



IowaAging.gov

AgingWatch

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The link to policy affecting older Iowans

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Senate Spreadsheet Released

The budget process has begun. Budget targets were released by both chambers nearly two weeks ago and the Senate released a spreadsheet at the Health and Human Services (HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee meeting on March 14.

The following is a break-down of the appropriations to the Iowa Department on Aging proposed in the HHS General Fund Senate Spreadsheet:

Proposed Senate Appropriation to the Iowa Department on Aging:

\$10,342,086 – funding for aging programs

\$ 600,000 – funding for home and community-based services deficit

\$ 250,000 – funding for unmet needs

\$ 500,000 – funding for five additional long-term care ombudsman

\$ 110,000 – funding for a certified volunteer long-term care ombudsman

\$ 2,250,646—funding for the Office of Substitute Decision Maker

\$14,052,732 – total proposed appropriation to the Iowa Department on Aging



The amount proposed by the Senate is an increase of \$3,710,646 from the amount appropriated in State Fiscal Year 2013. To view the full spreadsheet, please click [here](#).

It is anticipated that the House will produce proposed appropriations for health and human services in the coming days.

Those who are unfamiliar with the budget process may wonder where these numbers come from. Let's break-it-down a little further.

In State Fiscal Year 2013, the Department received an appropriation of \$10,342,086. This is the amount of funding requested by the Iowa Department on Aging and proposed by the Office of the Governor. Note that this is the first number shown in the HHS General Fund Senate Spreadsheet.

(Senate Spreadsheet continued)

The additional amounts, discussed below, have been requested and advocated for by a variety of advocacy groups.

The second number that appears is \$600,000. This is termed as funding for “HCBS shortfall”. This refers to a home and community-based services shortfall or deficit. The Iowa Department on Aging has consistently reflected and shared with the area agencies on aging that this reduction of funding allocated to them may occur in order to balance the Department’s proposed budget. Organizations advocating for this increase include the Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging (i4a), AARP, and the Older Iowans Legislature (O.I.L.).

The third number that appears is \$250,000. This is termed as funding for unmet needs. Organizations advocating for additional funding for unmet needs include i4a, AARP, and O.I.L.

The next two numbers propose additional funding for the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. \$500,000 is proposed for funding five additional Long-Term Care Ombudsman and \$110,000 is proposed for a Certified Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman. A Long-Term Care Ombudsman is an advocate for residents and tenants of nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted living programs and elder group homes. As a result of the Older Americans Act, each state is required to have a Long-Term Care Ombudsman program. The Ombudsman's Office can investigate and resolve complaints that may affect the health, safety, welfare, or rights of residents. O.I.L. and AARP support additional funding for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, particularly the addition of a Certified Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

The sixth number that appears is \$2,250,646. This is termed as “Implement Office of Substitute Decision Maker statewide”. Last session, the General Assembly mandated that the Iowa Department on Aging submit a report with fiscal projections, outlining what would be needed to implement the Office of Substitute Decision Maker statewide. The Iowa Department on Aging produced a report stating that \$2,250,646 would be needed to implement a statewide program – the same amount proposed in the HHS General Fund Senate Spreadsheet. Several advocacy organizations, including O.I.L., have advocated for this program. To view the full Office of Substitute Decision Maker report, please click [here](#).

Now that the HHS General Fund Senate Spreadsheet is out, what happens next? On the following page is the budget process in its simplest form:

Did you know?

The governor has item veto power over appropriations bills.

The legislature may override the item veto with a two-thirds majority vote.

The Budget Process: In a Nutshell

First, a bill has to be drafted based on the numbers presented in the spreadsheet. The bill will be recommended to the full Senate Appropriations Committee in bill draft form.

Next, the full Senate Appropriations Committee will consider and amend the bill drafts. The draft will pass out of the Committee and be sent to the Senate floor for debate. Once approved by the Senate, the bill is sent to the full House Appropriations Committee and then to the House floor for debate.

Conference committees, comprised of ten legislative members from both chambers, may be formed to negotiate and reach an agreement in regard to the budget.

If agreement is reached and the bill passes both chambers, it is sent to the Governor to sign. The Governor has the ability to item veto.

Keep in mind, the process can be complicated and is often not as easy to track as this simplified version. This is the process....in a very basic nutshell.

The Legislative Services Agency maintains civic resources to guide individuals through the full budget process.

A flow sheet of the appropriations process can be found [here](#).

A handout outlining the budget process in Iowa can be found [here](#).

AgingWatch will continue to keep readers updated as the budget process unfolds.

Department Bill Goes to Governor

The Iowa Department on Aging is pleased to announce that the Department's technical bill, now officially known as SF 184, has passed both chambers of the General Assembly and is on its way to the Governor.

A special thanks to all those members of the General Assembly who worked to move this bill towards being a law!

Did you know?

April 5 is the deadline for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees (and House bills out of Senate committees). This deadline is commonly known as the 'second funnel.'

Bill Watch

Funnel week brought about a significant reduction in the number of bills being tracked by the Department but these bills are still alive and potentially impactful to older and disabled Iowans. Bill Watch includes a brief summary but you may find comprehensive information including the entire bill, committee assignments, amendments and bill history by clicking on the bill number. Each bill is linked to the legislative website where up-to-date information is recorded.

