
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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HIPIOWA — State High-Risk Health Insurance Pool

The Iowa Comprehensive Health Association (HIPIOWA) was created by the General Assembly to provide health insurance coverage for Iowa's high-risk pool of individuals.

HIPIOWA is governed by a board of directors composed of representatives of health insurance carriers, the Commissioner of the Iowa Insurance Division (or Commissioner's designee), public members appointed by the Governor, and legislative members. The Insurance Division provides general staff support for the Board, and the Association contracts with Benefit Management, LLC as administrator of the association. Cecil Bykerk serves as the Executive Director, and actuarial services are provided by Milliman.

Eligibility

HIPIOWA coverage is offered to State residents who have at least one of the following:

- A notice of rejection of health insurance coverage within the last nine months.
- A notice of health insurance benefit reduction or limitation that substantially reduces benefits compared to benefits available to others, such as a rider that excludes or modifies benefits for a condition.
- A notice of refusal to issue insurance except at a rate exceeding the plan rate of a comparable HIPIOWA plan.
- Other involuntary termination (other than nonpayment).

The medical conditions establishing eligibility include:

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)	Lupus
Angina pectoris	Malignant tumor (treated within four years)
Arteriosclerosis obliterans	Metastatic cancer
Artificial heart valve	Motor or sensory aphasia
Ascites	Multiple or disseminated sclerosis
Cardiomyopathy	Muscular atrophy or dystrophy
Chemical dependency	Myasthenia gravis
Cirrhosis of the liver	Myotonia
Coronary insufficiency	Open heart surgery
Coronary occlusion	Paraplegia or quadriplegia
Cystic fibrosis	Parkinson's disease
Dermatomyositis	Peripheral Arteriosclerosis (if treated within last three years)
Friedreich's disease	Polyarteritis (periarteritis nodosa)
Huntington's disease	Posterolateral Sclerosis
Hydrocephalus	Psychotic disorders
Intermittent claudication	Silicosis
Juvenile diabetes	Splenic anemia (True Banti's Syndrome)
Kidney failure (requiring dialysis)	Still's disease
Lead poisoning with cerebral involvement	Stroke (cerebrovascular accident)
Leukemia	

More Information

Iowa Comprehensive Health Association: [HIPIOWA](#)
LSA Staff Contact: Angel A. Banks-Adams (515.281.6301) angel.banks-adams@legis.iowa.gov

Syringomyelia
Tabes dorsalis (locomotor ataxia)

Topectomy and lobotomy
Wilson's disease

Individuals are not eligible if they:

- Are not a resident of Iowa.
- Have terminated coverage in HIPIOWA within the last 12 months, unless there has been continuous other coverage that has been involuntarily terminated for any reason other than nonpayment of premiums.
- Are inmates of a public institution.
- Have been paid the maximum allowable benefits payable under this program.
- Are eligible for a group plan through an employer.
- Are eligible for public programs where the individual premiums are paid for or reimbursed under any government sponsored program or by any government agency or health care provider.

Funding

Enrolled individuals are required to pay premiums for the coverage. The premiums are 150.0% of the average market rate of the top five individual insurance carriers. By law, HIPIOWA may not accept payment of HIPIOWA premiums from third-party payers except that a close family member may pay the premiums on behalf of a covered individual. Specifically, Iowa Code section [514E.7\(5\)\(d\)](#) prohibits individual premiums from being paid for or reimbursed under any government sponsored program or by any government agency or health care provider.

The premium payments are not adequate to cover the health care expenses of these high-risk individuals. The remaining costs are covered by assessments paid by individual insurance companies insuring Iowans. The insurance companies are allowed to offset the HIPIOWA assessments from premium taxes over a five-year period.

In CY 2018, assets totaled \$5.2 million, primarily from cash and short-term investments.

Enrollment

As of September 2019, the current program enrollment was 206, a decrease of 75 individuals compared to CY 2018 and significantly lower than the program's highest enrollment figure of 3,268 in 2012. This reduction in need for coverage from HIPIOWA is largely due to the federal [Affordable Care Act](#) requirement for guarantee issuance in the individual insurance market, which became effective January 1, 2014.

Related Statute

Iowa Code chapter [514E](#)

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