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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

April 3, 2020



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### MHDS REGIONAL SYSTEM — MUSCATINE COUNTY

On April 1, 2020, the Department of Human Services (DHS) notified Muscatine County that the DHS will be exercising its authority under Iowa Code section [331.389](#) to assign Muscatine County to remain with the Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Region. On November 4, 2019, Muscatine County voted to leave the Eastern Iowa Region, and that request was approved on November 18, 2019. Muscatine County made two formal requests to join the Southeast Iowa Link (SEIL) Region effective July 1, 2020. The SEIL Region denied both requests. On March 16, 2020, Muscatine County sent a letter to the Eastern Iowa Region asking to rescind the county's withdrawal letter, but the Eastern Iowa Regional Governing Board denied that request.

The DHS stated that although a fractured relationship remains, Iowans must have stable access to services during a global pandemic, and Muscatine County will be directed to remain with the Eastern Iowa Region until further notice.

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