

2025-2026 Annual Report

CHICKASAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOMECARE SERVICES

Prepared by

Lisa Welter, RN, BSN

Our Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision Statement

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services envisions a thriving, informed, and resilient community where everyone has access to safe environments, trusted health resources, and compassionate care, regardless of circumstance. Through innovation, collaboration, and outreach, we strive to be a reliable partner in improving health, empowering lives, and ensuring that all can safely remain in their homes and communities—while maximizing fiscal responsibility to sustain and expand our impact.

Mission Statement

The mission of Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services is to protect and promote the health, safety, and well-being of all community members through compassionate care, disease prevention, emergency preparedness, and collaborative outreach. We serve as a trusted resource and connector—delivering skilled nursing, environmental health services, education, and support to individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

Organizational Values

Dedication: We are committed to deliver high-quality, accessible care—meeting our community’s needs with integrity, skill, and persistence, even in the face of challenges.

Advocacy: We champion health equity by amplifying the voices of underserved populations and working to ensure every resident has access to clean water, nutritious food, and essential health services.

Community Focus: We build trusted relationships, collaborate across sectors, and tailor our services to reflect the unique needs of the people we serve.

Compassion: We approach every individual with empathy and respect—providing care that honors dignity, promotes well-being, and supports people in safely remaining in their homes and communities.

Letter from the Director

2025–2026 Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Service Annual Report

It is my pleasure to present the 2025–2026 Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Service Annual Report. Each year brings new opportunities and challenges, and this past year presented our department with some particularly difficult circumstances. Decreased staffing created a challenging period for our team and, at times, made it difficult to meet the needs of the clients and community members we serve. These challenges also had a significant impact on our budget and overall revenue.

Despite these challenges, our team remained committed to finding solutions and identifying new opportunities to strengthen the services we provide. This past year, we explored and implemented new programming designed to better meet the evolving needs of our community while promoting health, wellness, and prevention. These efforts have allowed us to expand our services, create opportunities for reimbursement, increase revenue, and reduce operating costs.

As staffing levels were restored, our department was better positioned to continue delivering high-quality home health services and respond to the needs of Chickasaw County residents. With a strengthened team and new programming opportunities, we are encouraged by the direction of our department and the opportunities ahead. We will continue to seek innovative and sustainable ways to provide meaningful services to our community while being responsible stewards of our resources.

We are grateful for the continued trust and support of the Chickasaw County community, our clients, staff, partners, and local organizations. Together, we can continue to build a healthier, stronger, and more resilient community.

With sincere thanks,

Lisa Welter, RN, BSN
Administrator
Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Service

Services Snapshot

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services provides essential public health, home care, and environmental health programs, services, and partnerships that protect and improve the health and well-being of county residents. This service snapshot highlights key programs, partnerships, and accomplishments from the 2025-2026 fiscal year, reflecting our commitment to accessible, responsive, and community-centered care.

Public Health Services

Disease Prevention and Control

- Animal Bite and Rabies Investigations
- Communicable Disease Investigations
 - Education
 - Testing
 - Treatment
- Latent Tuberculosis (TB) treatment and monitoring
- Tuberculosis (TB) testing
- Lead screenings and education

Immunization Services

- Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
- Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Program
- Adult Vaccinations
- Influenza Vaccinations
- Avian Influenza Outreach for Agricultural Workers
- School and Childcare Immunization Audits
- NEW for 2026 VaxCare Vaccine Program
 - Expands access to all recommended vaccines regardless of insurance coverage.
 - Ability to provide vaccines that Medicare may not cover in traditional clinic settings.
 - Reduced county vaccine/vaccine supply upfront costs, increase revenue, while increasing vaccine availability and convenience for residents.
 - Vaccines available with minimal or no wait times.

Wellness Services

- Blood Pressure Clinics and Walk-In Blood Pressure Checks
- Healthy Foot Clinics
- Long-Term Care Assessments
- Resource Navigation Assistance

Community Support Programs

- Loan Closet
- Connect America (Life Alert Button Program)
- NEW for 2026 Angel Vitamin Distribution Site in collaboration with Visiting Nurse Association (VNA)

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Planning and Response

- Emergency Preparedness Planning and Coordination
- Drills and Exercises
 - Real-life Nursing Home Emergency Preparedness Event 2025
 - North Iowa SA2 Natural Disaster Tabletop Exercise 2026
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance
- NEW in 2026 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Comprehensive Systems for Transportation Support

Stop the Bleed Trainings

Training provided to additional people:

- Nashua-Plainfield Bus Drivers
- Sumner-Fredericksburg Teachers and Bus Drivers
- New Hampton Bus Drivers
- Chickasaw County Secondary Roads, Conservation, and Custodial Staff
- Ionia Fire Department
- Nashua-Plainfield Youth Day Camps

Staff Training

- NEW Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training
- NEW Psychological First Aid Training

Community Education and Outreach

Public Education

- Monthly Radio Education- 95.1 the Bull – Achen Becker Media
- Facebook and Social Media Health Education
- New Hampton Library
 - Germs and How Our Bodies Fight Germs
 - Safety Story Time in collaboration with Chickasaw County EMS
- Learning Connections- multiple events
 - Keeping Our Children Healthy
- St. Joseph Community Presentation for 1st grade
 - Germs and Proper Handwashing
- Tasty Tuesday
 - Programming and Health Education

Community Events

- Summer-Fredericksburg annual Health Fair
- NEW for 2025 15th Annual Healthiest State Walk
- NEW for 2026 Walk with Ease Program
- NEW for 2025 Food Drive in partnership with EMS
- NEW for 2026 Pop Tabs for Hope Drive with Megan Mueterthies for Cece
- Child Abuse Awareness Month Proclamation with the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors
- NEW for 2026 Volunteered with the Summer Food Service Program at New Hampton Community School
- NEW for 2025 Operation Green Light for Veterans

Community Health Improvement and Collaboration

Community Partnerships

- Community Health Assessment (CHA)
 - Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
 - Hospital Partnerships focusing on:
 - Immigrant Health
 - Community Care
 - Mental Health
 - NEW Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Collaboration
 - Education on Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC)
 - Food Access Workgroup
 - Community Food Surveys
 - Opioid Prevention Committee
 - HEAL Committee
 - Child Abuse Prevention Council
 - Environmental Health Quarterly Meetings
 - NEW Public Health System Alignment Town Halls
 - Department Head Meetings
 - Public Health Office Hours
 - NEW 2025 Strategic Planning
 - NEW 2025 Succession Planning Workgroup
 - NEW 2025 Bat Awareness Campaign
 - NEW 2026 Iowa Cancer Consortium
 - CHA/CHIP Iowa HHS Workgroup
 - Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Meetings
 - Region 2 Local Public Health Meetings
 - NEW Region 7 Infectious Disease Briefings
 - Regional Health Huddles
 - Local Public Health Administrators Meetings
 - NEW 2026 Covering Combat Cancer services in Chickasaw and Howard County
 - NEW 2026 Radon Mitigation Committee
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Cancer Prevention Initiatives

Working collaboratively to expand cancer prevention resources:

- NEW for 2026 Combat Cancer
 - Colorectal Cancer Screening Fit Testing
 - Lung Cancer Screening Promotion
 - Dermatoscope Expansion in Clinics
 - Radon Testing Kits
 - Tablet placement for technology assistance
 - NEW for 2026 Iowa Cancer Consortium
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Opioid Prevention Initiatives

- Opioid
 - NEW for 2026 Sheriff's mobile app.- with Sheriff's Office and Opioid Committee
 - Mail-Back Drug Envelope Program
 - NEW for 2025 Narcan Distribution Site
 - Narcan training
 - Community education on safe medication disposal
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Other

- Grant Reporting (Mid-Year and Annual)
 - Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI)
 - Jail Inspections
 - Cross-Agency Collaboration
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Additional Community Initiatives

Through these programs and partnerships, Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services continues its commitment to improving health outcomes, expanding access to care, strengthening emergency preparedness, and enhancing the quality of life for residents across Chickasaw County and the surrounding communities.

Environmental Health Services

Environmental Health works to protect public health and the environment through regulation, education, and enforcement in the following areas:

- **Renewed in 2026 28E Agreement with Mitchell County** – Collaborative partnership to provide Environmental Health services to Mitchell County.
- **Master Matrix Reviews** – Evaluate proposed confinement feeding operations for compliance with state environmental standards.
- **Well Water Services** – Schedule water sampling, coordinate testing, report results, and provide education on safe drinking water practices.
- **Septic System Services** – Conduct site evaluations, perform final inspections, and issue permits for onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- **Binding Agreements** – Review and maintain agreements related to shared or restricted wastewater systems.
- **Time of Transfer Reviews** – Evaluate onsite wastewater systems during property transfers to ensure compliance with state regulations.
- **Well Permits and Site Evaluations** – Review permit applications, conduct site evaluations, and issue permits for new private wells.
- **Well Plugging and Reconstruction Reviews** – Review and oversee the proper plugging or reconstruction of private wells to protect groundwater quality.
- **Shock Chlorination Reviews** – Provide guidance and review procedures for disinfecting private wells following contamination or maintenance.
- **NEW 2026- Working on Radon Measurement Specialist Services** – Certified Radon Measurement Specialist providing radon education, testing resources, and promoting radon awareness to reduce lung cancer risk. This funding was awarded to the Chickasaw County Environmental Health Specialist as part of the Combat Cancer grant with agreement to provide these radon measurement specialist services for future years.
- **Dumping Complaint Investigations** – Respond to and investigate reports of illegal or unsafe waste disposal.
- **Public Pool Inspections (Environmental Health Specialist has Certified Pool & Spa Operator Certification)** – Inspect public swimming pools and aquatic facilities to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations.
- **Tattoo Facility Inspections** – Inspect tattoo establishments to verify compliance with state and local health standards.
- **Pumper Truck Inspections** – Inspect and license septic pumper trucks to ensure compliance with sanitation and environmental regulations.

Summary

Together, these programs and partnerships demonstrate the agency's commitment to protecting the public health and supporting the well-being of Chickasaw County residents. During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Environmental Health focused on expanding programming, identifying additional funding opportunities, and strengthening collaboration. This collaboration helps Environmental Health line up with the Public Health Alignment vision for the future.

Home Health Services

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services is a Medicare and Medicaid certified Home Health Agency dedicated to providing high-quality, compassionate care to individuals in need. Our experienced team of home health professionals is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, ensuring that clients receive timely and responsive support whenever it is needed.

Referrals are accepted for all eligible individuals with identified needs, and services are provided throughout Chickasaw County as well as within a 10-mile radius beyond the county's borders if staffing allows. Through our commitment to accessibility, quality, and personalized care, we continue to promote health, independence, and well-being for those we serve.

Home Health Programs

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services offers a comprehensive range of home health programs designed to support the medical, rehabilitative, and personal needs of our clients. Our goal is to help individuals maintain their independence and quality of life in the comfort of their own homes.

Skilled Nursing

Registered Nurses provide skilled care under a physician's orders, including wound care and wound vac management, catheter or colostomy care, blood draws, medication management and education, post-hospitalization follow-up, IV infusions including PICC lines, medication injections, tube feedings, tracheostomy care, and other specialized nursing services.

Rehabilitation Therapies

Our team of licensed professionals provides physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy to assist clients in recovery, rehabilitation, and adaptation to changing health needs.

Home Care Aide Services

Home Care Aides provide essential personal care assistance, including bathing, grooming, dressing, range of motion exercises, and support with other activities of daily living to help clients remain comfortable and independent at home.

Homemaker Services

Homemaker assistance includes light housekeeping, meal planning and preparation, grocery shopping, errands, and laundry services. These supports are provided by experienced home care aides to help maintain a safe and healthy home environment.

Home Health Service Utilization

Skilled Nursing

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources):** 1,665- a decrease of 16%
(Previous Year: 1,982)

Home Care Aide Services

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources):** 2,811 a decrease of 1.9%
(Previous Year: 2,864)

Homemaker Services

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources):** 1,738 a decrease of 33%
(Previous Year: 2,583)

Respite Care

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources):** 0
(Previous Year: 1)

Summary

For skilled nursing, home care aide services, and homemaker services, total visits declined compared to the previous fiscal year, this reduction reflects a temporary staffing transition rather than a decrease in community need. During the period of reduced staffing, the agency's capacity to provide visits was limited. With staffing levels restored, the department is well-positioned to continue delivering high-quality home health services and meeting the needs of Chickasaw County residents. Respite care utilization was not provided due to a shift in service prioritization and staffing.

Rehabilitation Therapy Services

Physical Therapy

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources):** 871 a decrease of 11%
(Previous Year: 977)

Occupational Therapy

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources):** 291 a decrease of 31%
(Previous Year: 422)

Speech Therapy

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources):** 16 an increase of 167%
(Previous Year: 6)
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Summary

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services contracts with Fox Rehab (formerly known as Northern Iowa Therapy) and Millennium Therapy to provide high-quality, in-home rehabilitation services. Through these partnerships, clients receive personalized therapy designed to promote recovery, improve functional ability, and support independence—all within the comfort of their own homes.

Contracted Services

Chickasaw County Public Health partners with a variety of healthcare providers to ensure residents receive high-quality, comprehensive home health and supportive services. Through these partnerships, the agency is able to meet diverse client needs across the county.

