

# History of Adult Mental Health and Disability Services Funding in Iowa

October 2018

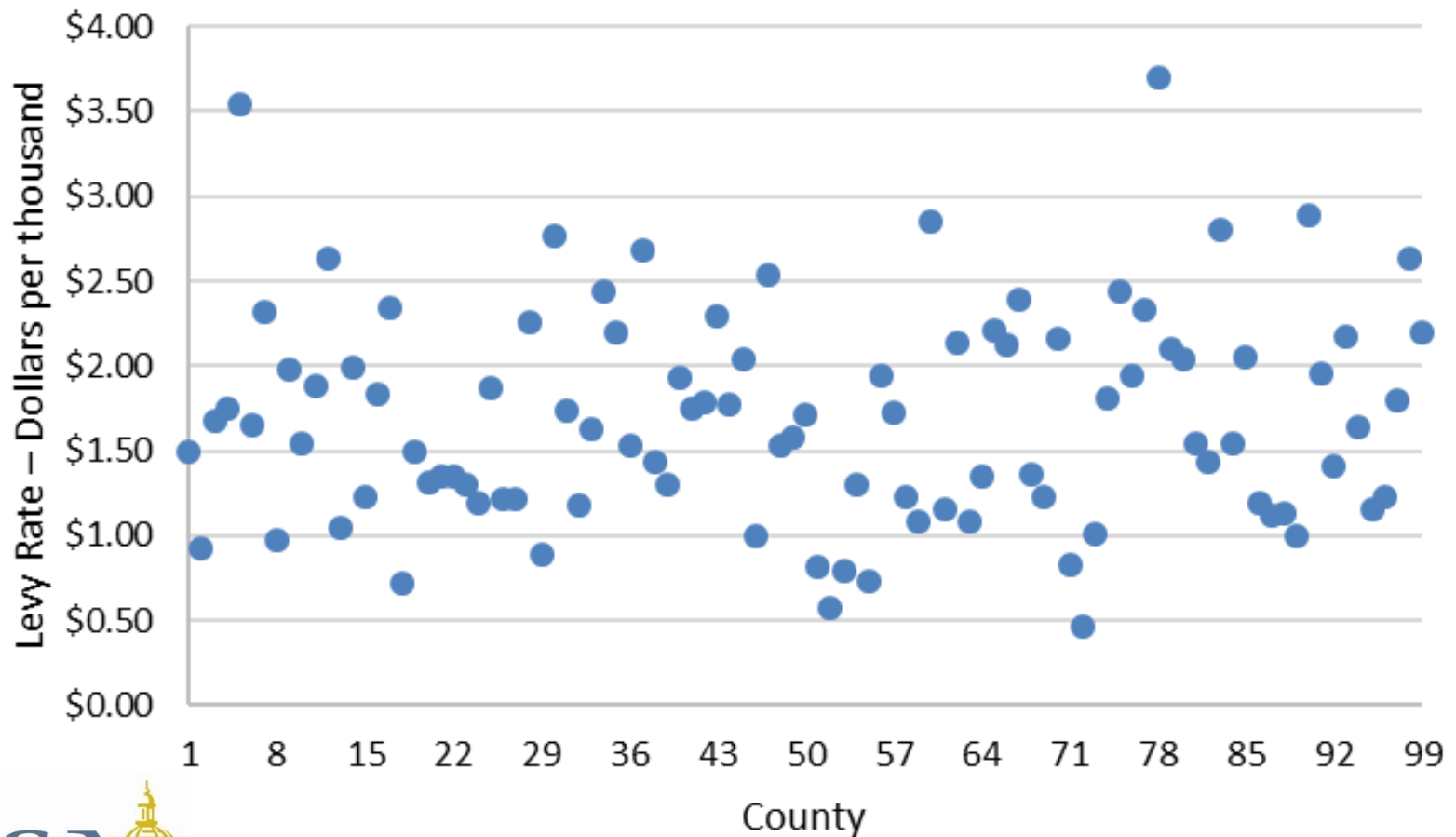
Jess Benson, Senior Legislative Analyst

# Senate File 69 (FY 1996 Property and Income Tax Act)

- Capped the Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) levy at \$214.2 million statewide, with counties choosing to lock in FY 1994 actual expenditures or FY 1996 net expenditures as their new county levy dollar cap.
- The State then provided \$88.4 million in property tax relief to reduce the levy to \$125.8 million statewide.
- The MHDS levy is the only levy to be capped at a dollar amount.

