrade Medicaid.

Those interested in attending the in-person town hall meeting in their area and/or one of the virtual meetings can register [online](#)<sup>3</sup>. Registration is not required but is encouraged to provide Department staff expected attendance.

Providers should share this information with members who may be interested in attending a town hall meeting. Members who need assistance in registering may contact IME Member Services at **1-800-338-8366**.

Login credentials for the virtual meetings on October 11, 2021, and November 1, 2021, will be shared on the day of the event with those who have registered, and also posted on the [DHS website](#)<sup>4</sup>.

All meetings will be recorded and posted on the [DHS website](#)<sup>5</sup>.

If you have questions, please contact IME Provider Services at 1-800-338-7909, locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609, or by email at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.tfaforms.com/4936108>

<sup>4</sup> [https://dhs.iowa.gov/news\\_initiatives/community\\_integration\\_strategic\\_plan](https://dhs.iowa.gov/news_initiatives/community_integration_strategic_plan)

<sup>5</sup> [https://dhs.iowa.gov/news\\_initiatives/community\\_integration\\_strategic\\_plan](https://dhs.iowa.gov/news_initiatives/community_integration_strategic_plan)