Early Childhood Modernization Activities

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Senate File 2488

- Signed into law June 2, 2026
- Established an Early Childhood and Families Services (ECFS) System, including:
  - District advisory councils
  - Development of an ECFS System fund
  - Transfer of HOPES – HFI to the ECFS System
  - Transfer of child abuse prevention activities to the ECFS System
- Provisions for the transition of home visiting services from an ECI area board to the ECFS System
- Required the convening of an Early Childhood Iowa Interim Study Committee

ECFS System

- Helps families access coordinated supports that promote healthy child development, strengthen family well-being, and prevent child abuse and neglect
- Iowa HHS will coordinate and strengthen five core services across all HHS districts, making them easier for families to access statewide
- Core services include:
  - Resource Navigation: Thrive Iowa
  - Career Coaching For Families: FaDSS
  - Parent Assistance Programs: MOMS, Group-based parent education, Fatherhood
  - Family Support and Home Visitation
  - Family Resource Centers (Future State)

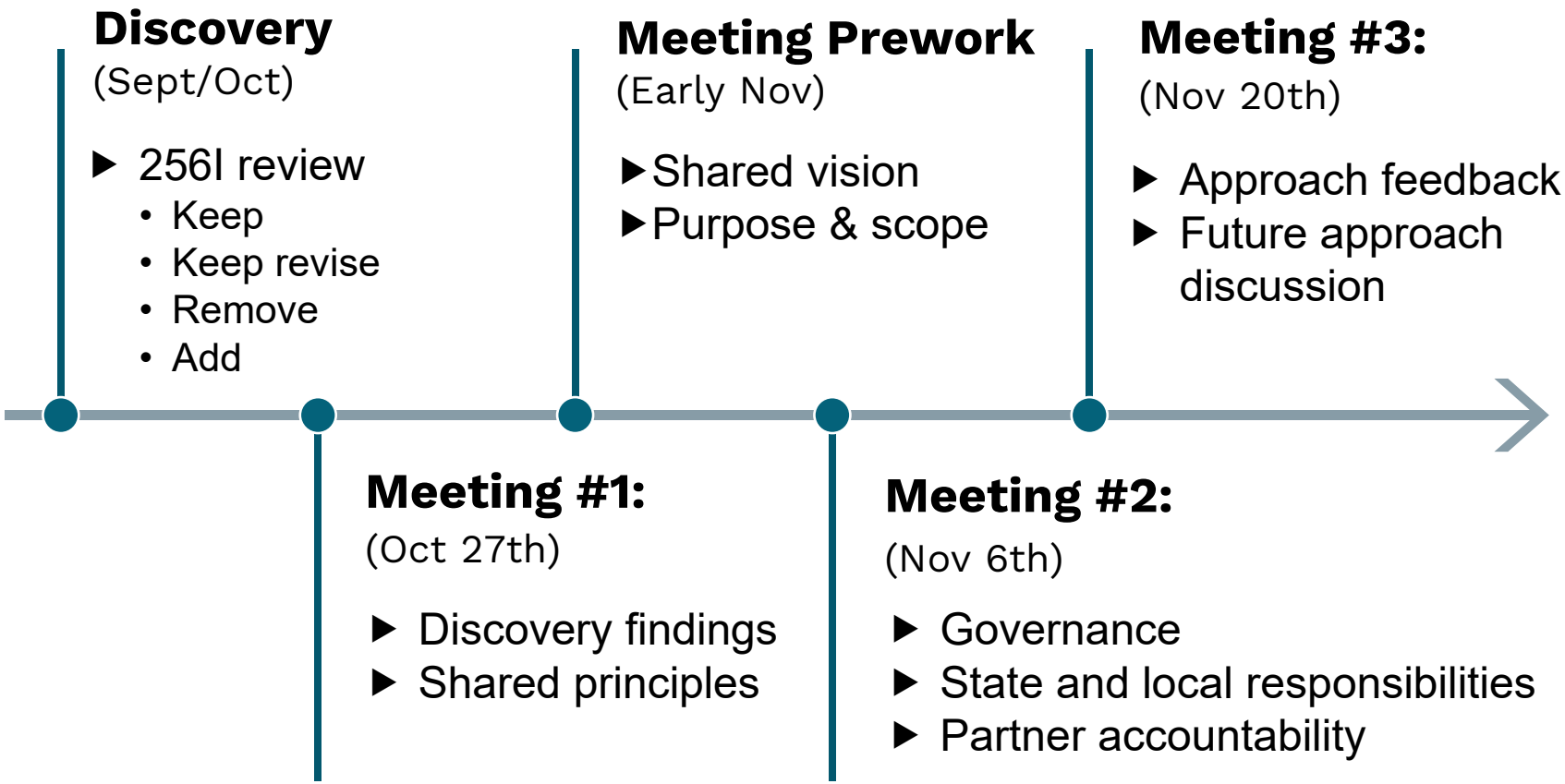
Home Visiting Is Prevention

- Home visiting represents an important prevention strategy within the broader ECFS system.
- Our investment in home visiting now enables future funding to support additional prevention strategies.
- Shared responsibilities between HHS and ECI create a stronger system for families.

Work to be Done Post Session

- Implement the new ECFS System
- Collaborate with the ECI State Board and ECI Association to identify recommendations for changes to 256I

256I Work Group Overview



256I Modernization Opportunities

- Clear purpose and desired results – meet the needs of children and families; fit a future vision and today's business practice
- Well defined ECI system with clear roles and connection points - statewide authority and direction; local activities tailored to meet local needs
- Build and maintain capacity - newly identified administrative partner; seek new partnerships; grow existing relationships
- Build and maintain competency and collaboration – ECI State Board, ECI area boards, ECI Directors, and HHS

Home Visiting Programs

- Personalized support for expectant parents and families with young children
- Parenting guidance from trained professionals
