



IowaAging.gov AgingWatch

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The link to policy affecting older Iowans

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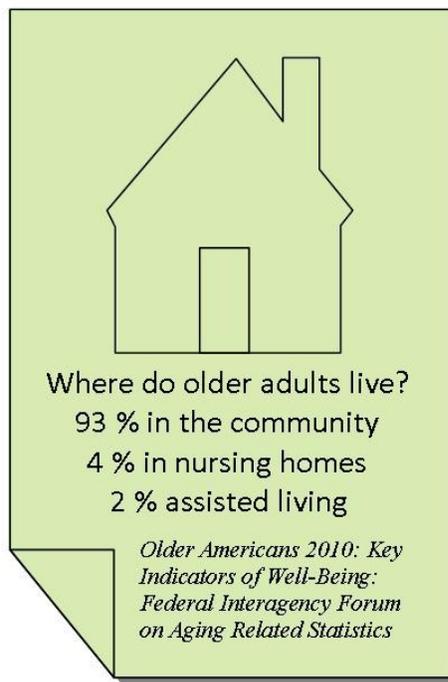
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Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

Most people have heard the term “home and community-based services” (HCBS). This term refers to a variety of services that can be provided to an individual in their own home, as opposed to facility based care. The provision of HCBS preserves an individual’s independence, autonomy, and ability to remain in their home and community. HCBS includes a menu of services, such as help with house work, delivery of meals to the home, and transportation to run errands or attend medical appointments. The idea of independence through HCBS was and remains the driving force behind the Older Americans Act (OAA). Now, more than ever, it is important to understand the link between HCBS and the OAA. Here’s why:

Congress is currently considering reauthorization of the OAA. Reauthorization is a process used by Congress to make changes and modifications to existing federal acts, including the OAA. The OAA has been reauthorized numerous times since its enactment on July 14, 1965. The last reauthorization occurred on October 17, 2006, at which time it was reauthorized for five years. Reauthorization for the OAA is now past due.

There have been several pieces of legislation introduced during the current Congressional session to amend the OAA. Only one piece of legislation is considered to be drafted for the purpose of reauthorizing the OAA. A chart of current legislation related to the OAA is included on page 3. It provides the date of introduction, the title and identifying number of the legislation, the Congressional chamber in which the legislation was introduced, the Congressional member(s) who introduced the legislation, and the issues of focus within the legislation.



The Older Americans Act is codified in the United States Code and is cited as 42 U.S.C. 3001. This citation means that the OAA begins at Title 42, of the United States Code, at Section 3001.

(continued on page 2)

Reauthorization of OAA (continued)

As indicated by the chart, the only bill that has been introduced to serve as a vehicle for reauthorization of OAA is S. 2037, introduced on January 26, 2012, by Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Historically, reauthorizations have been used to continue authorization of the Act and to make necessary changes and modifications. S. 2037 is no exception and focuses on strengthening the federal nutrition program, promoting economic security among older adults, and strengthening elder abuse activities.

Aging Watch will continue to provide updates regarding reauthorization activities. Individuals interested in reauthorization of the Older Americans Act are encouraged to contact federal senators and representatives. You can locate your federal senators and representatives at the Iowa Legislature's website at the following link: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/find.aspx>.

When contacting legislators, be prepared to discuss why the Older Americans Act is important to you and any proposals for change or enhancement.

Funding the Older Americans Act

Funding for the Older Americans Act is a process that occurs independently of the reauthorization. Congress is working on a budget for health and human services, which includes funding for the OAA. This year's budget for the OAA could look very different than it has in the past because the OAA could be impacted by a federal sequestration.

A sequestration is an automatic budget reduction process mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25). The Budget Control Act requires federal government departments to reduce spending if the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction fails to reach an agreement to reduce spending. So far, an agreement has not been reached. The sequestration is to take effect on January 2, 2013.

The sequestration could result in a budget reduction of 7.8% to 9% for OAA programs. The Iowa Department on Aging receives approximately \$16 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund OAA programs. This funding is provided to Iowa's 13 Area Agencies on Aging that develop contracts with local service providers to ensure access to home and community-based services.

A sequestration could result in a loss of \$2.3 to \$2.6 million dollars to the State, Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers. A 7.8% cut could force the loss of approximately 46,700 units of direct service delivered to older Iowans and a loss of services to over 3,000 individuals. The potential loss comes at a time when the Department is already operating below Fiscal Year 2004 levels of state general fund appropriations.

