



Department of Inspections,
Appeals, & Licensing

Operational Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

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Department of Inspections, Appeals, & Licensing (DIAL) Operational Plan for FY2026

The purpose of DIAL's FY2026 Operational Plan is to provide both a framework and reference guide to the department to guide its day-to-day operational activities. The plan will support DIAL's overall goals to modernize, standardize, and simplify its delivery of key services across the State. This plan will also serve as a backdrop to the department's routine performance metric reviews and assist in focusing efforts towards those areas that require the greatest attention.

DIAL Strategic Plan Initiatives

- Increase the number of recertification surveys of federally active nursing homes.
- Deploy a uniform licensing technology solution.
- Increase OSHA consultations.

DIAL Enterprise Priorities Supported

In FY2026, DIAL will support the following enterprise priorities through the execution of this strategic plan:

- Child Care
- Disaster Assistance
- Education
- Energy
- Families First
- Government Efficiency
- Health Care
- Workforce

DIAL Operational Goals to Achieve in FY2026

- Decrease the processing time to issue a license, permit, or approval by deploying a uniform technology solution.
- Increase the number of OSHA educational consultations by 10%.

DIAL Programs Provided – Administration Division

Tribal Gaming

Program Description: The director enters into, implements and enforces compacts between the State of Iowa and Indian tribes to operate Indian gaming establishments in accordance with federal law.

Action Items for FY2026: Review and respond to tribal compact requests.

Outcome measure: Number of days to respond to Tribal requests for assistance/information.
Numeric FY target: 5

Athletic Commission

Program Description: This program ensures the licensing, tax, and registration requirements are met for professional and amateur athletic events held in Iowa.

Action Items for FY2026: Review applications and issue licenses.

Outcome measure: Number of athletic promoter licenses issued.
Numeric FY target: 80

Resource Management

Program Description: Provide consistent and accurate administrative and fiscal services to all areas of the department and attached units to ensure services to department constituencies.

Action Items for FY2026: Foster a positive and inclusive work environment by implementing targeted career development initiatives, delivering timely and constructive feedback, and providing adaptable support to meeting evolving employee and departmental needs.

Outcome measure: Employee retention rate.
Numeric FY target: 97

Department Operations

Program Description: This program provides essential, centralized fiscal services, such as budget preparation, accounts payable and receivable.

Action Items for FY2026: Review and respond to media inquiries.

Outcome measure: Percentage of media inquiries responded to within 2 business days.
Numeric FY target: 80%

DIAL Programs Provided – Administrative Hearings Division

Contested Case Hearings

Program Description: Administrative Law Judges afford citizens due process for adverse actions taken by state agencies and local governments.

Action Items for FY2026: Hold hearings and issue decisions within 30 days of the hearing.

Outcome measure: Percentage of judge's decisions issued within 30 days of hearing.
Numeric FY target: 90%

Unemployment Insurance Contested Case Hearings

Program Description: Administrative Law Judges afford claimants and employers the opportunity to contest state agency decisions regarding unemployment benefits.

Action Items for FY2026: Process cases, hold hearings, and write decisions within 45 days from date of appeal.

Outcome measure: Percentage of UI cases completed within 45 days.
Numeric FY target: 80%

DIAL Programs Provided – Building & Construction Division

Building Codes

Program Description: The State Building Code program does building, sprinkler/fire alarm plan review and inspections for all State-owned, State-funded, all licensed healthcare and all schools/daycares not reviewed or inspected by a local jurisdiction. The State Building Code Advisory Council provides recommendations to support the State building code program.

Action Items for FY2026: Review and complete plan reviews.

Outcome measure: Percentage of building plan reviews completed within 60 days.

Numeric FY target: 95%

Plumbing and Mechanical Systems

Program Description: The Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board licensing all professionals and businesses in the industry. Licensing ensures that individual professionals in this industry are properly qualified and receive ongoing education. Licensing for businesses includes proof of current bonding and insurance, as well as having a Master of Record on staff. All of this protects the public by having a training and qualified workforce to carry out these important functions.

Action Items for FY2026: Encourage licensees to apply online, review applications, and issue licenses.

Outcome measure: Percentage of Plumbing, Mechanical Safety Board apps completed online.

