

2024-2025 Annual Report

CHICKASAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOMECARE SERVICES

Prepared by

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About Us

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services has proudly provided home health care to residents of Chickasaw County since 1970. Our mission 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.

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.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services

The **10 Essential Public Health Services (EPHS)** provide a comprehensive framework for protecting and promoting the health of all people in all communities. To achieve optimal health for everyone, these services promote policies, systems, and programs that enable good health while actively working to remove structural and systemic barriers—such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression—that contribute to health inequities. Every person deserves a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health and well-being.

Core Function 1: Assessment

Assessment, monitoring, and surveillance of local health problems and needs, and of resources for addressing them.

- **Essential Service #1:** Assess and monitor population health.
 - **Essential Service #2:** Investigate, diagnose, and address health hazards and their root causes.
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Core Function 2: Policy Development

Policy development and leadership that foster community involvement, emphasize local needs, and advocate for the equitable distribution of public resources and complementary private activities in alignment with those needs.

- **Essential Service #3:** Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.
 - **Essential Service #4:** Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.
 - **Essential Service #5:** Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.
 - **Essential Service #6:** Utilize legal and regulatory actions to protect and promote public health.
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Core Function 3: Assurance

Assurance that high-quality health services—both public health and personal health—are available and accessible to all individuals. This includes ensuring that communities receive fair consideration in the allocation of federal, state, and local resources, and that they are informed about how to obtain health services or comply with public health requirements.

- **Essential Service #7:** Enable equitable access to individual and community-level health services.
- **Essential Service #8:** Build and maintain a diverse, skilled, and public health workforce.
- **Essential Service #9:** Improve and innovate through ongoing evaluation, research, and quality improvement.
- **Essential Service #10:** Build and sustain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

Letter from the Administrator

2024–2025 Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Service Annual Report

Dear Community Members,

It is my pleasure to present the 2024–2025 Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Service Annual Report. Each year brings new opportunities and challenges, and this past year was no exception. Our department continues to grow in both activity and impact, with numerous initiatives focused on protecting and promoting the health, safety, and well-being of all residents in Chickasaw County.

We are fortunate to serve a community that truly values public health and home care. This report highlights not only the direct services provided by our dedicated team, but also the many ways we collaborate with local partners and organizations to strengthen the health of our county.

Healthy communities are essential to a thriving future. Our agency remains committed to increasing the visibility and accessibility of our services across the county. Through strong collaboration and outreach, we have expanded awareness of the many healthcare resources available through Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we work together to ensure that every individual in our community has the opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.

With appreciation,

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

Services Snapshot

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services provides a wide range of essential health programs, services, and partnerships designed to protect, promote, and improve the well-being of all residents. The following summary highlights the major program areas and activities conducted during the 2024–2025 fiscal year.

Home Health Services

- Home Health Programming
 - QAPI (Quality Assessment Performance Improvement)
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Public Health Services

Programs and Activities

- Animal Bite and Rabies Investigations
- Blood Pressure Clinics
- Communicable Disease Investigations
 - Education
 - Testing
 - Treatment
- Immunizations, including:
 - Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
 - Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Program
 - Adult Vaccines (Tdap, Td)
 - Influenza Vaccinations
 - Avian Influenza Outreach for Agricultural Workers
- Tuberculosis (TB) Testing
- School and Childcare Immunization Audits
- Healthy Foot Clinics
- Lead Screenings
- Loan Closet
- Connect America (Life Alert Button Program)
- Public Health Education and Outreach
 - Monthly Radio Segments
 - Social Media Education and Updates (Facebook)

Emergency Preparedness

- Drills and Exercises
- Planning and Coordination
- Staff and Partner Trainings
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance
- Stop the Bleed

Community Collaboration and Meetings

- Regional Health Huddle
- Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Meeting
- Region 2 Local Public Health Meeting
- HEAL Committee Meetings
- Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP) with Iowa HHS
- CHA/CHIP Hospital Partnerships on Immigrant and Community Care
- Environmental Health Quarterly Updates
- Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Public Health Office Hours
- Department Head Meetings
- System Alignment Discussions
- Food Access Workgroup
- Public Health Regional Meeting
- Public Health Town Hall
- Opioid Committee
- Strategic Planning

Agency and Program Development

- Grant Reporting (Mid-Year and Annual)
- Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI)
- Resource Navigation Assistance
- Jail Inspections
- Narcan (Naloxone) Training
- Cross-Agency Collaboration