The Older Americans Act states that one of the primary purposes of the Act is to "secure and maintain" maximum independence and dignity in a home environment for older individuals capable of self-care with appropriate supportive services." (42 U.S.C. 3021(a)(1)(A)).

Aging Watch

On March 7, 2012, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, testified before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. When asked about the impact of the federal sequestration, Secretary Sebelius responded that the impact would be "...about 17 million meals that would not be delivered to seniors relying on congregate meals and home delivery."

Aging Watch will continue to provide updates regarding appropriations related to the Older Americans Act. Individuals interested in funding for the Older Americans Act are encouraged to contact federal Senators and Representatives. You can locate your federal senators and representatives at the Iowa Legislature's website at the following link: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/find.aspx>.

Current Introduced Legislation Related to the Older Americans Act

Date of Intro	Legislation Title and Number	Congressional Chamber	Introducing Member(s)	Focus Issues
8/1/11	Holocaust Survivors Assistance Act of 2011 (HR 2786)	House of Representatives	Debbie Wasserman Schultz	Assistance to Holocaust survivors
10/20/11	Home Care Consumer Bill of Rights Act (S 1750)	Senate	Al Franken	Home and community-based services
10/20/11	Guardian Accountability and Senior Protection Act (S 1744)	Senate	Amy Klobuchar Bill Nelson	Adult guardianships and conservatorships
11/8/11	Strengthening Services for America's Seniors Act (S 1819)	Senate	Herb Kohl Barbara Mikulski	Family Caregivers and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
12/13/11	Improving Care for Vulnerable Older Citizens through Workforce Advancement Act of 2011 (S 1982)	Senate	Robert Casey	Care transitions, chronic conditions, and improved delivery of health services
12/20/11	Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans Act of 2011 (HR 3749)	House of Representatives	Laura Richardson	Older American Community Service Employment Program
1/26/12	*Legislation to Reauthorize the Older Americans Act (S 2037)	Senate	Bernie Sanders	Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, strengthening the nutrition program, promoting economic security among older Americans, expanding elder abuse protections
2/7/12	Elder Protection and Abuse Prevention Act (S 2077)	Senate	Richard Blumenthal	Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation

Older Iowans by the numbers (in the year 2010)

- **29.7%**— Percentage of Iowans age 65 and over who lived alone.
- **59.2%**— Percentage of Iowans age 65 and older who were married.
- **29.2%**— Percentage of Iowans age 65 and older who were widowed
- **137,951**— Number of Iowans age 65 and older with a disability that have private as well as public insurance.
- **452,888**— The estimated number of people age 65 and over in Iowa. This age group accounted for 14.9 percent of the total population.

From 'Iowans:2012', compiled by the State Data Center of Iowa and the Iowa Department on Aging.



August 2, 2012

**Izaak Walton League | 4343 George Flag Parkway | Des Moines,
Iowa 50321**

The Elder Abuse Summit is an opportunity for information and input regarding the elder abuse system for Iowa. The Summit is a result of House File 2387, signed into law by Governor Branstad on April 4, 2012.

Governor Branstad, legislators, experts and citizens will gather to identify system barriers and solutions. The Summit is sponsored by the Iowa Insurance Division. It is held through the partnership of the following state government departments: Aging, Human Services, Inspections and Appeals and the Attorney General's Office.

**A special supplement to AgingWatch
will be published next week with complete details.
You may also find information as it develops on the website at
www.aging.iowa.gov**

HF 2387

Directs the Iowa Department on Aging to work with the Department of Inspections and Appeals, the Department of Human Services, the Attorney General's Office and other affected stakeholders, to conduct a comprehensive review of occurrences of and laws relating to the abuse, neglect or exploitation of individuals who are sixty years of age or older.

Grandparents Scam

The Department on Aging is aware of reports that some older Iowans have received calls from people posing as their grandchildren and asking for financial help. Or, in some instances the caller has acted as if they are helping the grandchild, but in all cases the caller asks for money. Several older Iowans have been sadly duped by these criminals. They wired money to a fraudulent person thinking they were helping one of their grandchildren.

In 2011 national law enforcement statistics reported that more than 70,000 calls were received nationwide in what officials call "Imposter scams." Anyone that receives a call like this is urged to report it to local police immediately, thereby helping law enforcement protect other older Iowans.