Contracted service providers include:

- **Fox Rehab** – Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy
- **Millennium Therapy** – Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy
- **Taylor Physical Therapy (Nashua Clinic)**- Physical Therapy- Working on contract
- **Floyd County Medical Center** – Wound Care and Speech Therapy
- **Various Infusion Companies** – In-home infusion services, PICC lines, IV
- **Various DME Supply Companies**- In home wound vacs, wound care supplies, ostomies, urinary supplies, and oxygen/respiratory equipment.

Annual Admissions and Discharges

- **Home Health Admissions:** 111 a decrease of 25%
(Previous Year: 147)
- **Discharges from Agency:** 113 a decrease of 23%
(Previous Year: 146)

Home Health admissions declined this year, primarily due to a temporary staffing transition at the beginning of the fiscal year. With staffing restored, admissions began to increase allowing the program to resume its capacity to serve clients and maintain access to essential Home Health services throughout the community.

Annual Payer Utilization

The following breakdown represents the percentage of clients served by payer source during the 2025–2026 fiscal year:

- Medicare: 37.3%
- Medicaid: 20.5%
- Medicare HMO: 15.7%
- Other Payers (*e.g., Self-Pay, IV Companies*): 12.3%
- Veterans Affairs (VA): 11.8%
- Private Insurance: 2.4%

This distribution reflects the diverse funding sources that support the delivery of home health and public health services throughout Chickasaw County.

Medicare

- Medicare

Medicare HMO Plans

- Aetna Medicare
- MercyOne Health Plan
- UnitedHealthcare (UHC) Medicare Advantage
- UHC Medicare Dual Complete
- UHC Medicare HMO
- Wellmark Advantage Health Plan
- Wellpoint HMO

Medicaid

- Iowa Total Care
- Molina
- Wellpoint
- Medicaid

Private Insurance

- Accredo
- Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS)
- Veterans Affairs (VA)

Other Payers

- Self Pay

Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI)

The agency maintains a robust Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program that uses data to evaluate care, identify opportunities for improvement, and enhance client outcomes. Quality data are reviewed quarterly, including audit findings, client feedback, HHCAHPS Survey, Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Reports, Star Rating Reports, and Health Care Strategies Reports. Findings are shared with the Board of Health to support accountability, oversight, and continuous quality improvement.

Public Health Programming

Animal Bite Investigations

During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services Administrator investigated 18 animal bite incidents, representing a decrease from 23 cases in 2024–2025, 29 cases in 2023–2024, 20 investigations in 2022–2023, and 12 in 2021–2022, indicating some year-to-year variation in reported incidents.

Of the 2025–2026 investigations, 15 involved dogs and 3 involved cats. All animals were confined and monitored in accordance with established Chickasaw County Public Health policy and Iowa Code 355.1, which governs animal bite and rabies control procedures.

These investigations are critical to preventing the spread of rabies and ensuring the safety of both residents and animals within the county. Chickasaw County Public Health remains committed to timely follow-up, public education, and collaboration with local law enforcement and veterinary partners to protect community health.

Blood Pressure Screening Program

The blood pressure screening program aims to identify individuals with elevated blood pressure and connect them with appropriate medical care when needed. During each screening, clients receive education and counseling on factors that can affect blood pressure, including sodium intake, weight management, alcohol use, medication adherence, family history, stress, and the importance of routine medical care. During fiscal year 2025–2026, a total of 34 blood pressure screenings were conducted. Screening numbers declined because blood pressure screenings were no longer covered under the grant. While screenings will continue to be available as needed, including for walk-in clients, program activities have shifted toward services that qualify for reimbursement.

Communicable Disease Follow-Up

During Fiscal Year 2025–2026, Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services investigated 27 confirmed communicable disease cases, representing an increase from 25 cases in 2024-2025 and 10 cases in 2023–2024. Each case required follow-up by public health staff to ensure appropriate investigation, education, and documentation in accordance with Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reporting requirements.

The following cases were investigated during the reporting period:

Disease	Number of Cases
Cryptosporidiosis	6
Latent Tuberculosis (TB)	5
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis	1
Campylobacter	4
E. Coli	3
Tularemia	1
Shigellosis	2
Chlamydia	1
Giardia	1
Salmonella	2
Unknown	1

Public health staff conducted interviews with patients or family members to:

- Verify demographic information
- Document symptom onset and treatment course
- Identify potential exposure sources and modes of transmission
- History (travel, events, restaurants, food consumed)
- Conduct contact tracing as appropriate
- Provide education regarding disease prevention and control
- Coordinate follow-up testing or treatment as indicated

All follow-up information was entered into the Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) for state tracking and trend analysis.

