IOWA | Iowa Workforce Development

ANNUAL REPORT

2026



Serving all Iowans to build a better workforce for the **future**.

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Introduction

Agency Overview

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) is a state agency committed to providing employment services for individual job seekers and to serving employers by helping them find the skilled workforce they need. IWD connects the two through a variety of programs, including IowaWorks.gov, the state's largest job bank.

This annual report covers IWD's service to Iowans during Fiscal Year 2026, which concluded on June 30, 2026. This period at IWD saw several notable milestones in our ongoing efforts to improve Iowa's workforce system, including:

- Codification by the Iowa Legislature (Senate File 2168) of the Reemployment Case Management program, Iowa's nation-leading effort to return unemployed Iowans to the workforce as quickly as possible. This program continues to be a national model for providing workforce services to unemployment benefits claimants earlier in the process and has been a major factor in Iowa's ability to both shorten the average duration of unemployment claims and lower unemployment tax rates for employers.
- Continued progress toward greater integration between Iowa*WORKS* offices and the disability-related services provided through Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Through better coordination between programs, IWD is expanding available services to disabled Iowans and helping speed up the time it takes them to go from "job ready" to employed.
- Ongoing modernization of Iowa's unemployment system. After moving unemployment insurance claims off of a 50-year-old mainframe in FY2025, we continued to streamline the system to find new efficiencies and enhance security.



Beth Townsend, Executive Director

Director Townsend is the Executive Director of IWD, a state agency that helps Iowans find jobs and employers find a skilled workforce. As such, she prepares, administers, and controls the budget of the agency and its divisions.

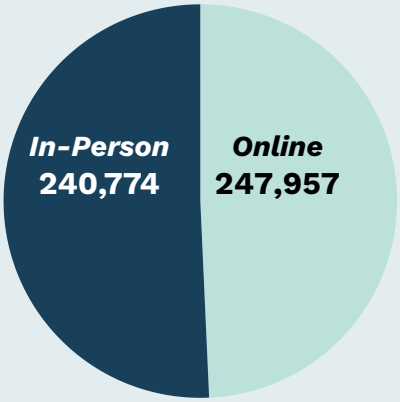
Director Townsend has been in her current position since 2015. She was reappointed in 2019 and 2023 and confirmed by the Iowa Senate each time. She practiced law in Iowa until she was appointed as the Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in 2011.

Director Townsend previously served in the United States Air Force as a member of Judge Advocate General and retired in 2010 as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Air Force Reserve after 21 years of active and reserve duty.

IWD By the Numbers - FY2026

488,731

Iowans Served by Iowa*WORKS*



Unemployment Insurance

Initial Claims: 118,457
Weekly Claims: 663,018

Total Benefits Paid: $305.6 million

Average UI Tax Rate Across All Iowa Employers: **0.857%**

Proportion of Iowa Employers Paying 0%: **44.9%**

(Employers pay 0% - 6%, depending on history of claims.)

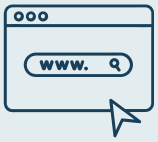
Home Base Iowa

Veterans/Spouses Found Employment

371



Labor Market Information

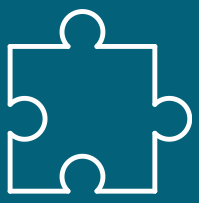


113,000
Webpage Views

Workforce Services Division

Administered **$83.8 million** in grants across 12 programs.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services



Helped **1,586** Iowans with disabilities find employment last year.

Their estimated wages: **$22.4 million**

Iowa Disability Determination Services



Initial Disability Claims Processed (for U.S. Social Security Admin.)

20,193

How Long it Took: **76.9 days**

National Average: **160 days**

Reemployment Snapshot

Avg. Duration of Unemployment Claim: **9.6 weeks**

Reemployment Case Management appointments: **25,822**

Attended Iowa*WORKS* Workshops: **94,058**



Business Engagement Division helped 5,409 employers with their workforce needs.

IWD Outreach: Bringing Iowans Closer to Careers

IWD Outreach: Bringing Iowans Closer to Careers

Iowa*WORKS* Mobile Workforce Center



IWD continued its expansion of workforce services in Fiscal Year 2026 with the Iowa*WORKS* Mobile Workforce Center serving more than 1,180 Iowans at 154 locations throughout the state – many during times of tremendous economic upheaval. The Mobile Workforce Center was launched in early 2024 as part of an effort to bring Iowa*WORKS* services to areas and individuals who otherwise might be unable to easily visit a local Iowa*WORKS* office. With 10 computer workstations and two 40-inch monitors (one on the outside), the 32-foot-long mobile center has become a valuable tool for career planners to hold outdoor workshops, facilitate employer hiring events and provide one-on-one career assistance in all four corners of the state.

The Mobile Workforce Center responded to more than two dozen Rapid Response events in FY2026. These trips, which were part of IWD's response to mass layoffs and/or business closures, made it possible for impacted workers to quickly and easily ask face-to-face unemployment questions, register for work in the Iowa*WORKS* system, inquire about other Iowa*WORKS* services, and attend job fairs with other employers in the area that were hiring in similar occupations.

The Mobile Workforce Center also held a total of 24 career fair events in FY2026, providing chances for prospective job seekers to create and print resumes and apply for open positions on-site. Beyond those, the center visited an additional 107 job seeker events from Storm Lake to Chariton simply to ensure that all Iowans have access to Iowa*WORKS* job search assistance services. Appearances included visits to public libraries, food pantries, residential correctional facilities, high schools, STEM festivals and more.

For more information, visit workforce.iowa.gov/mobile-center.

The Iowa*WORKS* Mobile Resource Center has helped job seekers across the state by:

- Providing access to computers, internet, and career planners to help workers at Agri-Industrial Plastics in Fairfield file unemployment insurance claims. After a request by the company for support of their employees, the Mobile Workforce Center was deployed on site. Twenty-five workers successfully filed for benefits, with staff providing guidance to both first-time and returning applicants. The center's presence removed barriers and was greatly appreciated by employer and employees alike.
- Visiting seven counties as part of a successful tour of communities along the Highway 30 Corridor, connecting 166 job seekers, 96 employers, and eight community partners with accessible workforce services. By bringing technology, career guidance, and recruitment support directly to rural communities, the tour reduced barriers and strengthened regional workforce collaboration. The initiative deepened relationships with employers and local organizations while expanding access to employment opportunities in rural counties.

IWD Outreach: Bringing Iowans Closer to Careers

Rapid Response

During major layoffs or business closures, Iowa Workforce Development's Rapid Response Team works closely with employers and any union officials to determine the needs of affected workers and the best way(s) to meet those needs. Team members meet with involved parties and community leaders, then schedule meetings to provide workers with information about possible assistance. In many cases, IWD establishes a local transition center and makes the Iowa*WORKS* Mobile Workforce Center available as a place where staffers can answer questions about unemployment benefits and provide job search assistance.

In one representative instance, Iowa*WORKS* team members worked directly with River Hills leadership in Richland to ensure dislocated workers received the unemployment guidance and training support they needed as the Richland clinic prepared to close. "Most people don't know about you," one local board supervisor later told career planning staff. "But this mobile workforce unit is going to spark interest. This is a good thing."

In FY2026, the Rapid Response Team:

- Received 92 notices under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act, which requires that Iowa employers give the state advance notice of any large layoffs.
- Served a total of 4,960 impacted workers through on-site visits to layoff sites (broken down by Local Workforce Development Areas).
  - Central Iowa LWDA: 1,304
  - East Central Iowa LWDA:1,718
  - Iowa Plains LWDA: 229
  - Mississippi Valley LWDA: 506
  - Northeast Iowa LWDA: 1,091
  - South Central Iowa LWDA: 112



Watch the video above to see how **IowaWORKS staff moved quickly to support workers** impacted by the Agri Star plant fire.

American Job Centers: Iowa*WORKS*



American Job Centers: Iowa*WORKS*

Iowa*WORKS*

Iowa*WORKS* is our name for Iowa's portion of the national network of American Job Centers. Any Iowan can access a wide range of workforce services at one of 17 Iowa*WORKS* locations or online at IowaWorks.gov. These services – provided both by Iowa Workforce Development and a variety of other partners – include a wide mix of training and job search assistance programs designed to help match Iowans with the employers who need them.

A total of 488,731 Iowans sought Iowa*WORKS* services in Fiscal Year 2026.

Iowans who received services from Iowa*WORKS* in FY2026:



Reemployment Services

IWD's Reemployment Case Management (RCM) program was launched in January 2022 to refocus IWD from acting as the state's unemployment agency to being its reemployment agency. Since then, the program has become a national model for getting jobless individuals back to work as quickly as possible and has saved hundreds of millions of dollars in unneeded unemployment benefits.

Under RCM, jobless individuals who apply for unemployment benefits are contacted the week after filing their initial unemployment claims. Designated RCM Career Planners meet with each unemployment claimant to connect them with local job opportunities and job-seeking services. With limited exceptions, Career Planners meet regularly with each individual receiving unemployment benefits to provide job-search guidance, refer them to specific services, and ensure that they are complying with job search requirements. This process continues until reemployment.

In Fiscal Year 2026, Career Planners completed 25,822 RCM appointments and continued to return jobless Iowans to the workforce at a rapid rate. At the end of June 2026, the average duration of a claim for unemployment benefits in Iowa was 9.6 weeks – up from the 9.0-week duration at the end of December 2024 (a more than 50-year low), but still down significantly from the 13.0-week duration in January 2022, when RCM was launched.

IWD estimates that RCM saved Iowa's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund nearly **$422 million** over the first four years of the program's existence (comparing the total unemployment benefits paid out in each year to the average annual payments for five years pre-pandemic).

American Job Centers: Iowa*WORKS*

Early and Ongoing Assistance

RCM operates as a modified and supplementary version of the federal Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program. RCM allows Iowa to reach out to unemployment claimants much earlier in the process, then transition them into RESEA at the appropriate time. As a result, customers attend consistent appointments and receive continuing unemployment insurance eligibility assessment, as well as customized career assistance. This assistance includes access to Labor Market Information, orientation to the American Job Center, resume review, referrals to appropriate partner programs, and a regular reassessment of work search progress.

Virtual Workshops

IWD provides information on a wide variety of employment-related topics via no-cost virtual workshops. Participants can attend these sessions online or in-person at their local Iowa*WORKS* office. The workshops are available to the public (regardless of employment status) but typically are a requirement for RCM and RESEA participants. Popular workshop topics include preparing a resume, interview strategies, business panels with Iowa employers to discuss the application process, and the importance of soft skills in the workplace. Popular workshops were developed based on feedback from customers attending focus groups drawn from reemployment program participants.

In Fiscal Year 2026, there were 467 virtual workshop sessions delivered with 89,181 attendees.





The full list of virtual workshop offerings from Iowa*WORKS* can be found at **workforce.iowa.gov/workshops**.

American Job Centers: Iowa*WORKS*

IowaWorks.gov

Iowa's data management and employment system, IowaWorks.gov, enables individuals to register for work and receive applicable career services. Individuals who register in Iowa*WORKS* are able to receive assistance in several ways, including self-service using information provided through the website and through electronic interaction with Iowa*WORKS* staff. If customers require additional staff-assisted services, Iowa*WORKS* Career Planners assess those service needs and enroll individuals in an appropriate Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program that will successfully meet the workforce needs of the participant. Services are available by visiting an Iowa*WORKS* location or by scheduling a virtual appointment. Once an individual is registered in Iowa*WORKS*, they are able to access services without the requirement to register again in the future.

Workshop Services Received

94,058

Registered Individuals

Total Registered (Program Year 2025/Fiscal Year 2026):

32,036

Number of Services Received:

1,116,423

Age at Registration:

Under Age 19: **1,018**	Ages 45-54: **3,714**
Ages 19 - 44: **22,007**	Ages 55+: **3,791**

Enrolled Individuals

Total Enrolled (PY2025/FY2026)

33,959

Number of Services Received

281,711

Age at Registration:

Under Age 19: **197**	Ages 45-54: **7,276**
Ages 19 - 44: **18,955**	Ages 55+: **7,487**

Veterans Registered With Iowa*WORKS* Programs

1,184

About the Data:

Registered Individuals are people who have created an account in IowaWorks.gov and received information-based services, such as using job search information on a website or attending online workshops. Enrolled Individuals have received one-on-one assistance through a variety of programs.

American Job Centers: Iowa*WORKS*

National Career Readiness Certificate

IWD continues to provide testing via ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), a WorkKeys program, throughout the state at no cost to Iowans. Testing is completed in Iowa*WORKS* centers, high schools, and correctional facilities around the state, and is available in English and Spanish.

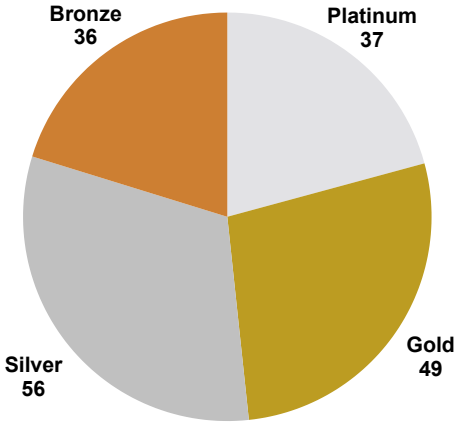
The NCRC assesses the comprehension level of an individual in Graphic Literacy, Workplace Documents, and Applied Math. Individuals receive a platinum, gold, silver or bronze certificate based on their level of understanding in a given area. Test proctors in all locations encourage participants to list their NCRC certificate on resumes and job applications, and to present a copy of the certificate to potential employers during the interview process.

IWD has promoted the NCRC for more than a decade as a definitive way for employers to know an applicant has a solid understanding of the three areas assessed. According to data obtained from ACT, Iowa has more than 400 businesses who have expressed support for the National Career Readiness Certificate, meaning that they recognize or recommend NCRC in their hiring practices.

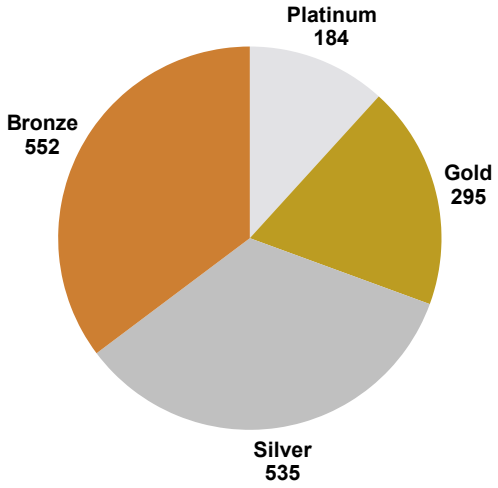
In Fiscal Year 2026, 1,566 Iowans earned an NCRC, with 178 of those certificates being earned from inside three state correctional facilities.