Numeric FY target: 80%

Electrical Licensing and Electrical Inspections

Program Description: The Electrical Examining Board plays a crucial role in ensuring electrical safety and compliance with electrical licensing and electrical inspections to protect persons and property from the hazards that arise from the use of electricity. By performing these functions, this helps overall public safety making sure Iowans are safe at work, home and at play.

Action Items for FY2026: Scheduled and conduct electrical inspections.

Outcome measure: Percentage of electrical installations inspected within 3 business days per IC 103.31.

Numeric FY target: 95%

Lead Professional Certification

Program Description: Lead Professional Certification ensures that lead inspectors and/or risk assessors and visual risk assessors are properly trained and certified to identify lead hazards and to assure that lead hazards have been remediated. Certification also ensures that lead abatement contractors, lead abatement workers, and lead-safe renovators are properly trained and certified to conduct abatement that will properly eliminate lead hazards and to conduct renovation, remodeling, and painting in a safe manner.

Action Items for FY2026: Review applications and issue licenses.

Outcome measure: Percentage of lead professionals processed in 21 days or fewer.
Numeric FY target: 95%

Swimming Pool and Spas

Program Description: The Environmental Health and Contractor Bureau does Swimming Pool and Spas reviews for all public and business locations.

Action Items for FY2026: Review and complete plan reviews.

Outcome measure: Percentage of swimming pool and spas plan reviews completed within 90 days or fewer after all information and fees have been obtained.
Numeric FY target: 90%

DIAL Programs Provided – Health & Safety Division

Social & Charitable Gambling

Program Description: This program regulates social and charitable gambling activities to protect the public from incidence of fraudulent or illegal activities.

Action Items for FY2026: Issue licenses. Notify organizations that are required to file an annual report and issue licenses once reports are filed.

Outcome measure: Percentage of social/charitable gambling organizations that file annual report.
Numeric FY target: 90%

Food Inspections

Program Description: Licensing and inspection of over 23,000 food and lodging establishments, such as grocery stores, restaurants, temporary food stands, convenience stores, hotels/motels, in 68 counties and contract compliance in the remaining 31 counties. This program conducts (either through state inspectors or contracts with local boards of health) food safety inspections of restaurants, grocery stores, food processing plants, and vending machines to ensure consumers receive safe and wholesome food.

Action Items for FY2026: Inspections are prioritized as “high priority” and are included in annual performance plans, assessed during evaluations, and tracked quarterly for each inspector and program.

Outcome measure: Percentage of risk level 5 food establishments inspected every 6 months.
Numeric FY target: 92%

Outcome measure: Percentage of risk level 4 food establishments inspected annually.
Numeric FY target: 90%

Outcome measure: Percentage of complaint responses completed on time.
Numeric FY target: 90%

Outcome measure: Percentage of significant violation follow-up completed on time.
Numeric FY target: 90%

Fire Safety Inspections

Program Description: This program conducts life safety code fire inspections for all State-owned, State-funded, all licensed healthcare and all schools/daycares not reviewed or inspected by a local jurisdiction. Conducts Fire Code complaint inspections and investigations for the State.

Responsibilities include certificate of occupancy approvals, fire inspections, follow-up, complaint investigations, and enforcement of state and federal standards.

Action Items for FY2026: Schedule and conduct fire safety and complaint inspections.

Outcome measure: Percentage of facility inspection reports returned within 10 business days.

Numeric FY target: 100%

Outcome measure: Percentage of daycares receiving a fire inspection every 36 months.

Numeric FY target: 100%

Regulating State Licensed Only Programs & Facilities

Program Description: Enhance the safety, security and general welfare of persons served in state-licensed only residential care facilities, assisted living programs, adult day services programs and elder group homes. Responsibilities include application processing, bi-annual monitoring evaluations, certification, complaint investigations, and enforcement of state standards.

Action Items for FY2026: Complaint investigations will be completed according to required triage timeframes.

Outcome measure: Complaint allegations triaged as the potential for immediate harm will be initiated within 2 days.

Numeric FY target: 100

Regulating Long-Term Care Facilities & Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

Program Description: Enhance the safety, security and general welfare of persons served in state-licensed and/or federally-certified health care facilities and entities. Responsibilities include application processing, annual inspections, follow-up, licensing and certification decisions, complaint investigations, and enforcement of state and federal standards.

