

877—1.6(84A) Coordination with the department of corrections on construction and maintenance projects. To assist the department of corrections with the employment of offenders on construction and maintenance projects, the department of workforce development shall be responsible for coordinating the following process:

1.6(1) Prior to an employer's submitting an application to the department of corrections for employing offenders on a construction or maintenance project, the employer shall place with the nearest workforce development center a job order with a duration of at least 30 days. The job order shall be listed statewide in all centers and on the department of workforce development's jobs Internet site.

1.6(2) The department of corrections shall send a letter requesting verification of the employer's 30-day job listing, the average wage rate for the job(s) the offenders will perform, the current unemployment rate in the county where the employer is located, and the current employment level of the company that will employ the offenders. The letter should be sent to Division Administrator, Division of Policy and Information, Iowa Workforce Development, 1000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

1.6(3) The department of workforce development shall verify in writing the job listing, including the number of qualified applicant referrals and hires made as a result of the job order, the average entry-level wage rate for the proposed job(s), the entry-level wage range, the prevailing wage as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, the current unemployment rate for the county where the employer is located, and the current employment levels of the company that will employ the offenders based upon the most recent quarter for which data is available. The average entry-level wage rate and entry-level wage range will be based on the appropriate geographic area for which occupational wage information is available. The appropriate geographic area may be statewide.

1.6(4) It is recommended that all offenders employed in construction and maintenance projects receive a ten-hour OSHA safety course provided free of charge by the department of workforce development. The department of workforce development will make every effort to conduct the training within a reasonable time period after receipt of a request for training.

1.6(5) If the contract to employ offender labor exceeds six months, the department of corrections shall request and receive from the department of workforce development the average wage rates and wage ranges for jobs currently held by offenders and current employment levels of companies employing offenders. The letter should be addressed to Division Administrator, Division of Policy and Information, Iowa Workforce Development, 1000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

1.6(6) The department of workforce development shall provide a periodic report to the state workforce development board regarding information supplied to the department of corrections for construction and maintenance projects. Frequency of the report will depend upon the level of activity.

1.6(7) Inquiries concerning construction and maintenance projects performed by offenders may be made by area workers, or their representatives, that are affected by a project. Inquiries shall be in writing and address the following questions:

a. Whether and how the project is believed to violate the intent of Iowa Code sections 904.701 and 904.703;

b. Evidence of a local surplus of labor in the job classifications of the type in which offenders are employed;

c. Whether private sector employees or state, county or local government employees or employees involved in a labor dispute have been displaced as a result of the project; and

d. Whether existing contracts for employment or services have been impaired.

Inquiries shall be sent to Division Administrator, Division of Policy and Information, Iowa Workforce Development, 1000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. A copy of the inquiry shall be sent to the department of corrections. The director of the department shall consult with the director of the department of corrections and the affected regional advisory board concerning the inquiry prior to the workforce development board's making a final recommendation regarding possible corrective action.

The administrative rules committee of the state workforce development board shall review the inquiry and any additional responses or oral testimony requested by the committee and make a recommendation to the full board as to whether the intent of Iowa Code sections 904.701 and 904.703 has or has not been met and whether corrective action, if any, needs to be taken by the department of corrections to meet the intent.

At the discretion of the administrative rules committee, oral presentations may be requested from the party(ies) to the inquiry. The full board shall make a final recommendation within 60 days of receipt of the inquiry. The board's final recommendation shall be mailed to both the department of corrections and the party(ies) making the inquiry.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 5/14/25]