

The Check-Up

Updates on the progress of health care transformation initiatives



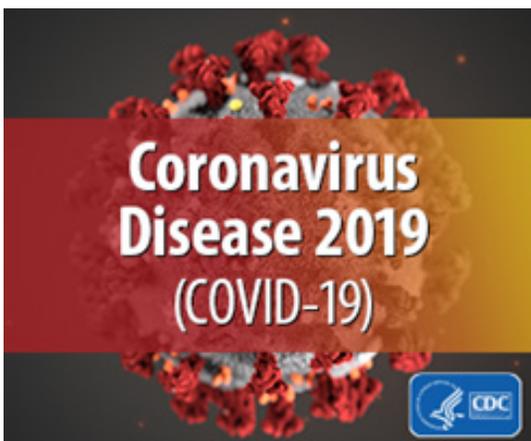
The Check-Up is a newsletter designed to keep interested Iowans up-to-date on the progress of emerging health care initiatives and issues. The Check-Up features updates from the Iowa Department of Public Health's (IDPH) Office of Health Care Transformation (OHCT) within the Bureau of Policy and Workforce Services. The OHCT is a key point of contact for health care transformation initiatives within IDPH and emerging health care issues and policies. The OHCT monitors federal and state health care issues and disseminates the key information, opportunities and impacts to the public, and IDPH's internal and external partners.

COVID-19

The Iowa Department of Public Health is on the frontline of responding to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). You can find critical information updated daily at the [Iowa Department of Public Health's COVID-19 page](#). The [Iowa Department of Human Services' COVID-19 page](#) also contains important guidance and information. In addition, discover the latest resources, maps and information at [coronavirus.iowa.gov](https://www.coronavirus.iowa.gov).

Volunteer Opportunities through i-SERV:

i-SERV is the Iowa Department of Public Health's secure online registry for individuals wishing to volunteer during a large scale disaster or public health emergency. Anyone with an interest to explore volunteer possibilities can register online at <https://www.iaserv.org/>.



Iowa News

Telligen Community Initiative Grant - Harnessing the Power of Iowa's Libraries

IDPH received funding through the Telligen Community Initiative to implement a project called "Harnessing the Power of Iowa's Libraries." The project focuses on supporting and equipping Iowa's libraries with the tools, resources and programs to collaboratively address social determinants of health (SDH) gaps and improve population health. Public libraries, along with local public health agencies, are at the heart of Iowa's communities and are well positioned to be partners in building a culture of health through efforts that address SDH.

Two pilot project sites have been identified in Iowa - one urban community and one rural community. The pilot locations include the Cedar Rapids Public Library working with Linn County Public Health and the Perry Public Library working with Dallas County Public Health. These libraries are expanding the services currently being offered with a focus on SDH and population health.



Public libraries are well positioned to partner in a culture of health through SDH.

Public health agencies and libraries are trusted places in communities with broad reach, touching where people live, learn, work and play. Both entities have established strong relationships with a wide variety of community partners, such as schools, workforce agencies, food systems, providers, transportation services, businesses and employers. Each library tailored its public health offerings based on the local public health agency's [Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan \(CHNA & HIP\)](#), which is a fundamental piece of statewide health planning, and represents local action to promote and protect the health of Iowans.

The [Cedar Rapids Public Library](#) has hired a navigator within the library to help address the unmet social needs that impact the health of their patrons. They are also offering health and nutrition classes focused on healthy cooking on a budget. Additionally, the library has implemented a "Growing Readers Prenatal Program" which provides tools, resources and support for prenatal care. Lastly, the library is offering physical activity kits to patrons, which provides resources promoting a variety of activities. The Gazette featured the Cedar Rapids Public Library's project, which can be accessed [here](#).

The [Perry Public Library](#) has implemented a Food Recovery Program in which the library will house a refrigerator stocked with recovered food available to community members to take home and enjoy, free. The library will focus on fresh fruits and vegetables for their food

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Iowa News Continued



Iowa Maternal Health Innovation Grant

In September 2019, Iowa was one of nine states awarded grant funds under the State Maternal Health Innovation Program. The purpose of this grant is to assist states in strengthening their capacity to address disparities in maternal health and improve maternal health outcomes, including the prevention and reduction of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity. It will strengthen partnerships and collaborations by establishing a state-focused Maternal Health Task Force, improving state-level data surveillance on maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, and promoting and executing innovation in maternal health service delivery.