Note: Data below reflects tests taken at Mt. Pleasant, North Central, and Newton.

National Career Readiness Certificates Issued at Correctional Facilities



National Career Readiness Certificates Issued (Excluding Correctional Facilities)



American Job Centers: Iowa*WORKS*

Returning Citizen Initiative

IWD has six full-time Reentry Workforce Advisors located in the Mitchellville, Newton, Anamosa, Mount Pleasant, Fort Dodge and Clarinda correctional facilities. These staff assist incarcerated individuals nearing release with finding employment and networking with employers to address the barriers they may have in hiring returning citizens. The assistance provided includes help with resume development, job interviewing techniques, and career pathway navigation, as well as overall guidance with the job search and application process. Each of the participants in the program completes the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) if eligible.

Reentry Career Planners served 2,123 individuals in Fiscal Year 2026, more than 23 percent of Iowa's incarcerated population. This number is significantly higher compared to the last program year due to streamlining program processes. Services provided included career counseling, job search assistance, resume development, job interviewing, and a variety of other educational services. The Empowering and Motivating Ex-offenders to Reach Gainful Employment (EMERGE) workshop was also offered, and 326 individuals completed it.

Reentry Career Planners also proctored 240 instruction tests related to training for Registered Apprenticeships. A total of 31 incarcerated individuals served by IWD completed their registered apprenticeship program in Fiscal Year 2026, with our staff also enrolling 24 new incarcerated individuals as apprentices.

IWD currently offers an Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) course annually. This certification is an inclusive workforce development program with a 10-module curriculum. It is designed to introduce, explain, and provide individuals with practical experience in using tools and strategies that target finding and maintaining employment for the justice-involved and marginalized populations. As of July 2026, IWD has certified 53 professionals in our state – including nine who currently work at the Iowa Department of Corrections and 40 who work at IWD. Currently, all six of the Reentry Career Planners who are working in the correctional institutions are OWDS certified.

Last year, 4,089 men and women were released from incarceration and returned to our communities. Roughly 90 percent of those currently incarcerated (8,984) will be released. This program gives returning citizens one more opportunity for success, which is defined as finding meaningful employment and starting a new chapter in their lives.

Veteran Workforce Services

Veteran Workforce Services


OVWS Staff

IWD's Office of Veteran Workforce Services (OVWS) centered its drive and focus in FY2026 around expanding the office's reach to support more veterans, service members, and employers across the state. This year, the office strengthened partnerships, increased outreach, and focused its external branding around the Home Base Iowa (HBI) program. The OVWS goal is to make Iowa the state of choice for past and present service members and their families. The office serves as a trusted connection point for veterans, service members and spouses seeking employment opportunities, education pathways, community resources, and incentives that support a successful transition.

OVWS is comprised of 25 team members who work in Iowa*WORKS* centers across the state. The team includes:

- Sixteen Veteran Career Planners (eight full-time and eight half-time).
- Four Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs).
  - Including a full-time team member at Camp Dodge to support the Iowa National Guard
- One Home Base Iowa Program Manager.
- One Veteran Workforce Program Coordinator.
- One Director of Veteran Workforce Services.

Veteran Career Planners provide individualized career services to eligible participants with an emphasis on assisting veterans who are economically and/or educationally disadvantaged. These services include (but are not limited to) comprehensive and specialized assessments of skill levels, career planning and developing an individual employment plan, individual and group counseling, referrals to other supportive service agencies, and identifying training opportunities. Veteran Career Planners also reach out to their communities to connect with local resource providers.

LVER staff conduct outreach to employers and business associations and advocate with hiring executives to increase employment opportunities for veterans, transitioning service members and other eligible populations. LVERs explain and demonstrate why hiring and retaining veterans is a strong business decision and educate employers on programs and practices that support veteran employment

Home Base Iowa Career Planners actively collaborate with HBI communities and educational partners to strengthen local recruitment efforts and ensure each community has accurate, up-to-date information, including points of contact, incentive details, and current engagement notes. They work alongside these partners to support efforts to attract or retain military talent and veteran families. Their work includes keeping incentive packages refreshed, expanding community participation across the state, and maintaining strong relationships with Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), education partners, employers, counties, and chambers.

Veteran Workforce Services

FY2026 Highlights: Veteran Services through American Job Centers

In FY2026, Iowa*WORKS* centers:

- Served 4,197 distinct service-affiliated individuals (Veterans, service members, spouses, guardsmen/reservists) through Iowa*WORKS* centers
  - Provided 80,701 services to those individuals
- Enrolled a total of 2,369 veterans and eligible persons
  - Of those, 1,741 received an individualized career service.

371 veterans/spouses found confirmed employment in FY2026 through HBI and JVSG program services (a nearly 73 percent success rate for enrolled individuals).

- LVERs provided 4,347 services to 746 employers during FY2026
- The LVER team helped support and approve 14 new U.S. Department of War SkillBridge opportunities in FY2026, increasing Iowa's total number of opportunities to 54 – a 35 percent increase over FY2025.



Example of a new SkillBridge Industry Partner in the State

- Military Members Power Hour (MMPH) - a monthly series of online training workshops focused on skills to enhance the employment prospects of veterans and service members. Workshop topics include resume writing and cover letters, interview techniques, overcoming obstacles, and bringing essential soft skills to the workplace.

In FY2026, staff facilitated 27 MMPH workshops with a total of 551 attendees.

- Each year, Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) recipients can award workforce centers that demonstrate through data, partnerships, and other means, how they went above and beyond to serve veterans, service members, and spouses in their areas. The 2026 Veterans Incentive Award-winning offices in Iowa were: Waterloo, Fort Dodge, Iowa City, Des Moines, and Sioux City/Denison.

Veteran Workforce Services

Home Base Iowa



Home Base Iowa (HBI) is Iowa's premier initiative for attracting, supporting, and retaining veterans, service members, and their families. In FY2026, HBI expanded statewide engagement, strengthened employer readiness, and deepened partnerships that enhance Iowa's position as a premier destination for military talent.

HBI maintains a strong and collaborative relationship with the Iowa National Guard, providing comprehensive support throughout the deployment cycle. This year, HBI staff attended multiple Welcome Home ceremonies and engaged directly with Iowa National Guard leadership, ensuring that service members returning from deployment connected with employment opportunities, statewide resources, and community support networks.

Throughout the year, HBI also increased its presence at major statewide events, including RAGBRAI, the Iowa State Fair Veterans Parade (see video), and several Patching Ceremony career fairs coordinated in partnership with the Iowa National Guard. During these engagements, HBI staff connected with service members, veterans, and their families, promoted available resources, and distributed challenge coins to veterans as a symbol of appreciation for their service.









Veteran Workforce Services

Home Base Iowa Highlights:

Surpassed 150 Total Home Base Iowa Communities

61 cities
89 counties









800+ Home Base Iowa Outreach Activities

Reaching an estimated 8,000+ veterans/service members & spouses

- Home Base Iowa materials and information are now displayed at 12 military installations in partnership with Transition Assistance Program (TAP) offices, increasing HBI's national visibility.

Veteran Workforce Services

Home Base Iowa Highlights:





28 New HBI-certified (veteran-friendly) Businesses OnBoarded

Increasing statewide total to 270 (+11.5% from FY2025)

- Flight Deck Aviation, a new HBI business partner, was profiled in an agency video for its innovative approach to creating jobs in the air for former boots on the ground.





- Melissa Michaelis, executive director of Win-Worth Betco (far left), received the first-ever Home Base Iowa Community Champion Award. Michaelis was recognized for her leadership and sustained efforts to help all communities in her region achieve designation as HBI communities.

Veteran Workforce Services

Home Base Iowa Highlights:

National "Hire a Veteran Day" Career Fair Series
On July 25, 2025, OVWS hosted the inaugural HBI National Hire a Veteran Day Career Fair Series, launching what has become an annual statewide initiative to connect Veterans with hiring employers.

- Hosted in six locations across Iowa (Des Moines, Marshalltown, Sioux City, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, and Davenport)
- 150+ Veteran job seekers and 100+ employers attended statewide.
  - 97 percent of employers reported they would attend again next year.
  - "Very professional, was able to connect with several potential veteran applicants."
  - "It was very well organized and relaxed. There didn't feel like pressure, and we were able to make meaningful connections with veterans who attended."











Workforce Services Division

Workforce Services Division

The Workforce Services Division (WFS) exists to promote an effective workforce system in Iowa and support its stakeholders through policy development and implementation – as well as oversight and monitoring, administration of state workforce grants, training and technical assistance of federal and state workforce programs, and direct provision of services for the PROMISE JOBS program.

Program Oversight and Expertise

Beyond its longstanding policy and oversight roles, the WFS division has experienced substantial growth and transformation in recent years. Following the strategic alignment of workforce programs at IWD, several key initiatives have been integrated under WFS administration. These include WIOA Title II Adult Education and Literacy, the Senior Community Service Employment Program, the full PROMISE JOBS program, and the SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) Intermediary Network.

In Fiscal Year 2026, the WFS Division continued to operate a Grants Bureau to facilitate grant funds at IWD, both with IWD as the grantor and the grantee. Grant funds over the past year supported programs that include infrastructure projects for childcare centers, summer internship experience for youth, registered apprenticeship programs, infrastructure projects for CDL certification courses, and the creation of a variety of work-based learning programs (including healthcare). Awardees include private businesses, a variety of non-profit organizations, community colleges, and school districts.

The IWD Grants Bureau managed 12 different grant programs in FY2026 for a total of $83,825,815 in grant funds to 303 awardees across the state. Eighty-eight percent of these funds were from the American Rescue Plan Act.

At the end of FY2026, the WFS Division announced a new federally funded opportunity to increase employer-led training opportunities in the targeted industry of advanced manufacturing. Known as AMP'D Iowa, this opportunity will begin to award funds in FY2027 and will continue through FY2029.



AMP'D Iowa
Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Development

Workforce Services Division

Grant Opportunities by Number of Awardees	# of Awardees	Total Amount	Funding Source
Summer Youth Internship 2025	9	$250,000	state approp
84E 2024	67	$3,000,000	state approp
84E 2025	60	$3,000,000	state approp
84E 2026	59	$3,000,000	state approp
84F 2026	14	$760,000	state approp
Healthcare Credentialing Pipeline	14	$3,000,000	ARPA - federal
Health Careers Registered Apprenticeships 1.0	7	$2,536,637	ARPA - federal
Health Careers Registered Apprenticeships 2.0	16	$8,451,118	ARPA - federal
Teacher – Paraeducator RA 1.0	19	$25,521,129	ARPA - federal
Teacher – Paraeducator RA 2.0	10	$3,208,800	ARPA - federal
Child Care Business Incentives	19	$23,366,289	ARPA - federal
Child Care Business Incentives 2.0	9	$10,388,861	ARPA - federal



Health Care Apprenticehips

IHC 2.0 grants helped train 200 new apprentices, with more than 100 still in process.

Completed RN - 21
Completed LPN - 26
Completed CNA - 159



Teacher-Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeships

TPRA 1.0 & 2.0 grants resulted in 326 new teachers and 80 Teacher Aides across the state.



Child Care Business Incentive

CCBI 1.0: 12 projects completed and fully open, more than 1,400 new childcare slots.

CCBI 2.0: 9 projects creating 879 new slots.

Workforce Services Division

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), IWD is responsible for setting policy, providing technical assistance and training, and monitoring all six Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs) in Iowa to ensure the effective delivery of services to both job seeker and employer customers of the state and local workforce systems.

IWD's WIOA team works closely with local area leaders and service providers in each Local Workforce Development Area to help ensure that federal workforce development funding is spent in the most efficient manner possible. (Federal funding flows through IWD to the local areas, where it is spent according to local priorities.)

The team also provides administrative oversight for a variety of programs designed to support job seekers facing specific challenges. These programs include:

WIOA Title I Services: Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs

Title I services are designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in today's labor market. These services also help employers connect with the skilled workers they need to compete in a global economy.

- The Adult Program serves individuals age 18 and older who are U.S. citizens or eligible residents and, when applicable, registered with Selective Service. Priority is given to individuals receiving public assistance, those with low incomes, individuals with basic skills deficiencies, and others facing barriers to employment.
- The Dislocated Worker Program supports individuals who meet the Adult Program criteria and have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, such as layoffs or business closures.
- The Youth Program assists individuals aged 14 to 24 who face significant barriers to education or employment, helping them move toward self-sufficiency.

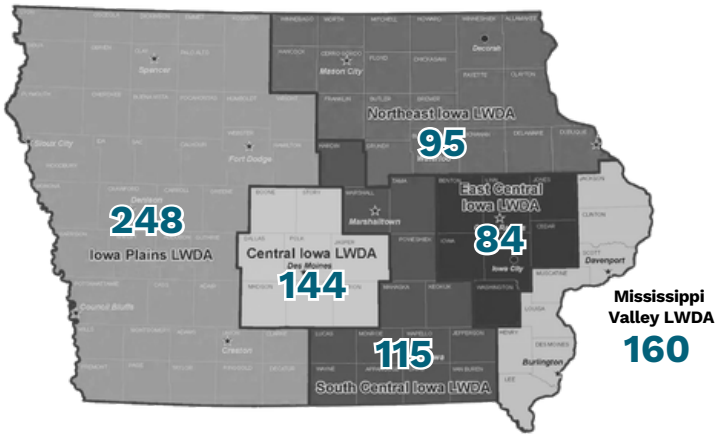
Title I career planners are located in each Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) and play a vital role in delivering these services, guiding individuals through career planning, training opportunities, and job placement.

Note on the following pages: The Mississippi Valley and South Central Iowa local workforce development areas merged to become the East Central Iowa Local Workforce Development Area effective July 1, 2026. They were two separate entities during the period covered by this annual report.