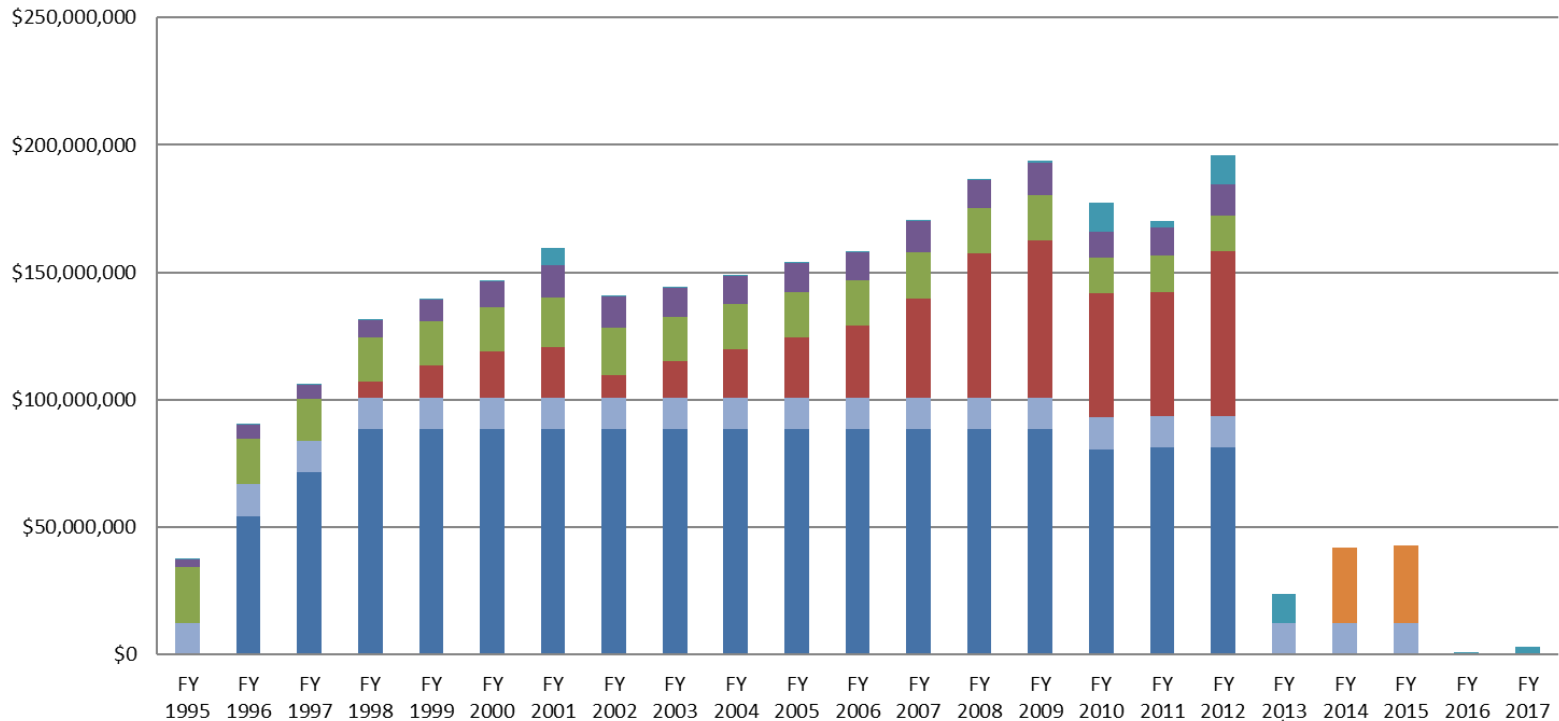
# Wide Variation in Mental Health Levy Rates

## 1997 Actual Mental Health Levy Rate By County



# State Appropriations

## State Appropriations to County MHDS System FY 1995 - FY 2017



- MH Property Tax Relief
- MH/DD Growth Factor
- MI/MR/DD State Cases
- Equalization
- Social Services Block Grant (federal funds)
- MH/DD Community Services
- Risk Pool/Transition

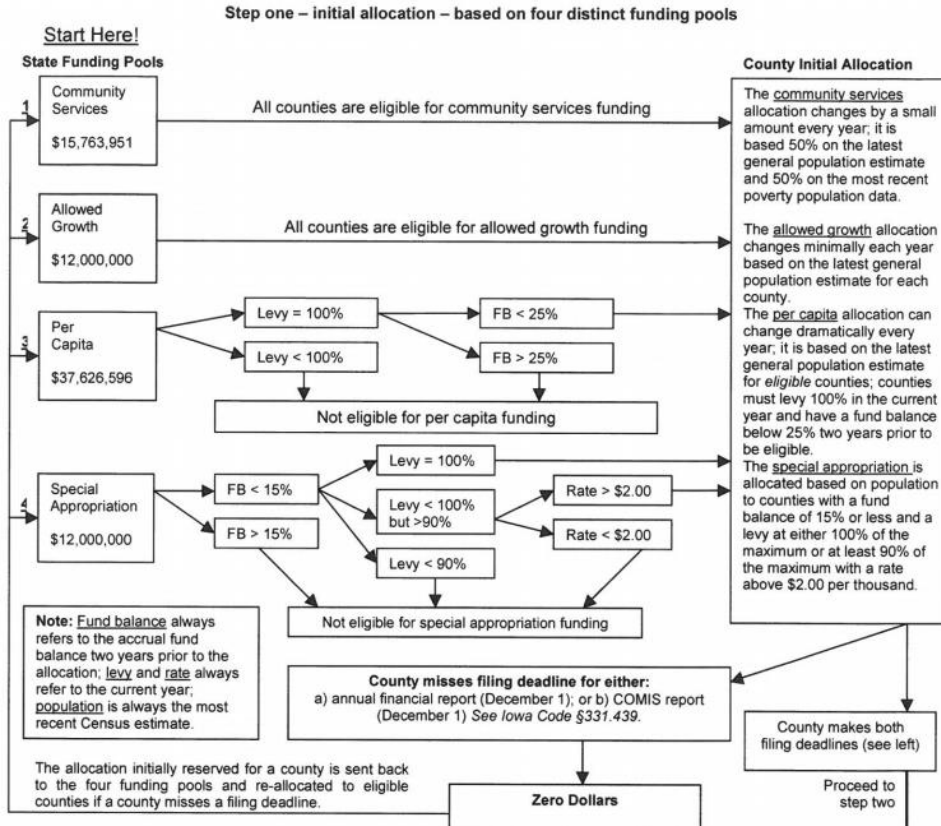
↑  
State assumes responsibility for Medicaid expenditures from the counties.



