



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds  
Governor

Adam Gregg  
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven  
Director

March 29, 2018

## ***Landmark Mental Health Legislation Signed into Law***

(Des Moines, Iowa) – Today, Governor Reynolds signed HF 2456 into law. This important legislation fills mental health and substance use disorder service gaps in Iowa’s mental health system to address the most complex service needs. It will provide access to mental health services throughout the state by establishing and implementing an array of services and supports. This includes developing six access centers, expanding Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams, developing comprehensive crisis and sub-acute services with a single 24-hour crisis line, developing Intensive Residential Service Homes and identifying tertiary care psychiatric hospitals.

This legislation had strong support from the Governor, and also enjoyed bipartisan support in the legislature. Additionally, stakeholders and advocates worked tirelessly in support of this legislation.

This legislation is the direct result of the work of the complex service needs work group, which was legislatively directed in 2017. This stakeholder work group issued their [report](#) in December of 2017, which served as the roadmap for this legislation.

“This legislation is an important step in the right direction for Iowans with mental illness. I applaud the Governor for her leadership on this very important issue. I also want to thank legislators for their bipartisan support, making this a reality. I especially want to extend gratitude to those who participated in the complex service needs work group. This legislation is a direct result of the hard work and recommendations of that group. Now we must work to effectively implement these changes,” said DHS Director Jerry Foxhoven.

Additional information will be shared in the coming weeks and months. Check regularly for updates at [www.DHS.iowa.gov](http://www.DHS.iowa.gov).

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