



PDI

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPERS OF IOWA

IOWA RESOURCE GUIDE FOR ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

From the PDI President

PDI exists to strengthen Iowa's communities and drive the long-term growth of our state. We pursue that through advocacy, through professional development, and through the network our members build with one another. This guide belongs to that third category, though it draws on all of them.

The board that authorized this work is made up of professionals who learned Iowa's economic development landscape the hard way. We assembled our own reference files. We built our own contact lists. We found out which program applied to which project by calling someone who had already made the mistake we were about to make. That method works, eventually. It also depends heavily on who you happen to know, and it means the profession loses institutional knowledge every time a developer retires or moves on.

Our board concluded that Iowa's economic development professionals deserve better than an oral tradition. This guide is the result: a single reference containing the state's data, its incentive and technical assistance programs, its partner organizations, and the data sources you will need to make the case for your community.

It is a benefit of your PDI membership, and it is also an investment in the profession itself. Every developer who comes up faster because of it strengthens the community they serve, and a stronger community anywhere in Iowa is worth something to all of us.

Nic Hockenberry

President, Professional Developers of Iowa

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Introduction to the Guide

The Iowa Resource Guide for Economic and Community Development includes Iowa data, information, and a descriptive inventory of Iowa's economic and community development resources, programs, and partners. Its intent is to provide economic development professionals with a one-stop source for information and direction.

This guide is designed to help PDI members navigate Iowa's economic and community development resources efficiently. It begins with *Iowa Facts and Figures*, highlighting foundational demographic trends, labor force statistics, top industries, exports, and state GDP. The following section, *Doing Business in Iowa*, examines site selection criteria such as labor laws, taxes, logistics, utilities, and local considerations. The guide then includes a detailed inventory of *Incentives & Technical Assistance*, categorizing programs available through state agencies, utility providers, higher education institutions, and federal entities. Finally, it outlines key *Partners in Economic and Community Development*, provides an extensive list of *Key Data Sources* for localized research, and describes the structure and functions of *Iowa's State Government*.

Tips for reading or navigating the guide:

- All links are underlined and bolded in the document.
- Use the bookmarks or Table of Contents to quickly find and jump directly to the topics you need.
- Find a broken link? Please report it to Director@PDIowa.com

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Iowa Facts and Figures



Population and population trends

	Iowa 2025 Pop. Est. Data	Iowa 5-Year Trend	National Avg. & Trend
Total Population	3,238,287	📈 +1.5%	📈 +3.1%
Metro % of Population	62.4%	📈 +3.2%	86.4% 📈 +3.4%
Nonmetro % of Population	37.6%	📉 -1.2%	13.6% 📈 +1.1%

Source: (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division) using USDA Rural Urban Continuum Codes

Workforce & Talent Pipeline

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT:		% of total population	% High School Grad+	% BA+
All working age population (18 to 64)	Iowa	58.7%	92.2%	30.8%
	U.S.	60.5%	90.1%	34.9%
Entry Level (18 to 24)	Iowa	9.9%	88.8%	13.1%
	U.S.	9.2%	88.4%	13.7%
Early Career (25 to 34)	Iowa	12.7%	93.6%	36.2%
	U.S.	13.6%	93.0%	40.9%
Mid-Career (35 to 44)	Iowa	12.7%	92.0%	37.9%
	U.S.	13.5%	90.6%	41.6%
Mid-Late Career (45 to 64)	Iowa	23.4%	93.0%	31.6%
	U.S.	24.3%	88.9%	35.7%

Source: (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1-Year Estimates, 2024)

Median earnings per education level in Iowa



Source: (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1-Year Estimates, 2024)

Current Labor Force

Civilian Labor Force (16 yrs and over)

	Iowa	U.S.
2025 Total Labor Force	1,736,740	170,833,000
% Change since 2020	 4.3%	 6.3%
% Change over last 10 years	 1.7%	 7.3%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	Iowa	U.S.	Rank
2025 Total (16 and over)	67.6%	62.4%	8 th highest
Entry Level (16 to 24)	68.3%	55.6%	5 th highest
Career (25 to 54)	88.2%	83.6%	5 th highest
Late Career (55 and over)	42.7%	38.1%	8 th highest

Source (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics/LAUS)

Occupations and Industries

Top Ten Iowa Occupations – 2025

Major Occupation Group:	Total Employment	Average Annual Wage
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	169,390	\$48,910
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	146,660	\$48,760
Production Occupations	142,180	\$51,380
Sales and Related Occupations	141,350	\$47,480
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	135,030	\$30,970
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	108,570	\$56,290
Management Occupations	96,690	\$119,360
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	92,100	\$93,520
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	90,070	\$83,560
Construction and Extraction Occupations	70,570	\$62,070

Source: (Iowa Workforce Development/LMI Division), (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics/OEWS)

Top Ten Iowa Employing Industries – 2025

Major Industry Group:	Total Employment	Average Annual Wage
Manufacturing	216,458	\$76,752
Health care & social assistance	196,382	\$57,616
Retail trade	172,814	\$36,088
Accommodation & food services	122,857	\$22,620
Finance & insurance	90,537	\$109,928
Construction	84,954	\$77,688
Wholesale trade	66,612	\$87,568
Transportation & warehousing	62,877	\$59,696
Admin, support, waste mgmt. & remediation svcs.	59,610	\$52,416
Professional, scientific, and technical services	58,026	\$96,460

Source: (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics/QCEW)

