



IOWA DD Council

Be informed!

OCTOBER 31, 2025

**CAPITOL
CHAT**

Welcome (Brooke Lovelace)

Federal Update (Carlyn Crowe/Brooke Lovelace)

- Federal Government Shutdown (Day 39)
- Impacts on Services (SNAP, Social Security, Special Ed)
- What are YOU hearing or experiencing?

State Update (Amy Campbell)

- New Committee Chairs
- Budget Outlook & Medicaid Shortfall

Employment News (Carlyn Crowe/Brooke Lovelace)

- National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Workday with Your Legislator
- Join the Blitz! **Let Us Work!**

Elections Matter – VOTING Matters (Amy Campbell)

- School boards & local ballot questions

Wrap-Up (Brooke Lovelace)



Federal Update

Day 31 of Government Shutdown

- SNAP benefits frozen Nov. 1 - 1 out of 8 Americans get SNAP benefits (42 million people)
 - Average nationally for a person is \$187/month
 - 25 states suing over SNAP (not Iowa)
- Other things impacted: housing assistance, childcare (Headstart), national parks, government jobs, national flood insurance, energy assistance, air traffic controllers (and more).
- US Dept. of Education wants to move **special education** oversight to another agency (HHS?).
 - Fired 121 Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services employees (only few left)
- Trump Administration wants to freeze new rules adopted to protect rights of airline passengers with disabilities.
- H.R. 4022 - more \$\$ for institutions, less for HCBS





State Update



New Leaders:

- Sen. Mike Klimesh (R-Winneshiek): Senate Majority Leader
- Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (R-Cedar): House Majority Leader

New Committee Chairs:

- Sen. Kara Warme (R-Story): Senate HHS Committee Chair
- Rep. Austin Harris (R-Appanoose): House HHS Committee Chair
- Rep. David Young (R-Dallas): House Commerce Committee Chair
- Rep. Megan Jones (R-Clay): House Transportation Committee Chair
- Rep. Dan Gehlbach (R-Polk): House Education Budget Chair





State Update



Revenue Estimates:

- **\$9.3 billion budget for FY 2026**, gap between spending & revenue is **\$1.3 BILLION**
- **9% drop in current fiscal year** (FY 2026, which ends June 30, 2026) - **\$375 million**
- **\$198 million** of that is due to federal “Big Beautiful Bill Act”
- **\$1.9 billion ending fund balance, \$4 billion in Taxpayer Relief Fund**
- School vouchers – cap off, anyone qualifies at any income level
- 3.8% state flat tax fully implemented
- Governor’s budget will go off December Revenue Estimates
- Legislature’s budget will go off the lesser of two – Dec. 2025 or Mar. 2026

Medicaid Shortfall:

- **Medicaid Shortfall:** \$76 million FY26, \$181 million FY27
- Does not include **\$114 million expected MCO capitation rate** increases





LET US WORK! Campaign Launch

Join the Blitz!



Let Us Work is a campaign to educate lawmakers and change policy to give lowans with disabilities the freedom to work!

Phase 1 starts today!

Join the BLITZ to reach out to every Iowa legislator and let them know what this policy change means for lowans with disabilities.

For More Information & to Sign Up to BLITZ:

surveymonkey.com/r/GBF69FM



MCO Stories Request Launched



In response to legislators' requests, we are **collecting stories** about the Medicaid member experiences with **denials by MCOs** (Managed Care Organizations).

Please share your experience here:

surveymonkey.com/r/XJBP3P5

Your story may be shared with legislators, but your personal information can be kept confidential by request.



Election Update: November 4, 2025

Important 2025 Dates

November 1

Auditor's Offices open for early voting

November 4

Polls Open 7 am – 8 pm

Mail-in Ballots must be received by 8 pm

City & School Elections

- School Board
- City Council, Mayor
- Local Initiatives
- Trustees

Things City Councils & School Boards Do:

City and school budgets, sidewalks and roads, trails, street crossings, accessible communities, parks & libraries, public transportation, school buses, school safety, fire and police, book bans, school calendars, special education, and much, much more!

sos.iowa.gov/elections-voting



Wrap Up



Final Capitol Chat of 2026

- December 5 (Noon-1 pm): Sign up at tinyurl.com/december-2025-capitol-chat
- Capitol Chat Recordings: iowaddcouncil.org/capitol-chat

From DC to Iowa: How Policy Shifts Will Impact the Disability Community (Harkin Institute & Iowa Disability Policy Alliance)

- Sponsored by The Harkin Institute & Iowa Disability Policy Alliance
- November 13 (6-8 pm): Register at harkininstitute.drake.edu/2025/10/21/from-dc-to-iowa/



Survey Says...

- Iowa DD Council Annual Survey: surveymonkey.com/r/iddc-2025-annual-survey
- MCO Experience Stories: surveymonkey.com/r/XJBP3P5

Legislature is back to work on January 12, 2026

- Legislators must request bills by January 23, 2026
- Returning to every other Friday Chats (30 minutes)
- January 23, February 6, February 20, March 6, March 20, April 3, April 17 (Noon to 12:30 pm)