
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Community Capacity

Purpose and History

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Community Capacity appropriation provides funding intended to strengthen the public health system at the local level. This is achieved through programs run by the HHS and programs run by third-party entities through sole-source contracts, awards, and requests for proposals. The following programs and initiatives are currently or were previously funded in whole or in part through this appropriation:

- **Primary Care Recruitment and Retention Endeavor (PRIMECARRE) Program:** Established in Iowa Code section [135.107](#), the Program transfers funds for deposit into the Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program and Trust Fund to implement the Iowa Loan Repayment Program. This Program repays education loans of primary care clinical services located in rural, federally designated health care professional shortage areas. State funds are used for a one-to-one match for the federal loan repayment grant. Loan repayment awards are made to an average of eight health professionals a year who commit to serve in shortage areas for two years.
- **[Fulfilling Iowa's Need for Dentists \(FIND\) Loan Repayment Project:](#)** The Iowa FIND Project fills a niche that the PRIMECARRE Program cannot due to federal criteria. The FIND Project award recipients agree to practice dentistry in a designated dentist shortage area and devote at least 35.0% of their practice to Medicaid-eligible, elderly, disabled, and other underserved patients over a three-year period. The FIND Project is a collaborative effort with Delta Dental of Iowa, the Iowa Area Development Group, the HHS, and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics.
- **Psychology Postdoctoral Internship Program:** The Psychology Postdoctoral Internship Program is separate from the PRIMECARRE Program and fills a niche for Iowa that PRIMECARRE cannot due to federal criteria. The Program is not a loan repayment program, but instead focuses on increasing Iowans' access to mental health services by creating new opportunities for doctoral-level psychologists to complete a required rotation in Iowa. The Program targets health professional shortage areas and rural areas. The HHS contracts with the Iowa Psychological Association (IPA) to develop psychologist postdoctoral training programs in rural and underserved areas.
- **[Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems:](#)** Created in Iowa Code section [135.15](#), the Bureau strives to achieve open access to optimal oral health care for all Iowans.
- **[Bureau of Local Public Health Services:](#)** This Bureau promotes and supports development of public health infrastructure at the local and State level. This includes consultation by regional community health consultants with local boards of health and provision of technical assistance regarding the role and responsibilities of local boards. General funds for the local public health liaison are used for a maintenance-of-effort match for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. County boards of health also receive funds to support core public health functions, including home health care and public health nursing services, through the Essential Public Health Services appropriation.

More Information

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services: hhs.iowa.gov
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- [Iowa KidSight](#): Iowa KidSight is a child vision screening program that is a joint project of the University of Iowa Children's Hospital, the Lions Clubs of Iowa, and Early Childhood Iowa Areas. The goal of the Program is to enhance the early detection and treatment of vision impairments in young children (target population being six months of age through kindergarten) in Iowa communities through screening and public education.
- [Prevent Blindness Iowa](#): This Program seeks to increase statewide vision screening programs to children through volunteers and nurses, and is specifically targeted at children in child care centers and schools. The Program includes training, certification, and all necessary vision screening materials.
- **Mental Health Workforce Initiatives**: This group of programs includes several recruitment and training projects targeting the mental health workforce, including the University of Iowa Mental Health Training Program, the Cherokee Mental Health Training Program, the Psychologist Intern Program, and an initiative to improve outcomes for mental health treatment in primary care settings operated by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.
- **Volunteer Health Care Provider Program**: Established in Iowa Code section [135.24](#), this Program's goal is to increase volunteerism by competent health care professionals by offering employer tort claim protection to eligible volunteer health care providers and eligible clinics providing free health care services in Iowa.
- **Iowa Donor Registry**: This appropriation provides funding to the [Iowa Donor Network](#) to administer the Iowa Donor Registry established in Iowa Code chapter [142C](#).
- **Medical Residency Training Grants Program**: Pursuant to Iowa Code section [135.176](#), this Program seeks to establish, expand, or support medical residency training programs, with priority given to family practice or psychiatric residency programs.
- **Des Moines University**: Provides funding to establish a program that trains doctors on identifying and treating patients with mental health needs in the primary care setting.

Funding — State General Fund

The Community Capacity General Fund budget unit appropriation is included in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Act. Prior to FY 2011, appropriations to the Community Capacity programs were also provided from the Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust Fund and the Health Care Trust Fund.

Funding — Other Sources of Revenue

There are additional federal funds, other funds, and fees that play a part in the operation of these programs. Generally, if these are programs operated by the HHS, the funds are tracked separately in the HHS Gifts and Grants Fund.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [135](#), [135A](#), and [142C](#)

Iowa Code sections [135.15](#), [135.24](#), and [135.176](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [641—50](#), [641—80](#), [641—88](#), [641—108](#), and [641—110](#)

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