Mental Health and Wellness Initiatives

- Soul Shop Suicide Prevention Training
- Cancer in 99 Counties Project

Community Education and Speaking Events

- Sumner–Fredericksburg Health Fair
- New Hampton Library Presentation: Vaccines and Germ Prevention
- Fredericksburg Lions Club Presentation

Additional Services

- Long-Term Care Assessments
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Environmental Health Services

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

- **Master Matrix Reviews** – Evaluate proposed confinement feeding operations for compliance with environmental standards.
- **Well Water Services** – Scheduling, testing, and reporting of results, along with public education on safe drinking water practices.
- **Septic System Services** – Conduct site evaluations, final inspections, and issue permits for onsite wastewater systems.
- **Binding Agreements** – Review and maintain agreements related to shared or restricted wastewater systems.
- **Time of Transfer Reviews** – Evaluate septic systems during property transfers to ensure compliance and safety.
- **Well Permits & Site Evaluations** – Review and issue permits for new wells and perform site assessments.
- **Well Plugging & Reconstruction Reviews** – Oversee and review the proper plugging or reconstruction of wells to prevent contamination.
- **Shock Chlorination Reviews** – Provide guidance and review of procedures for disinfecting private wells.
- **Dumping Complaint Investigations** – Respond to and investigate reports of illegal or unsafe waste disposal.
- **Public Pool Inspections** – Inspect public swimming facilities for health and safety compliance.
- **Tattoo Facility Inspections** – Ensure tattoo establishments meet state and local health standards.
- **Pumper Truck Inspections** – Inspect and license septic pumper trucks for compliance with sanitation regulations.

Summary

Together, these programs and partnerships reflect the agency's ongoing commitment to safeguarding public health, supporting individual well-being, and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents of Chickasaw County. Through direct services, collaboration, education, and emergency preparedness, the department continues to serve as a trusted resource for the community.

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.

Respite Care

Respite services provide temporary relief for primary caregivers by offering short-term care for individuals who are ill, elderly, or disabled. This service allows caregivers the opportunity to rest and recharge while ensuring their loved one continues to receive quality care.

Home Health Service Utilization

Skilled Nursing

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources): 1,982**
(Previous Year: 2,114 — a decrease of 6.2%)

Skilled nursing visits saw a modest decline compared to the previous year. This decrease may reflect changes in patient acuity levels, post-acute referral patterns, earlier discharge from skilled care, or staffing changes. Despite this reduction, the demand for complex nursing services—such as wound management, IV therapy, and chronic disease monitoring—remains steady throughout the county.

Home Care Aide Services

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources): 2,864**
(Previous Year: 2,687 — an increase of 6.6%)

Home Care Aide visits increased over the past year, highlighting growing community need for personal care assistance and daily living support. These services continue to play a vital role in helping clients maintain independence and remain safely in their homes.

Homemaker Services

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources): 2,583**
(Previous Year: 2,732 — a decrease of 5.5%)

Homemaker visits declined slightly from the previous year. Variations in this service category often reflect client eligibility changes, availability of informal supports, change in staff, and shifts in service prioritization due to funding cuts.

Respite Care

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources): 1**
(Previous Year: 43 — a significant decrease)

Respite care utilization decreased significantly, which may be attributed to shifts in service prioritization.

Summary

Overall, home health service utilization remained strong in 2024–2025, reflecting continued community reliance on in-home care. While skilled nursing and homemaker visits experienced modest declines, the growth in Home Care Aide services underscores the increasing demand for supportive, non-clinical care that promotes safety and independence. Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services remains committed to adapting to evolving community needs and ensuring high-quality, accessible care for residents across all service areas.

Rehabilitation Therapy Services

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.

Physical Therapy

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources): 977**
(Previous Year: 935 — an increase of 4.5%)

Physical Therapy visits increased from the previous year, reflecting continued demand for mobility restoration, strength training, and post-surgical rehabilitation services. This growth highlights the importance of in-home physical therapy in supporting clients' recovery and helping them maintain independence.

Occupational Therapy

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources): 422**
(Previous Year: 335 — an increase of 26.0%)

Occupational Therapy visits rose significantly, demonstrating an increased focus on assisting clients with daily living skills, adaptive techniques, and home safety modifications. The expansion of these services indicates a growing recognition of their role in supporting long-term independence and quality of life.