In one such scam the recipient provided the name of one of their grandchildren when prompted by the caller to do so. It went something like this:

"Come on grandma, it's me!" said the caller

"Charlie?" said the unsuspecting Grandmother.

"Yep, Me, Charlie," said the crook "I need some money to get out of this trouble that I am in."

The grandmother then wired several thousand dollars to a location several states away. Later that day when talking with her son, she found out Charlie the grandchild was safe at home just a few miles down the road from her.

In the event of a suspicious call, tell the caller you are going to check with another relative before you respond to them. Or ask them to verify some information about a special family memory that only your family would know. If you hang up your phone and immediately press *57 (or 1157 from a rotary phone), your phone company will record the phone number from which the call was placed. This is referred to as "call tracing." Then, call your local police department or sheriff's office to report the scam attempt and tell them you used the *57 function to trace the call. You won't be able to obtain the number from the phone company but law enforcement officers will, if they are able to pursue an investigation. If you wire money and then discover the call was a fraud, contact your local police or sheriff immediately to report the details. Tell your friends and neighbors to be alert for these calls. Even if you discover the call is a scam during the call or you decide not to wire the money, call law enforcement to alert them that scammers are making calls in your area. Your quick action could help save another unsuspecting older Iowan their life savings! There is no need to feel foolish, these scurrilous individuals are professional criminals. They will say whatever they need to as a means to try and separate you from your money. Don't be a victim, report crime immediately.

Best practice for recipients of suspicious phone calls:

Do not give caller information.

Hang up and press *57 to trace the call.

Call the local police to report a scam attempt.

Quick action will stop criminals from victimizing older Iowans.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)

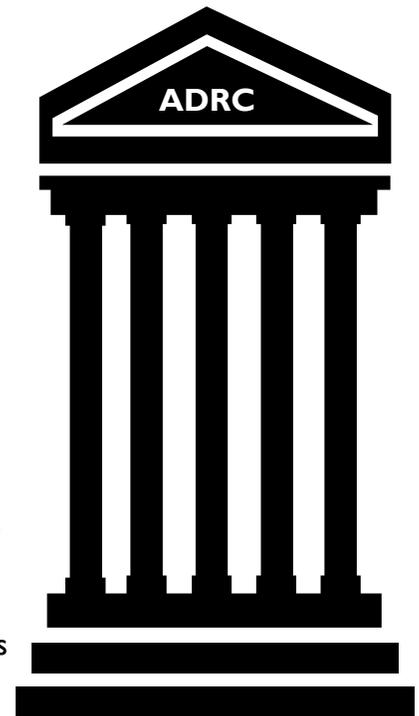
An Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is a single-entry/no-wrong door access point to long-term living and community support services. Through consumer-directed service planning, Iowans regardless of age, disability and income level are empowered to access their choice of long-term living and community support services, such as housing, transportation, employment, and health care support.

Iowa's ADRC project has been funded in three stages since 2004 by the Older American's Act Title IV discretionary funding through the Administration on Community Living (previously the Administration on Aging), in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), and the Department on Veteran's Affairs. The project is designed to empower individuals to make informed choices, build a long-term supports and services plan to prevent prematurely accessing Medicaid, streamline access to preferred services, minimize consumer confusion, and enhance individual choice.

Iowa's virtual ADRC was established in 2006 (www.LifeLongLinks.org). In 2008, Iowa established ADRCs to include options counselors at Heritage Agency on Aging and Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging. Each ADRC network coordinates with local aging and disability service providers to develop and test standardized processes and tools that promote improved access to long-term living and community support services; and implement this process through collaboration, enhanced information and referral resources, and the establishment of an emerging profession, options counseling.

The five core pillars of the ADRC include

1. Information/Referral and Access (I/R&A) to services,
2. Options Counseling to establish a plan for long-term supports and services:
3. Person-Centered Care Transitions to assist consumers as they move between health-care settings to home and community based settings;
4. Streamlined Eligibility application for entitlement programs and other payment and determination systems and processes, and
5. Quality Assurance through consumer, family caregiver, and stakeholder input. ADRC consumers and stakeholders are represented on advisory boards and are advocates for the ADRC network.



Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) are the place to get accurate, unbiased information on all aspects of life related to community living regardless of age or disability.

