



2024 Legislative Summary

Iowa's 2024 Legislative Session saw several bills enacted relevant to the aging service sector. From workforce programs to healthcare funding, there were many key legislative developments that will leave an impact on providers across the state. The 2024 Legislative Summary highlights all the critical bills and policy changes providers of aging services need to know about. For any questions, email sheibel@leadingageiowa.org.

- **HF2698- Health and Human Services Appropriations** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - HF 2698 appropriates money to HHS for FY 2025. Relevant appropriations include:
 - \$19,088,714 for aging services programs including Area Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability resources centers
 - More than \$30,000,000 for home and community-based services, including 14.6 million to increase access to community-based providers, and an increase of \$16.5 million to the HCBS program to offset federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding that expired.
 - \$800,000 for renovation and construction of nursing facilities.
 - Medicaid:
 - For FY 2025, HHS will reimburse case-mix nursing facility rates at the amounts in effect on June 30, 2024.
 - Starting July 1, 2024, HHS will calculate each nursing facility's case-mix index for the period beginning July 1, 2023, using weighting based on the current patient driven payment model (PDPM) schedule. Rosters will be made to show a separate calculation to determine the average case-mix index for a nursing-facility-wide case mix index, and a case-mix index for the residents of a nursing facility who are Medicaid recipients using all minimum data set reports by the nursing facility for the previous semi-annual period using a day weighted calculation.
 - For FY 2025, reimbursement rates for home health agencies will continue to be based on the Medicare low utilization payment adjustment (LUPA) methodology with state geographic wage adjustments and will be adjusted to increase the rates to the extent possible within the state funding appropriated. The department will continue to update the rates every two years to reflect the most recent Medicare LUPA rates.
 - The personal needs allowance for residents of nursing facilities will be \$50 per month.
 - HHS will explore options for a revised payment model for reimbursement of assisted living programs that provide services to

Medicaid recipients. The study will include consideration of all sources of funding utilized by residents of assisted living programs. HHS will report all options identified to the general assembly by December 1, 2024.

- The QAAF will be paid by each nursing facility quarterly. In the case of a facility's financial instability or noncompliance, HHS can enact another schedule of payment.
- Other sections:
 - Health care employment agencies that fail to register with the state will be prohibited from contracting with any health care entity in this state.
 - Health care employment agencies that fail to register or follow reporting guidelines will be fined, or subject to revocation of their registration.
 - HHS will provide semiannual joint training sessions for inspectors and nursing facilities to review at least three of the ten most frequently issued federal citations in the state. HHS will develop a protocol to identify regional citation patterns relating to complaints, standards, and outcomes in the nursing facility inspection process. HHS will include the state long-term care ombudsman, and representatives of each nursing facility provider association in the state in the planning process for the joint training sessions.
 - HHS will establish and maintain a process to review each citation issued for immediate jeopardy or substandard quality of care prior to issuing final findings. Representatives of the nursing facility issued such a citation may participate in the review to provide context and evidence for the department to consider in determining if a final finding of immediate jeopardy or substandard quality of care should be issued. The review will ensure consistent and accurate application of federal and state inspection protocols and defined regulatory standards.
- **[HF 2013](#)- Nursing Home Administrator Provisional Licenses** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - HF 2013 allows for a provisional license to be granted by a nursing home's owner if the regular administrator is unable to perform their duties. It dictates that the provisional license shouldn't be held for more than 24 total months combined.
- **[HF 2263](#)- CCRC Language** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - HF 2263 makes changes to Iowa's insurance law. It includes an amendment codifies the current practice of continuing care at home. The language expands the definition of a continuing care retirement community to include both services provided by in a facility and at home. Though this has been the practice in Iowa, this bill changes the law to reflect practice.
- **[SF 2411](#)- Work-Based Learning** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - SF 2411 expands some aspects of work-based learning, including that instructional programs may take place when school is not in session. It also establishes the Workforce Opportunity Fund, meant to expand

training and infrastructure related to the growth and maintenance of the state's workforce programs.

- **[SF 2432](#)- Economic Development Appropriations** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - SF 2432 sets economic development appropriations and goals for the state for FY 2025. These include:
 - \$873,000 for the [HCBS rent subsidy program](#)
 - \$250,000 for the [Summer Youth Intern pilot program](#)
 - \$760,000 for [Registered Apprenticeship development programs](#)
- **[HF 2512](#)- Social Work Licensure Compact** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - HF 2512 enacts the [Social Work Licensure Compact](#) in Iowa, which allows eligible social workers to practice in all states that join the compact. It also allows for telehealth for social work services, facilitates the change of licensure and disciplinary information between member states, and increases public access of social work services.
- **[HF 2515](#)- Social Work Supervision Rule** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - HF 2515 revises Iowa's current Social Work Supervision rule to include that the board of social work cannot require that supervised clinical experience include live or recorded direct observation of client interaction as a condition for licensure or renewal.
- **[HF 2404](#)- Dependent Adult Abuse** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - HF 2404 establishes the definition and scope of health care coordination and intervention teams including that state medical assistance programs can conduct individual case reviews to determine whether additional health services or interventions may be appropriate.
- **[HF 2390](#)- Dependent Adult Abuse Reports** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - HF 2390 allows for DIAL to provide the county attorney, other appropriate law enforcement agencies, and appropriate licensing boards with evaluation materials and findings related to a report of dependent adult abuse.
- **[SF 2285](#)- Dependent Adult Abuse Registry Reporting** (Effective date 4/10/24)
 - SF 2285 makes changes related to registry reports of dependent adult abuse. It removes the requirement of HHS to issue annual reports on the requests for dependent adult abuse data, the proportion of requests of each type of authorized access, and the frequency and nature of irregularities.
- **[HF 2673](#)- Mental Health and Behavioral Health Consolidation** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - HF 2673 consolidates Iowa's mental health and behavioral health regions, in addition to including individuals with disabilities in [Section 231.3](#), the State policy and objectives for older Iowans.
- **[HF 2397](#)- Ambulance Billing for Mental Health Emergencies** (Effective date 7/1/24)
 - HF 2397 stipulates that HHS will now authorize payments to services programs for ambulance services for persons in mental health crisis to mental health access centers in similar amounts to persons being transported to hospital emergency departments.