- Child development support
- Connections to local resources and services
- Safe sleep education to help prevent infant deaths

By providing support early in a child's life, home visiting programs help families:

- Handle challenges;
- Build strong relationships; and
- Develop the skills needed to adapt to change and overcome adversity

The Outcome: Stronger family functioning, improved health and well-being, and better connections to community resources and opportunities

Iowa's Current State

A decentralized approach to administration makes it harder to maximize the impact of home visiting services in Iowa:

- Access to services varies across communities
- Different systems use different administrative structures and processes
- Federal funding opportunities are lost
- Providers face duplicative contracting and reporting requirements
- Resources that could support families are redirected to administrative processes

Iowa's Current State

	Administered By HHS		Administered by ECI Area Boards
	MIECHV	**HOPES - HFI**	**Family Support Services**
Funding	**Federal Funds (HRSA - Title V)** **Total = $8.2 million** $6.3 million - Base funding $1.9 million - Match	**State Appropriations & Local Match** **Total = $1.076 million** $734,000 - State general funds $342,000 - Local match funds	**State Appropriations** **Total = $12.3 million**
Federal Match/Draw Down	100% achieved	NA	0% achieved
Interventions Used	3 Evidence-based Interventions	1 Evidence-based Intervention	2 Evidence-based Interventions Non-evidence-based interventions in 5 counties
Service Coverage	24 high-need counties	6 high-need counties	98 of 99 counties
Number of Slots Filled/ Number of Slots Available	100% Capacity Utilization (772 Filled/772 Available)	100% Capacity Utilization (72 Filled/72 Available)	77% Capacity Utilization (1,313 Filled/1,697 Available)
Uniform Slot Rate Used	Yes	Yes	No
Administrative Percentage	10% (Cap)	15% (Cap)	Varies
Program Focus	Maternal and child health, child safety, prevent adverse events, school readiness, and achievement, and family economic self-sufficiency	Maternal and child health, child safety, prevent adverse events, school readiness, and achievement, and family economic self-sufficiency	Maternal and child health, child safety, prevent adverse events, school readiness, and achievement, and family economic self-sufficiency