Industry Exports

**2025 Total
All Exports:
\$16.3 billion**

Trends:

 Up 23.2% since 2015
 Down 4.4% since 2024

**81% small- and
medium-sized
enterprises**

Top 5 Export Countries:

Country	Export Value:	% of total exports:
 Canada	\$4,957,867,389	30.4%
 Mexico	\$3,232,218,899	19.8%
 Japan	\$826,436,591	5.1%
 China	\$755,834,050	4.6%
 Brazil	\$697,800,991	4.3%

Top 5 Export Commodities:

Commodity:	Export Value:	% of total exports:
Ag & Construction & Machinery	\$2,492,597,194	15.3%
Oilseeds & Grains	\$1,795,420,908	11.0%
Meat & Meat Packaging Products	\$1,765,950,628	10.8%
Basic Chemicals	\$1,206,478,960	7.4%
Grain & Oilseed Milling Products	\$1,100,114,493	6.7%

Source: (U.S. Census Bureau/USA Trade Online), (International Trade Administration)

Agricultural Exports

**2025 Total
Ag Exports:
\$6.3 billion**

Trends:

Up 21.4% since 2015
Up 1.2% since 2024

**7th Largest Ag.
Exporting State**

Top 5 Agricultural Export Countries

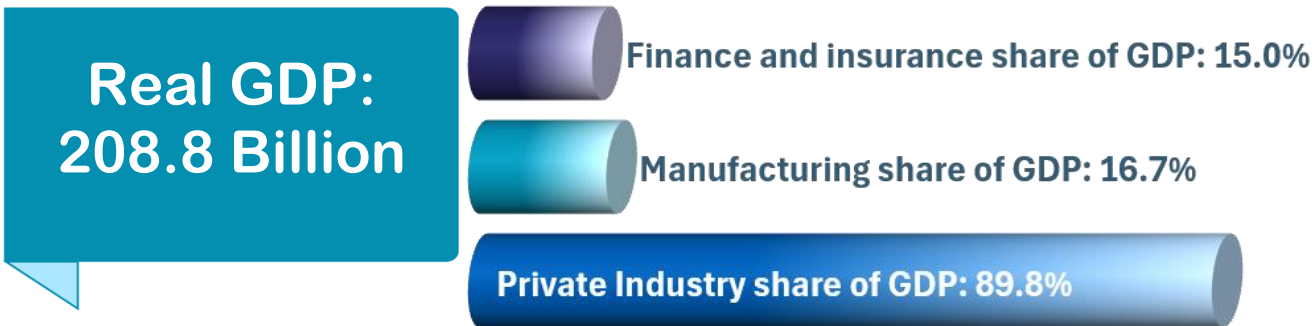
	Country	Export Value:	% of total exports:
	Mexico	\$2,422,449,000	38.5%
	Canada	\$1,571,739,000	25.0%
	Japan	\$608,122,000	9.7%
	China	\$295,475,000	4.7%
	South Korea	\$263,541,000	4.2%

Top 5 Agricultural Export Products

Product:	Export Value:	% of total ag. exports:
Pork & Pork Products	\$1,363,235,000	21.6%
Corn	\$1,305,238,000	20.7%
Ethanol, incl. bev. ¹	\$632,559,000	10.0%
Soybean meal	\$461,004,000	7.3%
Sugars & Sweeteners	\$311,381,000	4.9%

Source: (U.S. Department of Agriculture/FAS)

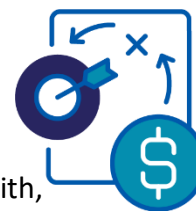
Iowa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



Source: (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

¹ Ethanol, incl. bev. refers to the trade and statistical classification for ethyl alcohol across all use cases. This combines both industrial-grade ethanol (used for fuel, solvents, and manufacturing) and beverage-grade ethanol (the alcohol found in spirits, beer, and wine)

Doing Business in Iowa



Site Selection Factors

Businesses are not buying land; they are buying a timeline. Are you ready for speed?

Depending on the type of business you are working with, site selection factors may vary.

To be prepared to respond to businesses seeking expansion or relocation, there are several common factors that economic development professionals can research to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their communities and sites.

Labor Pool & Local Wages

Iowa's labor market provides employers with regulatory predictability, high productivity, and talent pipelines supported by state-backed training investments.

EMPLOYMENT LAW AND LOCAL WAGES

Iowa's minimum wage is aligned with the federal minimum rate at \$7.25 per hour. There are no state-level prevailing wage mandates for state-funded construction. Federal Davis-Bacon Act rules apply strictly to projects utilizing federal financial assistance.

Wages vary across state geographies and by occupations and industries. Data for local areas can be accessed through [IWD Labor Market Information \(LMI\)](#). Specific LMI data links are included in the "[Key Data Sources](#)" section of this resource guide.

Iowa is a constitutionally protected Right-to-Work state. Right-to-Work laws generally mean that employees cannot be forced to join a labor union or pay union dues as a condition of getting or keeping a job, even if the workplace is covered by a union collective bargaining agreement. As of 2025, 8.2% of Iowa's employed are represented by unions and 6.8% are union members (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

THE WORKFORCE

Iowa's cost of living index ranks as the 7th lowest in the United States, making it an affordable place to live for workers. The index is driven lower by Iowa's low housing and utility costs. The median sales price in Iowa is 36% below the U.S. median, and the average residential price of electricity in Iowa is 21% below the U.S. average. (Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)), (Redfin), (U.S. Energy Information Administration).