# Distribution Formula Step 1 of 2

Mental Health Allowed Growth Funding

Allocation Flow Chart for FY 2010



**Withholding**

The four state funding pools add up to an initial allocation of \$77,537,297. But the state only appropriated \$69,872,721 to counties for Mental Health Allowed Growth. We need a mechanism to get from the initial allocation to the final allocation – that mechanism is called the “withhold factor.” This year the withhold factor is \$7,664,576, the difference between the initial allocation and final allocation. The withhold factor only affects counties that are levying at least 90% in the current year and have fund balances between 10% and 25% one year prior to the allocation. See how it works in step two.

But first, the obvious question: Why doesn’t the state just allocate enough money to each of the funding pools to match the appropriation? That would eliminate the withhold factor and the entire step two of this process. In fact, we’d be done right now if the state did that. But as you notice, the criteria for receiving funding from the pools are not the same. By “over-allocating” money to one pool or another and then using the withhold factor, the state can reward – or penalize – counties for exhibiting certain behavior. For instance, when the state “over-allocates” money to the per capita fund, it rewards counties levying 100%. So who gets penalized when those counties get rewarded? The counties levying between 90% and 100% with a fund balance between 10% and 25%. Their penalty comes in the form of a withhold factor, which reduces their final allocation. The withholding process is really just a rather complicated tool that the Legislature uses to make policy decisions.

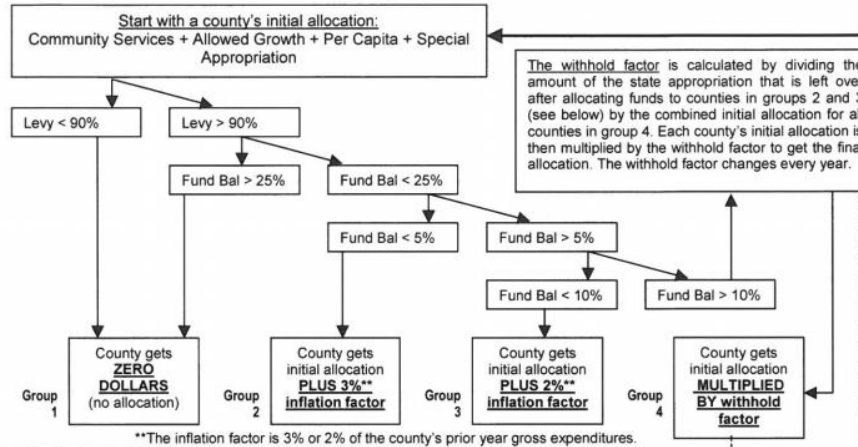


# Distribution Formula Step 2 of 2

Mental Health Allowed Growth Funding

Allocation Flow Chart for FY 2010

Step two – final allocation – only four options – necessary because of the withhold factor



**A note about withholding – "The Ledge"**

There is one final twist to the mental health allowed growth funding allocation: the ledge. The ledge only affects certain counties in group 4 above (those that are levying at least 90% and have fund balances between 10% and 15%) and is best explained with an example. Let's say County 'A' levies 100% and has a 9% fund balance; the county would fall in group 3 and receive its initial allocation plus the 2% inflation factor. Now let's say County 'B' levies 100% and has an 11% fund balance; it would fall in group 4 and receive only its initial allocation multiplied by the withhold factor. Even though County 'B' is only 1 percentage point above the 10% fund balance limit, it could potentially "lose" tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. The lost money is the amount of a county's initial allocation that it loses because of the withhold factor. Let's say that County 'B' has expenses of \$500,000, a fund balance of \$55,000 and an initial allocation of \$150,000, and the withhold factor is 50%. The result is that County 'B', which is over the 10% fund balance level for group 3 by only \$5,000, loses \$75,000 in state funding by the move to group 4. The ledge is designed to prevent that situation.

The ledge says that a county in group 4 with a fund balance between 10% and 15% can only lose an amount of money equal to the amount by which its fund balance exceeds 10%. (In FY 2010 there is no ledge protection for group 4 counties with fund balances between 15% and 25%.) In our example above, County 'B' could only lose \$5,000 – not \$75,000. The difference between the county's allowed loss and its loss due to the withhold factor (\$70,000 in our example) is "added back" (the ledge is also called the "add-back") in to get the county's final allocation. But remember, it's all coming out of the same state appropriation. So when one county gets some funding "added back" due to the ledge, that changes the withhold factor for every other county in group 4. So after we go through the process outlined in step two above and get to the final allocation for group 4, that might not be the final allocation. We need to check to see if the ledge applies to any counties. If it does, we need to give those counties extra money (their add-back funding) and then re-calculate the withhold factor for all the remaining counties. Then we need to check again to see if the new withhold factor subjects any other counties to the ledge, and if so give them their money and re-calculate the withhold for the remaining counties. This goes on and on until no more counties are subject to the ledge. Then, finally – mercifully – the allocation process is over. Until next year.

