
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Public Protection

Purpose and History

The Iowa Department of Public Health (DPH) Public Protection appropriation provides funding for activities related to protecting the health and safety of the public through establishment of standards and enforcement of regulations.

The appropriation funds the following programs:

- [Division of Acute Disease Prevention, Emergency Response, and Environmental Health](#): This Division receives General Fund support in this appropriation and from the Infectious Diseases appropriation. This funding supports the [Bureau of Environmental Health Services](#), which focuses on assisting local boards of health on environmental health issues, epidemiology and surveillance of environmental health-related diseases, licensing, and performing inspections.
- [Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#): Also operated by the Bureau of Environmental Health Services, this Program administers the Iowa Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and other rules and regulations related to lead renovation and lead professional certification.
- [Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services](#): This Bureau fulfills the role of the DPH as the lead agency responsible for the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of Iowa's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System. The Bureau provides leadership, direction, and resource support to build a comprehensive, sustainable, efficient, and effective statewide EMS system. The Preparedness Program works to protect the health of Iowans by preparing for public health emergencies, including terrorism, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks. The Preparedness Program works with local public health agencies, hospitals, community health centers, the Meskwaki tribal nation, and other public and private entities by administering federal preparedness funds, maintaining the antiviral stockpile, and providing technical assistance. Additionally, funds are allocated to transfer to the Emergency Medical Services Fund in Iowa Code section [135.25](#). The Fund provides a one-to-one match for counties for the acquisition of equipment, and provides education and training related to EMS.
- [Sexual Violence Prevention Program](#): This Program utilizes public health strategies to prevent sexual violence in Iowa. The Program collaborates with community prevention partners to gather data on the incidence of sexual violence in Iowa; develop strategies for preventing first-time victimization and perpetration of sexual violence; administer federal and State sexual violence prevention funds; and to support the work of State and local agencies and organizations in their efforts to end sexual violence. The Program is funded by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The DPH contracts with the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault to conduct community prevention and education activities.
- [Iowa Poison Control Center](#) (IPCC): This appropriation provides a pass-through grant for the IPCC to operate the poison control hotline (1.800.222.1222). The IPCC offers free, confidential medical

More Information

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advice 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, regardless of health insurance, immigration status, or language preference. Calls are answered by physicians, nurses, and pharmacists with highly specialized training in handling poison, with the goal of reducing emergency department visits and fatalities through in-home treatment. Funds are utilized as an administration match for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

- [Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner](#): Moved from the Department of Public Safety to the DPH in 1999, the mission of the Office is to establish credibility in death investigation in a system that will operate efficiently and serve the needs of the citizens of Iowa. The Office provides support, guidance, education, consultation, and training to county medical examiners and investigators who are responsible for investigating violent, suspicious, and unexpected natural deaths. The Office also provides forensic autopsy and investigative services when requested by county medical examiners and law enforcement agencies.
- [Certificate of Need](#): This is a regulatory review process that requires application to the DPH for, and receipt of, a certificate of need prior to the offering or development of a new or changed institutional health service. Potential applicants include hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient surgery centers, or anyone purchasing medical equipment valued above \$1.5 million. Projects proposed by providers are reviewed by the DPH staff and the State Health Facilities Council against the criteria specified in the law.

Funding — State General Fund

The Public Protection General Fund budget unit appropriation is included in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Act. Prior to FY 2008, the health care and professional licensure boards collected and deposited licensure fees in the General Fund, with the exception of amounts retained for rent costs or other purposes. Each board then received a percentage of the fees returned through the annual appropriation for Public Protection to support operations and activities. After FY 2008, licensing boards were permitted to retain their own fees.

Funding — Other Sources of Revenue

Depending on the program, there are additional federal funds, other funds, and fees that play a part in the operation of these programs. Generally, if the programs are operated by the DPH, the funds are tracked separately in the DPH Gifts & Grants Fund. Some of these additional funds are tracked within this budget unit.