Iowa workers demonstrate high loyalty to employers, averaging nearly 12 years with a single employer, three times the national average. Iowa has over 930 active Registered Apprenticeship Programs, creating sustainable talent pipelines across the trades, manufacturing, utility, and healthcare sectors.

Taxes & Business Fees

Iowa's tax system ranks 17th overall on the Tax Foundation's 2026 State Tax Competitiveness Index. Filing fees in Iowa are relatively low, with registration fees starting at \$50 and biennial reports ranging from \$30 to \$60, each fee depending on the business type. Iowa requires permits for [several tax types](#), but permits are free of charge.

STATE TAX COMPETITIVENESS

Iowa tax rates

- Individual income tax rate: 3.80%
- Graduated corporate income tax ranging from: 5.5% to 7.1%
- Unemployment insurance tax rate ranging from: 0% to 5.4%
- Sales tax rate: 6.00% (local option sales tax allowed)
- Average combined state and local sales tax rate: 6.94%
- Effective property tax rate on owner-occupied housing value: 1.33%
- Gas tax: 30 cents per gallon (diesel, 32.5 cents per gallon)
- Estate tax or inheritance tax: none

SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTIONS/INCENTIVES

- [Data Center Sales and Use Tax Incentives](#)
- [Iowa Sales and Use Tax on Manufacturing and Processing](#)
- [Nuclear Electric Generation Facility Exemption](#)

PROPERTY TAXES

Iowa business property taxes apply to real estate like land and buildings. Commercial and industrial properties use a two-tiered assessment limitation where the first \$150,000 of value is taxed at residential rollback rates, and value over \$150,000 is assessed at 90%. Iowa does not tax general business personal property like inventory or office furniture.

COMPLIANCE & LICENSING

Iowa does not have a "general business license." Licensing and other compliance requirements are based on the nature of a business or professional occupation. Licensing fees vary for the 450 business licenses in Iowa. IASourceLink manages the [Iowa Business License Information Center](#) where a search can be performed to identify the department responsible for licensing or certification and provides a link to more information.

The Iowa DNR manages environmental regulations and permitting for air, land and water quality. Building codes, permitting and inspections are managed at the local level.

Logistics

ROADWAYS

Iowa is centrally located and sits at the nexus of interstates 35 and 80, with I-29 running along the west coast. I-380 serves as a major auxiliary interstate for the eastern corridor. US Highway 20 runs from Dubuque to Sioux City across the northern section of the state.

AIR

Iowa is home to eight commercial service airports and 93 general aviation airports. Nearly 120 million pounds of air cargo was moved through airports in Iowa as of 2024, with most moving through Des Moines and Cedar Rapids.

RAIL

Iowa's freight rail transportation system has [17 operating railroads](#) with 3,801 miles of mainline track. Five Class I carriers operate in Iowa. Union Pacific and BNSF carry the highest traffic volumes, operating on approximately 2,000 miles of total track, including double tracks running east and west. Class II and III railroads typically provide feeder service to Class I carriers. Iowa has one Class II railroad, Iowa Interstate Railroad, which has over 300 miles of track.

One Amtrak passenger rail route passes across the southern part of Iowa, from Burlington to Nebraska, with five stations. Another route passes through the extreme southeast corner of Iowa with a station in Fort Madison.

WATERWAYS

Iowa offers 491 miles of navigable waterways via the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. There are 70 barge terminals along the rivers, 65 on the Mississippi and five on the Missouri, all owned by private companies. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates a system of locks and dams along the Mississippi, 11 of which are along the coast of Iowa.

Port Statistical Areas (PSAs)

The [Upper Mississippi River Ports](#) PSA is a bi-state port consisting of the existing ports and terminals in Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, and Louisa counties, as well as others in Illinois. The [Mid America Port Commission](#) PSA consists of the existing ports and terminals in Des Moines and Lee Counties, as well as others in Illinois and Missouri.

Located halfway between Council Bluffs and Sioux City, the [NEW Cooperative Port of Blencoe](#) serves as the northernmost gateway from the Missouri River.

Port Authorities

Iowa has three port authorities. State legislation enables port authorities to form as a public agency created to govern, finance, build, and manage multi-modal locations where goods are transferred (e.g. ports, railroads, airports) and the surrounding economic infrastructure. This could include establishing and operating Foreign Trade Zones, issuing revenue bonds, making loans, owning and leasing property, and more. Their tax-exempt status provides additional opportunities for public and private collaboration. The Port Authorities are:

- [Southeast Iowa Regional Economic & Port Authority](#) in Lee County
- Ports of Eastern Iowa Authority (PEIA) in six eastern Iowa counties to operate within the Upper Mississippi River Ports PSA.
- The [Mid-America Port Commission](#) operates across 26 counties in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri, including the counties of Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Van Buren, and Wapello Counties

Utilities

COSTS

Energy/Sector:	Price	State Rank (1 is lowest price)	Data Year
Average price of electricity/industrial user	7.2 cents per kWh	11	2025
Average price of electricity/commercial user	11.05 cents per kWh	17	2025
Average price of natural gas/industrial user	\$6.36 per MCF	24	2025 ²
Average price of natural gas/commercial user	\$8.27 per MCF	8	2025

ELECTRIC

Renewables generated 63% of Iowa's electricity in 2025, 59% from wind alone. Hydroelectric and utility scale solar produced 4%. Coal (26%) and natural gas (12%) -fired power plants contributed remainder of Iowa's in-state generation in 2025. Since 2008, Iowa has generated more electricity each year than the state consumes, and the excess power is sent to other states over the regional electric grid. (U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA))

Across Iowa, electricity is provided by two investor-owned utilities, MidAmerican and Alliant, 45 Rural Electric Cooperatives, and 135 municipalities. An [electric utility boundary map](#) is maintained by the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC).