**To
subscribe
to
AgingWatch**

please send a blank
e-mail to:

Join--agingwatch@lists.ia.gov

ADRC (continued)

Information/Referral & Access services are currently available through Iowa's virtual ADRC at www.lifelonglinks.org. Consumers, family caregivers, and stakeholders can search for needed services related to aging, disability, and/or general health and human service needs. Work is underway to strengthen the virtual ADRC through database consolidation and the development of a single #800 for persons to call to access long-term living and community support services.

Options counseling assists the consumer in identifying current and future needs for long-term living and community support services, assess individual resources and make fiscal recommendations related to current and anticipated service needs. Options counseling can be provided wherever the consumer's needs may best be met, including in the hospital setting as part of an advanced medical team coordinating the outside-the-hospital care to ensure supports are in place beyond the medical needs of the consumer to assist in limiting unnecessary return visits to the hospital. Options counseling can be an essential service in person-centered care transition, such as moving out of a hospital to home.

Additionally, options counseling can be a valuable tool for consumers, family caregivers, and other consumer supports to build a consumer-directed plan prior to case management services that will support remaining in the community of choice for as long as is possible to prevent premature institution-based care. The service of options counseling is available on a sliding fee scale.

In an effort to streamline the eligibility process to public services while reimagining and modernizing the pathway to those services, a partnership between the Department on Aging, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise and other partners, will ensure no-wrong door access to those needed public services. This process redesign, in part, is due to a recent Iowa Medicaid Enterprise award from CMS to initiate the Balancing Incentives Program (BIP) that requires a single-entry point/no-wrong door system. The effort is to balance long term living and community support services from facility based settings to home based and community support services.

For more information on ADRC's in Iowa go to the Iowa Department on Aging's website at www.aging.iowa.gov and follow the Aging and Disability Resource Center links. You can also learn more at www.lifelonglinks.org.

"Of all the self-fulfilling prophecies in our culture, the assumption that aging means decline and poor health is probably the deadliest."

-Marilyn Ferguson



Governor Branstad Signs Senate File 2336

The legislation that establishes a budget for Iowa's health and human services programs, including the Iowa Department on Aging, was signed into law by Governor Branstad on May 25, 2012. The Governor did take veto provisions within Senate File 2336. A brief summary of actions taken by the Governor in regards to Senate File 2336 as they relate to aging issues is included below. For a full excerpt of the Governor's statement and a detailed narrative of actions taken in regards to Senate File 2336, please go to the following link: [https://governor.iowa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/sf.2336.item_veto .pdf](https://governor.iowa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/sf.2336.item_veto.pdf)

The Governor expressed concern regarding the failure of the legislation to adequately fund the state share of Medicaid and warned against using this budget practice in the future. The Governor vetoed an allocation of \$500,000 to the Food Bank of Iowa, citing private donations as a more appropriate way to fund the Food Bank of Iowa. The Governor also vetoed a cost containment provision directed to the Department of Human Services stating that the provision placed limits on savings that could be achieved in the Medicaid program. He stated, "The Department of Human Services needs to have the flexibility to manage the Medicaid entitlement program and its' cost to the taxpayers." The Governor emphasized the importance of home and community based care, as opposed to institutional care, in regard to two provisions.

As a recap from the last edition of Aging Watch, Senate File 2336 appropriated a total of \$10,342,086 to the Iowa Department on Aging for State Fiscal Year 2013. The appropriation included a reduction of \$60,491 and an increase of \$100,000 for the addition of a Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate. Please see the May edition of Aging Watch for additional details regarding Senate File 2336.

Governor Branstad, in his letter to the Secretary of State regarding SF2336, emphasized the importance and cost effectiveness of home and community based care, as opposed to institutional care, in regard to two provisions.

Senate File 2336 (continued)

Comparison of Versions of SF 2336

	Governor's Recommendations – State Fiscal Year 2013	House of Representatives Proposal (Amendment to Senate File 2336)	Senate Proposal (Senate File 2336)	Conference Committee - Final Budget (Enrolled Version of Senate File 2336)
Aging Program Funding	\$10,302,577	\$10,302,577	\$10,302,577	\$10,302,577
Office Supply Reductions	\$0	-\$60,491	\$0	-\$60,491
Addition of Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate	\$0	\$0	+\$100,000	+\$100,000
Total Allocation	\$10,302,577	\$10,242,086	\$10,402,577	\$10,342,086

Correction

It was erroneously reported in AgingWatch last month (May, 2012) that the total dollars received from Social Security for the state of Iowa in 2010 was \$633,784,000. It has been determined that the figure quoted was actually only the amount paid to the beneficiaries in the state of Iowa in December of 2010 (Each month the payment is different). The actual Social Security benefit for the entirety of 2010 would be \$6.3 billion or \$6,316,800,000. Thank you to the astute reader who brought the error to our attention.