Workforce Services Division

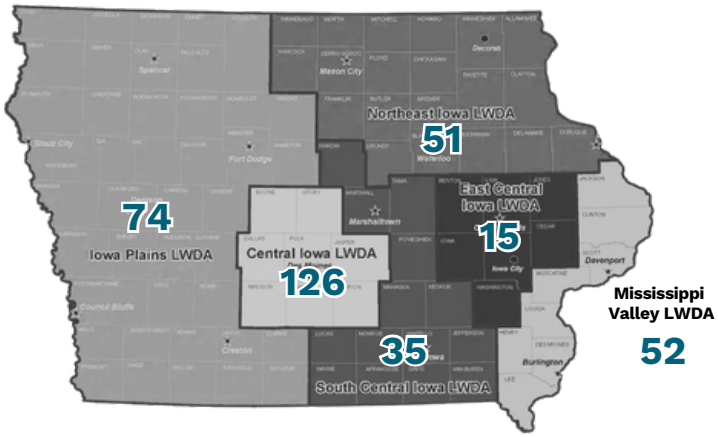
Customers Served WIOA Title I Adult Program by Local Workforce Development Area

Fiscal Year 2026/Program Year 2025 • Statewide Total = 846



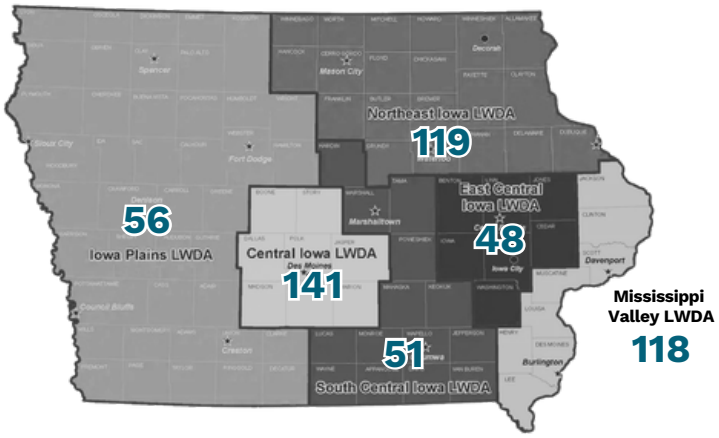
Customers Served WIOA Title I Dislocated Worker by Local Workforce Development Area

Fiscal Year 2026/Program Year 2025 • Statewide Total = 353



Customers Served WIOA Title I Youth by Local Workforce Development Area

Fiscal Year 2026/Program Year 2025 • Statewide Total = 533



Workforce Services Division

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker/Monitor Advocacy System

IWD's Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker (MSFW) program supports both agricultural employers and farm workers across the state. Iowa's peak season for MSFW services occurs in July with the arrival of migrant and H-2A workers—primarily from Texas, Georgia, South Africa, Mexico, and parts of Central and South America, as well as Ukraine.

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor, WFS has been working to more accurately assess the number of MSFWs in Iowa. In FY2026, outreach efforts reached 7,325 MSFWs, with 293 individuals choosing to become enrolled to receive individualized career services. When farm workers were unable to visit an *IowaWORKS* Center, outreach staff delivered services directly in the field, ensuring access to support in the most practical and responsive way.

Outreach workers serve as the primary point of contact for MSFWs - handling registrations, presentations, complaints, and referrals for additional services. They also focus on building strong relationships with both farm workers and agricultural employers.

Outreach workers stay in contact with farm workers throughout the year, answering questions about the Agricultural Recruitment System, a mechanism to help employers recruit qualified U.S. workers for seasonal agricultural work. Iowa continues to expand the use of ARS as a strategy to support employers while protecting the rights and interests of farm workers.

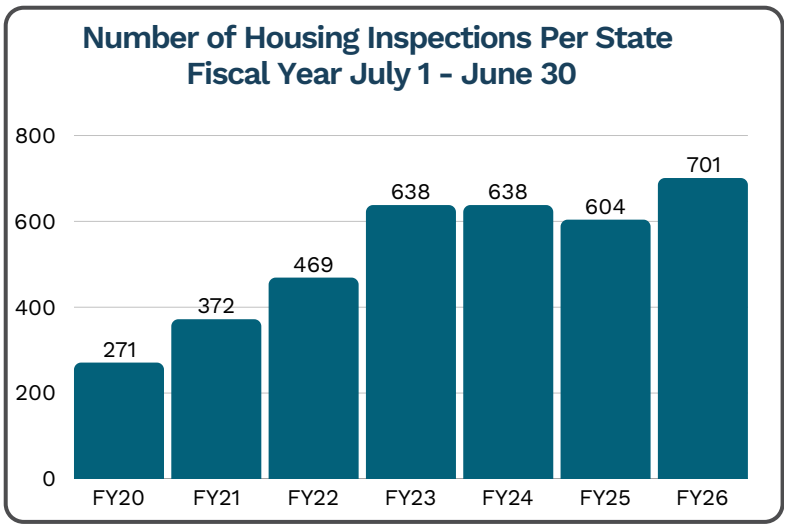
Foreign Labor Certification

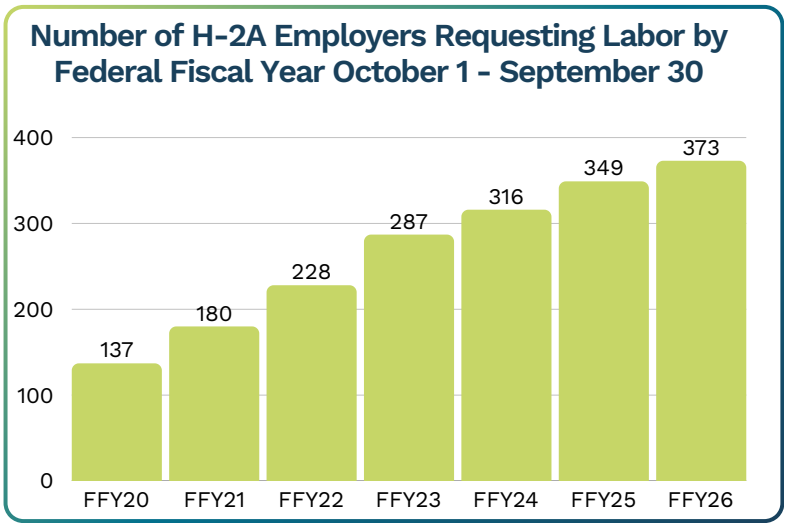
The H-2A and H-2B visa programs allow U.S. employers to hire foreign workers when there is a shortage of available domestic labor. The H-2A program applies to temporary or seasonal agricultural work, while the H-2B program covers non-agricultural employment. Employers must demonstrate that they have made good-faith efforts to recruit U.S. workers before being approved to hire foreign labor under either program.

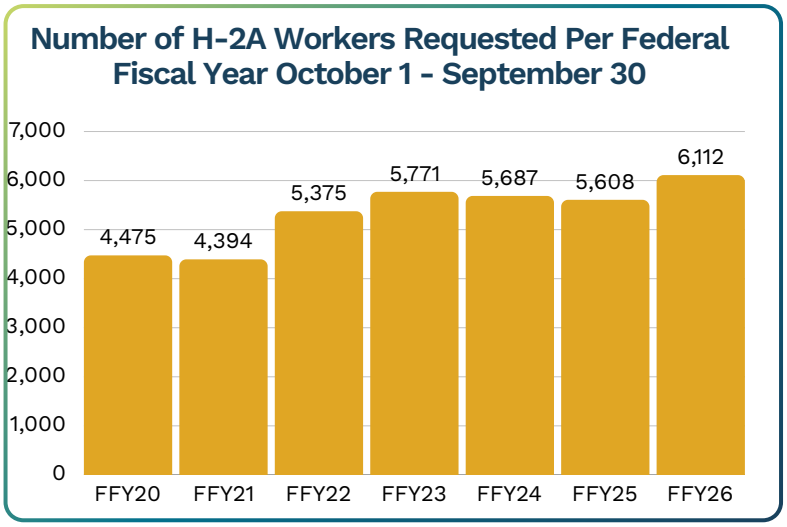
IWD plays a key role in both programs by supporting domestic recruitment efforts. For the H-2A program specifically, IWD, the State Workforce Agency, is responsible for conducting housing inspections to ensure compliance with federal standards. IWD conducts outreach to H-2A workers, as well.

In FY2026, the Office of Foreign Labor approved 386 H-2B applications from Iowa employers, covering a total of 4,222 workers, a more than 37 percent increase in the number of employers and a more than 41 percent increase in the number of workers. For the H-2A program, 606 applications were received and 701 housing inspections completed.

Workforce Services Division







Workforce Services Division

Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)

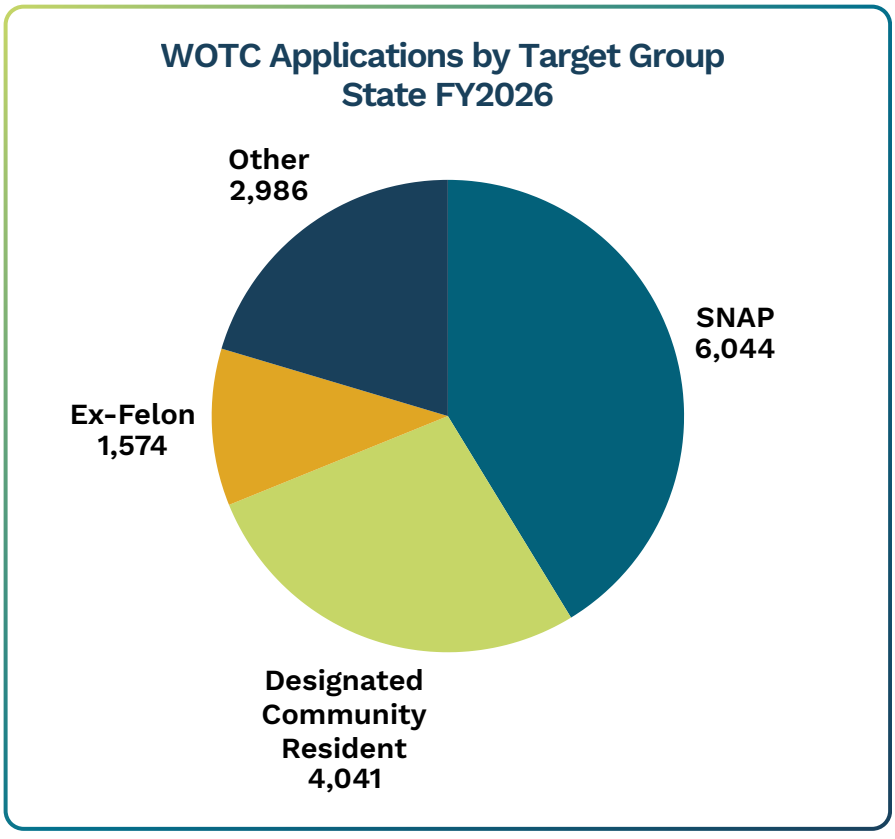
The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal incentive that encourages employers to hire and retain individuals from groups that face barriers to employment.

In Iowa, WOTC applications most often come from the following "target groups":

- Recipients of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- Designated Community Residents (adults ages 18–40 living in qualifying areas, such as Empowerment Zones or Rural Renewal Counties)
- Ex-felons
- Other eligible groups

In FY2026, IWD approved 14,645 WOTC applications. Employers may qualify for up to $9,600 in tax credits per eligible hire during the employee's first year of work. The actual credit amount depends on the individual's target group, total wages earned, and hours worked during that first year.

WOTC went into hiatus beginning January 1, 2026, due to lack of reauthorization at the federal level. Businesses who have had eligible hires in calendar year 2026 have continued to submit applications to IWD for tax credit. IWD has processed these applications but is not able to issue an official certification for the tax credit until a reauthorization occurs at the federal level.



Workforce Services Division

Adult Education and Literacy

The Adult Education and Literacy program serves individuals age 16 or older who are not enrolled in school and lack a high school diploma and/or the basic knowledge and skills necessary to function effectively in the workplace and their daily lives, including lacking English language skills. The overall goal of the program is to help these individuals/students compete in the labor market by preparing them to enter the workforce or further their studies through post-secondary education or training.

Individuals who receive Adult Basic Education (ABE) services may receive instruction in reading, language arts, literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies with a goal of obtaining their high school equivalency diploma (HSED). Instruction prepares them to take a battery of five HiSET® tests (reading, writing, math, science, and social studies). Upon successful completion of these tests, students are awarded an HSED by the Iowa Department of Education.

Individuals who receive English Language Acquisition (ELA) services receive instruction to improve English proficiency and understanding of United States civics and citizenship responsibilities. The largest group of program participants are individuals in the prime working ages of 25-44.

The Adult Education and Literacy program also serves employers by helping meet their talent needs. The program includes workforce preparation activities via classroom instruction on topics such as soft skills, digital literacy, and job readiness. Integrated Education and Training programs are developed in partnership with employers, combining the educational components with contextualized, industry-specific workforce training that is aligned to employer and labor market needs.

The Iowa Adult Education program is funded through a combination of state and federal investments designed to strengthen the state's workforce and expand access to career and educational opportunities for adult learners. In FY2026, the program received $5,500,000 from the Skilled Worker Job Creation Fund and an additional $500,000 from the state's General Fund. Together, these state appropriations were leveraged to meet the federal AEFLA match requirement, ensuring that state dollars directly support allowable AEFLA activities such as adult basic education, English language acquisition, and integrated education and training. Additional state funds can be spent on high school equivalency testing and associaited costs, thereby expanding the impact of state funds. The U.S. Department of Education awarded Iowa $4,514,362 in AELFA funds for FY2026, which enabled the state to enhance high-quality workforce preparation and literacy programming.



10,000+
Students in Adult Education and Literacy programs in FY2026



94.2%
Iowa Passing Rate on HiSET (Best Attempt) in FY2026

Workforce Services Division

Student Participation by Community College District

Adult Education and Literacy services are currently provided by Iowa's 15 community colleges. The below table shows the number of individuals enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE) and/or English Language Acquistion (ELA) classes along with the number of individuals who have successfully earned their High School Equivalency Diploma in FY2026.

Provider Name	Participants Served in FY2026 (ABE and ELA)	HSEDs earned in FY2026
Northeast Iowa CC	248	72
North Iowa Area CC	240	65
Iowa Lakes CC	139	16
Northwest CC	199	14
Iowa Central CC	818	144
Iowa Valley CCD	435	52
Hawkeye CC	806	90
Eastern Iowa CCD	956	204
Kirkwood CC	1,366	171
Des Moines Area CC	2,822	366
Western Iowa Tech CC	879	50
Iowa Western CC	368	38
Southwestern CC	144	42
Indian Hills CC	359	33
Southeastern CC	380	58

Workforce Services Division

PROMISE JOBS

PROMISE JOBS (Promoting Independence and Self-Sufficiency through Employment, Job Opportunities and Basic Skills) provides case management, employment, education, training, and supportive services to recipients of the Family Investment Program (FIP), Iowa's cash assistance program under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

IWD provides PROMISE JOBS services on behalf of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); families are co-enrolled into other programs offered through the American Job Centers (Iowa*WORKS*) as appropriate. PROMISE JOBS career planners help customers write a Family Investment Agreement (FIA) that outlines the steps each family will complete to gain self-sufficiency. They then work with the family to achieve each step.