**Withhold Factor Calculation – Sample**

Available Money  
 Combined initial allocation = Withhold Factor  
 (group 4 counties only)

$$\frac{\$2,000,000}{\$4,000,000} = 50\% \text{ Withhold Factor}$$

Calculation for Individual Counties  
 Initial Allocation \* Withhold Factor = Final Allocation

$$\$150,000 * 50\% = \$75,000$$

**Note:** Starting in FY 2010, any allocation factor using fund balance will be based on the fund balance two years prior to the year of distribution. Additionally, starting in FY 2010, a county will be required to levy at least 90% of its maximum mental health levy in order to be eligible for any allowed growth funding. Any county levying less than 90% in FY 2010 will go in group 1 (above) and receive zero dollars.



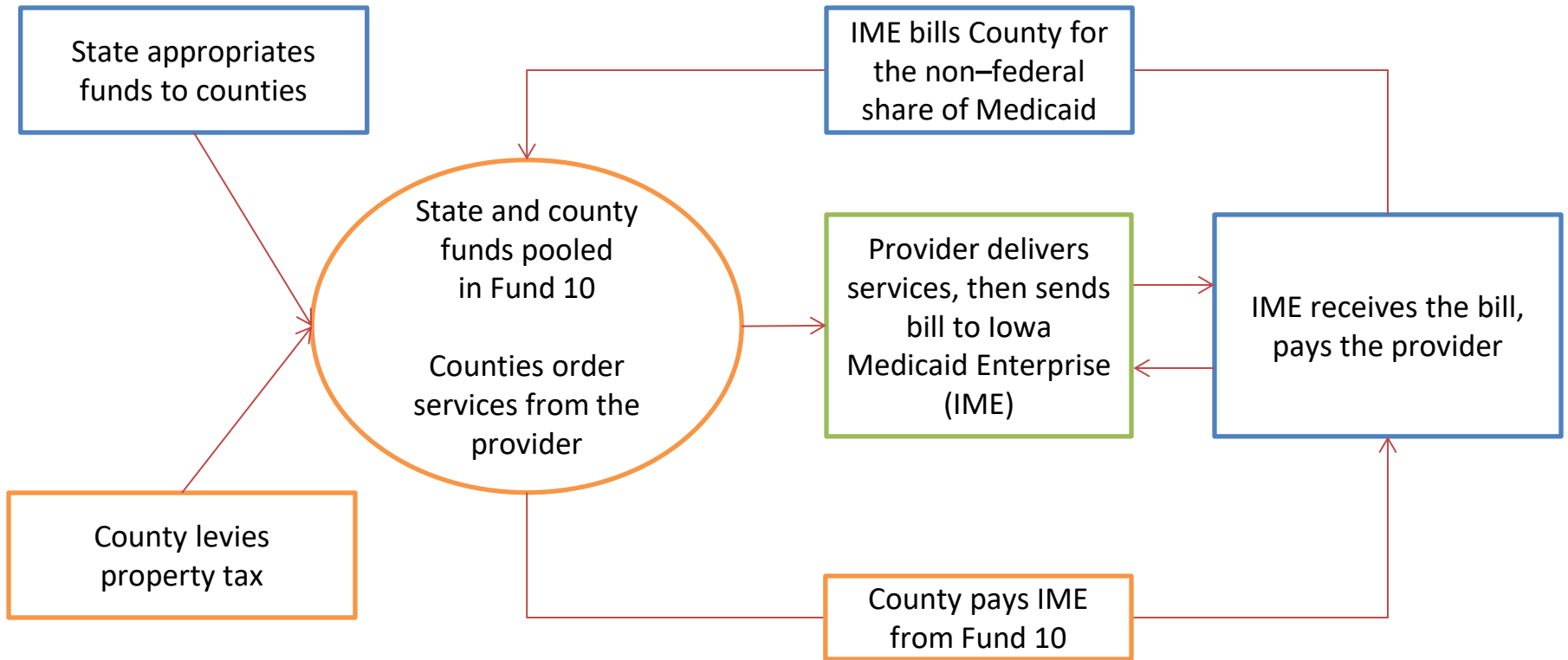
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# Medicaid

- Prior to FY 2013, counties were responsible for the nonfederal share of Medicaid for MHDS Services.
  - Adult Intellectual Disabilities Waiver
  - Habilitation Services
  - Targeted Case Management
  - Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with Intellectual disability (ICF/IDs)
  - State Resource Centers
- Counties also maintained their own Intellectual Disabilities Waiver waiting list.
- The Legislature encouraged counties to use services that were Medicaid-eligible and to bill Medicaid to take advantage of the FMAP rate.

# County Funding Relationship with Medicaid Prior to Buyout



## County-Funded Medicaid Services

Adult ID Waiver  
ICF/IDs  
State Resource Centers  
Habilitation  
Targeted Care Management



# Senate File 2315 (FY 2013 Adult Mental Health and Disability Services Redesign)

- Beginning FY 2013, the State assumed responsibility for the nonfederal share of Medicaid previously funded by the counties.
- The Act directed counties to join into regions by June 30, 2015.
- The Act created core and core plus service domains. Listed in Iowa Code Chapter 331.397.
- The Act set eligibility standards at 150.0% of the federal poverty level, with options to provide services above 150.0% with cost sharing requirements.
- The Act created a new per capita levy system, which was to be implemented beginning FY 2014 with a cap of \$47.28 per capita.