IDPH has contracted with the University of Iowa Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to implement several of the grant initiatives, including establishing an Iowa Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (IMQCC), collecting and validating data for severe maternal morbidity, and implementing several innovative projects such as workforce, telehealth and simulation/training. Workforce initiatives include adding an OB rural residency track for U of I OB students, a family medicine OB residency track, and conducting a feasibility study on the establishment of a Certified Nurse Midwife program in the University of Iowa College of Nursing. The U of I will also work to expand and add new telehealth initiatives to increase access to specialist prenatal care (maternal-fetal-medicine specialists), implementing a lactation support telehealth system, expanding an existing mental health telehealth system to address postpartum women, and exploring other telehealth options for pregnant and postpartum women. Lastly, a mobile simulation program will be developed to provide regular hands-on training to all labor and delivery hospitals throughout the state to improve provider competency and skills.

Harnessing the Power of Iowa's Libraries continued

recovery program. Food Recovery, also called food rescue or food salvage, is the practice of gleaning edible food that would otherwise go to waste from places such as restaurants, grocery stores, produce markets or dining facilities. Additionally, the Perry Public Library is working with ISU Extension and Hy-Vee dietitians to provide nutrition education. Lastly, a StoryWalk in their city park is being built where children and families can enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Pages from a children's book will be mounted on posts around the park so families can walk around the path and read the pages of the book. A local news station featured the Perry Public Library's project, which can be accessed [here](#).



Through the Telligen Community Initiative's one-year project, a toolkit including best practices, success stories and strategies to grow will be created. IDPH is currently seeking additional funding to potentially expand the initiative. The IDPH project was one of only 18 grants selected for Telligen Community Initiative's 2019 Iowa and Illinois-based funding cycle, which awarded a total of \$804,312 in grants to nonprofit organizations in these states. For more information about the Telligen Community Initiative, visit www.telligenci.org.

Iowa Workforce Strategic Plan Development

Access to comprehensive, quality health care services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing and managing disease, reducing disability and premature death, and achieving health equity for all Iowans. As a predominantly rural state, many Iowa communities face significant challenges accessing health care services. In many areas, the supply of healthcare providers cannot keep up with the demand for services.

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The issue of healthcare workforce is growing nationally, as well as in Iowa. Currently, Iowa is ranked 43rd in the nation for the number of physicians per capita and this shortage is anticipated to grow. To address this growing issue, IDPH has established a contract through an RFP process with the Iowa Medical Society to facilitate and execute a strategic visioning and comprehensive planning process for Iowa's healthcare workforce. IDPH alone will not be able to address health workforce shortages in the state. To do so, Iowa needs to create an actionable strategic plan with broad stakeholder collaboration to guide future work, and address recruitment and retention of the healthcare workforce in the state.

A series of stakeholder focus groups and regional public meetings will be convened to ensure the plan adequately represents the issue at all levels and across communities. These discussions will provide an opportunity for all healthcare providers, administrators, community organizations, businesses, patients, students and the interested public parties to provide input around local experiences and illicit solutions-minded brainstorming. These meetings will be held throughout the state in collaboration with the Iowa Pharmacy Association, the Iowa Hospital Association and the Iowa Primary Care Association.

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Iowa News continued

IDPH's Rural Health and Primary Care Newsletter

The Rural Health and Primary Care Newsletter is intended for rural hospital and clinic staff, and includes updates, news and notifications on funding opportunities related to rural health. The most recent newsletter was sent on January 31, 2020, and the next newsletter will be sent April 30, 2020. Highlights from the January 31 newsletter include:

- ✓ Comings and Goings
- ✓ Action Requested: Contact Information
- ✓ State Office of Rural Health Program Updates
- ✓ Flex Program and Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) Updates
- ✓ Congratulations, Lucas County Health Center, for being a 2019 Community Star!
- ✓ County-Level Outbreak and Overdose Assessment
- ✓ Project ECHO Information
- ✓ Available Funding Opportunities
- ✓ Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Please send an email to cassie.kennedy@idph.iowa.gov if you are interested in subscribing to this newsletter.



The Rural Health and Primary Care newsletter is intended for rural hospitals and clinic staff.



Iowa Medicaid

MCO Quarterly Reports

Performance monitoring and data analysis are critical components in assessing how well Iowa's MCOs are maintaining and improving the quality of care delivered to members. The quarterly reports, with a number of elements required through oversight legislation, are comprehensive and focus on compliance areas, as well as health outcomes over time.