In Fiscal Year 2026, PROMISE JOBS case managers located in Iowa*WORKS* centers statewide served an average of 1,846 families (2,068 Individual cases) per month. In addition to case assessment, major services provided included helping families with work readiness, employment, and disability-related services. Iowa's PROMISE JOBS program met or exceeded the federal reporting requirement for the "all family" and "two-parent" Work Participation Rate (WPR) in FY2026. Work participation rates are the primary reporting measures for TANF employment programs.

In September 2025, Iowa was selected as one of five states to participate in a six-year pilot project under the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Participating states are not required to meet federal Work Participation Rate (WPR) benchmarks during the pilot. Instead, states work with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to establish baseline performance data and negotiate short-term, immediate, and long-term benchmarks. The pilot project started in October 2025. Pilot states used the first year to finalize the pilot design, establish baseline performance data, and negotiate performance benchmarks. The pilot is testing new strategies to build evidence on whether performance metrics that promote accountability for work and self-sufficiency, rather than WPR, lead to strong employment outcomes and reduced dependency. Iowa's pilot is focusing on three steps: Assessment and Navigation, Employment and Family Focused Plan, and Job Retention and Employment Advancement.

Unemployment Insurance Division



Unemployment Insurance Division

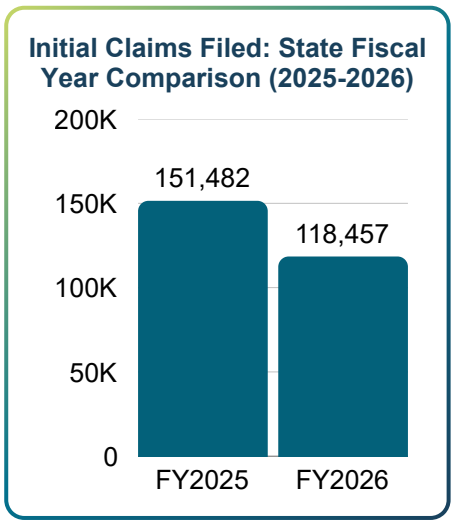
The Unemployment Insurance (UI) division is comprised of three bureaus: 1) UI Benefits 2) UI Tax 3) UI Integrity.

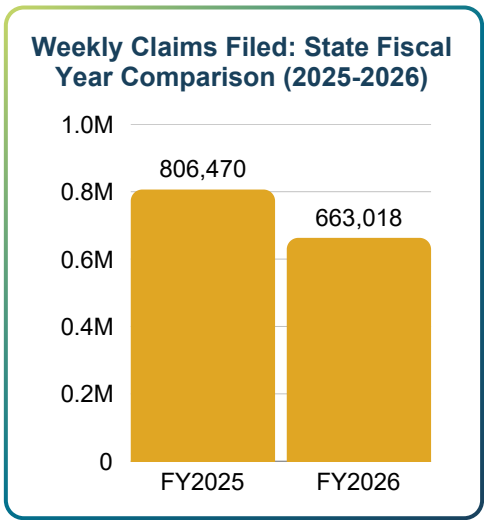
Each Bureau serves an important role in ensuring Iowa's Unemployment Benefits program is administered efficiently.

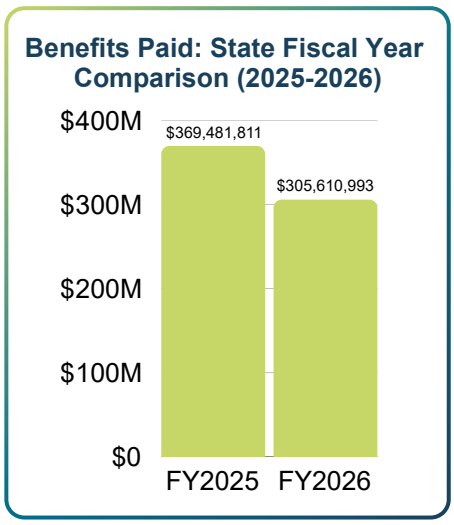
On June 3, 2025, IWD achieved a longstanding organizational goal by launching a modernized Unemployment Insurance computer system. The complicated, years-long project moved UI functions out of the state's mainframe computer system for the first time since 1973 and now allows unemployment claimants to conduct all aspects of the unemployment process online through IowaWorks.gov. IWD continued making improvements to the new system throughout FY2026.

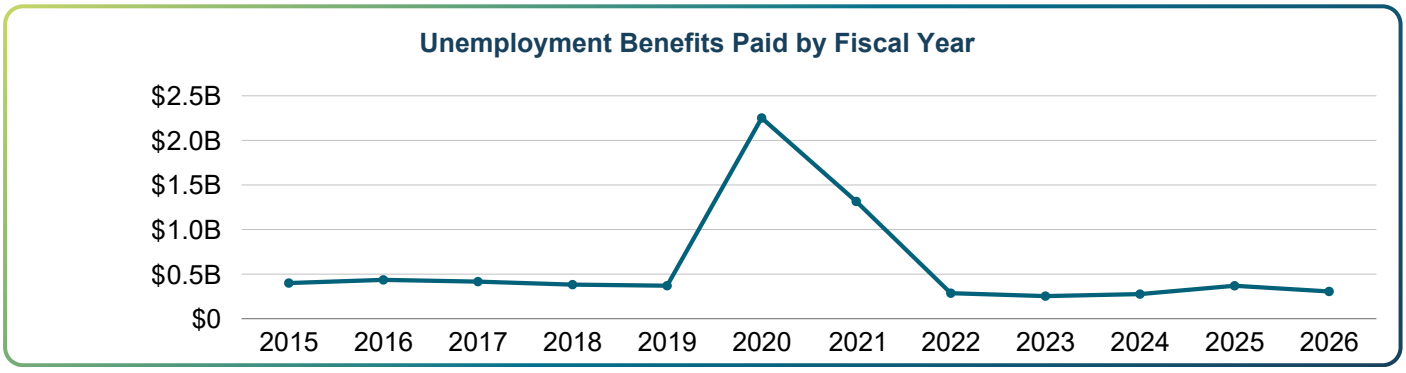
Under the old system, Iowans used multiple websites and accounts to complete the unemployment process and find work. The new system simplifies steps and improves the user experience while at the same time increasing efficiency for IWD by automating many processes that previously were performed manually. Once it is fully optimized, IWD expects the new system to speed up processing of unemployment claims and aid employers by allowing them to receive notifications and file responses to UI claims electronically.

UI Benefits Bureau









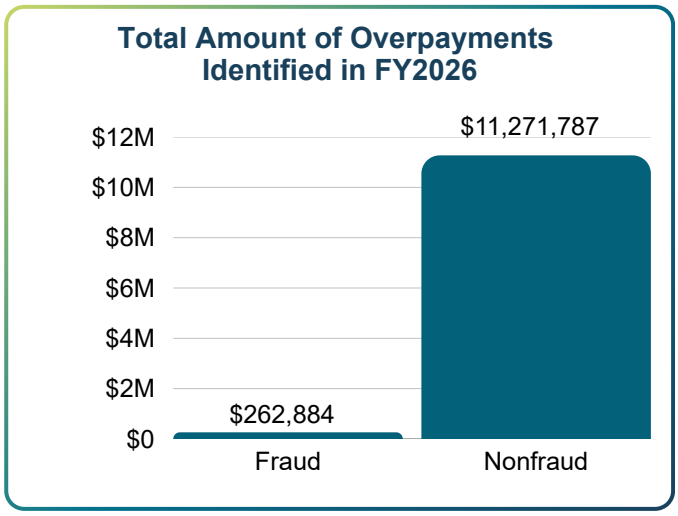
Unemployment Insurance Division

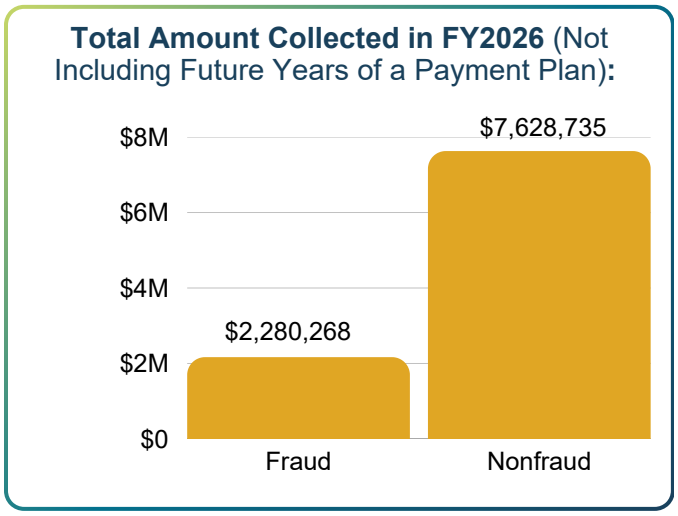
UI Integrity Bureau

About the Data:

"Overpayments" occur in cases where fraud is committed, mistakes occur in information shared with IWD, and/or when unemployment benefits are paid while employers and claimants are still litigating the merits of a claim. (If the employer wins, any benefits paid to that point must be paid back.)

"Fraud" claims involve someone knowingly providing false information, withholding vital facts, or using a stolen identity. Note: Fraudulent claims declined in FY2026 because 1) the IowaWORKS computer system now is identifying potential problems before money is paid out, and 2) a large number of previous COVID-era claims have now been reviewed and resolved.





ID.me

FY2026 was the second full year that IWD used ID.me for unemployment claimants to verify their identities when filing for a claim. (This security process had previously been performed by IWD staff.)

ID.me verifications and fraud prevention numbers, Fiscal Year 2026

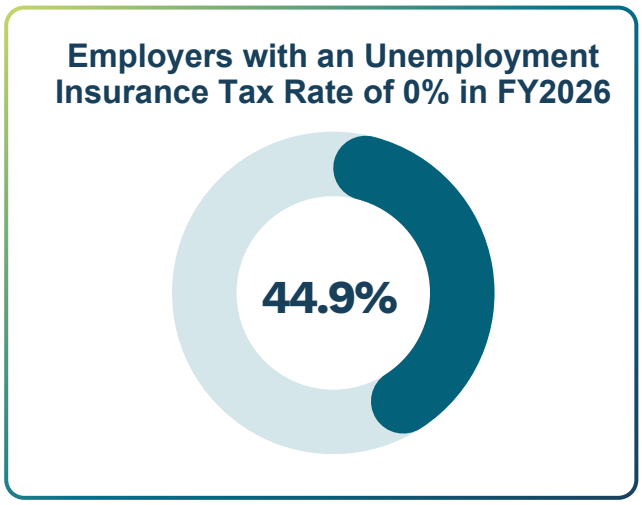
- **88,638** Initial claims verified
  - **186** confirmed fraud claims prevented.
  - **1,431** potential fraud claims prevented.
- **65,062** Weekly claims verified.
  - **91** confirmed fraud claims prevented.
  - **67** potential fraud claims prevented.

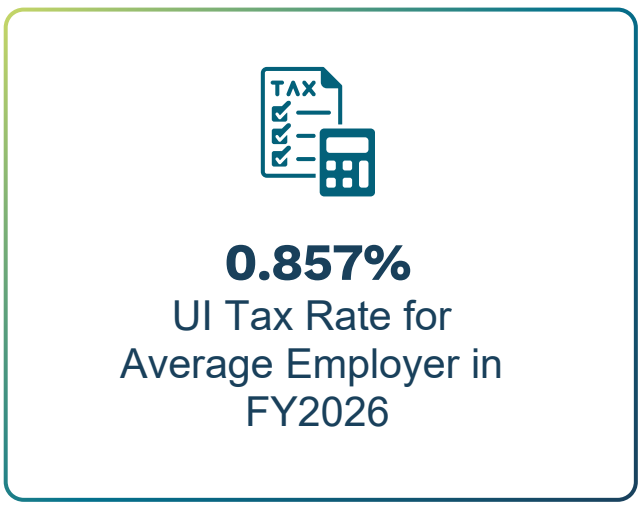
3.8 Minutes
Average Time For Individuals to Complete ID.me Process (Fiscal Year 2026)

91.2%
Percentage of Claimants Who Completed ID.me on The First Try

Unemployment Insurance Division

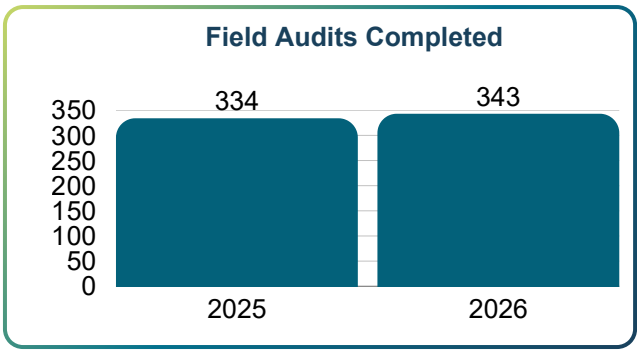
UI Tax Bureau

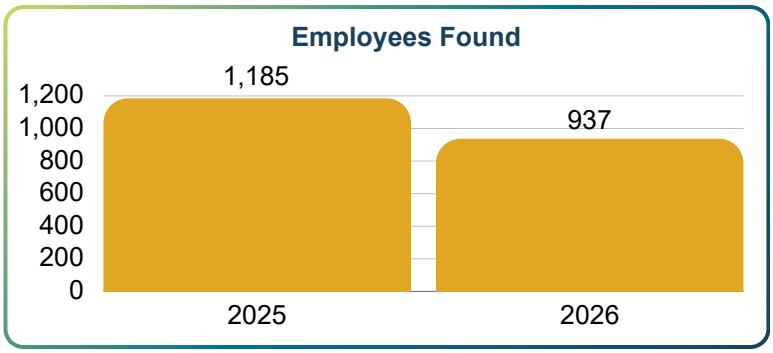


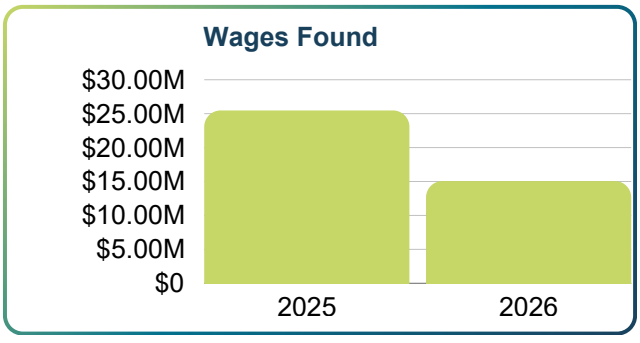


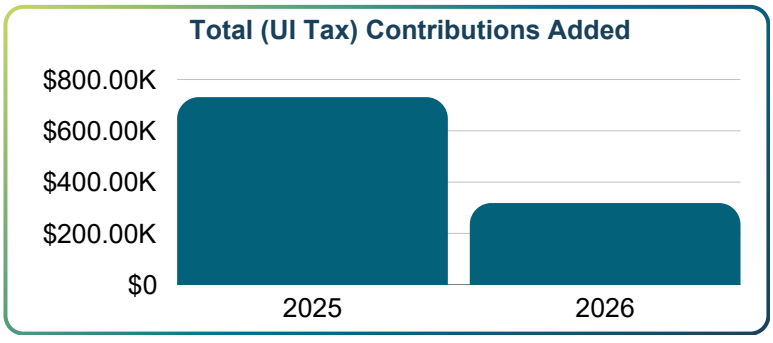
Note: Tax rates fell significantly beginning January 2026 as a result of Senate File 607, which was signed into law in June 2025. The law lowered the maximum unemployment insurance tax rate for employers and reduced the "taxable wage base" used to calculate what employers pay.