# FY 2013 Medicaid Buyout Medicaid Services

|  |
|--|
| Adult ID Waiver<br>\$136,509,091           |
| Habilitation<br>\$27,740,797               |
| Targeted Case Management<br>\$5,701,164    |
| Misc. Medicaid Expenditures<br>\$1,479,806 |
| ICF/ID<br>\$53,709,945                     |
| State Resource Centers<br>\$15,802,362     |

**Total = \$240,943,165**

## FY 2013 State

Total State Medicaid  
Cost \$240,943,165

+

Other Redesign  
Activities \$138,230

=

**\$241,081,395 Total State  
Costs for FY 2013**



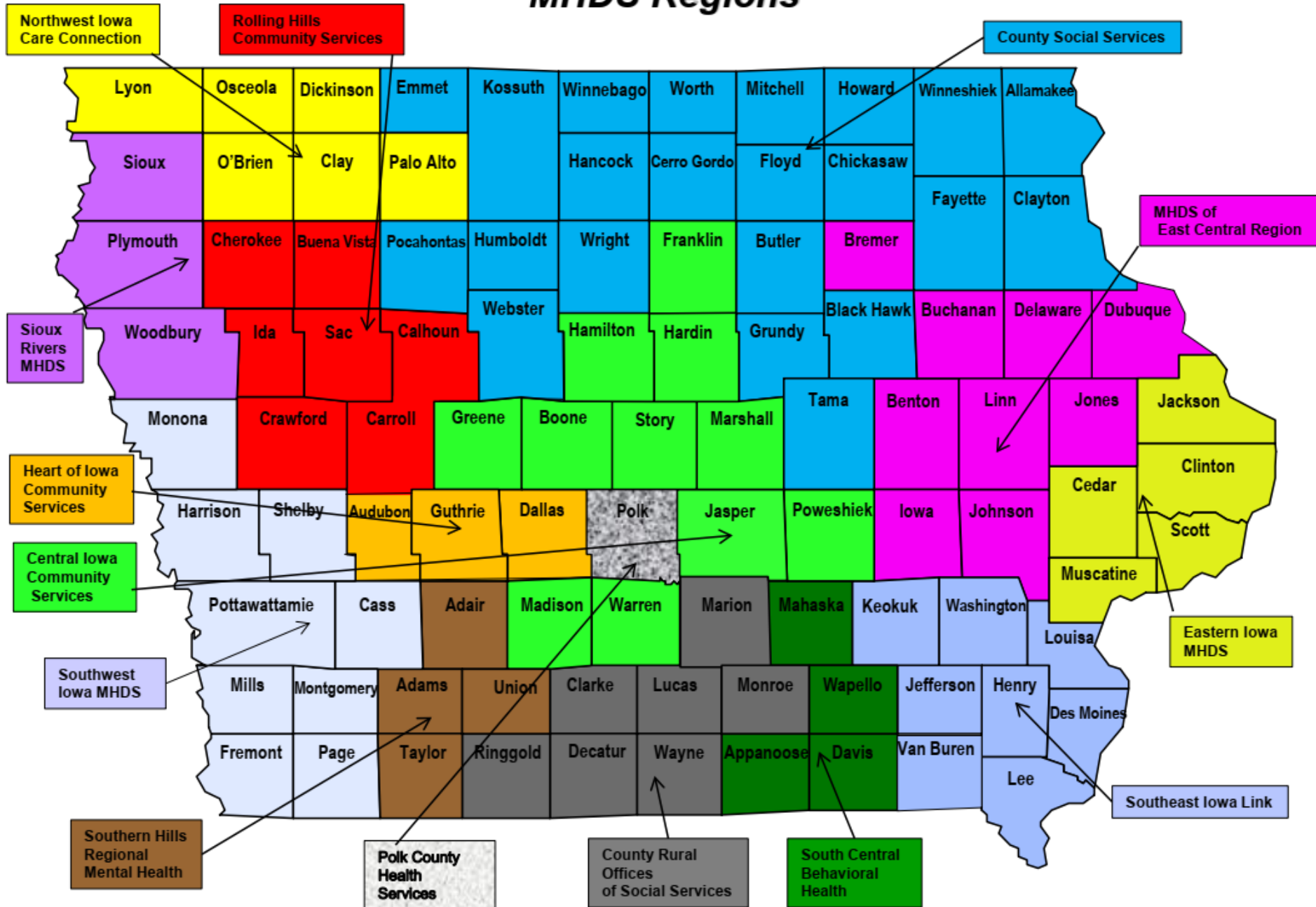
How is the State going to pay?