Action Items for FY2026: Recertification surveys will be completed according to the State Performance Standards System as required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Outcome measure: Ratio average number of months for LTC survey within federal timeframes.

Numeric FY target: 12.9

Outcome measure: Ratio average number of ICF-IID surveys completed within federal timeframes.

Numeric FY target: 12.9

Health Facility Inspections

Program Description: This program inspects/ monitors, licenses and/or certifies under the Medicare and Medicaid Programs health care providers and suppliers, which includes long-term care facilities, hospitals, hospices, end-stage renal disease units, rural health clinics.

Action Items for FY2026: Complete requirements as outlined in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Mission and Priority (MPD) document.

Outcome measure: Percentage of federal workload requirements met for Tier 1 & Tier 2.

Numeric FY target: 95%

DIAL Programs Provided – Investigations Division

Economic Fraud

Program Description: This program works to ensure misspent public assistance monies obtained through fraud, inadvertent error or agency error are identified and collected so that only eligible applicants receive them in the appropriate amounts.

Action Items for FY2026: Conduct investigations into public assistance programs.

Outcome measure: Percentage of pre-eligibility investigations completed within 10 business days.
Numeric FY target: 90%

Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

Program Description: This program investigates fraud committed against the Medicaid program by providers and abuse/neglect committed against patients and residents in health care facilities by facility staff.

Action Items for FY2026: Upon completion of investigations, investigators will update the HHS OIG system within unit policy and procedures.

Outcome measure: Percentage of exclusions from MFCU investigation to HHS OIG within 30 days.
Numeric FY target: 100%

Investigation Services

Program Description: Provide investigation services to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) (economic fraud, pre and post eligibility investigation, and Medicaid Fraud) that are required by federal and state law. These services help assure that any overpayments made in public assistance programs administered by Iowa HHS are identified and earmarked repayment.

Action Items for FY2026: Complete timely investigations to insure cost avoidance are calculated accurately and timely.

Outcome measure: Cost savings dollars identified from Iowa HHS investigations.
Numeric FY target: \$3,000,000

Public Assistance Debt Recovery

Program Description: This program collects public assistance money on behalf of Iowa HHS that was improperly paid out to applicants or recipients.

Action Items for FY2026: Proactively enter into agreements with debtors and ensure collection activities are done in a timely manner.

Outcome measure: Dollars recovered - improper public assistance due to error/fraud.
Numeric FY target: \$3,000,000

Audits Unit

Program Description: This program ensures compliance with applicable federal and state financial requirements by Iowa HHS offices and health care facilities.

Action Items for FY2026: Ensure unit policies are followed to maintain accuracy and timeliness with assigned audits.

Outcome measure: Rate collection of moneys owed to care facility residents.
Numeric FY target: 100
Outcome measure: Percentage of care facilities in compliance within 60 calendar days.
Numeric FY target: 90%

Wage and Hour/Child Labor

Program Description: This program enforces Iowa wage law, including the Iowa minimum wage. If you have not been paid what you are owed you may file a wage claim. This program also protects Iowa's children from certain hazards and from being overworked.

Action Items for FY2026: Follow unit policies and procedures to meet timeliness for completion of investigations.

Outcome measure: Percentage of wage claims completed within 60 days of assignment.
Numeric FY target: 90%

DIAL Programs Provided – IOSHA Division

OSHA Consultation

Program Description: OSHA Consultation Program offers no-cost and confidential services to small- and medium-sized businesses in Iowa, with priority given to high-hazard worksites.

Action Items for FY2026: We will continue to expand the access of our services through Partnerships and Alliances. Hazards verified correctly will be tracked through our OSHA Information System.

Outcome measure: Percentage of serious OSHA hazards verified corrected timely.

Numeric FY target: 100%

Outcome measure: Number of individuals trained: OSHA.

Numeric FY target: 10,000

OSHA Health & Safety

Program Description: Iowa OSHA protects employees at work by enforcing safety and health standards to prevent injuries and illnesses.

Action Items for FY2026: IOSHA is working on getting fully staffed, training up new inspectors and identifying efficiency opportunities, to achieve our goal.

