

PRIORITY ISSUES OF THE 2022 SESSION OF OLDER IOWANS LEGISLATURE (OIL)

The four issues receiving the most votes are now the priority issues of OIL for 2023. They generally involve:

- **Improving nursing home care**
 - Appropriations should be tied to outcomes
 - A portion of the appropriation should be tied to workforce challenges
 - Provide technical assistance to help poor performing facilities improve. If they don't improve, require a change in management or a change in ownership
 - Agencies charged with oversight of quality care should be given expanded responsibilities - DIA, Office of the Long Term Ombudsman, and Medicaid Managed Care organizations.
 - Cameras in nursing homes (*not likely due to HIPAA guidelines*)
 - Fingernail and toenail cutting in long term care facilities
 - *Numbers for workforce are not sufficient; more training needed – wages and benefits are too low/insufficient*
- **Improving Guardianship and Conservatorship system**
 - Support passage of SF348 when it is introduced next legislative session
 - Will finish the recommendations from the Supreme Court task force
 - Will include education and support for guardians and conservators
 - There are presently 22,752 persons under guardianship and/or conservatorship
- **Funding Iowa Return to Community from the lottery**
 - “The current program provides long-term care support planning to assist non-Medicaid eligible seniors who want to return to their community following a nursing facility or hospital stay. It helps to coordinate wrap-around services and support for these older individuals which enables them to live safely and comfortably at home. This initiative has provided increased quality of life by ensuring consumer choice; potentially producing great cost savings for older Iowans and the State by preventing or delaying an individual's enrollment in Medicaid. You are eligible for program if you are looking to transition home from hospital or care facility & are 60 years and older.”
 - “The legislature currently provides some support for the Iowa Return to Community Program, but additional funding is needed to expand it statewide.”
 - “...needs to be sure that current funds **are not shifted** from its current Home and Community-Based Elderly Services budget and suggest new funding, which can come from Iowa Lottery proceeds.”
 - “Lottery funds have been used to “create new recreation areas, support research at Iowa's public universities, develop new products and techniques for agriculture, and promote tourism”. Enabling older Iowans to live safely and comfortably at home must be added to that record.”
 - **SUGGESTED ACTION FOR 2023 IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
 - **Using Iowa Lottery proceeds to support Iowa Return to Community Program**
- **Enacting a Dementia Specialist Program.**
 - Fund a training package on mental health for direct caregivers
 - Fund a training package on dementia and related illnesses for direct caregivers
 - Increase wages for direct caregivers.
 - Could the state provide a group health care plan, a group disability insurance plan and an individual retirement account for Direct caregivers above and beyond their hourly wage? Could funding come from the state appropriations to nursing homes?
 - Establish a career ladder in the direct caregiver field

*Please note all the waiver programs are under review – so the **elderly waiver** will have improvements to it.*

Just over **1.1 million residents** of Iowa are age 50 or older.

That equates to more than **36 percent** of the state's residents being considered seniors.

About **66,000** Americans are living with Alzheimer's (*this # is felt to be too low*) The report calls Iowa a “dementia neurology desert,” where the demand for direct care workers is projected to grow by more than 40% in the coming years while their availability will likely fall.

On January 1, 2020, Iowa had a supply (i.e., inventory) of 5,943 professionally active physicians.

223 were psychiatrists – with no breakdown to know how many are geriatric specialists.

In past reports, there's never been more than 1-2 in the state.

Source: Iowa Health Professions Tracking Center, Office of Statewide Clinical Education Programs UI Carver College of Medicine, August 2021

In Iowa, out of 2868 total Advanced nurse practitioners in Iowa there are 45 Advanced Nurse Practitioners with a certification in gerontology and 207 Advanced Nurse Practitioners with a certification in psychiatry

Source: Iowa Health Professions Tracking Center, Office of Statewide Clinical Education Programs UI Carver College of Medicine, August 2021

In Iowa, out of 734 total staffed beds, there are 65 hospital beds for geriatric patients in Iowa 524 are adult beds and 145 are children's beds.

Source: Iowa Dept. of Health and Human Services

Difference in numbers from 2014 AMOS workforce report vs. report given by U. of Iowa in 2021 for numbers effective for 2019

- Increased ARNP's with certification in psychiatry 146 to 216
- Increased PA's with certification in psychology 20 to 46
- Psychiatrists – 237 down to 223
- Child psychiatrists 35 down to 32
- Psychologists from 564 down to 529
- Primary care doctors 6294 down to less than 5927

In the pipeline

Broadlawn's psychiatric residency program – first 4 psychiatry graduates in 2022, 4 annually thereafter

DsM Mercy psychiatric residency program – first 4 psychiatry graduates in 2022, 4 annually thereafter

Mason City- Mercy psychiatric residency program – 3 psychiatry graduates in ?

U. of Iowa psychiatric residency program –9 psychiatry graduates per year

How many are specializing in geriatrics and/or staying in Iowa?

For other statistics <https://www.seniorliving.org/iowa/>

- over 200 [independent living facilities](#) - from \$551 to \$4,741 a month
- On average, [home health care](#) costs are around \$4,481 a month
- [Assisted Care units](#) - from \$930 to \$8,620 a month
- [Memory Care units](#) - The average cost in Iowa is \$59,473 per year, with over **324** memory care facilities to choose from.
- [Nursing Homes](#) – over **850** senior living providers - private room for \$6,235 and up per month (*too low*)
- [adult daycare centers](#) - from \$540 a month up to \$4,500 a month
- 121 [hospices](#) in Iowa
- 393 [respite care facilities](#) - costs can range from \$5,220 a month up to \$11,267 a month.

[Alzheimer's Association finds large deficit of geriatricians in Iowa - Radio Iowa](#)

- Geriatricians are rare here.
- Those are primary care doctors who have special training to treat older adults.
- Iowa has a little over two dozen geriatricians and the report says we'll need well over a hundred by 2050 to meet demand.
- There are four gerontology programs in Iowa — at Iowa, Iowa State, UNI and at Des Moines Area Community College.
- “One thing would be training primary care physicians and other health specialists to recognize diseases like dementia that come across in older age,” Livingston says, “so, training more doctors, even if they're not geriatricians, to recognize those signs and be able to refer them on to a geriatrician or another specialist.”
- In 2018, Iowa had more than 19,000 home health and personal care aides. The number of these workers will have to increase 34% just by 2028 to meet the growing demand.
- The complete report can be found at: alz.org/facts

Article: [Seniors home health care crisis deepened by covid labor shortage - The Washington Post](#)

Webinar: [Addressing the Needs of People with Brain Injuries in the Justice System - CSG Justice Center - CSG Justice Center](#)

