

**IOWA STATEWIDE  
INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**

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July 1, 2005

Mark McClellan, Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Dr. McClellan:

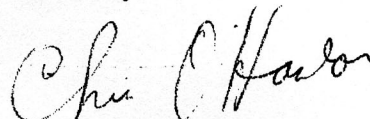
**Re: *IowaCare: Rebalancing for Increased Community Capacity,  
Access, and Choice***

As Chair of the Statewide Independent Living Council and Executive Director of the Evert Conner Rights and Resources Center for Independent Living, I am writing to express the Council's strong support for the application by Iowa Medicaid Enterprise for Real Choice Systems Transformation funding. This grant would address a number of major barriers facing Iowans with disabilities who are at risk of institutionalization. We are particularly pleased to see IME's commitment to re-balancing Iowa's system of long term care in its work plan for the grant. Iowa depends far too much on its ICF/MRs to provide long-term supports for people with developmental disabilities. Use of grant funding to develop a case mix adjusted reimbursement plan for ICF/MRS and home and community based services will begin to redirect funds more appropriately.

I am sure I can safely speak for all of Iowa's centers for independent living when I also express our commitment to collaborate with the Iowa Finance Authority's project, to be funded by the grant, which will provide training to CIL staff and other advocacy organizations, to build our capacity to counsel people with disabilities about their housing options. We have an excellent working relationship with IFA, and applaud their continuing efforts to increase access to affordable and accessible housing.

We look forward to the opportunity to work on this project.

Sincerely,



Chris O'Hanlon  
Chair