
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

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Addictive Disorders

Purpose and History

The Addictive Disorders General Fund appropriation provides funding for reducing the prevalence of the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, and treating individuals affected by addictive behaviors through substance abuse, problem gambling, and tobacco use programs in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The [Division of Behavioral Health](#) regulates and administers State appropriations and federal funding for substance use disorder and problem gambling education, prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. The [Division of Tobacco Use Prevention and Control](#) provides similar services relating to tobacco use.

Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Initiative

The Division of Tobacco Use Prevention and Control was established as a division in 2000 as an indirect result of the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement between Iowa and major tobacco companies. The Division receives policy recommendations and directions from the Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Commission. The mission of the Division is to establish a comprehensive partnership among State government, local communities, and the people of Iowa to foster a social and legal climate in which tobacco use becomes undesirable and unacceptable. The Division works to reduce tobacco use and the toll of tobacco-related diseases and death by preventing youths from starting tobacco use, helping adults and youths quit tobacco use, and preventing exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. To implement these goals, the Division follows the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for comprehensive tobacco control programs.

Youth tobacco consumption prevention services include:

- Establishing the statewide youth program, [Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention \(ISTEP\)](#), which is focused on peer education and youth leadership activities.
- Collaborating with State agencies, chiefly the Iowa Department of Revenue (IDR), to enforce the prohibition of tobacco sales to minors.
- Supporting local youth groups dedicated to preventing youth tobacco use.

Tobacco cessation services include:

- Supporting and promoting [Quitline Iowa](#) to help Iowans quit using tobacco.
- Offering eight weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy to Iowans over 18 years of age who are uninsured or insured through Medicare.
- Offering training for collaborative cessation services to Iowa's population of Medicaid enrollees.

Secondhand-smoke-related services include:

- Enforcing the [Iowa Smokefree Air Act](#) (Iowa Code chapter [142D](#)) through compliance education.
- Developing programs aimed at reducing secondhand smoke exposure, including the smokefree apartments and housing project, a collaborative effort with public health partners working on voluntary smokefree housing.

More Information

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services: hhs.iowa.gov/programs/mental-health
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- Providing technical assistance to local contractors to increase the number of community locations where lowans are not exposed to secondhand smoke.

Other activities and services related to the tobacco initiative include:

- Monitoring tobacco use amongst Iowa's general population and targeted populations at highest risk of tobacco addiction.
- Providing funding to [community partnerships](#) in 99 counties for tobacco prevention and control activities at the local level.

Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse-Related Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

The Division of Behavioral Health's [Bureau of Substance Abuse](#) works to address prevention and treatment needs by providing focus for training efforts, identifying and securing available grant funding, monitoring grant compliance, and regulating licensure for treatment programs.

Substance abuse prevention services include:

- The [Substance Abuse Prevention Grant Program](#) to increase abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and reduce tobacco and drug use, harmful drinking, and prescription drug abuse. Funding is used for integration of public health activities, delivery of essential services and core public health functions, and building stronger relationships with community partners.
- The [Iowa Youth Survey](#), conducted every other year with most Iowa 6th, 8th, and 11th graders.
- Youth substance abuse prevention services, focused on youth development opportunities for ages 5 to 18, and youth mentoring programs certified by the Iowa Mentoring Partnership.
- Community coalitions to address specific local substance abuse issues.
- County Substance Abuse Prevention Grants for local prevention services, with a three-to-one local match requirement.

Substance abuse [program licensure and regulation](#) services include:

- Licensing and monitoring approximately 120 substance abuse disorder and problem gambling programs.
- Providing training opportunities for gambling counselors and other health and human services professionals.
- Providing data collection, analysis, and surveillance to identify substance use trends and service needs, monitor HHS and contractor performance, improve program quality, and support planning and allocation of resources.
- Providing connections to other resources.

