



Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging

On behalf of older Iowans and the thirteen Area Agencies on Aging, thank you for allowing us to speak to you today.

Channeled through the Iowa Department on Aging and implemented by the Iowa Area Agencies on Aging, in SFY '09 \$8.4 million dollars helped pay for home and community-based services for 17,547 low and moderate-income older adults in Iowa. Without this support these seniors faced expensive institutional care. Please help ensure that these 17,547 seniors in Iowa remain independent in their homes and still receive the services they need by supporting Governor Culver's state budget recommendation that includes \$8,486,698 to maintain funding for home and community based senior services.

Home and community based services continue to be a cost effective alternative to long term care in a nursing home and are often an appropriate option for frail seniors.

- The monthly cost for Iowans receiving supports for Medicaid Elderly Waiver averages \$503, compared to \$2,687 in monthly Medicaid costs for nursing home care¹.
- On average, Medicaid dollars can support nearly three older people and adults with physical disabilities in home and community-based services (HCBS) for every person in a nursing home².

Challenges:

- Unmet Needs - Approximately 1.5 million dollars of unmet needs were reported in FY09.
- Growing aging demographic – By 2025 27% of Iowa population will be over the age of 60.
- Economic downturn - increases numbers seeking services

¹Iowa Department of Human Services, Title 19 Report of Expenditure by Category of Service: statistical report June 2007

² A Balancing Act: State Long-Term Care Reform AARP Public Policy Institute July 2008

Aging Resources of Central Iowa

Des Moines, Iowa
515-255-1310
www.agingresources.com

Area XIV Agency on Aging

Creston, Iowa
641-782-4040
www.areaxivaaa.org

Elderbridge Agency on Aging

Mason City, Iowa
641-424-0678
www.elderbridge.org

Generations Area Agency on Aging

Davenport, Iowa
563-324-9085
www.genage.org

Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging

Waterloo, Iowa
319-272-2244
www.hvaaa.org

Heritage Area Agency on Aging

Cedar Rapids, Iowa
319-398-5559
www.heritageaaa.org

Northland Agency on Aging

Decorah, Iowa
563-382-2941
www.northlandaging.com

Northwest Aging Association

Spencer, Iowa
712-262-1775
www.nwaging.org

Scenic Valley Area Agency on Aging

Dubuque, Iowa
563-588-3970
www.scenicvalley.org

Seneca Area Agency on Aging

Ottumwa, Iowa
641-682-2270
www.seneca-aaa.org

Siouxland Aging Services, Inc.

Sioux City, Iowa
712-279-6900
www.siouxlandaging.org

Southeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

Burlington, Iowa
319-752-5433
www.southeastiowaaging
services.com

Southwest 8 Senior Services

Council Bluffs, Iowa
712-328-2540
www.southwest8.org

- Meeting the Federal Match requirements if Older American Act (OAA) dollars are increased – President Obama’s budget recommendation does include OAA increases. State dollars need to be sufficient to draw down the federal funds.

Summary:

Support the Governors recommendation to continue funding at FY10 levels for senior living program services. Not only do these dollars deter more expensive institutional care, but it is what seniors want...to live in their homes as independently as possible for as long as possible.

Lowering state expenditures for senior living programs jeopardizes drawing down all of the allotted Federal Older American Act dollars for Iowa. This would be a huge step backwards as it has taken many years of advocating to get an increase in the OAA funds.

Home and Community Based Services are an efficient and effective way to best prioritize and expend funds that meet the senior consumer needs. Channeling these dollars to the Area Agencies on Aging best allows for flexibility to meet individual needs.