



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

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DHS Posts RFP on Medicaid Modernization Effort

(Des Moines, Iowa) - The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Governor Branstad's Medicaid Modernization. This initiative aims to improve coordination and quality of care while providing predictability and sustainability for taxpayers in Medicaid spending.

The RFP, titled the Iowa High Quality Health Care Initiative, asks for bids from potential vendors as the state moves toward a risk-based managed care approach for Iowa's Medicaid program. The RFP can be found here:

http://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/?pgname=viewrfp&rfp_id=11140

"Modernizing Medicaid will allow Iowa to create incentives for better health outcomes for members through comprehensive health care delivered within budget constraints," said DHS Director Charles M. Palmer. "By better managing Medicaid, we will make sure Iowans are getting the right care at the right time and in the right setting."

The main objectives of Iowa's Medicaid Modernization are:

- Improving quality and access
- Promoting accountability for outcomes
- Creating a more predictable and sustainable Medicaid budget

Palmer noted the cost of delivering Medicaid has grown 73 percent since 2003, now costing more than \$4.2 billion in the last fiscal year, including \$1.5 billion in state taxpayer dollars. The Iowa High Quality Health Care Initiative allows the state to hire modern health plans to coordinate care and manage spending.

"Nationally, about 70 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries have their health care administered by health plans," said Palmer. "Modern health plans are better equipped to bear the risk and the state can continue working to emphasize quality improvement within our health care delivery system."

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