Tracked within this budget unit are the licensing and regulation boards that are a part of the DPH and operate on fee revenue and other fee-related programs. These include the following:

- [Board of Medicine](#): Safeguards the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating physicians and surgeons, osteopathic physicians and surgeons, and licensed acupuncturists.
- [Board of Nursing](#): Charged with protecting the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating the licensure of nurses, the practice of nurses, nursing education, and continuing education.
- [Board of Pharmacy](#): Responsible for regulating the practice of pharmacy and the legal distribution and dispensing of prescription drugs and precursor substances throughout the State.
- [Dental Board](#): Charged with overall responsibility for regulation of the profession of dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental assisting.
- [Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board](#): Established to license those working in the plumbing; hydronic; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); and refrigeration professions. The Board issues trade licenses, specialty licenses, and medical gas piping installation certification.
- [Bureau of Professional Licensure](#): Coordinates, supports, and provides licensing infrastructure to 19 health-related boards that regulate 40 professions. The mission of the professional boards is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by licensing qualified individuals and enforcing Iowa's statutes and administrative rules fairly and consistently.

- [Bureau of Radiological Health](#): Part of the Division of Acute Disease Prevention, Emergency Response, and Environmental Health, this Bureau is fee-supported and serves to protect Iowans from excessive exposure to radiation. The Bureau conducts licensing of facilities using radioactive materials; registration of facilities using radiation-producing machines or operating tanning units; inspection of facilities using radioactive materials; credentialing of persons using radioactive material or operating radiation-emitting machines; regulation of the transportation of radioactive material; approval of training courses and continuing education; and emergency response as it relates to radioactive materials and nuclear power plant incidents.
- [Water Treatment System Registration Program](#): Responsible for confirming that water treatment systems sold in Iowa with claims to reduce health-related contaminants have appropriate third-party verifications of the claims. Establishes rules, requirements, and procedures for the registration and sale of water treatment systems. Any revenue generated from this Program that is not spent during the fiscal year is then reverted into the General Fund. There have not been any reversions since FY 2011.
- [Love Our Kids Grant](#): The Child Injury Prevention Project provides grant funding to federally appointed rural areas in Iowa to develop and implement injury prevention and education initiatives for children. Funding comes from the Special License Plates registration fees.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code

chapters [135](#), [136B](#), [136C](#), [136D](#), [147](#), [147A](#), [148](#), [148A](#), [148B](#), [148C](#), [148D](#), [148E](#), [148F](#), [149](#), [151](#), [152](#), [152A](#), [152B](#), [152C](#), [152D](#), [152E](#), [153](#), [154](#), [154A](#), [154B](#), [154D](#), [154E](#), [154F](#), [155](#), [155A](#), [156](#), [157](#), and [158](#)

Iowa Code sections [135.105B](#), [691.5](#), [691.6](#), [691.6A](#), and [691.6B](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [641—1](#), [641—14](#), [641—22](#), [641—23](#), [641—25](#), [641—27](#), [641—28](#), [641—29](#), [641—30](#), [641—31](#), [641—32](#), [641—33](#), [641—34](#), [641—35](#), [641—36](#), [641—37](#), [641—38](#), [641—39](#), [641—40](#), [641—41](#), [641—42](#), [641—43](#), [641—44](#), [641—45](#), [641—46](#), [641—57](#), [641—58](#), [641—59](#), [641—60](#), [641—61](#), [641—62](#), [641—67](#), [641—68](#), [641—69](#), [641—70](#), [641—71](#), [641—72](#), [641—113](#), [641—114](#), [641—124](#), [641—126](#), [641—130](#), [641—131](#), [641—132](#), [641—133](#), [641—134](#), [641—135](#), [641—136](#), [641—137](#), [641—138](#), [641—139](#), [641—140](#), [641—141](#), [641—202](#), [641—203](#), [645](#), [650](#), [653](#), [655](#), and [657](#)

Budget Unit Number

5880K190001

Doc ID 1285227