Outcome measure: Number of OSHA inspections each year.

Numeric FY target: 600

OSHA Whistleblower Protection

Program Description: Iowa OSHA enforces whistleblower and discrimination rules of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Action Items for FY2026: We have built added capacity in the Whistleblower Program. Using the additional capacity will help us achieve the goal of average days per investigation to be under 90 days.

Outcome measure: Average number of days pending for whistleblower investigations.

Numeric FY target: Less than 90

DIAL Programs Provided – Professional Licensing Division

Licensing

Program Description: Licensing of all qualified applicants, professional licenses, and building licenses for over 200 programs under the Building & Construction, Health & Safety, and Professional Licensing Divisions with the support of various boards, councils, and committees.

Action Items for FY2026: Review applications, issue licenses, conduct complaint investigations.

Outcome measure: Days to complete initial review for licensure.

Numeric FY target: 10

Outcome measure: Days to complete initial investigation after complaint.

Numeric FY target: 183

Outcome measure: Number of business days to make a final determination on app.

Numeric FY target: 8

DIAL Programs Provided – Workers' Compensation Division

Workers' Compensation

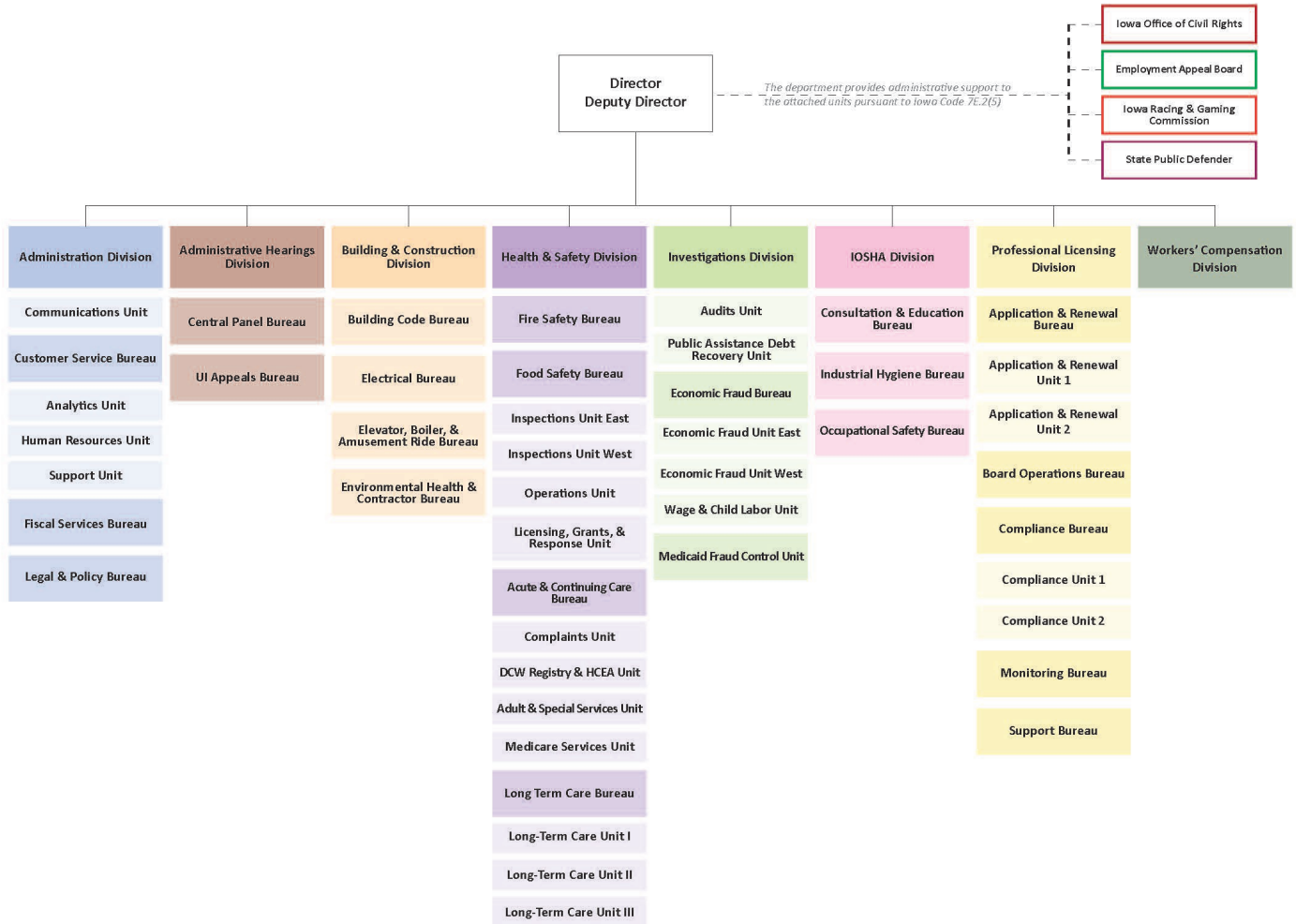
Program Description: The Iowa Division of Workers' Compensation has three core functions: 1) Adjudication of disputed workers' compensation claims, 2) Enforcement of compliance standards, and 3) Education of Iowans about workers' compensation laws and procedures.

