

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Department of Inspections and Appeals - Health Facilities Division

The [Health Facilities Division](#) of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals is the designated state survey and certification agency responsible for inspecting and licensing or certifying various health care entities, health care providers, and health care suppliers operating in the State of Iowa. Entities subject to the Department's oversight and regulation include nursing facilities, skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, hospitals, hospices, home health agencies, programs and facilities caring for children, assisted living programs, and elder group homes.

Health Facilities Division personnel also investigate complaints alleging improper care or treatment of patients, residents, and tenants in licensed and certified entities. By law, the Division has the authority to investigate complaints of a health care entity alleging a violation of licensing rules under Iowa Administrative Rules or the applicable federal regulations. Complaints alleging improper care in assisted living programs, elder group homes, and adult day care are investigated by the Adult Services Bureau within the Division. Complaints are investigated onsite by survey staff. Depending on the nature of the allegation the complaint investigation process includes observations, resident interviews, and/or records review.

The Division also:

- Investigates complaints of hospitals violating licensing rules under Iowa Code chapter [135B](#). If the hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the Division must obtain the approval of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services before initiating a complaint investigation or the investigation of an accredited hospital cannot be initiated.
- Operates the Best Practices Program to encourage long-term care nursing facilities to share new and innovative approaches to resident care. The Program makes available to health care providers a variety of identified practices that have been shown to be effective in long-term care settings.
- Provides a Direct Care Worker (DCW) webpage. The webpage provides certified nursing assistants access to the Iowa Direct Care Worker Registry to apply for registration and to edit and update registration information. It also provides access to the administrative rules with the training requirements for certified nursing assistants, certified medication aides, and nutritional assistants.
- Maintains a list of certified nursing assistants (CNAs) qualified by education, training, and testing to work in federally certified long-term care facilities. The list is used by health care facilities to recruit workers. Federal regulations require Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities to check the Direct Care Worker Registry to verify that certified nursing assistants are eligible to work in those facilities.
- Maintains inspection reports and final findings of complaint investigations for a wide variety of Iowa health care entities. Reports for nursing facilities, residential care facilities, intermediate care facilities, and assisted living programs are available online.

Funding

For FY 2017, the Division received an annual appropriation from the State General Fund of approximately \$5.1 million and 117.0 appropriated FTEs. The Division also estimates receiving approximately \$10.2 million in federal funds for FY 2017.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code chapter [10A](#)

[481](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [50](#)

More Information

Department of Inspections and Appeals, Health Facilities Division: https://dia-hfd.iowa.gov/DIA_HFD/Home.do

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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