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Allowed Growth                      | \$ 74,697,893         |
| Property Tax Relief                 | 81,199,911            |
| Property Tax Relief Supplemental    | 7,200,089             |
| Community Services                  | 14,211,100            |
| State Payment Program               | 11,150,820            |
| Palo Tax                            | 2,409,390             |
| Total Shifted from Counties/Regions | <u>\$ 190,869,203</u> |
| Enacted General Fund                | \$ 40,000,000         |
| Supplemental General Fund           | 10,212,192            |
| Total New Appropriations            | <u>\$ 50,212,192</u>  |

**Grand Total**

**\$ 241,081,395**

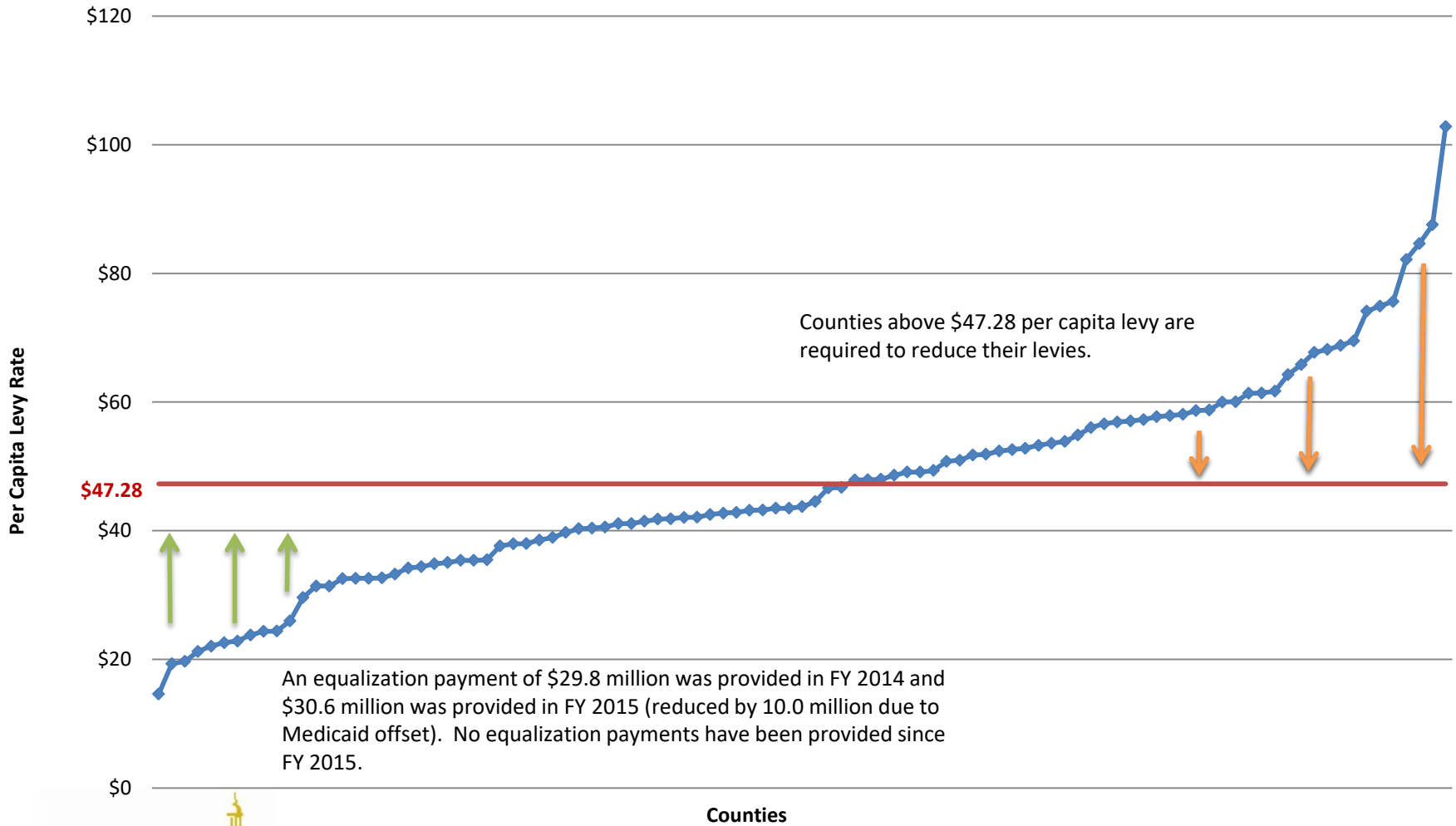
# MHDS Regions



# \$47.28 Per Capita Levy Structure

- The levy created in SF 69 was eliminated and replaced with a new formula that calculated funding on a per capita basis.
- The new levy had a cap of \$125.8 million, the same dollar amount as the previous levy; however, the new methodology converted the cap to a county per capita dollar amount based on general population, with a dollar target of \$47.28 per capita.
- Any county that previously had the ability to levy more than \$47.28 per capita was required to reduce its levy to no more than \$47.28 per capita.
- An equalization payment of \$29.8 million was provided in FY 2014 and \$30.6 million in FY 2015.

# County Per Capita Levy Rates



◆ Current Per Capita Levy Rates    
 — \$47.28 Per Capita Amount

# Medicaid Expansion

- Senate File 446 (FY 2014 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act) took advantage of the option under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to expand Medicaid.
- Covered single adults and childless couples up to 133.0% of the federal poverty level.
- Individuals could be classified as Medically Exempt and be placed on full Medicaid to receive more intensive mental health services:
  - Behavioral health intervention services.
  - Intensive psychiatric rehab.
  - Assertive Community Treatment.

# Medicaid Offset

- Counties were required to return 80.0% of the savings related to Medicaid Expansion to the State to help offset the State cost for Medicaid – \$16.2 million.
- They did that by returning a portion or all of their equalization payment to the State – \$10.0 million.
- If they didn't have enough or any equalization payment then counties were required to reduce their FY 2016 levy rate – \$6.2 million.
- The offset was in effect for only on year, FY 2015, with any levy reductions effective in FY 2016.