Employer Audit and Misclassification Unit









Labor Market Information

Labor Market Information

IWD's Labor Market Information (LMI) division gathers, analyzes, and publishes information on Iowa's economy and workforce.

Current and historic labor market data, reports, and data can be found on LMI's website, www.iowalmi.gov. This website was viewed more than 127,000 times in Fiscal Year 2026 – 14,000 more views than in FY2025. The LMI website is often the first resource accessed by economic leaders when profiling the movement in Iowa's labor force and the industries that are hiring. LMI-produced information is used by businesses, economic developers, educators, job seekers, government planners, policy makers, grant writers, legislators, researchers and students, as well as anyone else who wishes to make informed, data-driven decisions.



Nearly 14,000 of LMI's website visits in 2026 involved people accessing the Iowa Wage Report, Occupation Employment & Wage Statistics, while more than 13,000 viewed LMI's new Iowa's Career Explorer tool. Another 10,000 visits involved people accessing the division's labor market indicator information (unemployment rate, labor force participation, nonfarm jobs report).

The LMI division works in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on seven programs from which they receive the required funding, methodology, and oversight. BLS funds the production, analysis, and publication of data on the labor force, employment, unemployment, wages, earnings, industries and occupations.

The division is also responsible for other labor market products to measure labor availability, employment outcomes of education/training programs, unemployment insurance metrics, and other workforce-related research. In Fiscal Year 2026, our Laborshed Studies program completed 34 individual studies for Iowa communities and four regional areas. In addition to the individual reports, team members completed 161 individual and occupational labor availability reports to assist with business expansion and recruitment along with 72 custom Laborshed data requests.

Over the same period, the Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics program collected 4,601 surveys from employers that were used to produce ocupational employment estimates, wages, and salaries for 741 different occupations. Occupational reports were created for 19 different geographic areas: State, Local Workforce Development Areas, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and non-metropolitan areas (Balance of State).

LMI's Industry and Occupation Projections program produced short-term employment forecasts for 566 occupations, 89 detailed sub-sector industries for the state. Projections were produced at varying levels for Iowa's six local workforce development areas, plus two custom regions.

Labor Market Information

During FY2026, the LMI Division conducted 16 presentations covering numerous topics including community Laborshed Studies, career exploration tools, new informative dashboards, AI labor market impacts, and others. The audience for these presentations ranged from local economic development groups, American Job Center teams, teachers, career navigators, job seekers, and employers.

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics continues to release the monthly labor force estimates (employed, unemployed and unemployment rate) for Iowa, Iowa's counties, metros, and numerous other geographies. Iowa began the fiscal year with an unemployment rate of **3.5 percent in July 2025** and ended with a rate of **3.2 percent in June 2026**.

The Unemployment Statistics team continued to track the unemployment insurance claims, recipients, and benefits paid. Fiscal Year 2026 continued to see historically low levels of unemployment insurance claim activity. Claims levels exceeded FY2023 and FY2024 but were below that of FY2025. Those measures still ranked among the lowest over the last two decades, with an average unemployment insurance claim duration of 9.6 weeks for the 12 months ending June 2025.

More LMI programs and workforce data can be found at **www.iowalmi.gov**.



Disability Determination Services



Disability Determination Services

Iowa Disability Determination Services (DDS), a state agency that is funded through an agreement with the federal government, exists to provide accurate and timely decisions about disability claims filed with the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA).

Iowa DDS cleared 20,193 initial disability cases during Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (ending September 30, 2026) while decreasing the amount of time the division took to process an initial disability claim. Throughout FFY2026, Iowa DDS consistently was among the top five states for having the lowest processing time in the country:

- It took Iowa DDS an average of 76.9 days to process an initial disability claim in FFY2026, compared to a national average of 160 days.
- Iowa cleared more initial and reconsideration cases than it received in FFY2026. Processing time was 82.3 days for reconsiderations, compared to a national average of more than 221 days.
- The division cleared 101 percent of its Continuing Disability Review cases in FFY2026, surpassing one of the SSA's key program integrity workloads.

Iowa DDS maintained these standards while also adjudicating an additional 12,167 initial disability claims for the state of Louisiana.

Iowa DDS underwent a comprehensive agency evaluation conducted by SSA's Disability Adjudication Resource Team (DART) in FFY2026, which highlighted Iowa's best practices and proven strategies. Notably, Iowa DDS maintains an exceptionally low attrition rate of 2.7 percent and is recognized for its strong communication and transparency with stakeholders, as well as for its commitment to staff development and engagement, all while meeting production goals.

Iowa DDS was chosen as one of three states to assist SSA with testing of the AI Medical Summary tool. As a result of this testing, the AI Medical Summary tool is soon to be rolled out to the rest of the country by the end of calendar year 2026. Iowa has been recognized repeatedly for its adoption of technology and has multiple DDS staff contributing to national SSA workgroups, including Imagen, AI Medical Summary, the VAAT Cadre, Office of Quality's Request for Program Consultation panel, and the MPRO Cost Savings Workgroup, demonstrating leadership and collaboration at the national level.

In addition, the DDS Division Administrator was selected as a panelist at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine workshop, "Artificial Intelligence and the Medical Record in the Context of Social Security Disability Evaluations." SSA's Chief of Disability Adjudication recognized and expressed appreciation to the Division Administrator for her expertise and insights during the workshop.

The Iowa DDS was in the first group of DDS agencies in the country to roll-out SSA's AWS Connect telephone solution, thereby reducing phone costs by $84,353 during FFY2026. Iowa's feedback and staff coverage solutions have been used by subsequent DDS agencies where the system is being rolled out through the remainder of this calendar year.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services division of IWD exists to serve Iowans with disabilities by helping them prepare for, obtain, keep and advance in employment.

VR has been a part of IWD since 2023, when state government agencies were aligned to create efficiencies and help agencies with similar missions work more closely together. Since then, VR staff have been collaborating closely with the Iowa*WORKS* team to expand the reach of VR services and streamline the process for helping Iowans with disabilities find employment.

VR serves Iowans by providing individualized services to eligible individuals with disabilities based on a unique individualized plan for employment. Our twin goals are 1) to assist job candidates in finding employment that meets their needs and interests, and 2) to assist with meeting the workforce needs of our business partners by helping them access this valuable pool of potential workers.

To accomplish these goals, VR collaborates with a variety of entities, such as:

- Job candidates
- Business partners
- Community providers
- School districts
- Post-secondary training institutions
- One-stop core partners, including other divisions of IWD.



$36,225,574
Funding in Program Year 2025/Fiscal Year 2026



78.7%
Percentage From Federal Sources



1,586
Iowans with Disabilities Who Found Employment Last Program Year



$42.8 Million
Total Estimated Wages Earned by Iowans with Disabilities Who Found Employment Last Year

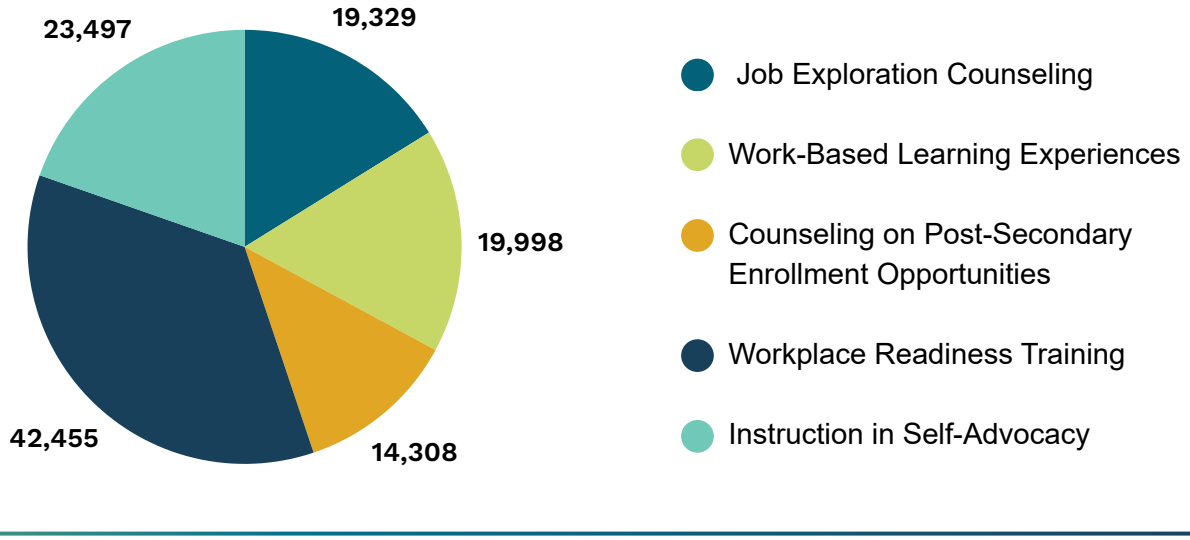
Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division

Services for Students with Disabilities

Pre-Employment Transition Services are activities for students with disabilities (between the ages of 14 and 21) that provide an early start at job exploration and assist with making decisions about post-secondary education or employment. In FY2026 (Plan Year 2025), VR staff spent a total of 45,232 hours planning coordinating, and delivering Pre-ETS services:

- Job Exploration Counseling allows students to learn about different career options and the work skills necessary to be successful.
- Work-Based Learning activities connect students to real-life work activities and future career options.
- Counseling on Opportunities provides information and guidance on available options for post-secondary education and training.
- Workplace Readiness Training helps develop employability skills, social skills, and independent living skills.
- Instruction in Self-Advocacy teaches self-advocacy skills that will be needed in education, work, and community settings.

FY2026: Total Number of Services Provided = 119,587



15,179
Students Served Across All Schools

14,831
Estimated Total Students Served by 2026 Summer Programs

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division

Pre-ETS Summer Programs

Each summer, VR hosts summer programs around the state where students who are preparing to enter the workforce can explore various work settings and the skills they might need to become workers. Among other things in 2026, groups of students across the state visited a healthcare simulation center and a radiology classroom, toured a supermarket, groomed dogs, packed food at Meals of the Heartland, explored retail stores and a radio station, learned how to style mannequin heads at a cosmetology school, and experimented with drilling into drywall.

For more information, visit IWD's Pre-Employment Transition Services web page or watch this video on Career Pathways for Students with Disabilities.

















Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division

Helping Students Find Careers
Support for post-secondary training programs (including four-year college or university training and junior or community college training) is traditionally one of the top expense items for the VR division.

220 Total Cases Closed (Education/Training Completed) in FY2026

The **Transition Alliance** Program is a joint project between VR and Iowa community school districts. Iowa youth with disabilities receive enhanced services (on top of the services that otherwise would be supplied by the local school district) that are designed to assist students with successfully obtaining competitive integrated employment. Costs of the program are split between Vocational Rehabilitation and the school districts.

Services can include:

- Individualized Job Exploration Counseling
- Work-Based Learning Experiences
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Post-Secondary Training Opportunities
- Self-Advocacy Instruction
- Job Placement
- Independent Living Skills

31 TAP Programs working with 43 School Districts

240 Successful Closures (Competitive Integrated Employment Obtained) of TAP Cases in FY 2026)



Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division

Services for Adults with Disabilities

Everyone who receives services from VR works with a counselor to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Depending on this plan, eligible Iowans may access a variety of services from Vocational Rehabilitation and/or partner agencies, such as:

- Assessment
- Individualized Job Exploration Counseling
- Work-Based Learning Experiences
- Connection to Education or Training
- Rehabilitation Technology
- Supported Employment
- Customized Employment
- Self-Employment Assistance
- Benefits Planning
- Interpreter Services

The process includes tapping into resources such as:

- Iowa*WORKS* – Jobs search assistance, referral to training
- Community Rehabilitation Programs – Partner with VR for employment services
- Iowa State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) – Advises VR on quality and performance of the division's programming.
- Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council, Iowa APSE, and other advocacy organizations
- Other state agencies and core partners

Community Rehabilitation Programs

VR services provides job placement and retention services for individuals with significant disabilities by working with a variety of Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) providers.

Interaction between the division and the providers is key to providing proper support for Iowans attempting to enter the workforce. In FY2026, VR continued to work on strengthening partnerships with providers through communication, targeted training, in-person visits, and virtual resources.

Expanding Provider Networks

In addition to supporting traditional CRPs, VR has maintained its commitment to an alternative service delivery model by enabling qualified individuals to also serve as Independent Providers (IPs). VR continues to focus on maintaining strong partnerships with partners to expand its network. We finished the year with 62 supported employment service provider contracts.

VR offers three incentives to address challenges faced by CRP providers:

- **Expanded Area Incentive (EAI):** Mileage reimbursement for services outside coverage areas.
- **Native Language Incentive (NLI):** Payment for services delivered in a candidate's preferred language.
- **Business Partnership Incentive (BPI):** Reward for high-quality services leading to job placement.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division

FFY2026 Service Data

FFY	Amount Expended to CRPs	Number of Job Candidates with CRP Services
2026	$2,103,735	1,277
2025	$4,003,675	1,526
2024	$3,180,417	1,373
2023	$2,992.070	1,482
2022	$2,852,171	1,472
2021	$2,751,318	1,611
2020	$2,274,001	1,689
2019	$3,738,006	2,269
2018	$3,754,427	2,228
2017	$3,363,602	2,010
2016	$2,961,365	1,871
2015	$2,836,035	1,432

Service Data Notes

VR observed a continued decline in adult services in FFY2026, largely due to the increased emphasis on transition and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Other notable results included:

- Successful supported employment outcomes in cases involving CRPs fell from 278 to 272. At the same time, the average wage rose from $12.37 to $12.77, reflecting improved job quality.
- VR has continued supporting CRP providers by offering diverse training formats and sharing provider performance data to promote transparency and quality improvement. Data reporting expanded to include metrics such as duration in supported employment, rehabilitation rate, hours worked, and wages earned, aligning with federal standards.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division

Ongoing Efforts

Alignment

As a Division within IWD, VR uses its unique position to leverage strong partnerships with other core WIOA programs — including Title I workforce programs, Title II adult education, and Title III Wagner-Peyser employment services. This alignment allows for shared strategic planning, coordinated service delivery, and streamlined access to employment and training resources for individuals with disabilities. By collaborating across WIOA Titles, VR programs can enhance referral pathways, integrate career and skills training opportunities, reduce duplication of effort, and improve outcomes through unified employer engagement and sector-based strategies. Together, partnerships across programs strengthen the state's overall workforce system and ensure that individuals with disabilities have equitable access to high-quality, career-focused services.

