
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2026

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Health Facilities Division — Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing

Background

The Health Facilities Division of the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) is the designated State survey and certification agency responsible for inspecting and licensing or certifying various health care entities, health care providers, and health care suppliers operating in the State of Iowa. Entities subject to the Division's oversight and regulation include nursing facilities, skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, hospitals, hospices, home health agencies, programs and facilities caring for children, assisted living programs, and elder group homes. The Health Facilities Division is comprised of four bureaus: Long-Term Care, Non-Long-Term Care, Fire Prevention, and Food Safety. The Fire Prevention Bureau was transferred to the Health Facilities Division from the Professional Licensing Division under 2024 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 2433](#) (FY 2025 Administration and Regulation Appropriations Act).

Health Facilities Division personnel also investigate complaints alleging improper care or treatment of patients, residents, and tenants in licensed and certified entities. By law, the Division has the authority to investigate complaints alleging a violation by a health care entity of licensing rules under Iowa administrative rules or applicable federal regulations. Complaints are investigated on site by survey staff. Depending on the nature of the allegation, the complaint investigation process includes observations, resident interviews, and/or records review. The Division is also responsible for the following:

- Conducting investigations of alleged abuse and neglect of residents in health care facilities that receive Medicaid reimbursements from the federal government.
- Investigating complaints of hospitals violating licensing rules under Iowa Code chapter [135B](#). If the hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission (JC) on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the Division must obtain the approval of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services before initiating a complaint investigation, or the investigation of an accredited hospital cannot be initiated.
- Providing a direct care worker (DCW) webpage. The webpage provides certified nursing assistants (CNAs) access to the Iowa Direct Care Worker Registry to apply for registration and to edit and update registration information. It also provides access to the administrative rules with the training requirements for CNAs, certified medication aides, and nutritional assistants.
- Maintaining a list of CNAs qualified by education, training, and testing to work in federally certified long-term care facilities. The list is used by health care facilities to recruit workers. Federal regulations require Medicare- and Medicaid-certified facilities to check the Direct Care Worker Registry to verify that CNAs are eligible to work in those facilities.

More Information

Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing, Health Facilities Division:

dial.iowa.gov/i-need/licenses/health/facilities

LSA Staff Contact: Xavier Leonard (515.725.0509) xavier.leonard@legis.iowa.gov

- Maintaining inspection reports and final findings of complaint investigations for a wide variety of Iowa health care entities. Reports for nursing facilities, residential care facilities, intermediate care facilities, and assisted living programs are available online.

[The Direct Care Worker Registry and Health Facility Database](#) is used to access records for health facilities and for the Iowa Direct Care Worker Registry, which tracks the credentials of CNAs in the State.

Funding

In addition to federal funding, the Health Facilities Division receives an annual General Fund appropriation in the Administration and Regulation Appropriations Act.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [10A](#) and [135B](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [481—50](#)

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