Proposed Future State

A collaborative, modernized approach to home visiting services where evidence-based home visiting programs are available to every family in need, regardless of zip code

Benefits of this Approach

For Iowans:

- Improved access & consistency to services
- Consistent family experience
- Better coordination for families
- Local engagement to identify & meet families' needs
- Significant increased investment due to additional federal funds

Operational Efficiencies:

- Enhanced resource management; reduced duplication
- Statewide planning & sustainability
- Stronger data & accountability
- Consistent support to providers
- Expansion of services
- Increased pay for home visitors

Future Responsibilities

HHS

- Conduct statewide home visiting assessment (with ECI); statewide planning
- Policy development
- Manage IV-E draw down activities as the federally approved IV-E agency
- Contract with ECI area boards; reinvest IV-E draw down funds for coordinated 0-5 activities

ECI Area Boards/Directors

- Share community-level insights to ensure home visiting remains responsive to local needs
- Build and strengthen referral networks for a statewide coordinated intake system
- Contract with HHS to provide statewide 0-5 coordination activities (using reinvested IV-E funds) to meet local needs

Collaboration Contracts

- Whom: Between HHS and ECI area boards
- What: For local coordination activities
  - Set of available activities defined by HHS
  - Determined as a need by an ECI area board
- When: Available to start as soon as home visiting contracts are transferred to HHS – June 30, 2033
- Proposed amount:
  - Year 1: 25% plus base plus .05 of claimable contract amount
  - Year 2: 15% plus base plus .05 of claimable contract amount
  - Year 3: 5% plus base plus .05 of claimable contract amount
  - Years 4-6: Base plus .05 of claimable contract amount

Local Investment

State Fiscal Year	Local Home Visiting Services*	Additional Local Prevention Services
FY28	+$4.22 million	$4.50 million
FY29	+$3.86 million	$5.12 million
FY30	+$3.50 million	$5.7 million
FY31	+$3.53 million	$5.9 million
FY32	+$3.95 million	$5.8 million
FY33	+$4.37 million	$5.6 million

* This amount is in addition to the $12.3 million state general fund investment in home visiting services

Next Steps

- Continue to develop recommendations to redraft 256I
- Further clarify roles and responsibilities for home visiting services

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Questions

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Appendix #1: IV-E Reinvestment Opportunities

	Contract Value	State Appropriations (Home Visiting)	Federal IV-E Revenue Generated (from Contract Value)	HHS IV-E Drawdown (Reinvestment to HV Contractors)	HHS IV-E Drawdown (Reinvestment to Area Board)	Remaining funds for HHS to Invest in Prevention
FY28	$13,867,573	$12,331,831	$8,736,571	$1,535,742	$2,692,885	$4,507,943
FY29	$14,284,323	$12,331,831	$8,999,123	$1,952,492	$1,916,818	$5,129,813
FY30	$14,701,074	$12,331,831	$9,261,676	$2,369,243	$1,140,750	$5,751,682
FY31	$15,117,824	$12,331,831	$9,524,229	$2,785,993	$751,717	$5,986,519
FY32	$15,534,574	$12,331,831	$9,786,781	$3,202,743	$751,717	$5,832,321
FY33	$15,951,324	$12,331,831	$10,049,334	$3,619,493	$751,717	$5,678,124

Appendix #2: IV-E Reinvestment Opportunities - ECI Area Boards

	25% plus Base plus .05 of claimable amount	15% plus Base plus .05 of claimable amount	5% plus Base plus .05 of claimable amount	Base plus .05 of claimable amount	Base plus .05 of claimable amount	Base plus .05 of claimable amount
Fiscal Year	**FY28**	**FY29**	**FY30**	**FY31**	**FY32**	**FY33**
Amount to ECI area board for reinvestment	$2,692,885	$1,916,818	$1,140,750	$752,717	$752,717	$752,717