New Commission Members

Welcome new Commissioners on Aging, Dr. Jill M Bjerke from Davenport and Richard Stone from Marshalltown. Appointed to the Commission by Governor Branstad and confirmed by the Senate, their terms began May 2, 2012 and will continue until April 13, 2016.

Dr. Jill M Bjerke

Dr. Jill Bjerke, of Davenport, operates two businesses that cater to older Iowans and felt that serving on the Commission on Aging was a natural progression in her volunteer service life. "I've done a lot of volunteering in my life and felt that this was an excellent way to serve older Iowans," said Bjerke. "I have an internationally known blog that deals with issues that affect older people. I thought why not share the information I've gotten from people in other states and other countries with the people of Iowa through serving on the Commission."

Bjerke began her working career as a chiropractor in the Davenport area and more recently tailored her career into serving older Iowans. "I have a good business background with lots of volunteer experience and ideas and I just want to learn more. Where else could I learn more about the issues facing older Iowans than by serving on the Commission on Aging?"

When asked what some of those issues are Bjerke said, "It takes about a year for someone to really know all the issues a board faces, but access to health-care, access to food, transportation for those who can't drive or might not be able to in the near future are just a few of the many issues" She took a very cautionary tone saying, "I don't think Iowa is prepared to handle the number of people retiring and we could be overwhelmed if we don't act soon."

Bjerke has lived in Davenport for 25 years. "I went to Palmer College of Medicine to become a Chiropractor and I liked it so much here I never moved away." She has three adult daughters, Lisa, Kristen, and Megan, and two grandchildren. Two of her daughters live in Florida and one in Davenport.

(continued on page 11)

"I am long on ideas,
but short on time.
I expect to live to
be only about a
hundred."

-Thomas Alva Edison

Commission On Aging

Sanctioned by the Iowa Code, the Iowa Commission on Aging is charged with serving as a visible advocate for older Iowans by establishing policies for reviewing and commenting upon all state plans, budgets, and policies which affect older Iowans. The Commission meets at least four times each year.

Richard Stone

Richard Stone, of Marshalltown, is the director of the Marshalltown Municipal Transit Service. “Having been actively involved with older Iowans for 15 years now specifically in public transportation, I know that transportation is a common theme among older Iowans as they age,” said Stone. “With my background I felt that I had a lot to offer the Iowa Commission on Aging and the Department.”

“The redesign of the Area Agencies on Aging from 13 to six is probably the Commission’s largest challenge,” Stone continued. “Providing good quality services to older Iowans is so very important and going through this change will be an incredible task. I know there are lots of opportunities in this change, but it is going to be a lot of hard work to do what’s best for all Iowans.”

Stone said that through his various transportation jobs in both Ames and Marshalltown and now serving on the Commission he hopes he can help bring about more awareness of and more appreciation for older Iowans. “I would really like to see more empathy in the struggles of being an older person in Iowa,” said Stone. “Aging, as we all know, is not easy.”

Stone lives in Marshalltown with wife Marnie and four daughters ages 17 to nine: Abigail, Hannah, Olivia and Rebecca.

Commission meetings:

All Iowa Commission on Aging meetings are open to the public. You may find the most current information on the Department on Aging Website www.aging.iowa.gov

Success Stories

AgingWatch is always on the lookout for older lowan success stories. Do you know a story about an older lowan or a caregiver who has done something special for older lowans? We'd love to hear those stories and possibly share them with readers in upcoming editions of AgingWatch. E-mail your success story to aging@iowa.gov (subject line: "Success Story"). Please include a short write-up/bio about the person(s) and a photo, if possible. We look forward to reading and sharing your stories!

Next Month in AgingWatch:

- Elder Abuse Summit
- Nutrition for Older lowans
- Commissioner Spotlight
- And much more

Please feel free to forward AgingWatch to others who are interested in issues and programs that impact older lowans.

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Join--agingwatch@lists.ia.gov

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AgingWatch will be published regularly during the legislative session and monthly in the interim by the Iowa Department on Aging. Recipients of the e-mail notice of publication are encouraged to share it with others.

The current issue may be found on the Department's website, www.aging.iowa.gov. Past issues are archived in the "Publications/Information" section.