Immunization Clinic

Through the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, the agency receives vaccines at no cost through programs including Vaccines for Children (VFC), Vaccines for Adults (VFA), Avian Influenza/Farmers, and Measles. Beginning next fiscal year, Chickasaw County Public Health will contract with VaxCare to further expand and strengthen its immunization program and help ensure the vaccination needs of Chickasaw County residents are met.

Vaccines provided through the VFC program include:

- Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DTaP/Tdap)
- Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV)
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib)
- Hepatitis B (Pediatric/Adolescent)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Rotavirus
- Pneumococcal (PCV/Prevnar)
- Hepatitis A
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Meningococcal (Meningitis)
- Influenza (Flu)
- COVID-19

Vaccines provided through the VFA, Influenza/Farmers, and Measles programs include:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Td/Tdap)
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Influenza (Flu)
- COVID-19

During Fiscal Year 2025–2026:

- 490 child immunizations were administered.
- 8 adults received Td/Tdap vaccines.
- 2 adults received MMR vaccines.
- 7 adults completed TB testing.
- Influenza vaccines were administered to 680 adults and 68 children.

All administered vaccines are documented in the Iowa Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS). A \$10.00 donation was suggested for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured to help offset clinic costs; however, no one was denied vaccine services due to inability to pay.

School and Childcare Immunization Audits

Each fall, Public Health Nurses conduct immunization audits for all preschools, K–12 schools, and licensed childcare centers in Chickasaw County to ensure compliance with Iowa Administrative Code 641—Chapter 7. Students must be up to date on required vaccinations before attending school. Those lacking the first dose of a vaccine series are excluded until requirements are met, while provisional certificates may be issued for students in progress with a series.

During Fiscal Year 2025–2026, Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services completed audits across all schools and childcare facilities. These audits help ensure children are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases and that schools maintain accurate and compliant immunization records.

Schools Audited:

- New Hampton Elementary, Middle School, and High School
- Nashua-Plainfield Elementary, Middle School, and High School
- Sumner-Fredericksburg Elementary and Middle School
- St. Joseph School
- Sunrise Preschool
- New Hampton Head Start
- Deerfield Mennonite School
- Country Side Mennonite School

Childcare Centers Audited:

- Fun in the Sun Day Care – Fredericksburg
- Great Plays Day Care – New Hampton

Audits were completed in collaboration with school nurses, administrators, and childcare providers to review immunization documentation and provide education regarding state immunization laws, vaccine schedules, and reporting requirements.

Healthy Foot Clinic

The Chickasaw County Public Health Nursing Service continues to provide the Healthy Foot Clinic, offering partial health assessments and routine nail care for community members. The service cost remained at \$30.00 per visit.

During the past year, a total of 56-foot care visits were completed, compared to 70 visits in the previous year. Clinics are held monthly on the second Tuesday at the Community Service Building in New Hampton. Due to staffing changes, afternoon appointments were reduced. In addition to the regular clinics, services were also provided to homebound clients, ensuring continuity of care for those unable to attend in person.

Lead Screening

Chickasaw County Public Health continues to offer lead screening services and timely communication of results while collaborating with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to explore opportunities to expand lead programming. Due to the county's smaller population, a full local program is not currently sustainable. WIC and MercyOne New Hampton Clinic also provide lead screening, working closely with Public Health to coordinate and share results.

Loan Closet Program

Chickasaw County Public Health continues to provide a free Loan Closet Program offering durable medical equipment to support residents with temporary or long-term mobility needs. Available equipment includes wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, commodes, and bath seats. The program promotes safety, independence, and accessibility, with equipment inspected and sanitized before redistribution. Donations of gently used medical equipment are also welcomed.

Connect America Life Alert Program

Chickasaw County Public Health partners with Connect America to provide Life Alert buttons to residents who may be at risk of falls, medical emergencies, or other safety concerns while living independently. This program offers individuals immediate access to emergency assistance at the push of a button, helping ensure timely response and peace of mind for clients and their families. Public Health staff assist with referrals, setup, and coordination to ensure each device is properly installed and functioning. Through this partnership, we continue to promote safety, independence, and rapid emergency response for vulnerable residents throughout Chickasaw County.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness and response planning remain ongoing priorities for Chickasaw County Public Health. The agency collaborates with a broad network of community partners.

On December 6, 2025, Chickasaw County Public Health helped with a real-life event where a pipe had ruptured at a local Nursing Home flooding the building. Those involved in the event included Chickasaw County Public Health, Chickasaw County EMS, Chickasaw County EMA, New Hampton Fire Department, New Hampton Police Department, Black Hawk Sprinkler, Accura Healthcare, Harvest Church, Regional Health Services of Howard County ambulance, Nashua Area EMS, Sumner EMS, Winn Med EMS, AMR ambulance, New Hampton Nursing and Rehab, Shell Rock Nursing Home, 9th Street Chautauqua, and 11th Street Chautauqua.

