
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2020

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Department of Human Services — Facilities

Purpose and History

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Facilities appropriation began in FY 2017. The appropriation is for salaries, support, maintenance, and miscellaneous purposes at facilities under the purview of the Department. The DHS currently operates Glenwood and Woodward Resource Centers, Independence and Cherokee Mental Health Institutes (MHIs), the State Training School at Eldora, and the Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders at Cherokee. In recent years, the DHS closed two MHIs (Mount Pleasant and Clarinda) and the Iowa Juvenile Home (Toledo).

Funds have been used to fill shortfalls in the facilities' General Fund appropriations budgets. Each year, certain fixed costs increase beyond the control of the DHS, primarily staff salary step increases, staff salary merit increases, and increases in the employer's share of health insurance. Prior to FY 2010, the customary practice for funding annual salary and benefit increases (referred to as salary adjustment) was for the General Assembly, with approval of the Governor, to provide a separate appropriation to the Department of Management, which would then allocate the appropriated dollars to the various State agencies based on agency salary adjustment needs.

Since FY 2009, no separate appropriation for salary adjustment has been made, and agencies have funded salary increases through the normal appropriation process. However, because most State agencies submit status quo budgets, the increased salary costs are generally not included in agencies' annual budget requests. This has required many agencies to find savings within their status quo budgets to fund the increased salary costs. The savings have been realized by holding positions vacant, making layoffs, implementing efficiencies that reduce operating costs, eliminating programs, and shifting the cost of positions from the General Fund to other funding sources. In addition, some departments have been able to secure increased funding through the legislative process to assist funding increased salary costs.

The advantage of one appropriation being available for all facilities is that it allows the DHS to focus on the facilities with the tightest budgets in a fiscal year. Additionally, Iowa Code section [218.6](#) permits the DHS to transfer funds between the appropriations made for each institution.

Funding — State General Fund

The DHS Facilities appropriation was first enacted in the FY 2017 Health and Human Services Appropriation Act. The appropriation has been included annually since then.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [218.6](#)

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

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