

# Woodbury County Board of Supervisors

Courthouse • Room 104  
620 Douglas Street • Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
Telephone (712) 279-6525 • Fax (712) 279-6577

12  
4/29/25

## MEMBERS

**DANIEL A. BITTINGER II**  
SIOUX CITY

**KENT T. CARPER**  
SIOUX CITY

**DAVID L. DIETRICH**  
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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/ PUBLIC BIDDER**  
HEATHER SATTERWHITE

May 1, 2025

Senator Charles Grassley  
Senator Joni Ernst  
Congressman Randy Feenstra  
Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks  
Congresswoman Ashley Hinson  
Congressman Zach Nunn

Dear Honorable Members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation,

We, the Board of Supervisors from Woodbury County in Iowa who sit on the boards of 16 Community Action Agencies, are writing to you today to ask for your assistance in ensuring that Congress continues its longstanding and welcomes bipartisan support for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

- LIHEAP is a proven, results-driven initiative that helps hard-working Iowa families afford essential heating and cooling services.
- LIHEAP ensures energy security, prevents utility shutoffs, and protects vulnerable households, including seniors, veterans, and families with young children.
- LIHEAP is a fiscally responsible investment that prevents costly energy-related emergencies, reducing the need for emergency assistance programs.

- LIHEAP payments go directly to local utility companies, ensuring that businesses remain stable while keeping families focused on building financial independence.

In Iowa, 83,318 residents received some level of support from LIHEAP, with the vast majority of those individuals (41,613) identifying as a vulnerable household: having an elderly or disabled member, or a child under 6. The average benefit that is paid to utilities to keep the lights and heat on is \$458 annually.

As Congress continues the FY2025 and FY2026 budget and appropriations process, I urge you to ensure that the LIHEAP Block Grant remains fully funded. This program is essential to Iowa families who rely on its support. In short, LIHEAP is a lifeline that must be preserved. Thank you for considering this important request. On behalf of local officials, business leaders, and the 3.24 million Iowans you represent, thank you for your continued leadership on this critical issue.

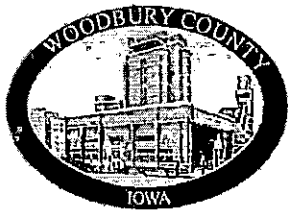
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel A. Bittinger II". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel A. Bittinger II

Chairman

Woodbury County Board of Supervisors



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Dear Honorable Members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation,

We, the Board of Supervisors from Woodbury County in Iowa who sit on the boards of 14 Community Action Agencies that host Head Start Programs, are writing to you today to ask for your assistance in ensuring that Congress continues its longstanding and welcomes bipartisan support for Head Start.

When a Community Action Agency (CAA) runs a Head Start program, families receive needed assistance that addresses the stability and future economic prospects of the household, helping not just the hardworking family and the child, but also contributing to the long-term community and school stability.

Access to high-quality early childhood education is critical for working families, providing children with a strong educational foundation while enabling parents to pursue employment and career growth

Through workforce development programs and household stabilizing programs, CAAs assist parents in gaining financial independence, ultimately leading to stronger, more self-sufficient communities.

Based on a regular Community Needs Assessment, Community Action Agencies have the ability to develop social enterprises such as nutrition programs, affordable housing initiatives, and workforce development opportunities that help families of Head Start students achieve their economic goals.

Because of Community Action Agencies' ability to address family stability, career potential of parents, and early childhood education, Head Start children have the absolute best chance of achieving the American dream.

**In Iowa, Head Start's impact is wide-reaching:**

- Over \$89 million in federal Head Start funding flowed into Iowa's economy in FY2024 – straight to local community programs
- Nearly 7,500 children and 6,650 families received services statewide in FY24.
- More than 2,300 Iowans are employed by Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
- Over 5,300 parents are able to work, go to school, or participate in job training thanks to Head Start support.

As you navigate the FY2025 and FY2026 budget and appropriations process, I ask you, on behalf of Iowa's children, families, and communities, to stand strong in support of the Head Start program. For 7,500 children and 6,650 families across our state, Head Start is not just a service. It's a lifeline. It means access to early education, stability at home, and a foundation for lifelong success.

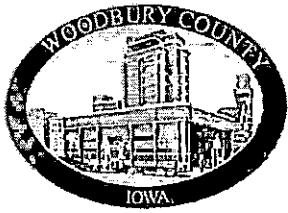
Iowa families depend on this support. Our communities are stronger because of it. Head Start opens doors that would otherwise remain closed—and for many, it's the first real chance at breaking the cycle of poverty.