Substance abuse treatment and recovery support services include:

- Offering a statewide 24/7 helpline (call 855.581.8111 or text 855.895.8398) and a treatment locator at www.YourLifelowa.org.
- Funding 23 local treatment programs as a provider network serving uninsured residents statewide.
- Providing general treatment services such as assessment, subacute residential and extended residential services, halfway house, intensive outpatient services, extended outpatient individual and group counseling, and continuing care.
- Promoting a statewide resiliency and recovery-oriented system of care to prevent substance abuse, treat substance use disorders, and address co-occurring disorders, such as mental and physical health conditions.
- Providing HHS-funded substance use disorder services under the Iowa Plan for Behavioral Health; these services have transitioned to an administrative-services-only agreement with Amerigroup, one of the managed care organizations under the Medicaid Program.

Problem gambling education and prevention services include:

- Public and professional information and resources available at www.YourLifelowa.org.
- Educational presentations to schools and community groups.
- Statewide health promotion efforts to educate lowans about the risks and responsibilities of gambling.

- Surveillance, through data collection/analysis, to identify problem gambling trends and service needs, monitor HHS and contractor performance, improve program quality, and support planning and allocation of resources.
- Prevention services for at-risk populations, community groups, schools, and others.
- Partnerships with State-regulated casinos to provide problem gambling training to employees and promote problem gambling prevention and treatment.

Problem gambling treatment and recovery services include:

- A statewide 24/7 helpline and treatment locator operated through www.YourLifelowa.org.
- Treatment services through assessment and outpatient individual and group counseling for problem gamblers and concerned persons, with 11 local licensed providers covering all 99 Iowa counties.
- Training opportunities for gambling counselors and other health and human services professionals.
- Specialized recovery support services, including housing and life skills assistance.
- Financial counseling, including budgeting and debt reduction plans for admitted problem gambling clients.

Funding — State General Fund

Beginning with 2024 Iowa Acts, [House File 2698](#) (FY 2025 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act), the Addictive Disorders appropriation has moved under the new Behavioral Health appropriation.

In previous fiscal years, the Addictive Disorders General Fund appropriation was included in the annual Health and Human Services Appropriations Act. Prior to FY 2011, appropriations to the HHS addictive disorders programs were also provided from the Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust Fund and the Health Care Trust Fund.

Funding — Other Sources of Revenue

Depending on the program, there are additional federal funds, other funds, and fees that are also included in the operation of these programs. Generally, if these are programs operated by the HHS, the funds are tracked separately in the HHS Gifts and Grants Fund. Major sources of other revenue include the following:

Tobacco Use, Prevention, and Control

The federal [Office on Smoking and Health](#) created the [National Tobacco Control Program \(NTCP\)](#) in 1999 to encourage coordinated national efforts to reduce tobacco-related diseases and death. The Program provides funding and technical support to state and territorial health departments. There is no matching or maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement for state health departments to access this funding. Instead, the state programs must maintain initiatives that mirror the NTCP's four components: 1) population-based community interventions, 2) counter-marketing, 3) program policy and regulation, and 4) surveillance and evaluation.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

The federal [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) administers a combination of data collection activities and competitive, formula, and block grant programs to states. The SAMHSA collects data from states related to administration and funding of prevention and treatment programs, the prevalence of substance abuse in the population, and other relevant national information. The SAMHSA compiles the information and produces state snapshots that offer highlighted information for each state.

A primary source of federal funding to Iowa for substance abuse programming is the SAMHSA [Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant](#). The HHS also secures other funding for substance abuse services such as SAMHSA's Access to Recovery (ATR) program; the Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup; Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment; the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant; Medication Assisted Treatment (prescription drug and opioid addiction); the Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Services Grant; and the State Adolescent and Transitional Aged Youth Treatment Grant.

Along with the Addictive Disorders General Fund appropriation, an intrastate transfer from the Beer and Liquor Control Fund contributes to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant MOE requirement. The transfer is provided from the IDR to the HHS.

Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment

Iowa's gaming entities are required to contribute portions of their gaming revenue to the State General Fund for treatment of problem gambling. An annual appropriation from the Sports Wagering Receipts Fund is provided to HHS to be used for administration costs and to provide funding for programs dedicated to decreasing problem gambling in Iowa.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [125](#), [142A](#), and [142D](#)

Iowa Code section [135.150](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [641—151](#), [641—152](#), [641—153](#), [641—155](#), [641—157](#), and [641—158](#)

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