GAS

In 2024, the industrial sector accounted for 61% of the natural gas delivered to end-users in the state. The state's residential sector, where 6 out of 10 households use natural gas as their primary heating fuel, accounted for 13% of natural gas use. The commercial sector consumed about 11%, and 15% was used for electric power generation (U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)). In Iowa, natural gas is provided by 4 investor-owned utilities (MidAmerican, Alliant, Black Hills and Liberty) and over 50 municipal utilities.

INTERNET

Iowa ranks 16th in internet coverage, speed and availability. Nearly 96% of Iowans have access to basic wired or fixed wireless broadband. The fiber-optic availability rate is about 70% (BroadbandNow, 2026). [BroadbandNow](#) offers a coverage map by county as well as a list of internet providers by city.

Local Considerations for Site Selection

LABORPOOL INFORMATION

- Review local laborshed data: [Iowa Workforce Development, Laborshed Studies](#)
- Understand workforce training programs, CTE programs, and [graduate outcomes data](#) of area [community colleges](#), [universities and other colleges](#), and local high schools.

² Calculated proxy value. Original EIA data for July 2025 is missing/suppressed; \$6.36 reflects the simple average of the remaining 11 months of the calendar year.

TAX & FEE INFORMATION

- Local property tax rates
- Local option sales tax rate
- Franchise fees
- Permit fees (building, zoning, plat review, etc.)

LOGISTICS INFORMATION

- Major roadways and distance to interstates
- [Rail accessibility and railroad contact information](#)
- [Traffic Counts](#)
- Airport data: distance to commercial service airports, and any local [general aviation information](#).

UTILITY INFORMATION

- Utility provider contacts: Electric, Gas, Internet, Water, and Wastewater
- Electric information: generation mix, distribution system, substation system, transmission system, grid constraints, and lead times.
- Natural gas information: transmission and distribution mains and system, delivery pressure, capacity, and lead times.
- Telecommunications and Fiber: Number of fiber broadband providers, speeds (is dark fiber, 10G or 100G broadband readily available?), latency, and bandwidth.
- Water and wastewater: Total capacity and available capacity

Other Utility Considerations

- Extension Costs: Who bears the financial burden of extending utilities to the property line - the developer, the utility, the city?
- Right-of-Way (ROW): Are all necessary utility easements and rights-of-way already secured, or do they require eminent domain or negotiations?
- Moratoriums: Are there any active or pending municipal moratoriums on water hookups, sewer allocations, or power grid connections?

LOCAL INCENTIVE (AKA ENTITLEMENTS) OPTIONS

- Tax Abatement: A reduction in the level of taxation faced by an individual or company.
- Tax Exemption: A reduction in the taxable value or exclusion of all or some income from taxation.
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF): A public financing method that uses the property taxes collected (on the increased value of real property only) to subsidize redevelopment, infrastructure, and other community-improvement projects to stimulate private investment within a designated area.
- Additional local perks? Think curb cuts, culverts, streamlined permitting and development processes, even complimentary golf club memberships or swimming pool passes.

Incentives & Technical Assistance



State Managed Programs

Iowa Economic Development and Finance Authority (IEDA)

IEDA BUSINESS INCENTIVE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Business Incentives for Growth (BIG)

- The BIG program is available to businesses primarily engaged in one of the key industries: advanced manufacturing, bioscience, insurance and finance, and technology. Support is offered to offset some of the costs of locating, expanding, or modernizing a facility in Iowa. BIG awards are made through refundable investment tax credits (spread over five years), and a refund of sales tax paid on construction materials. The program is tied to required capital investments, job creation/retention, wage thresholds, and other commitments. Pre-applications are required.

Major Economic Growth Attraction (MEGA)

- The MEGA program is designed to incentivize large-scale development projects that generate more than \$1 billion in capital investment and high-quality jobs. Benefits are negotiated project by project and could include refundable investment tax credits of up to 5% of the qualifying investment, a withholding tax credit of up to 3% for eligible new jobs, and/or refund of state sales, service or use taxes paid during construction. To be eligible, projects must be in advanced manufacturing, biosciences, or research and development; located in an Iowa Certified Site of at least 250 acres or the business must have a controlling interest in the site; and meet certain wage and benefits requirements.

Innovation Funding

- Iowa offers public innovation funding through five programs that support innovative businesses in key industries from early to launch to late stages of the innovation cycle. The maximum award amounts and match requirements increase along the continuum.

Program	Purpose/Use of Funds
<u>Proof of Commercial Relevance (POCR)</u>	To help early-stage businesses explore and define commercialization feasibility. Funds may be used for beta testing, IP development, market potential validation
<u>Demonstration Fund</u>	Assists with marketing and business development. Funds can be used for marketing personnel or expertise, marketing materials, equipment
<u>Iowa Innovation Acceleration Fund</u>	Launch: Helps revenue generating companies overcome the principal challenges of scaling
	Propel: Helps established companies accelerate market development, can be used to hire key personnel, expand marketing, etc.
	Expansion: Encourages the expansion of unique, innovative and competitive product lines. Funds can be used to purchase equipment, construction costs, etc.

Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment

- The Manufacturing 4.0 Program provides grants to support small- and mid-sized businesses in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies into their existing operations. Grants offered through the program are aimed at helping manufacturers increase productivity, efficiency and competitiveness. Funds may be used for the purchase of equipment and specialized hardware or software. Applicants must have an Industry 4.0 Assessment completed by [CIRAS](#) and provide a dollar-for-dollar match.

International Trade Office (ITO)

- The ITO team offers [trade assistance](#), one-on-one [export counseling, training and seminars](#), and [financial support](#) to help eligible small businesses participate in international trade and exporting (e.g. marketing to foreign markets, trade show or trade mission participation)

Small Business Energy Audit Program

- The program provides funding for energy audits for commercial buildings owned or operated by a small business with fewer than 50 employees. Half of the cost of the audit is reimbursed when the audit is completed, and the other half is reimbursed when the business begins implementing at least one of the audit recommendations.

Iowa Energy Saving Loan Program

- This revolving loan fund program offers loans for energy efficiency upgrades to businesses, nonprofits, or public entities that own commercial buildings or multifamily buildings (where 20 or more units participate low-income programs).

Entrepreneurial Investment Awards (EIA)

- The EIA program provides financial assistance to Iowa-based service providers that directly support entrepreneurs and early-stage startups. To qualify, an organization must offer comprehensive business development services such as business planning, marketing, financial strategies and management, coaching, or networking. Competitive awards of up to \$200,000 may be used to cover operating costs that directly support business development services for emerging and early-stage businesses.

IEDA GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITIES OR ORGANIZATIONS

Iowa Certified Site Program

Iowa's Certified Site Program establishes standardized readiness criteria for industrial sites in the state. Site certification criteria vary by category. In Iowa, certification can be pursued for general industrial sites ranging in size from 25 to 999 acres, mega sites of 1000+ acres, industrial parks, green business parks of 50+ acres, as well as the [Iowa Rural Certified Site](#). To achieve certification, a site must complete comprehensive upfront technical due diligence, such as environmental site assessments, wetlands and cultural resource reviews, site control verification, compatible zoning, and confirmed capacity for transportation and utilities (water, wastewater, power, natural gas, and telecommunications). To assist communities and local developers through the multi-step certification process, IEDA covers the cost of third-party certification review, provides technical project management guidance, and after certification, elevates certified sites in marketing efforts. In addition, for the Iowa Rural Certified Site Program, the state offers financial assistance of up to \$37,500 (with a 1:1 match) to help offset

initial due diligence costs. Active certified sites are also eligible for [Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy \(RISE\)](#) grants.

Downtown Resource Center

Iowa's Downtown Resource Center offers multiple technical assistance and funding programs for downtown development and well as managing the [Main Street Iowa](#) program.

- **Downtown Assessments**. To help communities identify the strengths and weaknesses of their downtowns and to find solutions to make them more vibrant, two assessment options are available: a 3-day comprehensive downtown assessment that results in a detailed report that includes recommendations for community action; and the downtown walk-around, a shorter, first-impressions style visit and summary report for communities with populations under 10,000.
- **Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program**. The Community Catalyst Program is a competitive grant that funds commercial building rehabilitation. Cities may apply for catalyst funds of up to \$100,000 for one building, or two if owned by the same entity or individual and are adjacent.
- **Downtown Loan Guarantee**. Partnering with financial institutions, the Downtown Loan Guarantee can support brick and mortar revitalization projects for downtown building owners.
- **Main Street Loan Program**. The program offers loans to Main Street communities for residential and commercial development in their districts. The focus of the projects funded support downtown infill and the rehabilitation of upper story housing in mixed use buildings.

Center for Rural Revitalization

The Center for Rural Revitalization is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Empower Rural Iowa (ERI). The Center implements ERI task force recommendations, acts as a liaison to rural communities, and manages several programs that support rural areas. These programs are for projects or programs that are in communities with populations of 20,000 or fewer and are not contiguous to a city with a population of 40,000 or greater. If the project is countywide, it must be in one of the 88 least populous counties.

- **Rural BOOST Program**. To help develop a plan for community growth and vitality, communities or nonprofits may apply to the competitive BOOST program. The program consists of a visit to the community by a team of three to five experts to meet with a local committee and assess existing conditions, community assets and emerging needs. Based on the visit and these discussions, the BOOST team develops a customized action plan and offers financial support in the amount of \$10,000 to support the implementation of identified next steps.
- **Rural Child Care Planning Program**. The Child Care Planning Grant offers competitive funding for child care needs assessments and strategy development. Grant awards of \$20,000 plus a 50% applicant match may be used for a market study or strategic planning, facilitated by a professional third-party partner, to address child care needs.
- **Rural Housing Readiness Assessment Grant Program**. The Housing Readiness Assessment grant provides funding for housing assessment data collection and report, along with an ISU Extension and Outreach Rural Housing Readiness Assessment

workshop. Grant awards are \$20,000 per project, with 50% applicant match. A portion of the total project cost must be used to contract with ISU Extension and Outreach for the Rural Housing Readiness Assessment workshop.

- **Rural Innovation Grant Program**. This program is focused on increasing housing stock in rural Iowa. Applicants may apply for up to \$50,000 to support unique, replicable projects. Funds may be used for costs associated with the project including construction, land acquisition, site development, and professional services. Applicants must provide a 50% match.