- VR staff is committed to co-enrolling job candidates into any other workforce program that provides the assistance that an individual candidate needs. In the third quarter of 2026, the number of people co-enrolled into other programs funded by WIOA (the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) grew from 401 to 1,663, a 314.7 percent increase compared to the same period in 2025.
- VR and Iowa*WORKS* staff created the Pathways to Success workshop series to offer VR job candidates a streamlined set of supports focused on building confidence, essential soft skills, effective job search strategies, and strong interviewing techniques. Each session introduces key IowaWORKS resources while reinforcing practical, workforce-ready skills. The workshops reduce duplication among partners and provide job seekers with coordinated, enhanced support across the workforce system.

Core 4

Core 4 is a partnership between VR and other programs available through IWD and the Iowa*WORKS* job centers – including Wagner-Peyser, Business Engagement, and Title I programs. The shared goal is to assist Vocational Rehabilitation job candidates in moving from "work ready" to "employed" more quickly, aiming at 120 days or less.

Core 4 uses the Integrated Resource Team (IRT) model to coordinate services and supports for the job candidate. Team members collaborate with Vocational Rehabilitation counselors to provide job placement services. The team communicates regularly to outline expectations, discuss programs, and address barriers to job placement and job retention.

VR job candidates are referred to Core 4 if they:

- Have addressed all barriers to employment (ex: childcare, transportation, accommodations);
- Have a resume;
- Have a specific individualized plan for employment goal;
- Have completed the training/services and/or have the skills to achieve the goal; and
- Want to work at least 20 hours per week and are not currently working full time.

Core 4 program benefits include a faster, more coordinated job search; frequent meetings to increase employment momentum; early employer engagement; a reduction in duplication between Titles; and access to additional supports and programs.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division

Self-Employment Program

The VR Self-Employment program is designed to help individuals with disabilities achieve self-sufficiency and work at their optimum level by starting or expanding a business. The program created 51 businesses owners last year and 297 over the last five years.

Iowa employs one Self-Employment Counselor who provides one-on-one assistance to VR staff and customers in the Self-Employment program throughout the state. This assistance starts with initial business planning and continues through successful case closure.

A chief focus is on providing technical assistance to developing and growing businesses. This may include paying for consultants with expertise in the areas of legal fee set-up, accounting set-up, website development, and/or graphic design.

Iowa Blueprint for Change

The Iowa Blueprint for Change (IBC) project was developed with an overarching goal of advancing and improving systems so that Iowans with disabilities have opportunities for Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) that lead to long-term economic security. The project, which is funded by a five-year, $13.8 million federal grant awarded in 2022, focuses on aligning systems, modernizing data infrastructure, and fostering collaboration among partners to transform how employment services are delivered in Iowa.

To achieve this goal, the project established six core objectives:

1. Maintain a collective of diverse stakeholders to develop and implement models for system change that can support transition from subminimum wage to CIE;
2. Implement and maintain a Registered Apprenticeship (RA) program for Direct Support Employment Specialists while developing a quality Pre-Apprenticeship pathway in collaboration with schools and post-secondary institutions;
3. Increase the delivery of early transition services to provide uninterrupted support toward CIE for youth with disabilities;
4. Promote greater access to CIE that fosters economic stability;
5. Align public policies, funding, and practices to make CIE the first and preferred outcome for all Iowans with disabilities while improving interagency collaboration; and
6. Establish a modernized IVRS case management system to enhance communication with participants and strengthen coordination with Community Rehabilitation Providers.

Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)

Work on a full-time or part-time basis where an employee is compensated comparably to employees without disabilities performing similar duties, at a location where the employee can interact with individuals without disabilities, and he or she can receive opportunities for advancement similar to other employees without disabilities in similar positions.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Division

VR made substantial progress toward these objectives in Federal Fiscal Year 2026. The agency operates under the collective impact model, strengthening alignment between Customized Employment (CE), Individual Placement and Support (IPS), and transition workstreams. To sustain collective impact, Health and Human Services took over Governance of the Employment First efforts and offers regular townhalls to focus on employment for individuals with disabilities.

VR continues to lead efforts for the various contracts and services under the Iowa Blueprint for Change grant. The Direct Support Professional Registered Apprenticeship was launched successfully, enrolling its first participant in August 2026.

Demand for CIE continued to increase across the project. CE and IPS enrollments rose by approximately 40 percent and 35 percent, respectively, since baseline in 2024. Stakeholder surveys indicated a cultural shift toward higher expectations for employment, with 57 percent of VR counselors reporting greater client motivation to pursue CIE. Mentoring systems for CE and IPS were expanded through partnerships with Griffin-Hammis Associates and the Center for Excellence in Behavioral Health, and three employment specialists began the process of becoming CE mentors, further enhancing statewide workforce capacity.

VR also took significant steps toward data modernization by beginning migration from the legacy IRSS system to inFormed (Libera), a modern case management system that will improve accuracy, transparency, and communication with community providers. Phase I implementation was scheduled for October 2026. The Center for Evaluation and Assessment (CEA) continued to lead the project evaluation and learning activities, conducting statewide surveys, focus groups, and data analysis to assess fidelity and impact. Evaluation results show improved collaboration among partners, better clarity around fidelity expectations, and enhanced communication across agencies. The team also completed a Day Habilitation focus group series that informed the development of the first “Micro-Blueprint” for transitioning from day programs to CIE.

The IBC demonstrated measurable progress in FFY2026 toward creating a sustainable and replicable model for transitioning individuals with disabilities to Competitive Integrated Employment. Through collective impact, strategic partnerships, and modernized infrastructure, Iowa continues to advance Employment First principles and set a national example for systems change that promotes inclusion, self-sufficiency, and economic opportunity for all Iowans with disabilities. As we prepare to begin the final year of the five-year grant, focus will shift to closeout activities and sustainability of services implemented through the grant initiatives.



272
Participants

45
Successful Placements



289
Youth Contacted



125
Youth Enrolled



171
Adults Contacted



147
Adults Enrolled

Business Engagement



Business Engagement

Business Engagement Consultant Team

IWD's Business Engagement Division is the agency's "one-stop shop" for providing individualized assistance to employers. Using a team of Business Engagement Consultants (BECs) working throughout the state, the division works proactively to connect with employers – from large to small, both urban and rural – and be their resource for workforce needs. This approach involves:

- Guiding employers seeking to develop, expand and/or retain their workforce. BECs work in partnership among multiple stakeholders within the business, including leadership, operations managers and human resource professionals.
- Educating companies on programs and grants available to them, as well as resources available within IWD, their local American Job Center (Iowa*WORKS* office), and their Local Workforce Development Board.
- Collaborating with economic development organizations and chambers to support coordinated business and workforce initiatives.

In FY2026, Business Engagement Consultants (BECs):

- Assisted 5,409 employers throughout the state.
- Provided 22,793 solutions to aid employers with recruitment, strategic planning, training, and other workforce opportunities.
- Served 3,444 new businesses by increasing awareness of resources.
- Assisted 665 employers with Work-based Learning conversations.

Examples of How BECs Partner with Employers:

Story #1: *A Canadian employer moved production to the US with a plan to eventually hire 250 workers in Northeast Iowa. Once confidentiality restrictions were lifted, the local BEC shared details through IowaWORKS channels, enabling career planners to immediately inform job seekers.*

The recruitment strategies implemented included:

- *Posting job openings on IowaWorks.gov*
- *Creating and distributing a hiring flyer*
- *Promoting opportunities on social media*
- *Generating significant media coverage, including radio and KWWL-TV news segments, by announcing the openings through a press release issued by IWD.*
- *Organizing a hiring event at the local Iowa*WORKS *office (one that experienced such high attendance that staff extended the event through the end of the day).*

A total of 68 job candidates visited the IowaWORKS office in early March to pursue opportunities with this employer, resulting in 30 on-site interviews.

Business Engagement staff also helped the employer coordinate with the local community college so required documentation for the 260E training grant could be submitted before a deadline. This successfully secured significant dollars for training.

Business Engagement



Story #2: *John Sheehan, District Team Leader for Ollie's Bargain Outlet, contacted BEC Brenda Noe about a new store planned for Ottumwa. Noe discussed the available hiring and recruitment services, and a hiring event was scheduled for January 26-30 at the local IowaWORKS office.*

Noe shared a flyer about the event with IowaWORKS staff and partners and promoted it during weekly business meetings. It also was posted to the Ottumwa IowaWORKS Facebook page.

At the end of January, Career Planners welcomed each job seeker to the hiring event, maintained daily sign-in sheets and assisted those who needed help with applications. They then escorted candidates to interviews with Sheehan and two members of his team. By Thursday of the hiring week, 141 individuals had been interviewed, resulting in 79 job offers. The Ollie's team decided it had gone so well that they did not need to return on Friday.

*Sheehan later was asked to give Noe feedback on the Ottumwa event: "I talked to my supervisor last night, and my request was—**I need one of you in every town!**"*

Iowa Office of Apprenticeship

The Iowa Office of Apprenticeship (IOA) exists as a State Apprenticeship Agency. This designation, which was granted by U.S. Department of Labor on June 27, 2024, allows the IOA to support more than 955 Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programs and gives it responsibility for safeguarding the training, well-being, and career progression of more than 9,200 active apprentices across the state.

During FY2026, the IOA advanced the statewide RA system by growing apprenticeship programs, developing strategic partnerships, performing ongoing system modernization, coordinating case management, administering grants, and conducting compliance and oversight for programs.

Growing Apprenticeships, Case Management, Training, and Technical Assistance

IOA continuously supported sponsors and partners in FY2026 by answering questions, guiding program development, offering regular orientations and office hours for consultation, and creating materials that improved stakeholder understanding of apprenticeship opportunities.

External Relations and Strategic Partnerships

IOA expanded relationships with education institutions, workforce agencies, employers, and national apprenticeship partners. This occurred through coordinated outreach, participation in statewide events, youth apprenticeship exploration, and collaboration with other states to support system alignment.

Business Engagement

Systems Development, Process Improvement, and Data Analysis
The team continued to modernize RA systems by improving data accuracy, refining tracking mechanisms, performing routine analysis of operational trends, and updating tools and processes to make registration and compliance operations more efficient. These efforts reinforced our creation of a more responsive and data-driven statewide RA infrastructure.

Grants and Financial Support
The office oversaw grant resources by monitoring expenditures, managing budgets, and improving processes for distributing state apprenticeship funds, thereby ensuring responsible stewardship and alignment with state priorities.

Compliance, Monitoring, and Quality Assurance
IOA strengthened the quality of RA programs by updating policies, refining registration and intake processes, reviewing program changes, and aligning state procedures with federal standards and legislative requirements.

Apprenticeship Grants and Financial Support
The IOA manages six individual grants used to support RA program sponsors. These state and federal investments help sponsors sustain existing programs while also developing and expanding pathways in emerging and non-traditional occupations.

New State Grants Awarded in FY2026
The IOA awarded two new state-funded grants during Fiscal Year 2026 to expand Registered Apprenticeship opportunities across Iowa:

- 84E – Iowa Apprenticeship Act
  - Annual state funding: $3 million
  - FY2026 awards: $2.94 million distributed to 58 eligible RA sponsors
- 84F – Iowa Registered Apprenticeship Development Grant
  - Annual state funding: $760,000
  - FY2026 awards: $317,200 distributed to 13 eligible RA sponsors

Ongoing Multi-Year Grant Management
In addition to new awards, the IOA continued administering and reimbursing previously awarded multi-year grants:

- More than $1.8 million in state funding was disbursed to prior 84E grantees/RA sponsors.
- More than $330,000 in state funding was disbursed to prior 84F grantees/RA sponsors.

Business Engagement

Federal Grant Distribution

The IOA also continued management and distribution of federal funds supporting large-scale RA initiatives:

- Teacher & Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship (TPRA 1.0 and TPRA 2.0)
  - More than $5 million in federal funding distributed to active RA sponsors.
  - At the end of FY2026, there were 106 apprentices actively participating and 40 apprentices had completed their training.
- Iowa Health Careers (IHC 1.0 and IHC 2.0)
  - More than $2 million in federal funding distributed to active RA sponsors.
  - At the end of FY2026, there were 370 apprentices actively participating, and 195 apprentices had completed their training.

Iowa Apprenticeship Council

The Iowa Apprenticeship Council held quarterly meetings throughout FY2026 in September, January, March and June. Per Iowa Code 84D.5, the council is a five-member, governor-appointed board tasked with supporting the functions of the IOA. This includes:

- Advising the IOA regarding the duties set forth in state law.
- Providing community outreach and education regarding the benefits of apprenticeship.

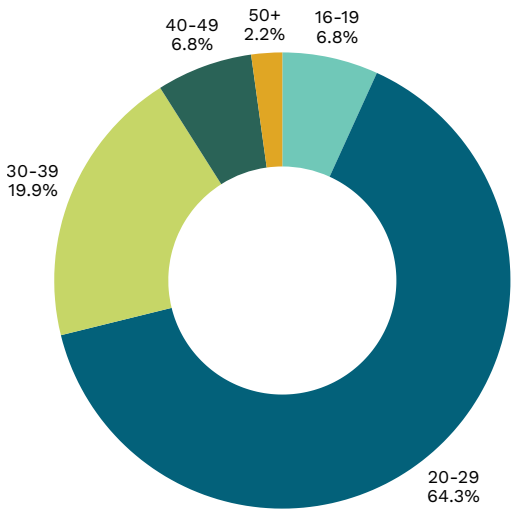
Council members come from several key areas that collectively help create Iowa's workforce pipeline, including high schools, building and trades, and other high-demand industries.