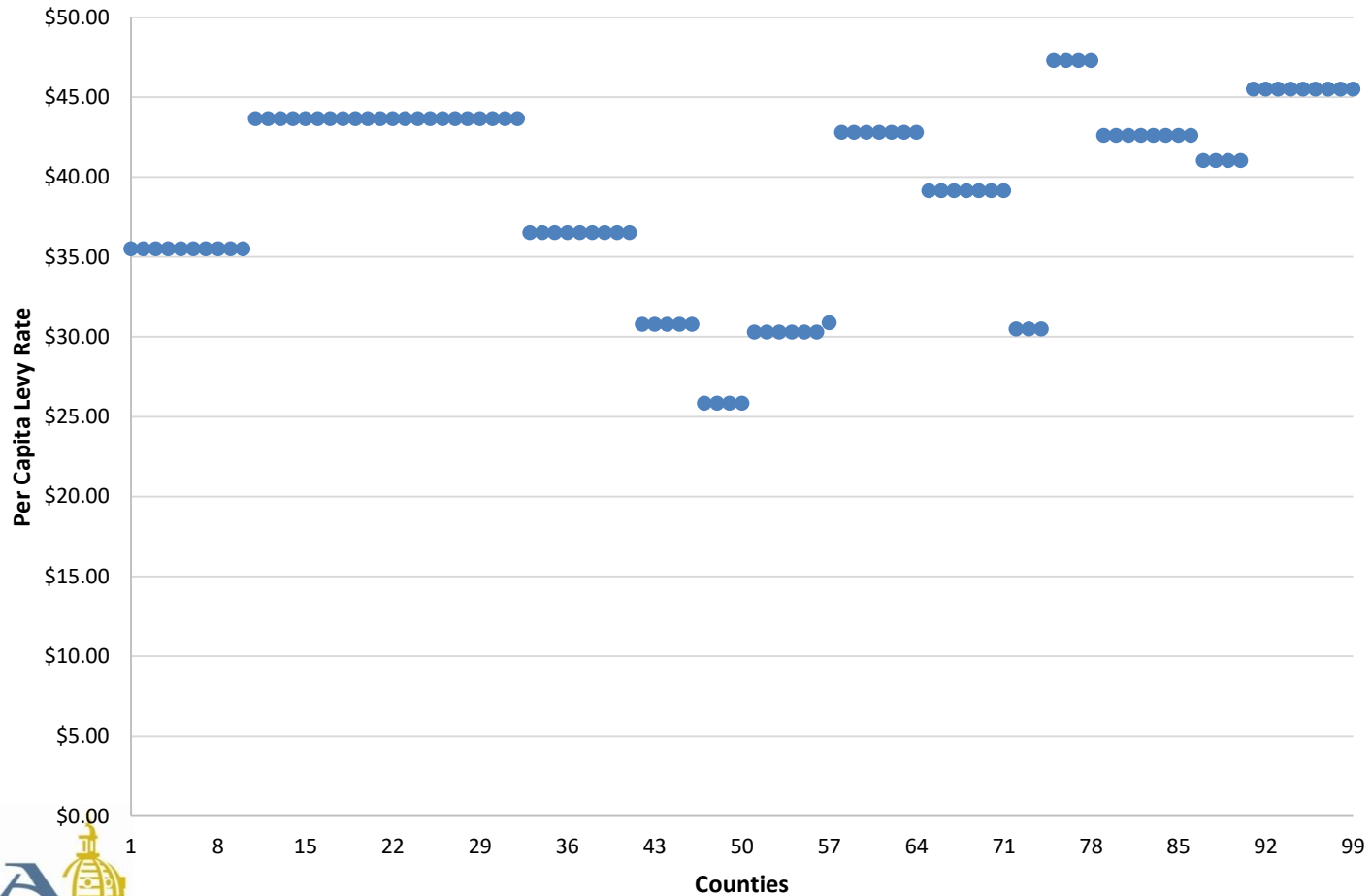
# Senate File 504 (FY 2018 Mental Health Property Tax Act)

- Revised the county mental health and disability services (MHDS) property tax levy by equalizing the tax levied in each county on a regional basis and setting a maximum per capita amount that can be levied across the entire region.
- After the passage of the Act, there are now only 14 different maximum levy rates among the 99 counties, ranging from \$25.84 in the four counties that make up the Heart of Iowa Region to \$47.28 for the four counties that make up the South Central Iowa Region.



# Senate File 504 (FY 2018 Mental Health Property Tax Act)

FY 2019 Maximum Per Capita Levy



# Senate File 504 (continued)

- Beginning in FY 2018, counties have three years to spend down fund balances on services required in their regional management plans.
- Statewide fund balances totaled \$148.7 million at the end of FY 2016 and \$140.6 million at the end of FY 2017.
- Beginning in FY 2022, counties are limited to a fund balance reserved for cash flow of 20.0% of gross expenditures if the region has a population equal to or greater than 100,000, or 25.0% of gross expenditures if the region has a population of fewer than 100,000.
- Counties will be required to reduce their levies by any dollar amount in excess of the cash flow amount.