Iowa Thriving Communities

- The Iowa Thriving Communities program is a competitive designation for rural communities that are proactively addressing workforce housing needs. The designation incentivizes developers by adding additional scoring points for the Federal Housing Tax Credit and/ or Workforce Housing Tax Credit programs, as well as incentive points for the HOME and Community Catalyst programs.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Iowa's CDBG programs have varying application windows and are competitive awards. Programs vary in requirements for meeting HUD's national objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons, slum or blight elimination, or meeting urgent community needs.

- **Water, Sewer and Stormwater Fund**. The Water, Sewer, Stormwater fund assists LMI-eligible cities and counties with sanitary sewer system improvements, water system improvements, water and wastewater treatment facility projects, storm sewer projects related to sanitary sewer system improvements, and rural water connections and stormwater conveyances to mitigate flood risks.
- **Community Development & Facilities Fund**. The Community Development and Facilities fund supports LMI-eligible communities in strengthening public spaces and community amenities. The fund has two program areas: community facilities and pocket parks.
 - The community facilities program offers up to \$600,000 for projects that may include child care facilities, senior centers, vocational workshops, food pantries, or homeless centers.
 - The pocket parks program helps fund community green spaces on lots less than a quarter acre. Applicants can apply for up to \$150,000 with a 25% match required.
- **Downtown Revitalization Fund**. This fund covers two IEDA programs: Commercial Facade and Streetscapes.
 - The Commercial Facades program funds are available for facade improvement projects in downtown settings to address slum or blight in areas where at least 25% of all buildings are determined to be in fair or poor condition. Applications are open to all non-entitlement communities under 50,000 in population.
 - The Streetscapes program funds are available to improve downtown safety, accessibility or visual quality of public spaces (e.g. lighting, sidewalks, landscaping, wayfinding). LMI-eligible communities that have successfully completed a Commercial Facades project can apply for up to \$250,000 for projects.

- **Housing Rehabilitation Fund**. The Housing Rehab Fund includes two IEDA programs, the Upper Story Housing Conversion program and the Roofing Replacement program.
 - The Upper Story Rehabilitation Fund supports the conversion or rehabilitation of existing downtown building space for new residential units. LMI-eligible communities can apply for projects with up to 4 units at \$100,000 per unit or a maximum of \$400,000, inclusive of admin costs.
 - The Roofing Replacement program assists communities in providing support to LMI-eligible homeowners of single-family homes to replace roofing. Communities may apply for up to \$180,000 per total project, but no more than \$30,000 per unit.
- **Opportunities and Threats Fund**. These funds are reserved for communities facing an imminent threat to the public and require immediate assistance. The funds may also be used by communities with an opportunity for sustainable community activities.
- **Planning Grant Program**. The Planning Grant is for LMI-eligible communities to engage consultants for Capital Improvement Plans, Asset Manage Plans and Historic District Surveys that help communities understand their needs and prioritize investments. Communities may apply for up to \$15,000 per application and provide a dollar-for-dollar match.
- **Public Service Fund**. The Public Service fund is available for LMI-eligible communities to address urgent needs related to food insecurity and homelessness.
 - The Homeless Providers Program offers funding of up to \$100,000 for organizations that create new or expanded operating activities such as shelter and street outreach, rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention, or permanent supportive housing. Eligible operating activity costs include staffing, utilities and program supplies. Construction or rehabilitation activities are not eligible.
 - The Food Pantries Program supports new or expanded food pantry operations such as food purchases, non-consumable supplies, equipment for storage or distribution, and operating costs such as staffing and utilities. Applicant clientele or area must meet LMI eligibility. Awards are capped at \$100,000 per project.

Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Program

- The CAT program is a competitive grant that provides funds for community projects that provide recreational, cultural, entertainment, and educational attractions. Eligible applicants include cities, counties and nonprofit organizations. Funds of up to \$500,000 may be awarded to projects that already have 65% of the project financing secured. Funds can be used for vertical infrastructure such as land acquisition and construction, major renovation and major repair of buildings, all appurtenant structures, utilities, site development, recreational trails and water trails. When completed, projects must be open to the public and owned by the applicant.

Destination Iowa Fund Grant Program

- Funded through a legislative appropriation, cities, counties, or nonprofit organizations may apply for funds that increase tourism to the state by investing in vertical infrastructure to create or expand existing primary destinations (natural, man-made, cultural, recreational or educational attraction(s) that drive visitors to an area). Projects can receive grant funds up to 25% of eligible project costs related to the construction, development, or expansion of the destination. Applicants must have 65% of financing

secured before submitting a pre-application. Half of the program funds are allocated to Rural (populations of less than 20,000) Destinations.

Iowa Arts & Culture

- Through the Iowa Arts Council, multiple [competitive grant opportunities](#) are available to support communities, organizations, and artists for public art, film, media, and cultural events.

Iowa Rural Heritage Revitalization Grant

- This grant opportunity supports the rehabilitation of historic properties of national, state or local significance in rural Iowa. Communities, nonprofits, or tribal councils are eligible to apply for up to \$150,000 for eligible expenses.

Nuisance Property and Abandoned Building Remediation Program

- Communities may apply for zero interest loans of up to \$500,000 for the remediation of nuisance buildings and structures. Loan funds can be used for demolition or remediation and reuse of structures, with priority given to single-family homes. Except for brownfield or grayfield sites, funds can also be used for general site cleanup or clearance. Loan terms are a maximum of five years.

