



[HF 2256](#) – Child in Need of Assistance Adjudication, Serious Chemical Dependency (LSB5382HV.1)

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Fiscal Note Version – Revised

Description

[House File 2256](#) allows a court to adjudicate a child in need of assistance (CINA) when the child requires treatment to cure or alleviate a serious chemical dependency or mental or behavioral health disorder that compromises the child’s safety or causes untoward aggressive behavior toward others in the household or the child’s community. A court can adjudicate a CINA if the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian is unwilling or unable to provide needed treatment for the child, or if the parent’s efforts to secure needed treatment have been exhausted and unsuccessful.

Background

Under Iowa Code chapter [232](#), “child in need of assistance” is defined as a child who has been found to meet the grounds for adjudication pursuant to Iowa Code section [232.96A](#). A Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) is an out-of-home placement option that offers a structured living environment for children who are court-ordered to the QRTP after being adjudicated as delinquent or as a CINA. Qualified Residential Treatment Programs are one of the four reimbursable non-foster family placement settings for which the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can seek federal reimbursement under Title IV-E.

Federal Title IV-E funding can be used for time-limited prevention services for mental health, substance use, and in-home parent skill-based programs for children who are candidates for foster care, pregnant or parenting youth in foster care, and the parents or kinship caregivers of those children. The percentage of children in care who are eligible for Title IV-E benefits is known as the Title IV-E penetration rate.

Assumptions

QRTP

- All new CINA cases will result in placements at QRTPs.
- In FY 2024, there were 819 calls for a CINA intake assessment. Of those calls for an intake assessment, 339 were accepted and 480 were rejected.
- In FY 2025, there were 752 calls for a CINA intake assessment. Of those calls for an intake assessment, 344 were accepted and 408 were rejected.
- The HHS assumes that the Bill will result in 20.0% of cases that would have formerly been rejected being accepted.
- The HHS estimates an increase of 89 CINA placements at QRTPs.
- The daily rate per child at the QRTPs is \$320.
- The percentage of children in QRTP care who are eligible for federal Title IV-E benefits is 2.13%. For those children, the State will pay for 36.83% of QRTP costs, while federal funds will provide for 63.17% of the costs.

FTE Positions

- The HHS will require 1.0 Social Worker 3 full-time equivalent (FTE) position and 2.0 Social Worker 2 FTE positions to implement the Bill. The cost for the new FTE positions is estimated to be \$271,000 annually.
- Support costs for the new FTE positions will be \$4,037 per position in FY 2027 and \$1,794 per position in FY 2028.
- The field penetration Title IV-E rate, which determines the percentage of case worker administrative costs eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement, is 11.0%.
- Case worker administrative costs eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement will be paid through State and federal funds in equal shares.

Fiscal Impact

The total annual cost of HF 2256 is estimated to be approximately \$10.7 million, of which the State cost is \$10.5 million, and the federal cost is \$155,000. **Figure 1** shows the breakdown of the costs for HF 2256.

Figure 1 — Estimated Costs for House File 2256

Category	State	Federal	Total
FTE Positions	\$ 256,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 271,000
Support Costs	11,000	1,000	12,000
QRTP Costs	10,255,000	140,000	10,395,000
Total	\$ 10,523,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 10,678,000

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding

Source

Department of Health and Human Services

/s/ Jennifer Acton

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
