
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Department on Aging

Description

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). The core functions of the IDA 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 IDA 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 IDA's core functions and 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 IDA, through the 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 IDA works on education, advocacy, and outreach, and provides guidance and support to the Aging Network.

More Information

Iowa Department on Aging: www.iowaaging.gov
Older Americans Act: www.acl.gov/about-acl/authorizing-statutes/older-americans-act
LSA Staff Contact: Jess Benson (515.281.4611) jess.benson@legis.iowa.gov

Funding

The IDA and the Aging Network are funded through a variety of funding sources, including federal funds and the General Fund. In addition, the 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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