
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Healthy Children and Families

Purpose and History

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Healthy Children and Families appropriation provides funding for programs that ensure access to preventive child health services and link children and families with community-based preventive health and family support services. Many of these programs are part of the [Bureau of Family Health](#) or the [Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems](#) and are carried out by a number of local service providers.

The following programs are funded through the appropriation:

- [Maternal Health Services](#): This program supports 24 maternal health agencies serving all 99 counties that provide prenatal and postpartum care to Medicaid-eligible and other low-income women. Services offered to Iowa residents include medical and dental assessment; health and nutrition education; psychosocial screenings and referrals; care coordination; assistance with birthing plans; and postpartum home visiting.
- [Statewide Perinatal Care Program](#): This program provides professional training, development of standards or guidelines of care, consultation with regional and primary providers, and evaluation of the quality of care delivered to reduce the mortality and morbidity of infants. Through a contract with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, these services are provided to all hospitals that perform deliveries.
- [Child and Adolescent Health](#): This program promotes access to regular preventive health care services for children through contracts with 15 local child health agencies, serving all 99 counties. The program provides presumptive eligibility for children who may appear to be eligible for Medicaid or the Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (Hawki) Program. There are also outreach coordinators to promote the Hawki Program.
- [Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment \(EPSDT\) Care for Kids Program](#): This program serves children enrolled in Medicaid from birth through age 20 to ensure they receive preventive health care services. This program provides information services for children and families who are newly enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is a federally mandated program that ensures children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, developmental, and specialty services. Initial and periodic health checkups include but are not limited to: health history; physical exam; growth and development assessment; vision and hearing screening; dental screening and education; immunizations; developmental/behavioral screening; nutrition assessment and education; laboratory tests including blood lead testing; anticipatory guidance; and referral for further diagnostic and treatment services.
- [I-Smile/Oral Health](#): This program supports services within the EPSDT and Child and Adolescent Health programs to promote and advance healthy behaviors, reduce the risk of oral diseases, and improve Iowans' oral health status through funding provided to child health contractors. The program targets children, youth, and pregnant women for the prevention, early identification, referral, and treatment of oral disease. In addition to care coordination, the program implements services in

More Information

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schools, maternal and child health agencies, and other community-based settings through contracts with community-based private, nonprofit, and public agencies.

- **Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success —Healthy Families Iowa (HOPES–HFI):** This program, established in Iowa Code section [135.106](#), follows the national Healthy Families America evidence-based model to provide family support through home visits for families. Visits begin during pregnancy or at the birth of a child and can continue through age four. Twelve HOPES–HFI programs are available in nine Iowa counties: Black Hawk, Buchanan, Clinton, Hamilton, Lee, Muscatine, Polk, Scott, and Woodbury. All 12 programs providing HOPES–HFI services with State grant funds in these counties have been awarded national accreditation by Healthy Families America. Funding is used for the maintenance of effort requirement for the federal [Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program](#).
- **1st Five:** 1st Five is a public-private mental development initiative that partners primary care and public health services in Iowa to enhance high-quality well-child care. The 1st Five model supports health providers in the earlier detection of social-emotional delays, developmental delays, and family risk-related factors in children from birth to age five, and coordinates referrals, interventions, and follow-up. There are currently 15 operational service areas covering 88 counties. By using a tool for all children that includes social-emotional development and family risk factors, providers are able to identify children at risk for developmental concerns that, if left untreated, will have an impact later in life.
- **Iowa Donated Dental Services Program:** Managed by the Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems, this program contracts with Delta Dental of Iowa for funding through the [Dental Lifeline Network](#) initiative. The program provides free dental services to individuals with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and cannot afford or otherwise access treatment for severe dental conditions. Funding is used to recruit dentists, promote the program, provide patient case management, and purchase laboratory services.
- **Dental Services to Underserved Children:** Funding is contracted to the [University of Iowa College of Dentistry](#) to provide dental care for underserved children on a fee-for-service basis (following the Medicaid fee schedule). Services are provided by the University of Iowa and occasionally by private practice dentists. Funds must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the University, and the program must coordinate efforts with the I-Smile Program. The contractor is required to serve a minimum of 100 children during the contract period.
- **Audiological Services for Children:** Part of the [Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders](#), this program provides funding for hearing aids and/or audiological services for children who otherwise would not be able to afford these services. Administered through the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI), the Audiological Services for Children program is established in Iowa Code section [135.131](#) and requires universal screening for all newborn children and infants and further requires results to be reported to the HHS.
- **Youth Suicide Prevention:** Funds are used to provide the [Your Life Iowa](#) resource, which offers support and services for suicide prevention and bullying prevention. These services include a website, online chat, and toll-free hotline, all available 24/7, and texting services from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily.
- **5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count:** Funding is allocated to projects that increase opportunities for young children to be physically active and choose healthy foods. Funds are distributed to the Iowa Councils of Government to implement wellness initiatives in selected communities. Funds were previously provided to the Department of Education to support the Super Power Summit, where teams of middle school students learn how they can be leaders in their schools to improve nutrition and physical activity environments. Funds also support efforts to increase the number of early care and education settings with nutrition and physical activity standards and are distributed to selected communities to complete walkability assessments.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):** Funding supports the Adverse Childhood Experiences in Iowa Report and Study being conducted by the Central Iowa ACEs Steering Committee. The Adverse Childhood Experiences Report revealed that childhood trauma is common and can have a large impact on future behaviors and health outcomes. Funding is used to include the ACEs-related surveillance questions in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System to further track and study

this topic.

Funding — State General Fund

The Healthy Children and Families General Fund budget unit appropriation is included in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Act. Prior to FY 2011, appropriations to the Healthy Children and Families programs were also provided from 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 programs are operated by the HHS, the funds are tracked separately in the Gifts and Grants Fund.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [135](#) and [136A](#)

Iowa Code sections [135.15](#), [135.17](#), and [135.131](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [641—50](#), [641—76](#), [641—87](#), and [641—150](#)

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