- Tim Felderman, Hampton-Dumont Community School District (Chair)
- Trevor Stevens, Des Moines Electrical Apprenticeship
- Ginny Shindelar, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Iowa
- Jeremy Lindquist, Iowa Pipe Trades & HVAC Training Institute
- Kolton Hewlett, Cass Health

960	**TOTAL ACTIVE REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS (END OF FY2026)**
104	**NEW RA PROGRAMS DEVELOPED AND REGISTERED (END OF FY2026)**
73	**NEW OCCUPATIONS ADDED DURING FISCAL YEAR**
9,258	**TOTAL ACTIVE APPRENTICES (AS OF END OF FY2026)**
3,504	**NEW APPRENTICES WHO ONBOARDED DURING FY2026**
1,984	**NUMBER OF APPRENTICES WHO COMPLETED DURING FISCAL YEAR**
94	**NUMBER OF COUNTIES WITH APPRENTICES**

Business Engagement

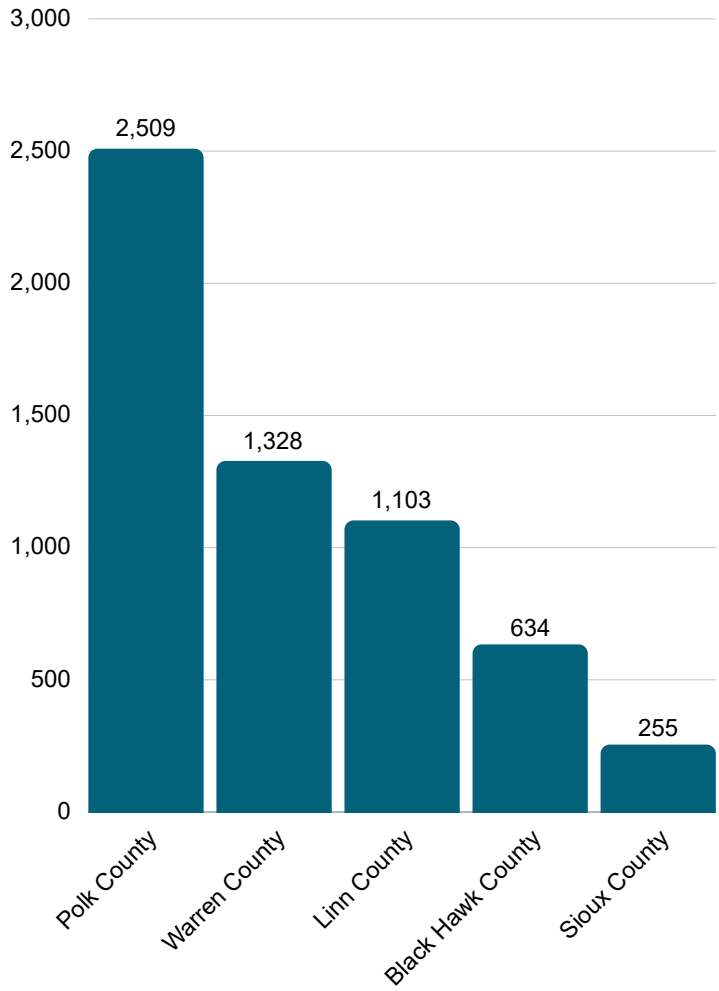
Age of Apprentices Participating



Top Occupations for Apprentices (Out of 168 Distinct Occupational Titles):

- Electrician
- Line Maintainer
- Plumber
- Heating & Air Conditioner Install/Service
- Carpenter

Where are apprentices located?



Business Engagement

Work-Based Learning

Work-based learning (WBL) is an essential tool for developing Iowa's future workforce. WBL transforms learning by connecting the classroom to hands-on, real-world experiences. Through school-business partnerships, WBL prepares young Iowans for success in a dynamic economy. Work-based learning typically involves experiences in the following programs:

- Registered Apprenticeships
- Quality Pre-Apprenticeships
- Internships and similar student-learner programs
- Authentic project-based learning with employers
- School-based enterprises
- Industry-recognized credentials earned through simulated work experiences

These experiences open a world of possibilities both for adults looking for careers and for high school students – whether the students' plans after graduation include going directly into the workforce, to college or into the military. In partnership with the Iowa Department of Education (DOE), IWD is committed to expanding these opportunities to benefit our future workforce.

For Examples of How WBL Works: Visit the IWD website and read about Team Kline. Or, watch the video below produced by IWD that highlights a successful WBL healthcare program in Cass County.



Youth Waivers

Iowa's Youth Employment Law provides Iowa employers with the opportunity to seek a waiver for 16- and 17-year-olds to participate in approved WBL or work-related programs involving certain hazardous work activities under certain conditions. In FY2026, the application website and process' were reviewed and updated to improve clarity for employers. There are two separate paths, one for employers working with school programs and one for employers not working with school programs. IWD received two completed employer-led waiver applications and one completed employer-led application for a waiver renewal. These three applications were approved with certain conditions. IWD also developed a WBL agreement/permission form for use by employers for programs where they are working in partnership with school districts to provide work-based learning opportunities

Business Engagement

Business Engagement Employer Training Programs

The **Iowa Industrial New Jobs Training Program (260E)** uses bonding as a mechanism to support businesses creating new positions who are seeking help with new employee training.

- Number of Bonds Sold in FY2026: 9
- Total Proceeds: $25,425,000
- 260E Training Agreements Funded by Bonds: 57
- Number of New Jobs Pledged in 260E Training Agreements Funded in FY2026: 2,212

  Of the current open projects:
  - Expansions of Existing Businesses: 1,955 (83.7%)
  - New-to-Iowa Businesses: 381 (16.3%)
  - Total Open Projects: 2,336

The **Iowa Jobs Training Program (260F)** provides training services to existing employees of eligible businesses through forgivable loans.

- Number of Loans Awarded in FY2026: 215
- Number of Employers Receiving Awards: 193
- Number of Employees Planned to be Trained Over the Next 2-3 Years Under These Projects: 5,151

The **Accelerated Career Education (ACE) Program (260G)** was created to help develop a workforce pool of individuals skilled in the occupations most needed by Iowa businesses. Through tax credits, it helps Iowa community colleges expand current training programs or establish new programs for these occupations. Colleges with 260G agreements in place with Iowa businesses for FY2026 supported:

- 1,127 sponsored positions
- 72 participating businesses

The **STEM Internship Program** provides grants to Iowa employers for internship programs in STEM for college juniors and seniors with a similar goal of transitioning interns to full-time employment in the state.



66
Total Employer Awards in FY2026



$326,337
Total STEM Expenditures



88
Total Interns/Internships Reimbursed

Finance



Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY DIVISION

The following information was compiled by Iowa Workforce Development's Finance Department.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
15B / 15C	$2,280,000	$2,407,707
CARES ACT, EMPLOYER INNOVATION GRANT	$ -	$ -
CARES ACT, REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP GRANT	$ -	$ -
CARES ACT, INVESTIGATIONS & RECOVERY BUREAU	$3,107,185	$ 190,296
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE IWD BOARD	$ 27,753	$ 24,420
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, INDIRECT COST	$1,598,840	$1,438,676
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 866,775	$ 281,235
FUTURE READY IOWA, APPROPRIATION	$ -	$ -
FUTURE READY IOWA, CHILD CARE CHALLENGE	$ -	$ -
FUTURE READY IOWA, CHILD CARE CHALLENGE - DHS	$ -	$ -
ARPA SLFRF, CHILD CARE CHALLENGE	$6,026,416	$ -
ARPA SLFRF, IOWA HEALTHCARE PIPELINE	$ 24,248	$ 793,188
FUTURE READY IOWA, EMPLOYER INNOVATION	$ -	$ -
FUTURE READY IOWA, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 104,451	$ 9,639
HOME BASE IOWA, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 188,389	$ 59,280
SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, ARPA SLFRF	$1,683,621	$ -
SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, APPROPRIATION	$ 638,735	$197.337
SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ -	$ -
TEACHER PARAEDUCATOR	$ -	$5,270,869
TRPA 1.0 ADMIN COSTS, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ -	$ 32,928
Totals	**$16,546,413**	**$10,705,574**

COMMUNICATIONS	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
COMMUNICATIONS, ARPA SLFRF	$ 325,000	$-
COMMUNICATIONS, INDIRECT COST	$ 914,566	$ 721,540
COMMUNICATIONS, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 38,012	$ 55,337
COMMUNICATIONS, APPRENTICESHIP / ACCELERATOR GRANT	$-	$-
Totals	**$1,277,578**	**$ 776,877**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, INDIRECT	$ 579,814	$ 514,164
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, COST POOL	$ 27,030	$ 73,087
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, I/3 STATE APPROPRIATION	$ 228,822	$ 228,822
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, INDIRECT	$ 2,474,640	$ 3,415,495
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 66,875	$ 65,718
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, TRADE ACT	$ 10,473	$ 1,190
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT	$ 414,283	$ 489,990
INFRASTRUCTURE 150 DES MOINES ST, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 22,377	$ 10,883
OVERHEAD, INDIRECT	$ 1,295,283	$ 879,679
OVERHEAD, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 1,000	$ 1,075
PREMISES, INDIRECT	$ 847,866	$ 598,403
PERSONNEL SERVICES, INDIRECT	$ 570,280	$ 854,560
PRINTING, INDIRECT	$ 245,065	$ 155,815
TRAINING, APPROPRIATON	$ 176,144	$ 195,473
TRAINING, INDIRECT	$ 402,322	$ 397,870
TRAINING, UNEMPLOYMENT	$ 339,004	$ 321,120
Totals	**$ 7,701,278**	**$ 8,203,346**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY DIVISION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
IT CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, INDIRECT	$ -	$ 1,117
IT INFRASTRUCTURE, INDIRECT	$ 3,491,450	$ 3,920,300
IT MAINFRAME, INDIRECT	$ 339,571	$ 16,209
IT PROGRAMMING, ARPA - HBI (ARPA SLFRF)	$ -	$ 45,500
IT PROGRAMMING, ARPA SLFRF LMI PROJECT	$ -	$ 12,832
IT PROGRAMMING, APPRENTICESHIP / ACCELERATOR GRANT	$ -	$ -
IT PROGRAMMING, INDIRECT	$ 320,433	$ 3,425,048
IT PROGRAMMING, FEMA	$ -	$ -
IT PROGRAMMING, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 9,624	$ -
IT PROGRAMMING, RESEA	$ 29,076	$ -
IT PROGRAMMING, TRADE	$ -	$ -
IT PROGRAMMING, UNEMPLOYMENT AUTOMATION	$ 1,304,718	$ 1,043,584
IT PROGRAMMING, UNEMPLOYMENT	$ 28,000	$ 5,210
IT PROGRAMMING, UNEMPLOYMENT MODERNIZATION - BENEFITS/APPEALS/INTEGRITY	$ 666,503	$ 448,510
IT PROGRAMMING, UNEMPLOYMENT MODERNIZATION - DATA	$ 8,631,783	$ 2,257,239
IT PROGRAMMING, UNEMPLOYMENT MODERNIZATION - TAX	$ 351,517	$ 2,056,919
IT PROGRAMMING, WAGNER PEYSER	$ 16,924	$ -
Totals	**$ 15,189,599**	**$ 13,232,469**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY DIVISION

UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, DUA	$ -	$ 25,226,860
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, EXTENDED BENEFITS	$ -	$ -
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, FEDERAL	$ 900,000	$ 2,605,540
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, FEMA	$ -	$ (4,380)
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, IOWA TRUST FUND	$ 242,381,443	$ 302,123,848
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, TRADE	$ 1,684,920	$ 4,624
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, ADMINISTRATION	$ 470,401	$ 387,723
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, APPEALS	$ 4,000,000	$ 4,661,973
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, CALL CENTER	$ 8,461,823	$ 13,124,764
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION	$ -	$ (147,953)
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, EQUITY	$ -	$ 2,140
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, INTEGRITY	$ 145,301	$ 353,540
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, MISCLASSIFICATION	$ 379,631	$ 232,757
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, OVERHEAD	$ -	$ -
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 11,265	$ 742,137
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, QUALITY CONTROL	$ 1,610,466	$ 1,463,516
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, RECOVERY	$ 3,402,391	$ 3,334,874
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, TAX	$ 4,606,493	$ 5,458,713
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, TIGER TEAM	$ -	$ 39,722
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, WAGNER PEYSER	$ 1,432	$ -
Totals	**$ 268,055,566**	**$ 359,610,398**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY DIVISION

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION DIVISION	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, ACES	$ 915,000	$ 741,480
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, ARP SLFRF	$ -	$ -
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, APPRENTICESHIP / ACCELERATOR GRANT	$ 15,234	$ 3,935
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, BLS, CENSUS OF OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES - FEDERAL SHARE	$ 16,160	$ 20,875
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, BLS, CENSUS OF OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES - STATE SHARE	$ 16,160	$ 16,262
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, BLS, ROSH - FEDERAL SHARE	$ 109,266	$ 89,866
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, BLS, ROSH - STATE SHARE	$ 109,266	$ 92,330
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, CES	$ 99,026	$ 71,918
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, CLEARINGHOUSE	$ -	$ -
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, COST POOL	$ 519	$ 53,302
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, DATA SYSTEMS	$ 43,246	$ 24,655
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, EDUCATION OUTCOMES	$ 62,246	$ 51,135
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, EDUCATION REPORTING	$ 67,650	$ -
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, ES 202	$ 432,260	$ 499,270
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, LABORSHED + LABOR SURVEY	$ 1,378,995	$ 1,256,762
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT	$ 218,996	$ 182,046
LABOR MARKET INFORMAITON, OES - BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICES	$ 419,510	$ 429,642
LABOR MARKET INFORMAITON, ONE STOP	$ 338,560	$ 312,700
LABOR MARKET INFORMAITON, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 127,818	$ 39,830
LABOR MARKET INFORMAITON, TITLE I	$ 20,443	$ 98,506
LABOR MARKET INFORMAITON, TRADE	$ -	$ 0
LABOR MARKET INFORMAITON, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS	$ 495,306	$ 447,481
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, WAGE MATCH	$ 10,000	$ 11,330
LABOR MARKET INFORMAITON, WAGNER PEYSER	$ 2,742	$ 1,077
LABOR MARKET INFORMAITON, WORKFORCE DATA QUALITY	$ -	$ -
Totals	**$ 4,898,403**	**$ 4,444,403**