On April 23, 2026, Chickasaw County Public Health participated in a North Iowa SA2 Natural Disaster Tabletop Exercise. Those participating were Hospitals: Floyd County Medical Center, Franklin General Hospital/EMS, Kossuth Regional Hospital, and Mitchell County Regional Hospital. Public Health: Cerro Gordo County, Floyd County, Chickasaw County, Mitchell County, Hancock County, and Kossuth County. Emergency Management: Floyd County. EMS: Belmond EMS and Franklin General Hospital EMS. Care Centers: Homestead Assisted Living, Chautauqua Assisted Living, and Titonka Care Center. Other: Fullerton Funeral Home, Mason City Public Works Department, City of Orchard, and Iowa HHS. The exercise focus was a Memorial Day tornado scenario focusing on patient/community member movement and preparedness planning, communication breakdown, supply chain resiliency, and water contamination, transitioning into a mass fatality event.

During the year, Public Health staff finished completing NIMS 2200 training, ensuring readiness and alignment with federal emergency management standards. Additionally, Public Health continued to expand the Stop the Bleed training and distributed bleed control kits to all buses in the county and county roads vehicles to strengthen community response capabilities in emergency situations.

The agency's Emergency Preparedness Policy is reviewed annually with the governing board to maintain a high level of readiness and compliance with state and federal public health preparedness requirements.

Grant Funding and Support

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services utilized funding from the Public Health Six-Year Emergency Response Grant, the Immunization Services Grant, the Local Public Health Services Grant, Influenza A/H5N1 Response Grant, and Combat Cancer Grant during the 2025–2026 fiscal year. In addition, Chickasaw County Environmental Health received funding through the Private Well Grant Program.

These grants support the implementation of essential public health and environmental health initiatives that protect and promote the well-being of Chickasaw County residents. Through this funding, the agency demonstrates its continued ability to plan for, respond to, and manage a range of health and environmental needs within the community.

Environmental Health

Chickasaw County Environmental Health Services continues to protect public health and the environment through permitting, inspections, testing, and complaint investigations. This year, septic site evaluations and final inspections, time-of-transfer inspections, and water testing increased significantly, reflecting a growing need for Environmental Health

The table below summarizes key environmental health activities:

Program Area	FY 25-26	FY 24-25	FY 23-24	FY22-23
Septic Site Evaluations/Finals	111	84	59	67
Binding Agreements	7	9	16	14
Time of Transfers	32	16	20	30
Well Permits	10	12	12	15
Well Site Evaluations	15	12	9	6
Water Tests	314	271	212	255
Well Plugging/Reconstruction	2	10	8	1
Shock Chlorination	2	3	2	0
Dumping Complaints	6	3	5	8
Pool/Tattoo Inspections	5	5	6	4
Pumper Truck Inspections	5	4	4	1
Master Matrix Reviews	1	1	0	2

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services Staff

Administration/Office Staff

- **Lisa Welter, RN** – Administrator
 - **Ann Knutson, RN** – Assistant Administrator / Home Care Manager
 - **Tina Britt, BA** – Business Manager
 - **Anita Eschweiler** – Scheduler / Administrative Assistant
-

Public Health/Home Health Staff

- **Andrea Kime, LPN** – Immunization Nurse
 - **Judy Paulus-Gebel, RN** – Home Health / Public Health Nurse
 - **Jane Collins, RN** – Home Health / Public Health Nurse
 - **Megan Lester, RN, BSN** – Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Coordinator/Home Health/Public Health Nurse
 - **Julia Shekleton, RN** – Home Health / Public Health Nurse
-

Environmental Health

- **Derek Lechtenberg** – Environmental Health Specialist
-

Home Care Services Staff

- **Shelly Bast** – Home Care Aide
- **Tammy Flick** – Home Care Aide
- **Wendy Peters** – Home Care Aide
- **Mistie Deere** – Home Care Aide

Chickasaw County Board of Health

Fiscal Year 2025–2026

- **Toni Friedrich** – Chair
Term Expires: December 31, 2030
 - **Jeremy McGrath** – Vice Chair
Term Expires: December 31, 2027
 - **Dr. Lucas Brinkman** – Board Member
Term Expires: December 31, 2030
 - **Joan Knoll** – Board Member
Term Expires: December 31, 2026
 - **Karen Sinnwell** – Board Member
Term Expires: December 31, 2030
 - **Cindy Shoemaker** – Term expired December 31, 2025
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Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors

