

Iowa Community Action Association

2019 Legislative Agenda

Energy Issues

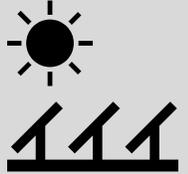
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Legislative action is needed to support the federally funded WAP that serves the elderly, disabled and families with young children living in poverty. SF2311 caused a 52% reduction in funding for this program. No state funding is provided for the WAP.

52%
Reduction in
IOU Funding

Continue solar growth and invest in a low income community solar project

One way for lowans with a low income to benefit from solar power is through Community Solar projects (sometimes called Solar Gardens). These are solar power plants (a large number of solar panels) that are shared by more than one household. If someone doesn't own their home, has too much shade, or can't afford the installation of solar panels, a community solar project may offer another way for people in poverty to receive the benefit of reduced energy costs.



Families and Children

Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS)

Support a 10% provider rate increase (\$620,000). The last increase was approximately 2% (\$150,000) in FY2015.



Child Care

- Increasing eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program allows families to increase their income and stabilizes their employment. A raise of as little as 15 cents an hour can put the parent's employment in jeopardy. The current income level is 145% of the federal poverty guidelines and ICAA supports an increase to 200% and use a tiered co-pay schedule.
- 100% deductibility of child care expenses for households under 300% of FPL.



Funding for Programs Serving Children

Maintain funding for Early Childhood Iowa, State Funded Early Head Start, Wrap-Around Funds and Shared Visions. Most Community Action Agencies access a variety of funding sources to provide a safe and effective learning environment for young children currently living in poverty. Blending and braiding these funding sources with federal Head Start and Early Head Start funding enables parents to work and/or attend school while their children are preparing to become lifelong learners.

Other Priorities

Taxes

- Protect the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from any reductions.
- Monitor tax policies to determine impact on persons with a low income.

EITC

Health

Support legislation that address issues individuals and families with a low income are facing due to the functions of the Managed Care Organizations.

