



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AUDIT

FY 2015 Audit. The Office of Auditor of State released the audit report on the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) for FY 2015. The DHS provides many types of assistance to lowans in need. The DHS is also responsible for state mental health institutions, the University of Iowa Hospital School, and the State Training School at Eldora for Boys. The audit report makes recommendations for the Department to comply with established guidelines related to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and foster care programs and to improve controls in the Department's field offices.

Audit Findings. The report notes the following findings:

- In a review of 98 cases receiving both Family Investment Program (FIP) and foster care payments during the same month of service in FY 2015, 12.0% received both FIP and foster care payments for an additional one to four months after entering foster care with a nonrelative. It is unclear whether these payments meet an exception allowed by the federal government.
- In a review of 126 cases receiving both FIP and subsidized adoption payments during the same month of service in FY 2015, 12.0% improperly received both FIP and subsidized adoption payments for an additional one to four months after entering subsidized adoption. The unallowable FIP payments for these cases total \$5,971.
- In a review of 40 out-of-home foster care cases, 30.0% did not have visits made at least once every month.
- There is a need to follow consistent practices related to incoming mail and the processing of case paperwork in field offices to maintain and strengthen internal controls.
- Iowa Code [Section 217.40](#) requires the DHS to establish training programs designed to assist guardians and conservators in understanding their fiduciary duties and liabilities, the special needs of the ward, and how to best serve the ward and the ward's interests. The DHS has eliminated a training coordinator position for this purpose due to budget constraints. However, the Department has taken steps to eliminate the training requirement language from the Iowa Code. This language was eliminated from [Senate Study Bill 1182](#), and the training requirement language was also not included in the final legislation ([Senate File 482](#)).

Recommendations and Responses. The Auditor made recommendations on compliance for all of the items outlined above. The DHS submitted responses for improvement that were accepted by the Auditor.

Additional Information. A full copy of the report is available for review in the Office of Auditor of State and on the Auditor of State website at https://auditor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/audit_reports/1660-4010-BR00.pdf.

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