Action Items for FY2026: Review evidence and briefs to draft arbitration decisions.

Outcome measure: Number of days - submission of arbitration case to decision issuance.

Numeric FY target: 150

DIAL Organizational Structure



July 2025

Attached Unit – Iowa Racing & Gaming Commission Operational Plan for FY2026

Programs Provided

Racing & Gaming Commission

Program Description: The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission (IRGC) administers the laws and rules for gambling and wagering in Iowa in order to ensure the integrity of licensees and their operations, maintain public confidence in regulated gambling and wagering activities in Iowa, and promote economic development for the citizens of Iowa. The Commission also protects the health and welfare of the racing animals.

Action Items for FY2026: Review evidence and information received from the public. Veterinarians review all aspects of horse health to ensure soundness.

Outcome measure: Percentage of regulation violation complaints received that are investigated.

Numeric FY target: 95%

Outcome measure: Percentage of horses inspected for fitness prior to race.

Numeric FY target: 97%

Race Horse Aftercare Assistance

Program Description: Monies in the fund shall be distributed, under the sole control of the commission, to organizations exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, dedicated for race horse aftercare subject to the requirements of this section. Organizations applying for the funds must submit evidence of their existence for a minimum of three years. Priority will be given to organizations involved in the rehabilitation, retraining, and rehoming of former race horses that raced in the state of Iowa that have governing boards comprised of pari-mutuel industry occupational license holders.

Action Items for FY2026: Solicit applications prior to the deadline and review for accuracy.

Outcome measure: Percentage of reviewed applications in anticipation of awarding funds.

Numeric FY target: 95%

Attached Unit - Iowa Employment Appeal Board Operational Plan for FY2026

Effective fiscal year 2025, the Iowa Employment Appeal Board (EAB) absorbed the statutory functions that had previously been handled by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). When the EAB assumed the duties, the largest complaints from stakeholders were that decisions on state merit cases took too long to be issued after an appeal to PERB and a lack of participation in the recertification elections.

The EAB had a higher rate of participation in the fall election, which commenced one month after the start of the fiscal year, than PERB had in the prior year. The EAB will continue to provide communication with the parties and host trainings for election participants. The EAB endeavors to issue all merit case decisions within 14 days of the Board's review.

The EAB continues to strive to improve on the time spent processing unemployment insurance appeals. The EAB holds Board meetings at least once a week, with more scheduled as the number of appeals increases. The EAB also takes steps to ensure they issue legally correct decisions. The EAB has successfully defended most of its decisions when the losing party files a petition for judicial review.

EAB Strategic Plan Initiatives

To increase election participation, the EAB is working to create a more user-friendly election process for public employers, public employees, and the Certified Employee Organizations (CEO). This includes keeping the website current and providing training opportunities to all parties, including in-person, virtual, and on-demand videos on the website.

The EAB is also carefully monitoring unemployment and will continue to be an invaluable resource, especially if the unemployment rate in Iowa increases. The Employment Appeal Board saves the taxpayers of Iowa money as it does not require the parties, including involved state agencies, to spend money litigating cases that can be resolved administratively.