Iowa Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC)

The purpose of MAAC is to "Advise the Director of the Department of Human Services about health and medical care services under the medical assistance program." MAAC is mandated by federal law and further established in Iowa Code. All MAAC meetings are open to the public. For more information and to view the meeting schedule https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/advisory_groups/maac.

Iowa Council on Human Services

DHS coordinates the Iowa Council on Human Services, which acts in a policymaking and decision-making capacity on matters within the jurisdiction of DHS. For more information and meeting dates, visit <http://dhs.iowa.gov/about/dhs-council>.

Managed Care Ombudsman Reports

The Managed Care Ombudsman Program advocates for the rights and needs of Medicaid managed care members in Iowa who live or receive care in a health care facility, assisted living program or elder group home, as well as members enrolled in one of Medicaid's seven home and community-based services waiver programs. The Managed Care Ombudsman Program develops monthly and quarterly reports which can be accessed [here](#).

The Managed Care Ombudsman Program advocates for the rights and needs of Medicaid managed care members in senior living facilities.



Federal News

HRSA Telehealth Funding Opportunity

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced a new Telehealth Network Grant Program opportunity to apply for federal funding aimed towards promoting rural tele-emergency services with an emphasis on tele-stroke, tele-behavioral health, and tele-Emergency Medical Services (tele-EMS). This will be achieved by enhancing telehealth networks to deliver 24-hour emergency department consultation services via telehealth to rural providers without emergency care specialists. The program will invest approximately \$8.7 million over four years to support up to 29 applicant organizations. Applications are due on June 15, 2020.



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Healthy Adult Opportunity

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing a new opportunity to support states with greater flexibility to improve the health of their Medicaid populations. The Healthy Adult Opportunity (HAO) emphasizes the concept of value-based care while granting states with extensive flexibility to administer and design their programs within a defined budget. This state opportunity will enhance the Medicaid program's integrity through its focus on accountability for results and quality improvement, making the Medicaid program stronger for states and beneficiaries. For more information, visit <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/healthy-adult-opportunity-fact-sheet>.



Social Determinants of Health in Rural Communities Toolkit

The Rural Health Information Hub has released a “Social Determinants of Health in Rural Communities Toolkit.” This toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementing programs to address social determinants of health in rural communities across the United States.

This toolkit will supplement and expand on previous work in this area including the Social Determinants of Health for Rural People topic guide, and several other toolkits for rural community health:

- ✓ Care Coordination Toolkit
- ✓ Community Health Workers Toolkit
- ✓ Food Access Toolkit
- ✓ Health Networks and Coalitions Toolkit
- ✓ Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Toolkit
- ✓ Services Integration Toolkit
- ✓ Telehealth Toolkit
- ✓ Rural Transportation Toolkit

For more information about rural community health programs, including how to develop and implement a program, please visit the Rural Community Health Toolkit.



Federal News continued

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act



On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law, marking the third and largest major legislative initiative to address COVID-19 to date. (The first was the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020, signed into law on March 6, followed by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed into law on March 18.) The CARES Act contains a number of health-related provisions focused on the outbreak in the United States, including paid sick leave, insurance coverage of coronavirus testing, nutrition assistance, and other programs and efforts. It also includes support for the global response. Highlights are provided below, followed by summaries of provisions in the tables; not included are provisions that are not closely related to health but which are important aspects of the response to the outbreak, such as those pertaining to support for small businesses and severely stressed sectors of the U.S. economy and childcare.

The understanding and trajectory of the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly, as is the response by Congress and the current administration. Some of the provisions in the CARES Act have already been enhanced by regulatory actions, such as telehealth. Others may be modified by a fourth legislative initiative to address COVID-19, which is now under discussion. Given that, it is important to keep in mind that additional changes may be forthcoming. For more information, visit <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/the-coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-act-summary-of-key-health-provisions/>.

The funds will support rural hospitals with increased demands for services and equipment, as well as experiencing short-term financial and workforce challenges related to meeting the needs of COVID-19 patients.

From the CARES Act, nearly \$150million will be allocated to hospitals responding to COVID-19. The funds will support rural hospitals which are seeing increased demands for clinical services and equipment, as well

as experiencing short-term financial and workforce challenges related to responding to meeting the needs of patients with the COVID-19 seeking care at their facilities. This funding will be awarded to states through the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) grant mechanism and it is anticipated that the award amounts to be approximately \$90,000 per hospital. This is complementary funding through other COVID-19 programs, such as the one announced for financial relief for Medicare providers.

✓ Contact Information

For more information on the work of IDPH's Office of Health Care Transformation, visit <http://idph.iowa.gov/ohct>