State Revolving Fund (SRF)

- The SRF programs are low-interest loan programs targeted to preserve and enhance water quality across the state. Funds include the [Clean Water Loan Program](#), the [Drinking Water Loan Program](#), and the [Planning and Design Loan Program](#). Additional loan funding is available for [nonpoint water quality programs](#).

Wastewater & Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance

- The Wastewater and Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance Program (WTFAP) offers grant funding to Iowa communities for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. Communities may apply for up to \$500,000. Awards are determined annually by a committee with representation from the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS).

Water Quality Financing

- The Water Quality Financing Program (WQFP) is a revolving loan fund created by the legislature to improve water quality in Iowa. Cities, landowners, public utilities, rural water districts, and certain industries may apply for funds for projects that address point source and nonpoint source water quality challenges. The revolving loan fund is administered by the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS).

IEDA TAX CREDITS THAT SUPPORT BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES

Iowa Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit

- For businesses engaged in advanced manufacturing, bioscience, insurance and finance, or technology and innovation, R&D (refundable) tax credits can be awarded on qualified expenses. Businesses must be certified by IEDA as eligible to apply for the tax credit. R&D sectors may include second-generation food innovation, food ingredients and

supplements, crop protection, hybrid seed technologies, diagnostic analytics and immunotherapies, chip technologies and microelectronics, medical equipment and supplies, software and technology, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, and consumer products.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel Production Tax Credit

- Eligible businesses producing sustainable aviation fuel in Iowa may apply for a production tax credit designed to support investment, innovation and growth. Businesses that qualify can apply for a refundable tax credit amounting to \$0.25 per gallon of sustainable aviation fuel produced, with a maximum annual cap of \$1 million in tax credits.

Workforce Housing Tax Credit

- This program provides tax benefits to developers to incentivize housing development in Iowa. To be eligible, a developer must build or rehabilitate at least four single-family homes, at least one multi-family building containing three or more units, or at least two upper story units. No more than four resolutions of support may be submitted by any one community. With the resolution of support, developers can apply to receive a transferrable state investment tax credit of up to 10% of the investment directly related to the construction or rehabilitation of the housing. Developers qualifying under the Small Cities set aside may receive an investment tax credit of up to 20%. Tax incentives include a refund of sales, service, or use taxes paid during construction

Innovation Fund Tax Credit

- To stimulate venture capital investment in innovative Iowa businesses, this program encourages taxpayers to make equity investments in certified Innovation Funds, which then invest in innovative businesses engaged in advanced manufacturing, biosciences, or information technology. Tax credits equal 25% of a taxpayer's equity cash investment called into a certified Innovation Fund. Steps in the process: 1) Innovation Fund applies to IEDA for certification; 2) Innovation Fund accepts equity investments and invests in businesses; 3) Investors into the fund apply for tax credit certificates and IEDA Board approves as eligible. The issuance of tax credit certificates is limited by annual maximum allocations.

Seed Investor Tax Credit

- To encourage early-stage investments in innovative Iowa businesses in key growth sectors, including advanced manufacturing, bioscience, finance and insurance, and technology, this program incentivizes individuals or entities to invest in qualifying high-potential startups. Steps in the process: 1) A business applies to IEDA to become a certified qualifying business; 2) Upon certification, the business can accept qualifying equity investments; 3) Business submits annual investment and reporting information to IEDA; 4) IEDA reviews and issues tax credit certificates to eligible investors; 5) Investors claim the credit on their Iowa tax return. Credits equal 20% for cash investments in urban businesses and 35% for cash investments in rural businesses.

State Historic Preservation Tax Credits

- Through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the state tax credit program provides for a transferrable state income tax credit of up to 25% of qualified rehabilitation expenditures for historically sensitive, substantial rehabilitation of eligible

historic buildings. State tax credits can be stacked with [Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits](#) of 20% of qualifying expenses. In addition, SHPO administers the County [Historic Property Tax Exemption](#) Program, a local property tax incentive for the sensitive “substantial rehabilitation” of historic buildings. The program provides a combination of four years full exemption from any increased valuation due to the rehabilitation, followed by four years of property tax increases (25% per year) up to the new valuation.

Redevelopment Tax Credits

- Developers can receive transferrable tax credits for redeveloping brownfield and grayfield sites. Additional tax credits may be available for meeting or exceeding sustainable design standards. The maximum tax credit award per application award is \$1.5 million. For brownfield sites, tax credits of up to 24% of qualifying costs can be awarded, and up to 30% if the project meets green building standards. For grayfield projects, tax credits of up to 12% of qualifying costs can be awarded, and up to 15% if the project meets green building requirements.

Endow Iowa

- To encourage support of community foundations, Iowa offers a state tax credit equal to 25% of the gifts donors make to a community foundation, up to a maximum tax credit per eligible taxpayer of \$50,000. Tax credits can be claimed by individuals, businesses or financial institutions.

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD)

Business Engagement Consultants (BEC)

- IWD employs BECs to engage with employers in each [IowaWORKS](#) service area. BECs provide one-on-one support to businesses by informing and matching them with the programs, local partners, and/or resources that can help them address their specific workforce challenges.

Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Development (AMP'D) Iowa

- Eligible Iowa employers operating in the advanced manufacturing sector can apply to receive up to 80% reimbursement to train newly hired or current employees, offsetting costs and helping accelerate needed upskilling in their workforce.