Enterprise Priorities Supported

In FY2026, the EAB will support the following enterprise priorities through the execution of this strategic plan:

- Government Efficiency
- Workforce

EAB Operational Goals to Achieve in FY2026

Timely and accurately adjudicate administrative appeals to save the State of Iowa and its constituents the time and expense of litigating employment and labor-related cases in the district courts.

Promote harmony in the public sector workforce by overseeing public sector collective bargaining, including giving public sector employees a voice by promoting participation in annual recertification elections.

EAB Programs Provided

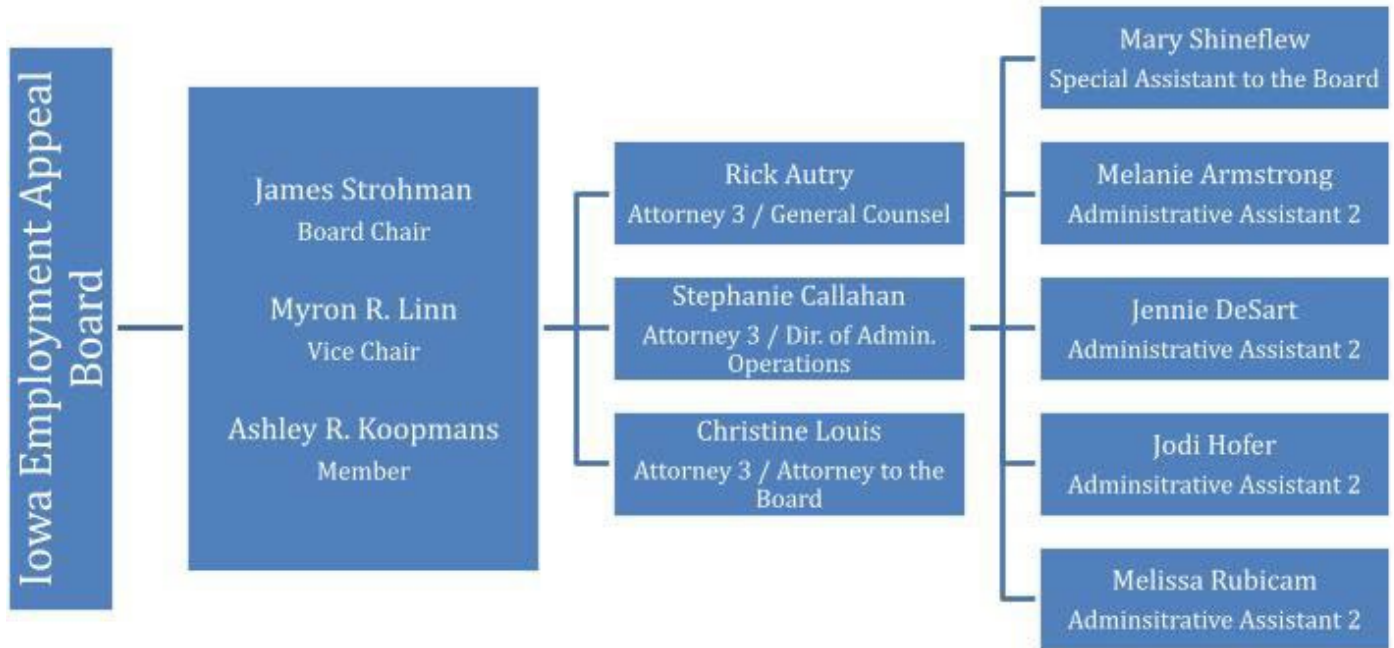
Employment Appeal Board

Program Description: The EAB adjudicates appeals of contested case hearings in matters brought pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 96 (unemployment insurance claims), Iowa Code chapter 8A (merit appeals for state employees), Iowa Code chapter 20 (public employment relations matters), Iowa Code section 88 (Occupational Safety and Health), and Iowa Code chapters 80, 91C, and 97B. The Board also oversees the administration of public collective bargaining, including conducting annual recertification elections for the employee organizations representing tens of thousands of public sector workers in Iowa.

Action Items for FY2026: The EAB will continue to hold daily or weekly meetings to review appeal cases for all case types under its jurisdiction. The EAB has been involved in the creation of the higher authority appeal section of the upgraded unemployment insurance system. With the creation and use of the system, the EAB will continue to send out decisions in a timely manner.

