



## 2024 Annual Report

Division of Community Access and Eligibility

Community Action Agencies (CAA) Subdivision



## Introduction

This report is submitted pursuant to Iowa Code Section 216A.92, which requires the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to issue an annual report on Community Action Agencies to the Governor and General Assembly by July 1 of each year. The information represented in this report covers federal program year 2024 (PY24), which runs October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.



## Community Action Agencies Subdivision

The Economic Opportunity Act developed and provided funding for a nationwide network of community action agencies. Community action agencies create, coordinate, and deliver an array of comprehensive programs and services to people living in poverty. These programs and services reduce conditions of poverty, revitalize communities, and enable low-income families and low-income individuals to secure opportunities to become self-sufficient. Today, there are more than 1,000 community action agencies throughout the United States. **Iowa has sixteen community action agencies that cover all 99 counties in Iowa.**

The **Community Action Agencies (CAA)** Subdivision is in the Community Access and Eligibility Division within the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. The CAA Subdivision is the entity responsible for distributing funding and ensuring effective service delivery among the community action agencies in Iowa.

The purpose of the CAA Subdivision is to strengthen, supplement, and coordinate efforts to develop the full potential of each citizen by recognizing community action agencies and supporting community-based programs delivered by community action agencies. The CAA Subdivision administers three anti-poverty programs: the Community Services Block Grant Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

## Community Services Block Grant Program

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These federal funds are distributed to Iowa's 16 community action agencies to provide critical funding to CAA to support services and activities for low-income individuals and families that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.

In PY 2024, Iowa's CSBG funding was over \$8 million. Iowa's community action agencies use their CSBG funds to support services and activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals to:

- ▶ Remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency
- ▶ Secure and retain meaningful employment
- ▶ Attain an adequate education
- ▶ Make better use of available income
- ▶ Obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment
- ▶ Obtain emergency assistance to meet the immediate and urgent family and individual needs
- ▶ Achieve greater participation in the affairs of communities
- ▶ Address the needs of youth in low-income communities
- ▶ Make more effective use of, and coordinate with, other programs with a similar purpose

In PY 2024, Iowa's community action agencies provided services to over 113,000 households and 258,000 individuals:

**58.4%** were households living at or below 100% of the federal poverty line.

**47.1%** received food assistance from Iowa's Food Assistance program (SNAP)

**50.3%** were individuals unemployed (aged 18 and above)

**38.5%** were infants, children, and youth (aged 0 to 18)

**20.7%** were single-parent households

**15.5%** were individuals with a disabling condition

**18.2%** were individuals employed full-time (aged 18 and above)

**17.7%** were individuals without a high school education (aged 25 and above)

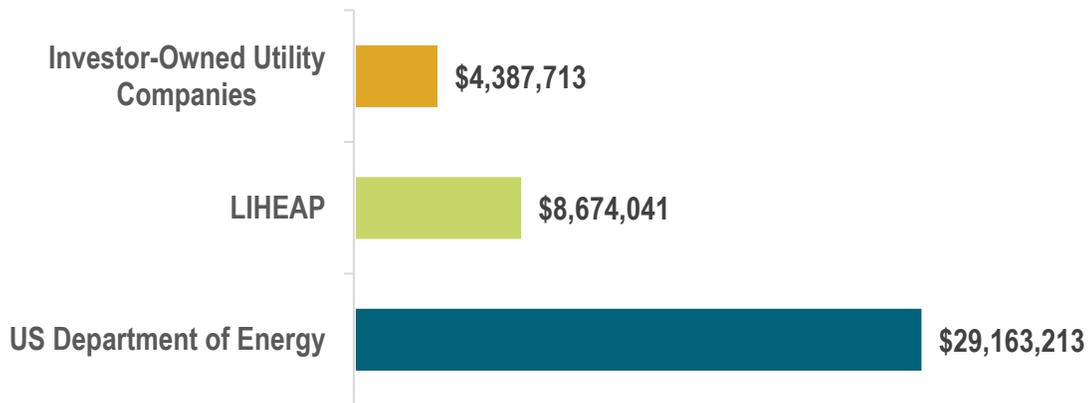
## Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program is the largest residential energy efficiency initiative in the U.S., aimed at reducing energy costs for low-income households, particularly those with elderly or disabled individuals and families with children. In Program Year 2024, **981 homes** were weatherized, including health and safety checks on combustion appliances and inspections for issues like mold and unsafe wiring. Carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are installed in all homes. The program collaborates with Iowa's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provides immediate financial aid, while Weatherization offers long-term savings by improving energy efficiency.