Fiscal Year 2025–2026

- **Steven Breitbach** – Supervisor, First District
Term Expires: December 31, 2028
- **Scott Cerwinske** – Supervisor, Second District
Term Expires: December 31, 2026
- **Jacob Hackman** – Supervisor, Third District
Term Expires: December 31, 2028
- **Isaac Carter** – Supervisor, Fourth District
Term Expires: December 31, 2028
- **Travis Suckow** – Supervisor, Fifth District
Term Expires: December 31, 2026

Budget

Revenue Public Health	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024
Medicaid	\$140,102.79	\$145,484.78	\$171,299.79
Medicare	\$202,091.78	\$254,013.94	\$217,561.37
Private Insurance Reimbursement	\$18,229.50	\$28,988.75	\$32,971.38
Private Pay Homemakers	\$15,032.70	\$6,128.39	\$4,990.84
Private Pay Americare	\$25,326.30	\$16,031.22	\$15,293.48
Other Health Fees-CDAC Waiver	\$2,009.82	\$8,535.43	\$5,020.96
Other Health Fees-Reimb-Hawkeye VA	\$161,229.60	\$194,460.98	\$175,263.66
Other Health Fees- Elderly Waiver	\$20,771.01	\$40,186.02	\$37,097.60
Other Health Fees- Reimb to VA	\$49,501.35	\$54,740.34	\$50,633.99
Other Sources	\$1,000.00	\$150.00	0
Reimbursement and Refunds	\$813.40	\$2,475.00	\$870.72
Sale of Supplies	\$552.00	\$42.00	\$266.26
Donations- Immunization Clinic	\$53,193.45	\$51,105.90	\$60,285.06
Donations- Healthy Feet Clinic	\$1,740.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,470.00
Immunization Grant	\$8,585.00	\$8,585.00	\$8,585.00
Farmer Flu/Covid-19	\$432.19	\$732.89	\$2,834.13
Emergency Preparedness Grant	\$14,516.52	\$10,160.83	\$12,667.10
CBS State Grant	\$33,320.02	\$39,448.81	\$49,160.84
Revenue Total	\$748,447.43	\$863,520.28	\$847,272.18

Annual Revenue Summary – Public Health Agency 2025–2026

In the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the Public Health Agency generated a total revenue of \$748,447.43, a 13.3% decrease from the previous year. This reduction reflects a temporary staffing transition during the fiscal year. During the period of reduced staffing, the agency’s capacity to provide some visits were limited, which affected revenue. As staffing levels were restored, revenue began to increase.

The agency also saw increased revenue in homemaker service line as private-pay homemakers were able to be removed from the waiting list. Additionally, revenue increased through Emergency Preparedness Grant, including funding received for providing additional Stop the Bleed trainings.

Expenses Public Health	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024
Medical-Lab-Supply-Mis Vaccines	\$29,101.22	\$28,614.02	\$41,234.28
Safety Hazardous Waste Disposal	0	\$82.00	\$148.75
IM Grant	\$416.95	\$799.62	\$985.29
Board of Health	\$736.00	\$591.00	\$524.00
Salaries	\$683,830.86	\$750,500.35	\$727,247.03
OT-Shift PY OT Rate OT TME & ½	\$3,452.96	\$8,783.68	\$9,150.50
Overtime Pay OT Rate On Call	\$6,592.50	\$6,616.50	\$6552.00
Stationary, Forms, and General	\$595.39	\$1,119.07	\$1,559.08
Magazines, books, Website	\$524.30	\$205.10	\$205.10
Medical- Lab Supplies	\$2,998.24	\$7,130.21	\$9,085.05
Postage	\$71.05	\$464.05	\$825.83
Mileage Administrator	0	\$0.00	\$255.35
Mileage Staff Nurse and Other	0	\$475.70	\$0.00
Mileage- Public Health	\$325.25	\$379.05	\$521.48
Mileage- Client Calls	\$14,292.98	\$17,249.30	\$15,983.82
Meetings- Mileage	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mileage- Client Calls Homemaker	\$14,384.61	\$17,666.37	\$19,602.19
Telephone/Internet	\$6,127.73	\$7,538.95	\$8,673.02
Lodging Administrator	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lodging Assistant Administrator	0	\$0.00	\$170.93
Lodging nurse and other	0	\$0.00	\$284.83
Meals	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Meals staff nurse and other	0	\$0.00	\$51.36
Cost Report	\$3,425.00	\$3,375	\$3,375
Auditing Other	\$10,445.36	\$10,009.42	\$8,335.35
Data Processing Software	\$17,056.04	\$20,400.00	\$25,259.00
Education Training	0	\$861.30	\$0.00
Education Administrator	\$73.68	\$118.71	\$707.81
Education Assistant Administrator	\$73.68	\$83.71	\$807.81
Education Staff Nurse and Other	\$871.98	\$567.62	\$1,953.72
Equipment and Maintenance	\$384.00	\$517.45	\$384.00
Dues & Membership	\$1,253.00	\$1,527.00	\$1,956.00
Reimbursements	0	\$7,766.00	\$1,266.74
Background Check	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$60.00
Enterstomal Therapy	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Physical Therapy	\$94,345.00	\$100,590.00	\$76,560.00
Speech Therapy	\$800.00	\$630.00	\$3,145.00
Occupational Therapy	\$10,095.00	\$43,470.00	\$27,840.00
Social Work	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emergency Preparedness Grant	\$1,524.59	\$1,200.00	\$3,595.94
Covid- 19 Grant	0	\$331.35	\$0.00
Local PH Service Grant	\$1,403.29	\$1,382.25	\$1,656.04
Computer Hardware	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Equipment & Furniture	\$41.68	\$136.64	\$1,854.00
FICA	\$49,802.08	\$55,890.78	\$54,266.03
IPERS	\$63,610.52	\$71,961.32	\$69,680.26
Health Insurance	\$134,134.54	\$174,876.00	\$150,176.19
Prorated ACA Pcori IRS	\$48.58	\$90.16	\$36.00
Severance Package	0	\$5,000	0.00
Total Expenses	\$1,152,868.06	\$1,348,999.68	\$1,275,974.78