Core Function	Performance Measures	FY26 Target	Link to Strategic Plan
CF: Adjudication/Dispute Resolution			EAB Goal #1 – Continue to increase compliance with state and federal laws.
Desired Outcome(s)			
Goal 1: Timely adjudication of the rights and duties of workers and employers under unemployment (UI) laws.	Average age of pending Unemployment Insurance appeal cases compared to the federal Department of Labor guidelines of 40 days.	30	
Goal 2: Timely adjudicate contested OSHA and other non-unemployment appeals.	Issuing decisions within 14 days of Board review.	90%	
Goal 3: Timely adjudicate contested Merit employee appeals.	Issuing decisions within 14 days of Board review.	90%	
Goal 4: Timely adjudicate contested cases brought pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 20.	Issuing decisions within 14 days of Board review.	90%	
Goal 5: Timely adjudication of contested construction contractor registration violations.	Percentage of decisions issued within 14 days of Board hearing.	90%	
CF: Run Elections for Public Employers and Employees			EAB Goal #2 – Run efficient and accurate elections.
Goal 1: Increase parties' compliance with laws governing recertification elections.	Percentage of bargaining units participating in the recertification elections as identified based on the end date of the CBA.	75%	

EAB Organizational Structure



Attached Unit – Iowa Office of Civil Rights Operational Plan for FY2026



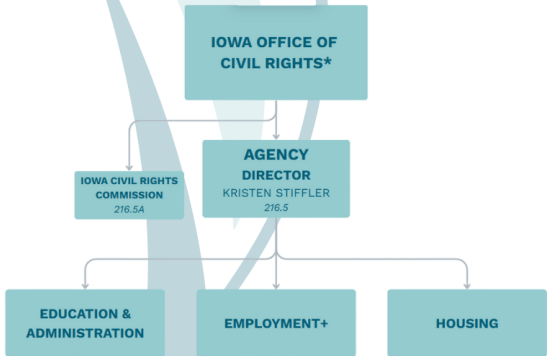
OUR MISSION

To provide impartial, efficient, and fact-driven investigative analyses of discrimination complaints filed in Iowa and promote Civil Rights outreach and education opportunities throughout the state.

The Iowa Office of Civil Rights (IOCR) seeks to eliminate illegal discrimination within the State of Iowa.

OUR VISION

IOWA OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



*IN EFFECT JULY 1, 2024 PURSUANT TO SF 2385

**FY26 ENTERPRISE PRIORITY:
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY**

Education and Administration

The Education & Administration Program educates Iowans about the rights and protections by the Iowa Civil Rights Act. This program identifies training opportunities and represents the agency at outreach events across the state. The program also serves as the main resource point for general questions from customers about the state's civil rights law.

Education and Administration Program FY26 Metrics

- Complete intake processing time within statutory requirements **Target: 90%**
- Provide high-quality education and outreach events annually **Target: 25**

Employment+

The Employment+ Program provides efficient, neutral investigations to Iowans and covered individuals that have filed complaints under the Iowa Civil Rights Act. This program is administered with attention to providing responsive customer service, maximizing services provided by state and federal tax dollars.

Employment+ Program FY26 Metrics

- The number of completed EEOC cross-filed investigations in FY26 **Target: 950**
- Tier One investigation completed within 180 days of complaint received **Target: 80%**
- IOCR legal analysis determinations upheld by administrative law judge **Target: 100%**

Housing

The Housing Program provides efficient, neutral investigations to Iowans and covered individuals that have filed complaints under the Iowa Civil Rights Act and federal Fair Housing Act. This program is administered with attention to providing responsive customer service, maximizing services provided by state and federal tax dollars.

Housing Program FY26 Metrics

- The number of completed HUD cross-filed investigations in FY26 **Target: 150**
- Complete intake process within 45 days of initial interview **Target: 85%**
- IOCR legal analysis determinations upheld by administrative law judge **Target: 100%**

Attached Unit – State Public Defender (SPD) Operational Plan for FY2026

SPD Strategic Plan Initiatives

Strategic Initiative 1: Provide high-quality representation to clients of Public Defender offices.

