
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2026

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Food and Consumer Safety Bureau — Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing

Overview

The Food and Consumer Safety Bureau is located in the Health and Safety Division of the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL). The Bureau is responsible for administering and enforcing the Iowa Food Code (Iowa Code chapter [137F](#)) by conducting food safety inspections at food establishments and food processing plants, including grocery stores, restaurants, convenience stores, cafeterias, catering operations, mobile food units, farmers markets, temporary food events, hotel breakfast bars, vending machines, bakeries, home food processing establishments, and food warehouses. The Food and Consumer Safety Bureau also conducts health inspections at hotels and motels. These are conducted for new establishments and when the Bureau receives a complaint. The Bureau maintains a [restaurant inspection website](#) through which visitors can view or download inspection reports for Iowa food establishments, food processing plants, and hotels and motels.

All food establishments in Iowa are inspected according to the Iowa Food Code. The Food Code is based on food safety recommendations developed by the federal Food and Drug Administration, in consultation with representatives from the food industry and regulators. The DIAL also contracts with local health agencies to conduct inspections. The Food Code is derived from scientifically developed factors focusing on public health and the prevention of foodborne illness.

Also housed under the Food and Consumer Safety Bureau is the Social and Charitable Gambling Program. This Program administers Iowa Code chapter [99B](#) to regulate games of skill or chance, raffles, bingo, social gambling, and amusement devices. Qualified organizations may obtain a social or charitable gambling license to conduct fundraising activities benefiting educational, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, or religious purposes. Gambling receipts, including receipts of nonprofit organizations, are subject to Iowa sales tax. A social gambling license authorizes gambling on small-stakes card and parlor games (such as cribbage, euchre, hearts, checkers, chess, dominoes, etc.) between individuals.

2016 Iowa Acts, [chapter 1130](#) (FY 2017 Administration and Regulation Subcommittee Appropriations Act) amended the process of collecting fees associated with inspections by permitting the DIAL to keep fee revenue collected from inspections beginning in FY 2017. Fees collected on behalf of a municipal corporation are not retained by the DIAL. The DIAL is required to deposit \$800,000 in collected fees into the General Fund and is permitted to retain the remainder in its operating budget.

Funding

The Food and Consumer Safety Bureau receives an annual General Fund appropriation in addition to the revenue from inspection fees.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [10A](#), [99B](#), [137C](#), [137D](#), [137F](#), and [204](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [481](#)

More Information

Food and Consumer Safety Bureau — Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing:
dia.iowa.gov/food/business-licensing

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

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