- HF 124** **ELDERLY PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.** Makes the home of a low-income, elderly disabled person exempt from property tax. Includes conditions.
- HF 160** **MH TRANSITION SUPPLEMENTAL II.** Appropriates \$11.63 million in Fiscal Year 2013 from federal funds for children's health insurance for the Mental Health Disability Service Redesign Transition Fund.
- HF 198** **REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAINING.** Directs the adoption of rules regarding staff training costs for home and community based services under Medicaid reimbursable as direct costs.
- HF 278** **IOWA DEPT on AGING TECHNICAL BILL.** See Volume 13, Issue 3 for additional detail. Successor to HSB 46. See [SF 184](#).
- Passed both chambers; sent to Governor.
- HF 552** **ELDERLY SEX OFFENDER COMMITMENTS.** Establishes notification requirements for the clerk of court and facilities upon commitment of a registered sex offender to a facility. Requires the facility develop a written safety plan. Prohibits the release of a person committed as a sexual predator during a transitional period to a facility. Requires adequate placements for certain sex offenders being released from custody. Requires the development of a workgroup, that includes the Department on Aging, to address an adequate workforce to provide health and mental health services to sex offenders. Requires a committee, that includes the Dept. on Aging and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, to look at creating a facility for such offenders. Successor to [HF 53](#).
- HF 554** **HCBS WAIVER.** Creates an exemption to licensing as a health care facility to allow for coverage for more residential services under the home and community based services (HCBS) waiver. Successor to [HSB 119](#). See [SF 351](#).

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- [SF 32](#) SENIOR PROPERTY TAX.** Creates a freeze on the assessed value of the home of a person over the age of 65 and who has less than \$25,000 in household income. Establishes criminal penalties for filing a false affidavit. Similar to [SF 39](#)
- [SF 39](#) SENIOR PROPERTY TAX FREEZE II.** Creates a freeze on the assessed value of the home of a person over the age of 65 if the assessed value of the house is under \$150,000. Establishes criminal penalties for filing a false affidavit. Similar to [SF 32](#)
- [SF 109](#) SENIOR PROGRAM FUNDING.** Appropriates \$13.85 million in Fiscal Year 2014 to the Department on Aging for programming for older individuals and the area agencies on aging. See [HF 115](#).
- [SF 184](#) DEPARTMENT ON AGING TECHNICAL BILL.** See Volume 13, Issue 3 for additional detail. Successor to SSB 1056. See [HF 278](#).
- Passed both chambers; sent to Governor.
- [SF 198](#) VIOLENT ELDERLY PLACEMENTS.** Requires the DIA, with the DHS, to establish a committee to look at placements for elderly persons who are sexually violent or who have other psychiatric problems. Requires a report by December 15, 2013. Successor to [SF 35](#). Similar to [HF 137](#).
- [SF 258](#) LONG-TERM CARE APPROPS.** Appropriates to the Dept on Aging \$13,000 for the certified volunteer ombudsman program and \$97,000 for an additional VOP to administer the program. Successor to [SF 36](#). See [HF 116](#).
- [SF 269](#) ALZHEIMER'S PROGRAMS.** DPH to coordinate Alzheimer's programs at the state level. Directs the DPH to establish a coordinator in the department and to convene a multi-disciplinary task force. Includes other related measures. Successor to [SF 199](#). See [HF 232](#)
- [SF 296](#) MEDICAID EXPANSION.** Expands Medicaid coverage to adults with 133% of federal poverty level. Requirements regarding medical homes. Commission to review recommendations about integrated care models. Make recommendations by September 2013. Consumers interested in Medicaid expansion and the ACA should watch this bill closely. See [HF 83](#).
- [SF 350](#) DEPENDENT ADULT REPORTERS.** Eliminates the Abuse Education Review panel and transfers responsibilities to DPH. Makes requirements of mandatory reporters. Increase the hours of training for mandatory reporters. Replaces [SF 178](#).

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(Senate Bill Watch continued)

SF 351 HCBS WAIVER. Creates an exemption to licensing as a health care facility to allow for coverage for more residential services under the Home-and-Community Based services (HCBS) waiver. See [HF 554](#).

SF 401 GAS PUMP ACCESSIBILITY. Requires stations to have a sign by a pump indicating the hours that an employee is available to pump gas for the driver. Requires a phone number for the driver to call and sets the price the same as self-service. Successor to [SF 235](#). Similar to [HF 282](#).

SF 406 MH DUTIES. Creates a Mental Health Advocate division in the DIA. Successor to [SSB 1192](#). Similar to [HF 217](#).

Sequestration

Sequestration has officially been enacted.

The Iowa Department on Aging has received official sequestration amounts from the Administration on Aging. A chart is included below that provides information regarding each federal program and the reduction applied.

Please note that the full impact of sequestration is much lower than was originally anticipated. The reason for the smaller impact is the result of what is known as "hold harmless". This term refers to legislation passed by Congress that protects smaller states with lower population growth. States covered by "hold harmless" provisions were impacted on a smaller scale by sequestration.

Dept.	Program Name	Previous Year Funding	Current Year Funding	Estimate Sequestration Reduction
Aging	Supportive Services	\$ 4,260,878	\$ 4,235,607	\$ 25,271
	Congregate Meals	5,081,501	5,081,501	0
	Home Delivered Meals	2,243,949	2,114,386	129,563
	Disease Prevention/Health Promotion	231,350	218,916	12,434
	Family Caregiver	1,723,829	1,614,605	109,224
	Elder Abuse Prevention	55,927	55,927	0
	Long Term Care Ombudsman	174,136	163,452	10,684
	Nutrition Services Incentive Pgm	2,119,990	2,018,124	101,866
	Sub-total	15,891,560	15,502,518	389,042
	Senior Community Svcs Employment Pgm (SCSEP)	1,144,150	1,079,981	56,841
	Total	\$ 17,035,710	\$ 16,582,499	\$ 445,883

Next AgingWatch:

- Second funnel approaches
- Updated Bill Watch
- Further details on the Aging and Disability Resource Center Symposium
- Updated appropriations information
- Other goings-on under the golden dome.

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

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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.iowaaging.gov. Past issues are archived in the "Publications/Information" section.



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The Mission of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.