Speech Therapy

- **Total Visits (All Pay Sources): 6**
(Previous Year: 36 — a decrease of 83.3%)

Speech Therapy visits decreased notably this year. This decline may reflect fluctuations in referral patterns, client eligibility, or the number of individuals requiring speech or swallowing therapy within the reporting period.

Summary

Overall, the 2024–2025 reporting year saw steady growth in physical and occupational therapy services, underscoring the continued value of in-home rehabilitation in meeting the complex recovery needs of community members. While speech therapy utilization decreased, Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services remains committed to ensuring that all residents have access to the full range of rehabilitative services necessary to achieve optimal health and independence.

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 and Occupational Therapy
- **Floyd County Medical Center** – Wound Care and Speech Therapy
- **Various Infusion Companies** – In-home infusion services
- **Various DME Supply Companies** – In home wound vacs and wound care supplies.

These collaborations allow Chickasaw County Public Health to deliver coordinated, client-centered care while maintaining access to specialized services that support recovery, independence, and overall health.

Annual Admissions and Discharges

- **Home Health Admissions: 147**
(Previous Year: 139 — an increase of 5.8%)
- **Discharges from Agency: 146**
(Previous Year: 159 — a decrease of 8.2%)

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, home health admissions increased slightly, indicating continued community demand for skilled in-home services. This growth reflects the agency's ongoing efforts to expand access, strengthen referral partnerships, and meet the needs of residents wishing to recover or manage chronic conditions in their own homes.

At the same time, discharges from the agency decreased, suggesting longer lengths of service for some clients and more complex care needs. This trend underscores the importance of maintaining a highly skilled interdisciplinary team capable of addressing both acute and long-term health conditions within the home setting.

Annual Payer Utilization

The following breakdown represents the percentage of clients served by payer source during the 2024–2025 fiscal year:

- Medicare: 35.2%
- Medicare HMO: 14.3%
- Medicaid: 18.9%
- Private Insurance: 9.2%
- Veterans Affairs (VA): 11.7%
- Other Payers (*e.g., Self-Pay, IV Companies, NEIBA*): 10.7%

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

Payer Categories Explained

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services works with a wide range of payers to ensure that all eligible individuals have access to quality, affordable home health and public health services. The following list outlines the primary payer categories and specific programs represented during the 2024–2025 reporting year.

Medicare

- Medicare

Medicare HMO Plans

- Aetna Medicare
- Humana Choice
- Medical Associates Health Plan
- UnitedHealthcare (UHC) Medicare Advantage
- UHC Medicare Dual Complete
- UHC Medicare HMO
- Wellmark Advantage Health Plan
- Wellpoint HMO
- TriWest
- VACCN Optum HMO

Medicaid

- Iowa Total Care
- Molina
- Wellpoint
- Medicaid

Private Insurance

- Accredo
- Aetna
- Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS)
- Cigna
- Eversana
- HealthPartners
- Medical Associates
- Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEIAAA)
- UMR
- UnitedHealthcare
- Veterans Affairs (VA)

Other Payers

- Coram Infusion
- MercyOne Home Infusion
- Iowa Marrow Donor Program
- Full Fee (Private Pay)
- Sliding Scale (Discontinued as of 6/1/2025)

Summary

Through diverse payer partnerships, Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services continues to expand accessibility to care, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent community members from receiving essential home health and supportive services. This broad payer mix allows the agency to meet the needs of clients across all income levels and care complexities.

Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI)

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services is committed to maintaining the highest standards of quality, safety, and effectiveness across all programs and services. The agency's Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program provides a structured, data-driven approach to evaluating care, identifying opportunities for improvement, and implementing changes that enhance client outcomes and organizational performance. Through continuous monitoring, staff engagement, and collaboration, we ensure that services remain appropriate, efficient, and responsive to community needs.

QAPI Program Overview

The agency maintains a robust Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program, with quality data reviewed on a quarterly basis. Findings are shared with the Board of Health and include results from audits, client feedback, and key performance reports such as the HHCAHPS Survey (Home Health Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems), Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Reports, Star Rating Reports, and Health Care Strategies Reports.

Recent performance improvement projects have focused on enhancing the management of oral medications, strengthening infection control practices, increasing the use of frontloading visits, improving face-to-face encounter process, boosting the HHCAHPS survey return rate, and advancing dyspnea management. These initiatives support the agency's ongoing commitment to quality care, positive client outcomes, and continuous performance improvement.

