

JOHN R. BENSON, HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

November 20, 2023

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is submitting a bill request to update the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and Disaster Case Advocacy. These programs were brought under HSEMD starting July 1, 2023 following the implementation of last year's [Senate File 514](#). However, these changes are being proposed after many years of familiarity with the program and through stakeholder engagement.

We propose adjusting the maximum eligible grant amount from \$5,000 to \$7,000 to account for inflation since the program's inception in 2007.

We also propose an additional definition of "local administrative entity" that will allow the Department to use a statewide provider as well as a qualified local provider in the administration of both the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program as well as Disaster Case Advocacy.

HSEMD is proposing a modification to existing language in Iowa Code § 29C.2, 29C.20A, and 29C.20B.

Any questions regarding this proposed bill can be addressed to the HSEMD Legislative Liaison, Blake DeRouchey, blake.derouchey@iowa.gov or 515-323-4232.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blake DeRouchey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Blake DeRouchey
Legislative Liaison