



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

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Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1703

DATE: August 9, 2016

TO: Iowa Medicaid Targeted Case Management Providers, Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Providers, Department of Human Services (DHS) Service Workers and Supervisors, Service Area Administrators, Integrated Health Homes (IHH), and Managed Care Organizations (MCO).

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME))

RE: Release of HCBS Waiver Slots

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2016

The 2016 Iowa legislature appropriated an increase of \$2 million, through House File 2460, to fund additional payment slots to reduce the HCBS waiver waiting lists. The department projects that 144 Medicaid members will be able to receive HCBS services through this appropriation. Not all applicants on the waitlists are in need of, or eligible for, HCBS at the time a slot is released to them. Therefore, the department contacts more individuals than will be able to receive HCBS services to see if they are still interested or eligible. DHS has determined that approximately 585 waiver slots will be released through this appropriation. This is based upon the following assumptions:

- Of the slots released, only a certain percentage will have applicants ultimately enroll and receive waiver services. This assumption is based on common scenarios such as: individuals applying for more than one waiver; applicants have moved out of state or cannot be found; individuals whose conditions have improved such that waiver services are no longer needed and deceased individuals.
- The release of payment slots began on July 11, 2016, and will continue through the week of September 5, 2016. Slots will be dispersed at a rate of approximately 65 per week.
- The waiting lists for all waivers are combined and the applicants are assigned on a first-come first-served basis according to the date of the HCBS application. Slots released to applicants for the Intellectual Disabilities waiver are included on the combined waitlist, however in addition to the date of application; these slots are assigned based on the applicant's priority needs assessment, with the slot going to the applicant with the highest emergent and urgent needs scores.
- For this release, not all waivers with a waiting list will receive additional slots because the application dates for those other waivers are more recent than for those waivers listed below.

The projected distribution of payment slots across the various waivers with a waiting list is as follows:

Waiver	Slots Released	Anticipated New Enrollees
Brain Injury	339	85
Intellectual Disability	7	2
Health and Disability	239	57
Total	585	144

The updated Slot and Waiting List Information is posted monthly on the [Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver Program](#)¹ DHS web page. Please submit any questions regarding this information to lhowlan@dhs.state.ia.us.

¹ <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hcbs/waivers>