

Health and Human Services: Alignment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): General

-March 2022-

Both departments have been through a lot of change. Why are we doing this now?

There are extensive connections between Iowa’s public health and human services work to help all lowans live safe, stable, and healthy lives. It’s become clear we can serve lowans more effectively and efficiently through:

1. An integrated organizational structure that brings like functions and services together
2. Shared direction among state staff and partners and shared connection with the big picture
3. A welcoming and efficient ‘front door’ to health and human services
4. Closed loops and warm handoffs to connect lowans seamlessly to services and supports that are right for them
5. Improved use and integration of data to make informed decisions and provide seamless service to lowans

What is the timing of these changes?

2021-2022	2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2025+
Explore and Analyze	Prepare and Establish Foundation	Launch and Pilot	Scale and Broaden	Routinize and Continuously Improve

By June 30, 2022

- Identify, scope and begin the work of building the administrative foundation for the new department.
- Expand the Functional Organizational Chart to a detailed Table of Organization so staff understand reporting structures for the new department.

July 1, 2022 and Beyond

- On July 1, 2022, state legislation is anticipated to establish a transition department of health and human services.
- Identify, scope, and plan a sequence of projects, with staff engagement, to start implementing priority recommendations in the Final Change Package, recognizing full integration of the agencies will take time (months or even years to fully implement).
- Begin implementation of the new table of organization.

We plan to communicate to all staff and partners across the new organization and Iowa's larger health and human services community throughout this process.

How can I/my organization be involved in the implementation planning?

A Transition Plan will be developed and published sometime in the fall of 2022. The Transition Plan will address stakeholder engagement in the implementation planning process.

Who can I connect with if I have questions?

Please use the 'contact us form' here: <https://hhsalignment.iowa.gov/contact-us>, and we will work to answer your questions as quickly as possible.

We've also created an [HHS Alignment webpage](#) where we share information, frequently asked questions, and updates on progress as this effort moves forward.

Are any programs being dissolved or added?

The purpose of this alignment is to strengthen coordination among existing services and provide more comprehensive services to Iowans.

Will new services be offered as a result of this alignment?

While it is still too early to know whether any specific new services will be offered as a result of this effort, the overall expectation is that the alignment will create new and innovative opportunities to serve Iowans.

How will this alignment effort affect our work with programs and staff with which we currently work?

It is not anticipated that work with programs will be impacted. If it is anticipated the point-of-contact for your work will change, you will be contacted and informed of potential changes.

What does this alignment mean for the funding our organization receives from IDPH/DHS? Will there be delays in contracting or procurement as a result of integration?

Before any changes are made to funding sources, budgeting, contracting, or procurement, thorough assessments will be completed to ensure a seamless transition for contractors and stakeholders, including avoiding delays and impacts in service delivery.