Besides the benefits of reducing low-income households' energy use (houses weatherized **saved an average of \$464** in first-year fuel bill costs) and improving many health and safety conditions in the homes, the program also provides these additional benefits:

- ▶ Provides households with education in energy-saving practices
- ▶ Increases the comfort in the homes that are weatherized
- ▶ Reduces the nation's dependence on foreign oil
- ▶ Reduces carbon emissions and other air pollutants
- ▶ Preserves housing stock for low-income households

In PY 2024, the Weatherization Assistance Program received:



## Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program to assist qualifying low-income households in the payment of a portion of their winter heating costs and to encourage energy conservation through customer education and weatherization. Households certified eligible for LIHEAP (those at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines) are also protected from disconnection of gas or electric service from November 1 until April 1 under Iowa's winter moratorium law.

### Program Year 2024 LIHEAP Facts and Figures

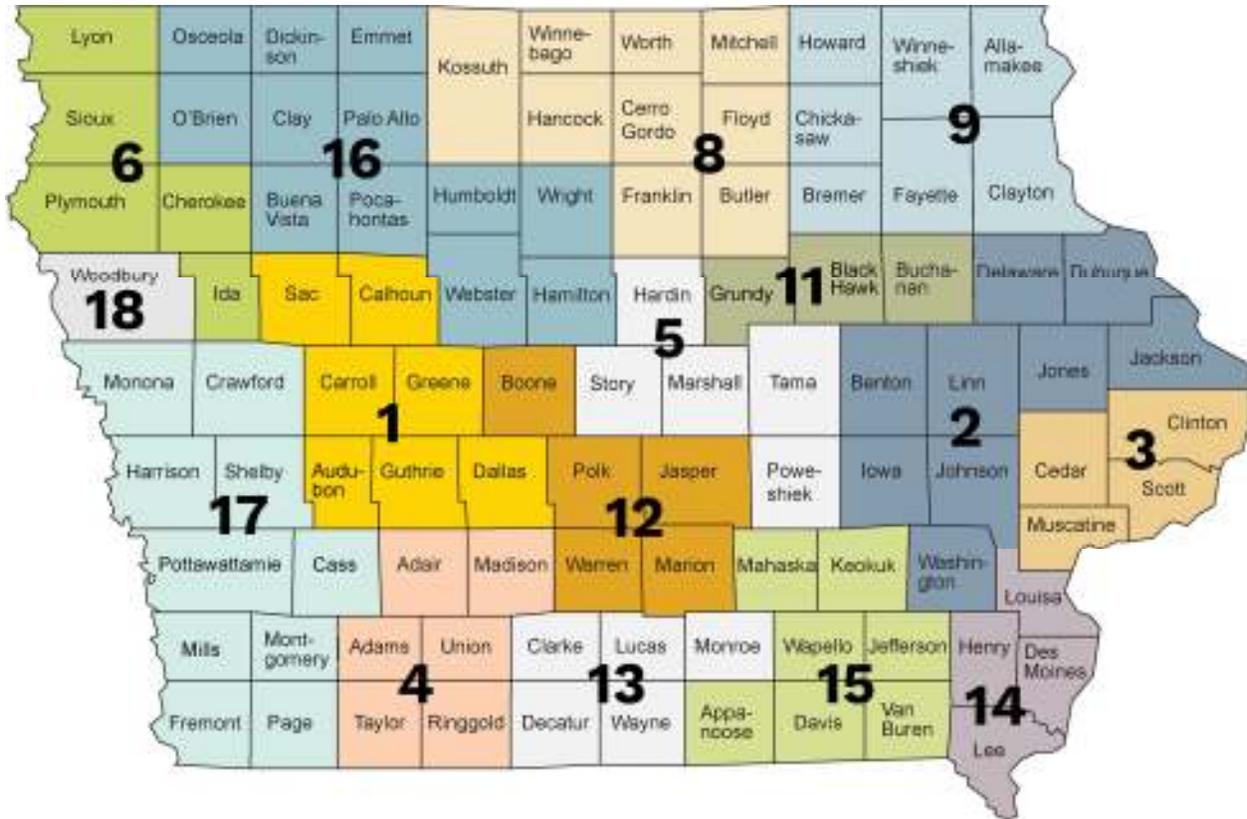
1. Iowa received \$58,755,595 in federal funds (\$57,826,941 in Regular Annual Appropriations, and \$928,654 in Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act funds).
2. The average statewide one-time LIHEAP benefit was \$466.
3. 41.3% of households assisted are homeowners.
4. 56.5% of households assisted are below 100% of the federal poverty level.
5. 48% of households assisted have a member with a disability.
6. 38.3% of households assisted have an elderly member.
7. 14.1% of households assisted have a child under 6 years of age.

Beyond regular assistance payments, LIHEAP has two additional components:

**Assessment and Resolution (also called A16):** Activities covered under the A16 component include providing client energy conservation education, referral to outside services, family needs assessment, budget counseling, vendor negotiation, household energy use assessment, household energy use planning, and low-cost energy efficiency measures.

**The Energy Crisis Intervention Payment (ECIP) Assistance:** The ECIP component provides immediate assistance to households to alleviate life-threatening situations related to access to energy for the purposes of heating/cooling.

## Community Action Agencies in Iowa



To learn more about the CAAs in Iowa, visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/caa>.