



Legislative Services Agency

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Fiscal Services Division

Fiscal Topic

Juvenile Detention Home Fund

October 23, 2026

Purpose and History

The Juvenile Detention Home Fund, under the authority of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), provides an annual distribution of moneys to eligible county or multicounty juvenile detention homes to be used for costs related to establishment, improvement, operation, and maintenance. The Fund is established in Iowa Code section [232.142](#) and was enacted by 2001 Iowa Acts, chapter [191](#) (FY 2002 Human Services Appropriations Act). Moneys in the Fund are appropriated to the HHS each fiscal year for allocation to eligible juvenile detention homes.

Juvenile Detention

Iowa Code section [232.2](#) defines a “juvenile detention home” as a physically restraining facility used only for the detention of children. A child can only be placed in detention under the following circumstances:

- The child is being held under warrant for another jurisdiction.
- The child is an escapee from a juvenile correctional or penal institution.
- There is probable cause to believe that the child has violated conditions of release from detention or shelter care and there is a substantial probability that the child will run away or otherwise be unavailable for a subsequent court appearance.
- There is probable cause to believe the child has committed a delinquent act and has been deemed a flight risk, at risk of committing an act that could cause bodily harm to themselves or others, or at risk of committing damage to the property of others.
- There is probable cause to believe that the child has committed a delinquent act involving possession with intent to deliver controlled substances.
- A dispositional order has been entered placing the child in secure custody in a facility following the court determining a child has committed a delinquent act.
- There is probable cause to believe that the child has committed domestic abuse, sexual abuse, or domestic abuse assault.

The following nine juvenile detention homes receive annual allocations from the Juvenile Detention Home Fund:

- North Iowa Juvenile Detention Center in Waterloo
- Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center in Eldora
- Northwest Iowa Youth Emergency Services (YES) Center in Cherokee
- Polk County Juvenile Detention Center in Des Moines
- Scott County Youth Justice & Rehabilitation Center in Davenport
- South Iowa Area Detention Service Agency in Montrose
- Southwest Iowa Juvenile Detention in Council Bluffs

- Woodbury County Juvenile Detention in Sioux City
- Linn County Juvenile Detention in Cedar Rapids

Funding

Moneys in the Juvenile Detention Home Fund are derived from crime services surcharges as established in Iowa Code section [911.1](#). A crime services surcharge is levied against law violators in an amount equal to 15.0% of the fine or forfeiture imposed for a violation of State law, or a city or county ordinance. Each month, the clerk of the district court remits to the State Court Administrator all moneys collected from crime services surcharges in the prior month. The State Court Administrator deposits 46.0% of the moneys collected from crime services surcharges in the Juvenile Detention Home Fund. Moneys deposited into the Fund during a fiscal year are then appropriated to the HHS for the same fiscal year for distribution to the eligible juvenile detention homes.

Prior to FY 2027, moneys allocated from the Fund to eligible juvenile detention homes were prorated on the basis of an eligible juvenile detention home's proportion of the costs of all eligible juvenile detention homes in the prior fiscal year. For FY 2025, a total of \$4.9 million was allocated to the eligible juvenile detention homes in the following amounts:

- North Iowa Juvenile Detention Center: \$176,000
- Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center: \$1.2 million
- Northwest Iowa YES Center: \$156,000
- Polk County Juvenile Detention Center: \$1.6 million
- Scott County Youth Justice & Rehabilitation Center: \$372,000
- South Iowa Area Detention Service Agency: \$177,000
- Southwest Iowa Juvenile Detention: \$301,000
- Woodbury County Juvenile Detention: \$316,000
- Linn County Juvenile Detention: \$647,000

2026 Iowa Acts, [House File 2781](#) (Juvenile Homes, Maintenance and Costs Act) changed the distribution of moneys in the Fund to require that each eligible juvenile detention home receives \$150,000 of the annual appropriation from the Fund. All moneys appropriated that remain after the distribution of \$150,000 to each eligible juvenile detention home will be prorated and distributed on the basis of an eligible home's proportion of the costs of all eligible homes in the immediately preceding fiscal year.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code sections [232.142](#), [602.8108](#), and [911.1](#)
441 IAC [105](#)

Additional Information

For additional information, visit [Juvenile Residential Placement Types and Criteria](#).

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