# Senate File 504 (continued)

- For FY 2018 – FY 2020 Broadlawns Medical Center Board is required to transfer \$2.8 million to the Polk County Board of Supervisors to deposit in the county MHDS Fund.
- In addition, Broadlawns Medical Center is required to donate \$3.5 million worth of services to Polk County MHDS for FY 2018 – FY 2020.

# House File 2456 (FY 2019 Complex Services Needs Act)

|  | FY 2019                              |                   |                     | FY 2020                              |                     |                     |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|  | Total Federal,<br>State, &<br>Region | General Fund      | Region<br>Share     | Total Federal,<br>State, &<br>Region | General Fund        | Region<br>Share     |
| <b>Access Centers</b>                      |                                      |                   |                     |                                      |                     |                     |
| Net Medicaid                               | \$ 112,908                           | \$ 45,242         | \$ 0                | \$ 3,089,902                         | \$ 1,238,124        | \$ 0                |
| Net Non-Medicaid                           | 28,227                               | 0                 | 28,227              | 1,018,776                            | 0                   | 1,018,776           |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 141,134</b>                    | <b>\$ 45,242</b>  | <b>\$ 28,227</b>    | <b>\$ 4,108,678</b>                  | <b>\$ 1,238,124</b> | <b>\$ 1,018,776</b> |
| <b>Assertive Community Treatment</b>       |                                      |                   |                     |                                      |                     |                     |
| Net Medicaid                               | \$ 494,315                           | \$ 198,072        | \$ 0                | \$ 3,907,120                         | \$ 1,565,583        | \$ 0                |
| Net Non-Medicaid                           | 2,195,145                            | 0                 | 2,195,145           | 5,841,930                            | 0                   | 5,841,930           |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 2,689,460</b>                  | <b>\$ 198,072</b> | <b>\$ 2,195,145</b> | <b>\$ 9,749,050</b>                  | <b>\$ 1,565,583</b> | <b>\$ 5,841,930</b> |
| <b>New Crisis Services</b>                 |                                      |                   |                     |                                      |                     |                     |
| Net Medicaid                               | \$ 0                                 | \$ 0              | \$ 0                | \$ 0                                 | \$ 0                | \$ 0                |
| Net Non-Medicaid                           | 1,800,000                            | 0                 | 1,800,000           | 1,800,000                            | 0                   | 1,800,000           |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 1,800,000</b>                  | <b>\$ 0</b>       | <b>\$ 1,800,000</b> | <b>\$ 1,800,000</b>                  | <b>\$ 0</b>         | <b>\$ 1,800,000</b> |
| <b>Subacute Services</b>                   |                                      |                   |                     |                                      |                     |                     |
| Net Medicaid                               | \$ 676,800                           | \$ 271,194        | \$ 0                | \$ 2,340,800                         | \$ 937,959          | \$ 0                |
| Net Non-Medicaid                           | 222,075                              | 0                 | 222,075             | 768,075                              | 0                   | 768,075             |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 898,875</b>                    | <b>\$ 271,194</b> | <b>\$ 222,075</b>   | <b>\$ 3,108,875</b>                  | <b>\$ 937,959</b>   | <b>\$ 768,075</b>   |
| <b>Intensive Residential Home Services</b> |                                      |                   |                     |                                      |                     |                     |
| Net Medicaid                               | \$ 766,064                           | \$ 306,962        | \$ 0                | \$ 5,510,835                         | \$ 2,208,192        | \$ 0                |
| Net Non-Medicaid                           | 79,375                               | 0                 | 79,375              | 571,000                              | 0                   | 571,000             |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 845,439</b>                    | <b>\$ 306,962</b> | <b>\$ 79,375</b>    | <b>\$ 6,081,835</b>                  | <b>\$ 2,208,192</b> | <b>\$ 571,000</b>   |
| <b>All Recommendations</b>                 |                                      |                   |                     |                                      |                     |                     |
| Net Medicaid                               | \$ 2,050,087                         | \$ 821,470        | \$ 0                | \$ 14,848,658                        | \$ 5,949,857        | \$ 0                |
| Net Non-Medicaid                           | 4,324,822                            | 0                 | 4,324,822           | 9,999,781                            | 0                   | 9,999,781           |
| DIA Inspection Costs                       | 54,545                               | 54,545            | 0                   | 39,069                               | 39,069              | 0                   |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 6,429,454</b>                  | <b>\$ 876,015</b> | <b>\$ 4,324,822</b> | <b>\$ 24,887,507</b>                 | <b>\$ 5,988,926</b> | <b>\$ 9,999,781</b> |

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

# Outstanding Issues

- A stable long-term funding source for regions.
- Equity between the regions.
- After county/regional fund balances are reduced to 20.0% or 25.0%, a number of regions will start hitting their funding caps, especially with the new core services listed in the previous slide.
- Regions with high population growth rates don't have levying authority to keep up with service demands.
- Regions with low populations don't have the economies of scale to fund services within their levy cap.
- Polk County's levy is approximately \$7.0 million short of expenditures without Broadlawns support.

# Funding Options That Have Been Discussed Through The Years...

- Allow all regions to levy a standard per capita dollar amount and allow for future growth.
- State buys out the entire MHDS system.
- Fund the MHDS system growth with General Fund appropriations.
- Raise sales taxes and dedicate a portion to MHDS. Every one-eighth of a penny increase would raise approximately \$66.1 million.

# Questions?

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