

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT [441]

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 239B.4(6), the Department of Human Services proposes to amend Chapter 45, "Payment," Iowa Administrative Code.

This amendment allows the Department to issue assistance under the Family Investment Program (FIP) either by electronic access card, by direct deposit to the client's own bank account, or by warrant. Assistance payments will be issued by electronic access card unless the client requests direct deposit or the Department determines that it is not practicable to issue payment by electronic access card. The Department will use the same electronic access card to issue FIP and Refugee Cash Assistance benefits as Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) uses to issue unemployment insurance benefits.

Issuing assistance by electronic access card will reduce overhead costs in distributing benefits and will also have advantages for clients, including:

- Providing assistance in a safer, timelier manner, avoiding mail delays, losses or theft of warrants.
- Greater convenience in accessing and handling funds.
- Avoiding check-cashing fees.
- Improved financial literacy skills as clients become more familiar with using financial institutions.

This amendment provides for waivers for clients who do not wish to use the electronic access card by offering the option of direct deposit to the client's own bank account. .

This amendment was also Adopted and Filed Emergency and is published herein as ARC 8005B. The purpose of this Notice is to solicit comment on that submission, the subject matter of which is incorporated by reference.

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendment on or before July 22, 2009. Comments should be directed to Mary Ellen Imlau, Bureau of Policy Analysis and Appeals, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. Comments may be sent by by E-mail to policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us or by fax to (515)281-4980.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code Chapter 239B .