

Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging Advocate from Home - Monday, February 13, 2012

Not everyone can find the time (and transportation) to come to the Capitol to talk to their legislators. That is why the state's area agencies on aging have chosen this year to initiate an "Advocate from Home Day" at the same time as our Legislative Day. That way, older Iowans, family caregivers, and the people that coordinate care who are unable to make the trip to the Capitol can still participate!

We ask that you find a few minutes during the day on February 13th to call or email your legislators and ask them to support services that help older Iowans stay in their own homes, in their own communities, including case management and funding for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services. We have provided you with a separate sheet of the 2012 advocacy priorities to discuss with your legislators.

Below is everything you need to be an effective advocate for older Iowans.

Find your State Senator and State Representative (you'll need to put in your address, then scroll to the bottom of the list to find your STATE legislators): <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/>

Contact information (phone):

House:

515-281-3221

Senate:

515-281-3371

Contact information (select your Legislator):

House:

www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Legislators/HouseEmail.aspx

Senate:

www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Legislators/SenateEmail.aspx

Communicating with your Legislator Creating your message

State your goal: Mention your support for home and community based services (HCBS). Then ask the legislature to fund Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) with an appropriation of \$11,850,000 to fund HCBS aging programs in Iowa. This amount would restore the approximate 10% cut the department has absorbed since 2009 and would provide an additional 5% to IDA and the AAAs to meet the growing demand for HCBS services and unmet needs in Iowa. .

Mention one or two supporting points from the 2012 Advocacy Priorities handout

Personalize your message with a story about why this issue is important to you. For example: How case management helps you or your family; how the home and community based services helps keep your or your family member in their own homes and living independently.

Thank your Legislators for their time and attention and invite them to come to your agency any time, or visit with you back home anytime. Make the invitation open, but follow up with an email or phone call after session ends (around the end of April/beginning of May).

Questions?

Mark Hanson, IAA Executive Director (mhanson@iaa.org or 866.468.7887) Please let us know that you have contacted your Legislators and email us a copy of your message & any response you may receive. We will follow up with your legislators at the Capitol.