



2026 Iowa Legislative Session Recap

The Iowa Legislature adjourned the 2026 session on May 3 after a session marked by continued focus on Medicaid funding, workforce issues, property taxes, and long-term care policy. LeadingAge Iowa remained actively engaged throughout the session, advocating for policies that support aging services providers and the older adults they serve.

Several measures impacting senior living communities, home and community-based services (HCBS), and adult day providers advanced this year, while other proposals did not survive legislative deadlines.

Property Tax Reform

One of the most significant issues for LeadingAge Iowa members this session was the [property tax reform bill](#). Currently the residential/multi-family rollback is roughly 45%, so the taxable valuation of a property is only 45% of the full assessed value of the property.

For the assessment year that begins on January 1, 2027, multi-family properties will have a 3% higher rollback, and for the assessment year (and all future years after) that begins on January 1, 2028, the rollback will be 6% higher. So, for the assessment year that begins Jan. 1, 2028, if the residential rollback is 45%, for independent living it will be 51%.

This is an improvement on the originally proposed Senate bill that would remove the rollback entirely, but property taxes for independent living are set to increase slightly based on the final version of the bill. LeadingAge Iowa engaged in successful advocacy to retain the rollback and will seek a carve out for IL properties of the higher rollback in the 2027 session.

HHS Appropriations and Medicaid Funding

[HF 2782](#), the Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, included a \$3 million increase for HCBS Elderly Waiver services. While this increase was welcomed, the final agreement did not include additional funding for adult day reimbursement specifically. Adult Day providers will still have access to this funding through the Elderly Waiver.



LeadingAge Iowa supported the original House proposal, which included a larger \$5 million increase for HCBS waiver reimbursement and \$300,000 for adult day reimbursement increases.

Another Medicaid-related measure, [HF 2739](#), addressed state reconciliation with the federal budget package and increased taxes on insurance HMO policies in order to draw down additional federal funding to partially offset the state Medicaid deficit.

Care Facility Placement and Resident Protections

LeadingAge Iowa successfully worked to amend [HF 2562](#), legislation related to placement in care facilities for residents lacking decision-making capacity. Earlier versions of the bill created concerns regarding whether receiving care facilities had clear authority to consent to placements. Through advocacy efforts, clarifying language was added to the final legislation.

[HF 2305](#) also advanced this session, modifying the process for guardians seeking hospice placement. This bill was signed into law on May 2nd.

Workforce and Regulatory Issues

[HF 2680](#) requires the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) to recognize Certified Medication Aides. LeadingAge Iowa supported the legislation, which passed both chambers and was signed into law.

Another proposal, [SSB 3080](#) regarding electronic monitoring in nursing facilities, did not advance after failing to clear the first funnel deadline. LeadingAge Iowa successfully advocated against this measure.

[HF 2635](#) made several changes to prior authorization requirements and established audits for utilization review organizations. The bill also modified the Certificate of Need (CON) process, making CON review applicable when construction expenditures exceed \$4 million.

Elderly Waiver and Adult Day Funding

Additional legislation focused specifically on Elderly Waiver and adult day reimbursement issues. [HF 2376](#) proposed an adult day reimbursement increase and was ultimately folded into broader HHS appropriations discussions. As earlier noted,



while the House version of the appropriations bill included \$300,000 for adult day reimbursement, the funding was not included in the final legislation.

[HF 2641](#), related to the Elderly Waiver program, passed the House and a Senate committee but did not receive consideration by the full Senate and is therefore dead for the year.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 legislative session reflected ongoing pressure on Iowa's aging services system, particularly around Medicaid reimbursement, workforce development, and affordability. LeadingAge Iowa will continue working with lawmakers, state agencies, and coalition partners to advocate for sustainable funding and policies that strengthen services for older Iowans.

Thank you to all members who participated in advocacy efforts throughout the session by contacting legislators, sharing provider experiences, and helping educate policymakers on the challenges and opportunities facing aging services providers across Iowa.