



IOWA CAREGIVERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Iowa CareGivers Association Receives Northwest Area Foundation Grant

The Northwest Area Foundation recently awarded the Iowa CareGivers Association (ICA) a two-year \$215,000 grant to support its work on behalf of direct care workers. Direct care workers provide hands-on care and supportive services to Iowans of all ages in homes, hospitals, nursing homes, facilities for persons with disabilities, and other settings.

The mission of the Northwest Area Foundation, headquartered in St. Paul, MN, is to support efforts in Iowa and seven other states to reduce poverty and build sustainable prosperity. In awarding the grant, Northwest Area Foundation President Kevin Walker said, "The demand for direct care workers in Iowa is large and growing. It's essential that jobs in that sector offer decent wages, good benefits, and career pathways, so that caregivers can live free of poverty and stay in their field for the long run. We're proud to assist the Iowa CareGivers Association in advancing those ideas."

The Northwest Area Foundation grant will allow the Iowa CareGivers Association (ICA) and its national partner, PHI, to continue to address the "Care Gap," the serious and growing shortage of direct care workers caused in part by low wages and lack of access to affordable health care. The foundation's support will further efforts being taken to explore a sectoral approach to linking direct care workers to resources and programs that will enhance their financial status and increase their access to health care coverage.

For more information visit the Northwest Area Foundation website at www.nwaf.org or the Iowa CareGivers Association website at www.iowacaregivers.org.

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