Public Health Programming

Animal Bite Investigations

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

Of the 2024–2025 investigations, 20 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 to appropriate medical care when needed. During each screening, clients receive counseling on factors that influence blood pressure, including sodium intake, weight management, alcohol use, medication adherence, family history, stress, and the importance of routine medical care.

During Fiscal Year 2024–2025, a total of 108 blood pressure screenings were conducted, an increase from 97 in 2023–2024. In comparison, there were 70 screenings in 2022–2023 and 26 in 2021–2022, reflecting a steady rise in community participation over the past several years.

When elevated readings were identified, referrals were made to local medical providers for follow-up evaluation, education, and treatment as appropriate. Continued growth in participation demonstrates the community's increased engagement in preventive health measures and the agency's ongoing commitment to promoting cardiovascular health across Chickasaw County.

Communicable Disease Follow-Up

During Fiscal Year 2024–2025, Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services investigated 25 confirmed communicable disease cases, representing a significant increase from 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
Salmonellosis	2
Cryptosporidiosis	3
Campylobacteriosis	11
E. coli	4
Latent Tuberculosis (TB)	2
Monkeypox	1
Shigellosis	1
West Nile Virus	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
- 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.

Summary

The rise in communicable disease cases this year underscores the continued importance of prompt surveillance, community education, and collaboration with healthcare providers. Chickasaw County Public Health remains committed to monitoring disease trends, reducing transmission, and safeguarding the health of residents through active investigation and prevention efforts.

Disease Information

Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection of the gut. It is usually transmitted by humans eating foods contaminated with animal feces. Food may also become contaminated by the unwashed hands of an infected food handler. People infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and sometimes vomiting. Salmonella can be found most commonly in raw meats, uncooked eggs, contaminated water, unpasteurized milk and cheese. Pet turtles, iguanas, snakes, other reptiles, baby chickens, ducks, dogs, and cats can also carry Salmonella.

Cryptosporidiosis is a parasite that causes diarrhea in both animals and humans. It is found in the feces of an infected person or animal. It is spread by putting something in the mouth that has been contaminated with the stool of an infected animal or person. It can also be spread by swallowing contaminated food or water. Symptoms include frequent and watery diarrhea accompanied by cramping belly pain.

Campylobacteriosis is a diarrheal illness. It is spread by improper handling of raw poultry, eating raw or undercooked poultry, and drinking unpasteurized milk, eating or drinking food or water that is contaminated with feces of an infected person or animal. People infected may develop diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain, and fever.

E-Coli is a bacteria that can cause bloody diarrhea. It usually occurs in the summer. It is spread by a person eating or drinking food or water that contains stool of infected people or animals. Raw milk, unpasteurized cider or other juices, or poorly cooked meat, especially ground beef, can also contain the bacteria. Symptoms usually start within 3-4 days after exposure but can be anywhere from 10 hours – 10 days. Major symptoms are diarrhea, which can look like bloody water. Stomach cramps and chills. There usually is no fever.

Latent TB - Individuals with a positive skin test for TB but no signs of the illness have the germ that causes TB in their bodies. They are not sick because the germs are inactive in their bodies. They cannot spread the germ to others. People may develop TB disease in the future so they are often prescribed medication (and followed by local public health) to prevent them from developing the disease.

Monkey Pox (M Pox) is an infectious viral disease that is related to small pox. It can occur in both humans and animals. It can spread between people through close contact. Symptoms could include fever, swollen lymph nodes, and rash that forms blisters, will crust over, and then fall off.

Shigellosis Is an infection of the gut. It is easily spread by close contact with an infected person or eating contaminated food or water. Symptoms could include diarrhea, fever, and painful bloody mucus stools.

West Nile is a mosquito borne virus. Mosquitos can get West Nile through feeding on infected birds. Mosquitos then spread the virus to people through bites. Many have no symptoms or mild symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, rash, or swollen lymph nodes. In some cases, especially in individuals over the age of 50, it can be more serious causing encephalitis or meningitis.

Immunization Clinic

Chickasaw County Public Health Nursing Service continued to provide Children's Immunization Clinics on the first Thursday morning and the third Thursday afternoon of each month at the Community Services Building in New Hampton. These clinics ensure that all children and eligible adults in Chickasaw County have access to essential vaccines that protect against preventable diseases.

