



Iowa Department of Public Health Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

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It is July 1st and The Iowa Department of Public Health is excited to be the new home for the Children at Home Program!

Thank you for signing up to receive email updates about the transition and expansion of this project.

Being DAY ONE of the project, I did want to send some background info about the transition of the Children at Home Program to the Iowa Department of Public Health so that you are better able to field questions that you may be receiving at the local level.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) was approached by the Department of Human Services (DHS) at the direction of the Human Services Council to survey interest in assuming the expansion and operation of the Children at Home Program.

Iowa Department of Public Health currently oversees the Iowa Family Support Network, which provides consumer-friendly and effective coordinated intake and referral services along with education.

The Children at Home Program will be integrated into this existing coordinated intake and referral system is for families, child health care providers, and other professionals seeking information, support and referral.

Core Services of Iowa Family Support Network include a toll free (1-888-IAKIDS1) line, website (www.iowafamilysupportnetwork.org), Facilitation of resources and referrals for Family Support and group based parent education, Early ACCESS, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) and Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

Visiting of Nurse Services of Iowa (VNS) is the contractor that operates the Iowa Family Support Network though a contract with the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The Iowa Department of Public Health appreciates the Department of Human Services' regard for the Iowa Family Support Network and determination of it being the vehicle to grow and operate the Children at Home Program. We are excited for this project!

While the actual contract did not begin until July 1st (Today!), IDPH and VNS staff have been busy behind the scenes working on laying out a transition plan and learning about current service delivery of the project. Our plan aims to be thoughtful, rigorous and realistic.

Because each current contractor operates the program differently, one of the first steps of the transition plan is to create a set of standard program parameters and guidance. We know this will take some time to complete. As you can imagine, there are lots of details to be considered in order to transition a program to a new entity to operate and expand. It is our intent to be thoughtful in this process.

Eligibility for program participation will remain the same.

To qualify for the Children-At-Home program:

- A family must reside in the state of Iowa.
- A family must include a child with a disability, which is defined as an individual who is less than twenty-two years of age and meets the definition of developmental disability.
- A family's intent is to secure those services and supports which would enable their child to remain living in the family home.
- A family's federal net (not gross) taxable income for the most recent tax year is less than \$60,000.

While the eligibility requirements for participation the program will not change, current participants may find a change in covered items or the amount of funds available as parameters and guidance for the program are standardized for statewide implementation.

Current participants, program staff and interested parties can assist in this process by sharing information with our transition team. We are open to feedback about strengths and limitations of the project. We are happy to listen to concerns as well as

words of wisdom relating to Children at Home as it our intent to continue the work that is currently happening and it expand it statewide.

We welcome questions and also in advance request patience as we develop protocols, guidelines and parameters. While we may not have immediate answers to your questions about transition and implementation, they will help shape our thinking and planning.

You can direct interested parties can sign up to receive updates and provide input to planning for the project at the link below (IDPH Family Support webpage)

<https://www.idph.iowa.gov/family-health/family-support>

I did just add a place for comments to be submitted at that link. Otherwise, please feel free to send me an email.

It is our intent to send out regular communication to those who sign up for updates about transition and expansion planning and roll out. We hope to have exciting updates to share in the weeks to come. We know that we have a lot of work ahead!

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