



# Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging 2023 POLICY AGENDA

## Strengthen services for older adults and family caregivers through workforce efforts

### PRIORITY 1:

#### STRENGTHEN IOWA’S DEMENTIA SERVICES THROUGH THE AAAs

##### Establish a Dementia Services Specialist program at Iowa’s Area Agencies on Aging

- Ensure dementia-specific expertise is available to persons living with dementia (PLWD), family caregivers/partners, and the communities within which they reside
- Connect PLWD and family caregivers/partners with local resources
- Build upon already-established practices and collaborations for dementia-friendly communities and Dementia Friends education sessions
- Assists in meeting the statewide plan for addressing issues of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias in Iowa

**I4A supports a \$750,000 appropriations to establish six Dementia Service Specialists and a statewide coordinator at the Area Agencies on Aging.**

**Iowa’s Area Agencies on Aging are private, non-profit organizations designated by the State of Iowa to promote, develop, and deliver services that are needed by older Iowans, adults living with disabilities, and family caregivers/partners.**

### PRIORITY 2:

#### ADDRESS COMMUNITY WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

##### Improve access to home and community-based services throughout the aging network

**The aging network requests an increase of \$600,000 in appropriations to Elderly Services to strengthen local aging network workforces.**

- Decreased workforce and providers of rural Iowa long-term supports and services (LTSS) increases the risk for elder abuse, social isolation, and costly healthcare interventions.
- The demand for Area Agencies on Aging to respond to disaster and public health emergencies has revealed workforce vulnerabilities in Iowa’s network.

Examples of Elderly Services (home and community-based) programs and services:

LifeLong Links (Information/Assistance, Options Counseling)	Elder Abuse Prevention & Assistance
Family Caregiver Services	Evidenced-Based Health Programs
Congregate & Home-Delivered Meals	Home Modification, Material Aid, & Chore Services

\*See other side for important fact and figures

## **AREA AGENCIES ON AGING RESPOND**

- Provided access to information for over 70,000 family caregivers in FY22.
- Helped over 20,000 people with information for services and supports in FY22.
- Served over 2.1 million meals reducing social isolation and improving health to nearly 20,000 Iowans in FY22.

*AAA's help Iowans preserve their resources so that they can stay in their home and community of choice.*

## **ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIA IN IOWA**

- More than 66,000 Iowans are living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias
- 73,000 family caregivers provide an estimated 60 million hours of unpaid care, which has been valued at over \$1 billion annually
- Nearly 2/3 of caregivers of persons living with dementia expect to continue to provide care for the next five years
  - Caregivers of persons without dementia expect to provide care for half that amount of time

*Iowa's AAAs closely collaborate with local and statewide resources (e.g., Alzheimer's Association) on dementia-related services and programs.*

\*Data courtesy of Iowa Alzheimer's Association