Strategic Initiative 2: Ensure that clients of private court-appointed attorneys are provided high-quality representation.

Strategic Initiative 3: Achieve government efficiency by improving the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of Iowa's indigent defense services.

Strategic Initiative 4: Compensate attorneys and other indigent defense providers in a timely and accurate manner.

SPD Enterprise Priorities Supported

In FY2026, SPD will support the following enterprise priorities through the execution of this strategic plan:

- Families First
- Government Efficiency

SPD Operational Goals to Achieve in FY2026

Goal 1: Recruit, train, and retain criminal defense attorneys, investigators, and other support staff in Iowa.

Goal 2: Enhance the abilities of public defender personnel by providing or coordinating resources, information, training, and professional development.

Goal 3: Ensure that public defender offices are carrying appropriate caseloads.

SPD Programs Provided

Assigned Counsel Legal Services

Program Description: Provide legal representation by private attorneys to eligible clients in criminal, juvenile and appellate court, and in certain civil commitment cases. Audit and approve/deny/modify payment of claims for private attorney services and related costs of providing defense services.

Action Items for FY2026: SPD will continue to provide trainings for private attorneys throughout the state who are eligible to provide legal representation to indigent clients. SPD will also continue to recruit new lawyers from regional and national law schools to come to Iowa and provide legal services.

Outcome measure: Percentage of public defender cases where there have been no final findings of ineffective assistance of counsel on appeal.

Numeric FY26 target: 99%

Outcome measure: Percentage of Notices of Action on indigent defense claims that are upheld upon final judicial review.

Numeric FY26 target: 99%

Outcome measure: Average processing time for an indigent defense claim within an established standard.

Numeric FY26 target: 35 days

Outcome measure: Average processing time for an indigent defense claim within an established standard.

Numeric FY26 target: 35 days

Title IV-E Juvenile Justice Improvement

Program Description: The Office uses the Title IV-E funds it receives for the following purposes:

- As a funding source for the Project to Preserve Families. This is currently the primary use of the Title IV-E reimbursement.
- For training juvenile attorneys.

The Project to Preserve Families is a pilot project created in Iowa Code section 13B.13. It is operating in sixteen counties, including Appanoose, Emmett, Fayette, Linn, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties. According to Iowa Code section 13B.13, the Office of the State Public Defender may establish a pilot project to implement innovative models of legal representation in order to assist families involved in the child welfare system. The purpose of the project is to implement and study innovative ways to achieve positive outcomes for families, reduce trauma to young children, and deliver financial benefits to families and their communities. As part of the project, the Office may appoint an attorney to represent an indigent person prior to the initiation of formal proceedings, without court order, if such representation is deemed appropriate by the Office and relates to the purposes of the pilot project. Through the authorization of this Iowa Code section, the Office started the Project to Preserve Families, which is designed to provide legal and community support to indigent clients to prevent Juvenile Court involvement and the removal of a child from the family home.

Action Items for FY2026: SPD will continue to work with HHS representatives, educators, and community members to seek out and assist families. In addition, SPD will work with HHS representatives to coordinate services to these families.

Outcome measure: Become fully operational in sixteen Iowa counties.

Numeric FY26 target: 100%

Wrongful Conviction Unit

Program description: The Wrongful Conviction Unit (WCU) is the office assigned to post-conviction relief matters. The Unit receives appointments directly from the court for pending post-conviction relief claims and accepts applications from incarcerated individuals with claims of factual innocence. The Post Conviction DNA 23 Grant program's primary goal is to assist states and units of local government with post conviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses where actual innocence might be demonstrated.

Action Items for FY2026: SPD Wrongful Conviction Unit will work with members of the Post Conviction relief unit to ensure that actual innocence claims are being vetted and handled appropriately. In addition, Wrongful Convictions staff and attorneys will provide training to new attorneys so they can become well versed in handling post conviction relief matters so all claims statewide can be handled efficiently and effectively.

Outcome measure: Become fully staffed to support post-conviction relief claims and respond to applications from incarcerated individuals with claims of factual innocence.

Numeric FY26 target: 100%

Outcome measure: Review 25 new post-conviction DNA cases and perform DNA testing with federal grant funds (Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant).

Numeric FY26 target: 100%

SPD Organizational Structure