Through the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, the agency receives vaccines at no cost under the Vaccines for Children (VFC), Vaccines for Adults (VFA), Avian Influenza/Farmers, and Measles programs.

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

All vaccine storage and handling procedures adhere to VFC and VFA protocol requirements, including routine monitoring and documentation of refrigerator and freezer temperatures.

During Fiscal Year 2024–2025:

- 736 child immunizations were administered.
- 9 adults received Td/Tdap vaccines.
- 10 adults received MMR vaccines.
- 11 adults completed TB testing.
- Influenza vaccines were administered to 681 adults and 86 children.

Appointments were scheduled by calling the Public Health Nursing Service office at (641) 394-4053. 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 2024–2025, 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 70 foot care visits were completed, compared to 82 visits in the previous year. Referrals to specialists were made as needed based on client assessments.

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.

At the request of community members, several clinics were also held at the Nashua Public Library as time allowed. The Healthy Foot Clinic continues to be promoted in all physician offices within the county, supporting ongoing outreach and community engagement.

Lead Screening

Public Health Nurses provide lead screening services to children ages 1 to 6 years during Immunization Clinics. Families and physicians receive notification of the screening results through copies of the lab report, accompanied by follow-up recommendations for parents when necessary.

In addition to Public Health's efforts, the WIC program and the Mercy One New Hampton Clinic have begun offering lead screening services during their own clinics. WIC collaborates closely with Chickasaw County Public Health to share and coordinate lead screening results.

The Public Health Nursing Agency will continue to provide lead screening services and ensure timely communication of results to parents and healthcare providers. We also continue to collaborate with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to explore opportunities for expanding lead programming within Chickasaw County. However, due to the county's smaller population size, a full lead program cannot currently be sustained locally.

Loan Closet Program

Chickasaw County Public Health continues to provide a Loan Closet Program that offers durable medical equipment to community members free of charge. This program supports individuals recovering from illness, injury, or surgery, as well as those with temporary or long-term mobility needs.

Available items include wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, commodes, toilet risers, and bath seats, among other adaptive equipment. The program is designed to promote safety, independence, and accessibility for residents of all ages. Public Health staff assist community members in selecting the appropriate equipment and provide guidance on safe use. Many individuals benefit from the Loan Closet while waiting for insurance coverage, new equipment orders, or other long-term solutions.

The agency remains committed to maintaining the Loan Closet as a vital community resource. We continue to accept donations of gently used medical equipment and ensure items are inspected, sanitized, and maintained for safe redistribution. This program demonstrates our ongoing commitment to supporting independence, preventing injury, and improving quality of life for Chickasaw County residents.

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, including Mercy One Medical Center – New Hampton, Chickasaw County Emergency Management, the Board of Health, Board of Supervisors, Rescue Squad, EMS, First Responders, Fire Departments, the Sheriff's Office, New Hampton Police Department, the New Hampton Vet Clinic, and local businesses and healthcare organizations across the county.

On December 9, 2024, Chickasaw County participated in a real-world power outage drill with Emergency Management, EMS, and the New Hampton Municipal Light Plant. The exercise tested interagency communication and coordination during a prolonged power outage. A tabletop exercise was held on May 13, 2025, involving Public Health, Environmental Health, EMS, and Emergency Management. This drill focused on Mpox and measles response scenarios, allowing agencies to evaluate preparedness plans, identify strengths, and address areas for improvement.

During the year, Public Health staff completed NIMS 2200 training, ensuring readiness and alignment with federal emergency management standards. Additionally, Public Health provided Stop the Bleed training and distributed bleed control kits to every classroom within county schools 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, and the Local Public Health Services Grant during the 2024–2025 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.