Finance

FY2025 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY DIVISION

WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION	'25 BUDGET	'25 EXPENSE
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, APPROPRIATION	$ 9,850,533	$ 11,632,934
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, HOME BASE IOWA	$ 372,743	$ 410,303
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 4,616,084	$ 2,400,000
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, PROMISE JOBS	$10,452,880	$ 8,178,404
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, RESEA	$ 2,220,996	$ 3,309,980
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, SNAP E & T	$ 404,921	$ 1,532,844
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, STATE RESEA	$ 1,942,358	$ 1,599,153
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, STEM AND TARGETED INTERNSHIPS	$ -	$ -
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, TRADE	$ -	$ 22,015
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, UNEMPLOYMENT	$ 2,912,986	$ 3,744,968
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, UNEMPLOYMENT RESERVE FUND	$ -	$ -
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, VETERAN'S DVOP AND LVER	$ 1,478,993	$ 1,647,796
AMERICAN JOB CENTERS, WAGNER PEYSER	$ 4,574,189	$ 3,268,717
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT	$ 1,263,183	$ 1,749,951
AMOS	$ 100,000	$ -
APPRENTICESHIP / ACCELERATOR GRANT	$ 1,833,980	$ 990,290
STATE WIOA	$ 7,573,780	$ 6,358,444
WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT	$ 13,448,077	$ 12,009,508
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, ARPA	$ 8,620	$ 2,790,658
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, 260 PROGRAMS	$ 4,555,106	$ 4,077,007
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, SECTOR PARTNERSHIP	$ 43,379	$ 79,134
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, COST POOL	$ 450,375	$ 503,149
WORKFORCE PROGRAM COORDINATION - INDIRECT COSTS	$ 2,254,695	$ 452,147
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, CHILD CARE - BUSINESS INCENTIVE	$ -	$ 17,366,471
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, FOREIGN LABOR CERTIFICATION	$ 394,166	$ 350,319
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATOIN, GEO CASE MANAGEMENT	$ 991,950	$ 1,394,112
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNOR'S 10% NRC PROGRAM	$ 136,600	$ 1,380,282
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, JOB TRAINING	$ -	$ 8,866,542
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, OFFENDER RE-ENTRY	$ 721,961	$ 593,131
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 601,125	$ 570,042
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, PROMISE JOBS	$ 395,924	$ 601,975
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, SENIOR COMM SERV EMPLOYMENT	$ 1,000,000	$ 998,475
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, TICKET TO WORK	$ 135,417	$ 22,632
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, TITLE I	$ 1,344,715	$ 405,805
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, TITLE II	$ 4,273,687	$ 5,452,236
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, TRADE	$ 158,249	$ 95,031
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, UNEMPLOYMENT	$ -	$ -
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT	$ 157,628	$ 156,219

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY DIVISION

WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION (Continued)	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, VETERAN'S DVOP AND LVER	$ 227,851	$ 276,983
WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATION, WAGNER PEYSER	$ 514,645	$ 602,809
Totals	**$ 81,411,796**	**$105,890,467**

RESERVED FUNDS	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
REED ACT, UNEMPLOYMENT MODERNIZATION	$ 4,624,191	$ 4,624,191
SOC SEC 903, ABOVE BASE	$ 2,107,040	$ 2,107,040
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, DISASTER ADMINISTRATION	$ -	$ -
Totals	**$ 6,731,231**	**$ 6,731,231**

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY PROGRAM

GRAND TOTAL OF EXPENDITURES IN 2025

2026 BUDGET: $401,811,864

2026 EXPENDITURES: $502,863,534

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - ETA	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
APPRENTICESHIP / ACCELERATOR GRANT	$ 1,849,214	$ 994,225
FOREIGN LABOR CERTIFICATION	$ 394,166	$ 350,319
GOVERNOR'S 10%	$ 136,600	$ 1,380,282
REED ACT MODERNIZATION	$ 9,649,803	$ 4,762,669
RESEA	$ 2,250,072	$ 3,309,980
SCSEP	$ 1,000,000	$ 998,475
TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE	$ 1,853,642	$ 122,860
UNEMPLOYMENT, DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION	$ -	$ 25,078,908
HOME BASE IOWA	$ 372,743	$ 410,303
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, EQUITY GRANT	$ -	$ 2,140
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, FEDERAL	$ 900,000	$ 2,605,540
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, IOWA TRUST FUND	$ 242,381,443	$ 302,123,848
VETERANS PROGRAMS	$ 1,706,844	$ 1,924,779
WORKFORCE DATA QUALITY INITIATIVE	$ -	$ -
WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT	$ 19,564,846	$ 18,595,593
WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT	$ 157,628	$ 156,219
UNEMPLOYMENT, SOC SEC 903	$ 28,391,158	$ 35,085,212
WAGNER PEYSER	$ 6,042,243	$ 5,400,909
Totals	**$ 316,650,402**	**$ 403,302,261**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY PROGRAM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - BLS	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
BLS, CENSUS OF OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES	$ 16,160	$ 20,875
BLS, ROSH	$ 109,266	$ 89,866
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS	$ 99,026	$ 71,918
EMPLOYEE AND WAGE CENSUS	$ 915,000	$ 741,480
EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS	$ 432,260	$ 499,270
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS	$ 218,996	$ 182,046
OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS	$ 419,510	$ 429,642
ONE STOP LABOR MARKET INFO	$ 338,560	$ 312,700
Totals	**$ 2,548,778**	**$ 2,347,797**

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
UNEMPLOYMENT LOST WAGES, ADMINISTRATION	$ -	$ -
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, FEMA	$ -	$ (4,380)
Totals	**$ -**	**$ (4,380)**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
Promise Jobs	$10,848,804	$ 8,780,379
Totals	**$10,808,804**	**$ 8,780,379**

STATE APPROPRIATIONS	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
260 PROGRAMS	$ 4,555,106	$ 4,077,007
AMOS	$ 100,000	$ -
FIELD OPERATIONS, PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 4,616,084	$ 2,400,000
FIELD OPERATIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT RESERVE FUND	$ -	$ -
FIELD OPERATIONS, GENERAL FUND AND CARRYOVER	$ 10,459,351	$ 13,385,672
FUTURE READY IOWA COORDINATOR	$ -	$ -
INTEGRATED INFORMATION FOR IOWA - I/3	$ 228,822	$ 228,822
LABOR SERVICES DIVISION	$ 135,426	$ 119,922
MISCLASSIFICATION	$ 379,631	$ 232,757
OFFENDER RE-ENTRY	$ 721,961	$ 593,131
SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM	$ 638,735	$ 197,337
WIOA SERVICES	$ 7,573,780	$ 6,358,444
Totals	**$ 29,408,896**	**$ 27,593,091**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY PROGRAM

OTHER SOURCES	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
15B / 15C	$ 2,280,000	$ 2,407,707
ARP SLFRF	$ 10,010,263	$ 27,878,672
CARES ACT GRANTS	$ 3,107,185	$ 190,296
DHS CHILD CARE CHALLENGE	$ -	$ -
EDUCATION REPORTING	$ 173,142	$ 75,790
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS	$ -	$ 8,866,542
LABORSHED	$ 1,378,995	$ 1,256,762
PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 2,211,976	$ 1,960,848
TICKET TO WORK	$ 135,417	$ 22,632
Totals	**$ 19,296,978**	**$42,659,250**

RESERVED REVENUE	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
REED ACT, UNEMPLOYMENT MODERNIZATION	$ 4,624,191	$ -
SOC SEC 903, ABOVE BASE	$ 2,107,040	$ -
UNEMPLOYMENT OPERATIONS, DISASTER ADMINISTRATION	$ -	$ -
Totals	**$ 6,731,231**	$ -

RESERVED REVENUE	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
INDIRECT COST POOL	$ 16,326,775	$ 18,185,136
Totals	**$ 16,326,775**	**$ 18,185,136**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY PROGRAM

INDEPENDENT LIVING	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
	$ 84,804	$ 84,804
Totals	**$ 84,804**	**$ 84,804**

CASE SERVICES	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
Cedar Rapids Case Services	$ 901,816	$ 424,414
Council Bluffs Case Services	$ 686,250	$ 457,176
Davenport Case Services	$ 1,122,325	$ 810,296
Self Employment Case Services	$ -	$ 20,756
Fort Dodge Case Services	$ 540,892	$ 415,994
Ottumwa Case Services	$ 654,607	$ 365,529
Sioux City Case Services	$ 549,791	$ 425,000
Waterloo Case Sercices	$ 770,301	$ 610,840
Burlington Case Services	$ 327,304	$ 152,133
Dubuque Case Services	$ 335,214	$ 206,469
Iowa City Case Services	$ 760,412	$ 772,346
Mason City Case Services	$ 705,038	$ 283,011
North Central Case Services	$ 861,273	$ 712,472
West Central Case Services	$ 1,373,489	$ 811,343
Des Moines Central Case Services	$ 299,616	$ 369,043
Bureau Wide Case Services	$ -	$ 272,214
Totals	**$ 9,888,328**	**$ 7,109,036**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY PROGRAM

FIELD SERVICES	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
Cedar Rapids Area Office	$ 2,047,188	$ 1,810,598
Council Bluffs Area Office	$ 2,124,876	$ 2,029,296
Davenport Area Office	$ 1,447,486	$ 1,285,675
Fort Dodge Area Office	$ 1,337,464	$ 1,175,263
Ottumwa Area Office	$ 1,240,781	$ 1,133,170
Sioux City Area Office	$ 1,398,590	$ 1,332,097
Waterloo Area Office	$ 1,281,517	$ 1,243,661
Burlington Area Office	$ 917,813	$ 862,926
Dubuque Area Office	$ 1,314,530	$ 1,161,753
Iowa City Area Office	$ 1,333,756	$ 1,149,603
Mason City Area Office	$ 1,677,611	$ 1,588,053
North Central Area Office	$ 1,899,175	$ 1,671,290
West Central Area Office	$ 1,551,771	$ 1,426,110
Des Moines Central Area Office	$ 1,285,050	$ 1,306,908
RSB Management	$ 2,377,916	$ 2,216,737
Business Quality Assurance	$ 210,691	$ 111,891
Remote Counseling Team	$ 362,727	$ 328,000
RSB Bureau Costs	$ 15,417,921	$ 12,395,216
Totals	**$ 39,226,863**	**$ 34,228,248**

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
ASB Financial Services	$ 17,778	$ -
ASB Planning & Development	$ 822,854	$ 641,794
ASB Support Services	$ 88,088	$ 86,653
State Rehabilitation Council	$ 9,337	$ 5,106
ASB Information Systems	$ 1,342,429	$ 703,077
ASB Bureau Costs	$ 386,639	$ 301,384
Totals	**$ 2,667,125**	**$ 1,738,014**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY PROGRAM

ALL OTHER PROGRAMS	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
Entrepreneurs With Disabilities Program	$ 138,506	$ 138,506
Independent Living Center Grant	$ 86,547	$ 86,547
Vocational Rehab SSA	$ -	$ 1,475
Supported Employment	$ 243,000	$ 325,544
Vocational Rehab Contributed	$ -	$ -
Disability Innovation Funds	$ 2,977,462	$ 3,273,940
Public Heatlh Workforce Funding	**$ -**	$ -
Totals	**$ 3,445,515**	**$3,826,012**

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
DDS-DHS Contract	$ 398,269	$ 195,712
Disability Determination - SSA	$ 30,619,081	$ 30,618,617
SSA Disability Medical Costs	$ 8,040,712	$ 5,373,004
Totals	**$ 39,058,062**	**$ 36,187,334**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY FUNDING SOURCE

FEDERAL FUNDS

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS	$ 2,548,778	$ 2,347,797
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION	$ 44,605,058	$ 37,996,310
UNEMPLOYMENT DIVISION	$ 272,045,344	$ 365,305,951
Totals	**$ 319,199,180**	**$ 405,650,058**

FEMA	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
LOST WAGES	$ -	$ (4,380)
Totals	**$ -**	**$ (4,380)**

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
EDUCATION	$ 173,142	$ 75,790
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	$ 39,327,819	$ 33,106,205
Totals	**$ 39,500,961**	$ **33,181,995**

US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS	$ -	$ -
INDEPENDENT LIVING	$ -	$ -
PROMISE JOBS	$ 10,848,804	$ 8,780,379
Totals	**$ 10,848,804**	**$ 8,780,379**

US DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
ARP SLFRF	$ 10,010,263	$ 27,878,672
CARES ACT, GRANTS	$ 3,107,185	$ 190,296
Totals	**$ 13,117,448**	**$ 28,068,968**

Finance

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY FUNDING SOURCE
STATE GENERAL FUNDS

STATE GENERAL FUNDS	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
260 PROGRAMS	$ 4,555,106	$ 4,077,007
AMOS	$ 100,000	$ -
FIELD OFFICES	$ 15,075,435	$ 15,785,672
FUTURE READY IOWA	$ 638,735	$ 197,337
I3 ACCOUNTING SYSTEM	$ 228,822	$ 228,822
LABOR DIVISION	$ 135,426	$ 119,922
MISCLASSIFICATION	$ 379,631	$ 232,757
OFFENDER RE-ENTRY	$ 721,961	$ 593,131
WIOA SERVICES	$ 7,573,780	$ 6,358,444
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION	$ 6,226,739	$ 6,226,739
ENTREPRENEURS WITH DISABILITIES	$ 138,506	$ 138,506
INDEPENDENT LIVING	$ 171,351	$ 171,351
Totals	**$ 35,945,492**	**$ 34,129,687**

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINSTRATION	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES	$ 38,659,793	$ 35,991,622
VOC REHAB - SSA TTW & OLD SSA FUNDS	$ 1,448,048	$ 1,259,390
Totals	**$ 40,107,841**	**$ 37,251,011**

FY2026 EXPENDITURE REPORT BY FUNDING SOURCE
OTHER SOURCES

OTHER SOURCES	'26 BUDGET	'26 EXPENSE
15B/15C	$ 2,280,000	$ 2,407,707
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS	$ -	$ 8,866,542
LABORSHED	$ 1,378,995	$ 1,256,762
PENALTY AND INTEREST	$ 2,211,976	$ 1,960,848
TICKET TO WORK	$ 135,417	$ 22,632
VOC REHAB - CONTRIBUTED FUNDS	$ -	$ -
VOC REHAB - INDIRECT COSTS REVENUE	$ 4,566,716	$ 2,823,408
VOC REHAB - CONTRACT REVENUE	$ 3,433,456	$ 3,260,516
DDS-DHS CONTRACT	$ 398,269	$ 195,712
Totals	**$ 14,404,829**	**$ 20,794,128**

Contact and More Information

Iowa Workforce Development

IWD Administrative Office
1000 E. Grand Ave Des Moines, IA 50319
workforce.iowa.gov

Unemployment Insurance Customer Service Hours (excluding state holidays):
Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

UI Benefits Bureau
Phone: 866-239-0843
Email: uiclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov

UI Tax Bureau
Phone: 888-848-7442
Email: iwduitax@iwd.iowa.gov

UI Integrity Bureau
Phone: 866-239-0843
Email: uifraud@iwd.iowa.gov

Business Engagement
Email: iaworks@iwd.iowa.gov
Phone: 888-848-7442 (Option #1 then option #7)

Iowa*WORKS* Centers
IowaWorks.gov
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Iowa Division of Labor and Workers' Compensation
Visit dial.iowa.gov for contact information

Equal opportunity employer/program. Accommodations are available upon request: workforce.iowa.gov/accessibility