We are counting on our elected leaders, our neighbors, our voices in Washington—to protect this critical funding. Thank you for your compassion, your leadership, and your commitment to the people of Iowa.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Bittinger  
Chairman  
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Dear Honorable Members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation,

We, the Board of Supervisors from Woodbury County in Iowa who sit on the boards of 15 Community Action Agencies, are writing to you today to ask for your assistance in ensuring that Congress continues its longstanding and welcome bipartisan support for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) administered by the Department of Energy (DOE)

- WAP efficiently retrofits below-standard low-income homes, greatly improving residents' utility costs and health outcomes.
- Many Iowa Weatherization Programs utilize local contractors to do the work on the homes, creating a positive economic impact for small businesses
  - WAP offers good local jobs and the training needed to secure stable private sector work.
  - All materials – materials, trucks, appliances – are purchased locally.
- By updating low-income homes, WAP helps preserve the local stock of affordable housing.
- Because WAP ensures low-income homes have reasonable energy use, more utility customers are able to keep up with their bills.

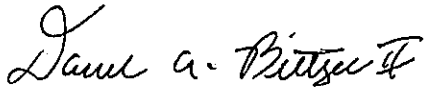
In Iowa, 850 homes were weatherized with this program in 2024. Many rural Iowa communities have an aging housing stock, with much of the housing built before 1950. Overall, Iowa has the 10th oldest housing stock in the U.S. The Weatherization Assistance Program helps families stay in their homes safely.

As the FY2025 and FY2026 budget and appropriations process unfolds, I urge you to prioritize continued and sufficient funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). For many Iowa families, WAP is not just a benefit, it's a necessity. It helps reduce energy costs, improves safety and health at home, and offers long-term stability for households that need it most.

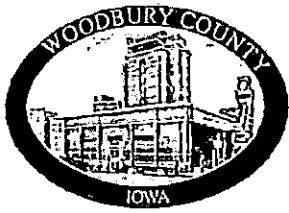
This program has a proven track record of making a real difference in people's lives. It strengthens communities, supports local jobs, and ensures our most vulnerable neighbors aren't left behind.

On behalf of local leaders, business partners, and the 3.24 million Iowans you represent, thank you for recognizing the value of WAP and for your leadership in protecting programs that help Iowans live with dignity, safety, and opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel A. Bittinger II". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel A. Bittinger II  
Chairman  
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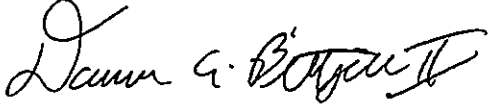
We, the Board of Supervisors from Woodbury County in Iowa who sit on the boards of 16 Community Action Agencies, are writing to you today to ask for your assistance in ensuring that Congress continues its longstanding and welcome bipartisan support for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Ninety-five percent of Iowa's CSBG funding flows directly to local grantees known as Community Action Agencies (CAAs). CAAs in our state assist 258,000 hardworking individuals and families striving to escape poverty and achieve the American Dream. CSBG is one of the most accountable, performance-driven programs that Congress has helped create. CSBG funding continues to be one of the most valuable resources the state utilizes. It allows local CAAs to leverage additional non-federal funding to maximize addressing poverty in our communities. CSBG funding is an essential program for our state.

The State of Iowa has relied on the Community Action Network for the last 15 years to be the provider of Emergency Disaster Assistance in the wake of natural disasters. The Community Action Network regularly leans in during times of crisis – providing rental assistance, utility (energy & water), funeral assistance, and leveraging federal CSBG funds to provide food pantries, free clothing rooms, and other emergency supports. The county, state, and federal governments also call upon the network to partner as subject matter experts in topics ranging from early childhood education to resources on aging and affordable housing.

As Congress moves through the FY2025 and FY2026 budget and appropriations process, I ask that you please help ensure that the Community Services Block Grant remains intact with adequate funding. CSBG is too valuable a program to lose. In other words, simply stated, Iowa needs, supports, and values the CSBG funding provided to our state. Thank you for considering this most important request. We, along with local elected officials, business leaders, and most importantly, the 3.24 million of your constituents, thank you in advance for your leadership on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel A. Bittinger, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" being the most prominent.

Daniel A. Bittinger, II  
Chairman  
Woodbury County Board of Supervisors