Collaboration of Partnerships

We continue to develop/maintain many relationships and community partners. These include but are not limited to Emergency Management, Rescue Squad, area Fire Departments, area Vet Clinic, Chickasaw County EMS, Nashua Area EMS, Chickasaw County Sheriff's Office, New Hampton Police Department, Board of Health, Board of Supervisors, Fredericksburg Medical Center, various county departments and employees, Mercy One New Hampton Clinic and Hospital, Towncrest (Bennett's) Pharmacy, Accura Health (Linn Haven), New Hampton Nursing and Rehab, Kensington Assisted Living, Whispering Willows, Cedar Vale Assisted Living, Homestead Cooperative, Comprehensive Systems, St. Joseph's School, New Hampton School, Nashua-Plainfield School, Sumner-Fredericksburg School, Turkey Valley School, Clarksville School, A-Tek, Afinitas, Trimark, Precision, Deb El Foods, New Hampton Senior Center, Everybody Hurts, Ameritech Machining, Nashua Clinic, Waverly Health Center, Mercy One North Iowa, local contractors, Reicks View Farms, area churches, local libraries, dental offices, cities/mayors, volunteers, Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), other local public health agencies, Health and Human Services (HHS), New Hampton Park and Rec, tattoo facilities, local swimming pools, DNR, Pathways, funeral homes, local farmers, newspaper, and radio .

Referrals

Chickasaw County Public Health and Home Care Services receives referrals from a wide range of healthcare partners, including hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, assisted living centers, hospices, long-term care facilities, area health clinics, and directly from clients and their families. Each referral is reviewed to ensure that client needs are fully assessed and that appropriate services are provided. When additional or specialized support is required, referrals are made to other healthcare partners to help meet the client's total care needs.

Our referral sources include, but are not limited to:

Allen Hospital, Bartels Nursing Home, Nashua Clinic, Waverly Health Center Clinic, Waverly Health Center Hospital, Hillcrest Sumner, Fredericksburg Family Practice, MercyOne New Hampton Hospital and Clinic, Chautauqua Guest Home, Edenbrook of Rochester, Floyd County Medical Center Hospital and Clinic, MercyOne Mason City, Mayo Clinic – Rochester, MercyOne Waterloo, Nebraska Medical Center, New Hampton Nursing and Rehab, Palmer Lutheran Hospital – West Union, Regional Health Services of Howard County, Sumner Community Memorial Hospital, Tripoli Covenant Clinic, Rohlf Memorial Clinic, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and the VA Medical Center.

Through collaboration with these healthcare partners, the agency ensures continuity of care, effective communication, and seamless transitions for clients across all levels of the healthcare system.

Environmental Health

Chickasaw County Environmental Health Services continues to provide essential programs that protect public health and the environment through permitting, inspecting, testing, and complaint investigations. Activities include well and septic system oversight, water quality testing, and environmental safety assessments.

The table below summarizes key environmental health activities conducted during the past three fiscal years:

Program Area	FY 2024–2025	FY 2023–2024	FY 2022–2023
Septic Site Evaluations/Finals	84	59	67
Binding Agreements	9	16	14
Time of Transfers	16	20	30
Well Permits	12	12	15
Well Site Evaluations	12	9	6
Water Tests	271	212	255
Well Plugging/Reconstruction	10	8	1
Shock Chlorination	3	2	0
Dumping Complaints	3	5	8
Pool/Tattoo Inspections	5	6	4
Pumper Truck Inspections	4	4	1
Master Matrix Reviews	1	0	2

Environmental Health staff continue to collaborate with local, county, and state partners to promote safe water, sanitation, and waste management practices throughout Chickasaw County. Ongoing efforts focus on ensuring compliance with public health regulations, protecting natural resources, and maintaining a healthy environment for all residents.

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
 - **Holly Bailey** – Medical Secretary (*Position Eliminated 6/1/25*)
 - **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 (*Position Eliminated 6/1/25*)
-

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 (*Position Eliminated 6/1/25*)

Chickasaw County Board of Health

Fiscal Year 2024–2025

- **Toni Friedrich** – Chair
Term Expires: December 31, 2025
 - **Cindy Shoemaker** – Vice Chair
Term Expires: December 31, 2025
 - **Dr. Lucas Brinkman** – Board Member
Term Expires: December 31, 2025
 - **Joan Knoll** – Board Member
Term Expires: December 31, 2026
 - **Jeremy McGrath** – Board Member
Term Expires: December 31, 2027
-

Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors

Fiscal Year 2024–2025

- **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

Revenue Public Health	2024-2025	2023-2024
Medicaid	\$145,484.78	\$171,299.79
Medicare	\$254,013.94	\$217,561.37
Private Insurance Reimbursement	\$28,988.75	\$32,971.38
Private Pay Homemakers	\$6,128.39	\$4,990.84
Private Pay Americare	\$16,031.22	\$15,293.48
Other Health Fees-CDAC Waiver	\$8,535.43	\$5,020.96
Other Health Fees-Reimb-Hawkeye VA	\$194,460.98	\$175,263.66
Other Health Fees- Elderly Waiver	\$40,186.02	\$37,097.60
Other Health Fees- Reimb to VA	\$54,740.34	\$50,633.99
Other Sources	\$150.00	0
Reimbursement and Refunds	\$2,475.00	\$870.72
Sale of Supplies	\$42.00	\$266.26
Donations- Immunization Clinic	\$51,105.90	\$60,285.06
Donations- Healthy Feet Clinic	\$2,250.00	\$2,470.00
Immunization Grant	\$8,585.00	\$8,585.00
Farmer Flu/Covid-19	\$732.89	\$2,834.13
Emergency Preparedness Grant	\$10,160.83	\$12,667.10
CBS State Grant	\$39,448.81	\$49,160.84
Revenue Total	\$863,520.28	\$847,272.18

Annual Revenue Summary – Public Health Agency 2024–2025

In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Public Health Agency generated a total revenue of \$863,520.28, reflecting a modest increase from \$847,272.18 in 2023–2024. Key revenue shifts included a notable increase in Medicare reimbursements, rising from \$217,561.37 to \$254,013.94. Among other health fees, VA-related reimbursements saw consistent growth. These financial results reflect continued diversification in funding streams and stable support for core public health services.

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

In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, Public Health expenses totaled \$1,348,999.68, reflecting an increase in expenses. The largest portion of spending remained in salaries and benefits. There were cost reductions in several areas, including medical supplies and vaccines, data processing software, and hazardous waste disposal. Overall, the increase in expenses reflects continued investment in staff, expanded client services, and a focus on maintaining operational effectiveness while adapting to evolving community health needs.

Revenue Environmental Health	2024-2025	2023-2024
License Fees	\$50.00	\$50.00
Well Water Sewer Permits	\$15,175.00	\$11,875.00
Well Water Sewer Permits State	\$55,308.38	\$42,154.93
Radon Test Kits	\$980.00	\$495.00
Misc Fees	\$0.00	\$350.00
Inspection Fees	\$1,921.50	\$1,201.00
Well Testing- Plugging- Rehab	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$73,434.88	\$56,125.93

Environmental Health revenue for the 2024–2025 fiscal year totaled \$73,434.88, reflecting a significant increase of over 30% from \$56,125.93 in 2023–2024. The most notable growth came from state funding for well water and sewer permits, which rose from \$42,154.93 to \$55,308.38, and from local permit fees, increasing by \$3,300. Radon test kit sales also nearly doubled, indicating expanded public interest or outreach in home safety. Unfortunately, we no longer do the radon test kit sales due to funding. Overall, the increase highlights strengthened program funding and continued demand for environmental health services in the community.

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

Total expenses for Environmental Health in 2024–2025 reached \$102,543.74, up from \$88,197.73 the previous year — an increase of approximately 16%. The most significant changes were in salary expenditures and well owner cost samples. Some cost reductions were seen in postage, mileage, and education/training, suggesting more streamlined operations. Despite the overall rise in expenses, the increase is in line with expanded service delivery, staffing needs, and increased revenue from grant services.

Annual Report Summary – 2024–2025

This year, our Public Health, Home Health, and Environmental Health agency continued to demonstrate a deep commitment to the well-being of our rural community. As the needs of our residents grow and evolve, so too does our dedication to meeting them with compassion, professionalism, and purpose.

We take pride in being a cross-trained team, allowing us to be flexible, responsive, and efficient in delivering care and services. Whether through immunizations, home visits, environmental testing, or community health education, our staff consistently puts in the time and effort to ensure no one is overlooked. Every client, every home, and every service reflects our shared mission: to protect and improve health for all.

Throughout 2024–2025, we expanded programming across departments while remaining mindful stewards of public funds. We continuously evaluate spending, prioritize essential services, and look for ways to maximize impact without waste. As a rural agency, we have come to recognize more than ever that the services we provide are not just valuable — they are essential. Limited access to healthcare and support in rural areas makes our presence and programs critical to the well-being of the individuals and families we serve.

From increased home health therapy services to broader environmental outreach and ongoing public health initiatives, this year has been one of growth, learning, and unwavering dedication. We look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead, always with our community at the heart of what we do.