In the 2025–2026 fiscal year, Public Health expenses totaled \$1,152,868.06, reflecting a decrease by approximately 14.5% from the previous fiscal year.

Revenue Environmental Health	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024
License Fees	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Well Water Sewer Permits	\$17,375.00	\$15,175.00	\$11,875.00
Well Water Sewer Permits State	\$53,951.35	\$55,308.38	\$42,154.93
Water Samples	\$155.50	0	0
Radon Test Kits	\$240.00	\$980.00	\$495.00
Misc Fees	\$244.40	\$0.00	\$350.00
Inspection Fees	\$3,163.74	\$1,921.50	\$1,201.00
Well Testing- Plugging-Rehab	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$75,154.99	\$73,434.88	\$56,125.93

Environmental Health revenue for the 2025-2026 year is \$75,154.99 showing an increase of 2.3% for this fiscal year.

Expenses Environmental Health	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024
Salary	\$37,651.31	\$50,182.96	\$27,204.36
Salary PT	\$10,578.10	\$0.00	\$14,000
Fuel-Gasoline	\$993.50	\$1,213.36	\$1,219.49
Stationery, Forms, and General	\$50.45	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Publication- Legal	0	\$618.00	\$186.00
Postage	\$244.00	\$101.40	\$396.40
Mileage	0	\$269.41	\$392.97
Telephone/Internet	\$477.14	\$406.56	\$398.51
Lodging	0	\$995.83	\$489.24
Subsistence- Meals	0	\$0.00	\$52.06
Education Training	\$175.00	\$535.00	\$825.00
Repairs Maintenance	\$442.67	\$107.15	\$130.00
Dues and Memberships	\$219.00	\$309.00	\$379.00
Contract of Services	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Well owners cost samples	\$18,882.78	\$27,873.50	\$25,330.86
Well Permits	\$400.00	\$325.00	\$475.00
Radon Tests Kits	\$371.37	\$900.00	\$0.00
FICA	\$3,667.87	\$3,816.81	\$3,045.14
IPERS	\$4,552.83	\$4,521.64	\$3,881.27
Health Insurance	\$10,396.66	\$10,361.68	\$9,789.43
Prorated ACA IRS	\$3.47	\$6.44	\$3.00
Total Expenses	\$89,106.15	\$102,543.74	\$88,197.73

In the 2025–2026 fiscal year, Environmental Health expenses totaled \$89,106.15 reflecting a decrease by approximately 13.1% decrease from the previous fiscal year.

Looking Toward the Future

Looking ahead, Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services is excited about the opportunities on the horizon. New programs and services, including Radon Measurement Specialist programming, Combat Cancer initiatives, and VaxCare, will allow us to expand our reach, address emerging community health needs, and provide additional resources to county residents. We look forward to building on the progress made this year, strengthening community partnerships, and continuing to find innovative and sustainable ways to improve the health and well-being of those we serve.