



Volunteer Health Care Provider Program

What is the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program?

The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program (“VHCPP”) strives to increase volunteerism by competent health care professionals by providing legal protection to Individual Volunteer Health Care Providers and eligible clinics providing the free, uncompensated health care services.

The VHCPP is established in Iowa Code 135.24 and 641 Iowa Administrative Rules, Chapter 88. The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program is administered by Iowa Department of Public Health.

Who is eligible to be an Individual Volunteer Health Care Provider?

To be eligible, an individual volunteer **must**:

1. Hold an active unrestricted Iowa license, registration, or certification to practice in Iowa as a(n):
 - Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (Iowa Code chapter 152 or 152E)
 - Audiologist (Iowa Code chapter 154F)
 - Bachelor Social Worker (Iowa Code chapter 154C)
 - Chiropractor (Iowa Code chapter 151)
 - Dental Assistant (Iowa Code chapter 153)
 - Dental Hygienist (Iowa Code chapter 153)
 - Dentist (Iowa Code chapter 153)
 - Emergency Medical Care Provider (Iowa Code chapter 147A)
 - Independent Social Worker (Iowa Code chapter 154C)
 - Licensed Practical Nurse (Iowa Code chapter 152 or 152E)
 - Marital and Family Therapist (Iowa Code chapter 154D)
 - Master Social Worker (Iowa Code chapter 154C)
 - Mental Health Counselor (Iowa Code chapter 154D)
 - Occupational Therapist (Iowa Code chapter 148B)
 - Optometrist (Iowa Code chapter 154)
 - Pharmacist (Iowa Code chapter 155A)
 - Physical Therapist (Iowa Code chapter 148A)
 - Physician (Iowa Code chapter 148)
 - Physician Assistant, under the supervision of a Physician (Iowa Code chapter 148C)
 - Podiatrist (Iowa Code chapter 149)
 - Psychologist (Iowa Code chapter 154B)
 - Registered Nurse (Iowa Code chapter 152 or 152E)
 - Respiratory Therapist (Iowa Code chapter 152B)
 - Speech Pathologist (Iowa Code chapter 154F)
2. Provide free health care services to uninsured and underinsured persons through a Sponsor Entity/Sponsor Entity Clinic or a Protected Clinic.
3. Hold a fully executed Protection Agreement with the VHCPP.

What does the Protection Agreement for the Individual Volunteer Health Care Provider Program provide?

- The Protection Agreement is a signed contract between an Individual Volunteer Health Care Provider and the VHCPP providing for defense and indemnification of the provider.
- The Protection Agreement allows the Individual Volunteer Health Care Provider to deliver free health care services to uninsured and underinsured persons as an employee of the state under Iowa Code chapter 669 while the provider performs VHCPP related care.
- The agreement only covers "health care services" that are volunteer, uncompensated services.

What happens if a claim is filed against an Individual Volunteer Health Care Provider?

- In the event of a claim seeking damages, defense will be provided by the Iowa Department of Justice at no cost.
- Indemnification will be provided to the full extent of any judgment brought against the individual provided each of the conditions of the Protection Agreement is satisfied.

Can an Individual Volunteer Health Care Provider charge for health care services provided?

- No. The Individual Volunteer Health Care Provider must not charge or accept direct monetary compensation for health care services provided under the VHCPP.
- For those health care services to qualify as volunteer, uncompensated services the Individual Volunteer Health Care Provider must receive no compensation for any services provided and must not bill or accept compensation from the person, or any public or private third-party payor, for the health care services provided by the Individual Volunteer Health Care Provider.

For how long is the Protection Agreement in effect?

The agreement is effective for five (5) years from the date of the Iowa Department of Public Health signature on the agreement.