
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Aging Programs

Purpose and History

In 1965, Congress passed the federal [Older Americans Act](#) in response to concerns about the lack of community and social services for older individuals. As a result, Iowa created the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA). Beginning in FY 2024, 2023 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 514](#) (State Government Realignment Act), eliminated the IDA and transferred aging programs to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The core functions of Iowa's aging programs include:

- **Advocacy:** Advocate for changes in public policy, practices, and programs that empower older Iowans, facilitate their access to services, and protect their rights and prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Activities may include legislative advocacy, information dissemination, outreach and referral, research and analysis, and coalition building.
- **Planning, Development, and Coordination:** Conduct planning, policy development, administration, coordination, priority setting, and evaluation of all State activities related to the objectives of the federal Older Americans Act.
- **Health:** Support policies, programs, and wellness initiatives to empower older Iowans to stay active and healthy, and improve their access to affordable, high-quality home and community-based services.

The HHS works closely with the State Aging Network. This network includes six Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) located around the State that help carry out many of the HHS's aging programs. All persons age 60 and older are eligible to receive services, but federal statute requires assistance to be targeted to persons with the "greatest social or economic need."

Services Provided

The HHS, through the State Aging Network, provides a variety of services to older individuals. Examples of the services provided include:

- Adult day care
- Caregiver support
- Chores
- Counseling
- Emergency response system
- Home-delivered meals
- Home repair
- Homemaker services
- Legal assistance
- Nutrition services
- Respite
- Transportation

In addition to the direct services provided above, the HHS works on education, advocacy, and outreach and provides guidance and support to the State Aging Network.

Funding

More Information

Aging Services: hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/aging-services
Older Americans Act: www.acl.gov/about-acl/authorizing-statutes/older-americans-act
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The HHS and the State Aging Network are funded through a variety of funding sources, including federal funds and the General Fund. In addition, the State Aging Network receives both local and client contributions to support its operations.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [231](#), [231B](#), [231C](#), [231D](#), [231E](#), and [231F](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [17](#)

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