Iowa Office of Apprenticeship

- Through the [Iowa Apprenticeship Act \(84E\)](#) and the [Registered Apprenticeship Development Fund \(84F\)](#), Iowa offers competitive grants, available annually, to support training or ongoing costs within any active Iowa Registered Apprenticeship program (84E) or for sponsors that create a new RA program with an eligible high-demand occupation (84F). A qualified apprenticeship program must be registered with the DOL/OA and the program must provide a minimum of 100 in-person contact hours to qualify for funding.

Iowa Industrial New Jobs Training Program (260E)

- The 260E program helps businesses pay for new employee training. The program is administered by Iowa's [15 community colleges](#) and is financed through bonds sold by the colleges. Training is available at essentially no cost to businesses, as the bonds are

retired with dollars that otherwise would have been paid to the state as withholding taxes. Eligible businesses may be eligible for training reimbursements of up to 50% of the approved award amount for on-the-job training.

Iowa Jobs Training Program (260F)

- The 260F program offers forgivable loans to eligible Iowa businesses to provide training and upskilling opportunities for their current employees. Eligible businesses include those that are engaged in manufacturing, processing, assembling products, or conducting research and development. If a service-providing businesses, to be eligible, they must have customers outside of Iowa.

Short-Term Compensation (STC)

- The STC program, formerly known as the Voluntary Shared Work program, helps businesses avoid layoffs during periods of slowdowns. Under STC, work reductions are shared by reducing employees' work hours and employees receive a fraction of regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits equal to the percent of their work hour reduction to replace lost earnings.

Rapid Response and WARN

- Rapid Response teams provide early interventions to help businesses when potential layoffs are possible and when layoffs occur, the teams provide immediate on-site services to assist workers facing job loss. The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act requires employers with 100 or more employees to give 60 calendar days' written notice when there is a plant closing or mass layoff. Communities and economic developers can track layoffs on the [WARN Notifications](#) visualization webpage.

Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)

Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy Program (RISE)

- The RISE program supports economic development projects with construction and improvement of roads and streets. The RISE program helps pay for road projects through two programs, Immediate Opportunity and Local Development.
 - The Immediate Opportunity program is to support immediate, nonspeculative opportunities for permanent job creation or retention. The jobs must be value-adding in nature (e.g., manufacturing, industrial, nonretail). The maximum award for the Immediate Opportunity program is 80% of eligible RISE costs.
 - The Local Development program assists in providing improved access to developable land (e.g. industrial parks, tourist attractions). Up to 50% of the RISE-eligible project costs may be awarded (up to 70% if a certified site).

Iowa Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP):

- TEAP provides up to 150 hours of free traffic engineering expertise to local units of government in the form of a traffic study. Studies identify cost-effective traffic safety and operational improvements as well as potential funding sources to implement the recommendations. Typical study subjects include pedestrian crossings, high-crash locations, traffic delays, safe school routes, and parking issues.

Railroad Revolving Loan Grant Program:

- The program provides financial assistance to improve rail facilities for targeted job creation, rail network improvement, or rail port planning and development. See also [Freight Rail Profiles](#) for company profiles and contact information.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)

- REAP invests in projects that enhance or protect Iowa's natural and cultural resources. The City Parks and Open Spaces program offers competitive grants to fund projects like park expansion and multi-purpose recreation developments.

Brownfield Redevelopment Program

- This program provides financial and technical assistance for brownfield site redevelopment. Cities, counties, area development corporations, and nonprofit organizations that wish to acquire and redevelop brownfield sites are eligible for the program. Prior to any acquisition of such properties, the DNR will provide consultations on environmental and liability issues at sites and also offer financial assistance for site assessments (up to \$25,000) and site cleanups (75% of cleanup costs up to \$25,000).

Derelict Building Program

- The Derelict Building Program is a grant program available to communities of 5,000 or fewer residents to address neglected commercial or public structures that have been abandoned for at least 6 months. Funds can help pay for activities such as asbestos inspection or removal, structural engineering, environmental assessments, and/or deconstruction.

Business Regulatory Assistance

- Business Assistance Coordinators can help businesses identify compliance needs and requirements from construction to operations.

Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, & Licensing

- [Iowa OSHA](#) offers no-cost and confidential consulting services to small and medium-sized businesses to provide guidance in following OSHA standards, help employers identify dangers in the workplace, and create and improve safety programs. Priority is given to high risks workplaces. Consultations do not lead to penalties or citations. IOSHA can also provide training about OSHA's resources, how to recognize workplace hazards, and how to comply with OSHA standards. Consultants are available for workshops or speaking engagements on a variety of topics to groups at no cost.

Other Incentive and Technical Assistance Programs

Utility Programs

Iowa's electric utility providers consist of Investor-Owned companies, Rural Electric Cooperatives and Municipal Utilities. The Iowa Utilities Commission maintains an [online map of electrical service area boundaries](#) with provider information included. Contact your local provider about additional incentives they may provide for business or community development.

IOWA AREA DEVELOPMENT GROUP (IADG)

Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Programs (REDL & REDG)

- The loan program is designed to support business expansions in rural areas. Loans can be up to \$1 million with 0% financing for projects that create jobs in advanced manufacturing and value-added agriculture. REDL programs are managed by participating Rural Electric Coops.
- The grant program can support community-based projects with up to \$360,000 in 0% interest financing. Local governments and nonprofits may apply for funds to develop infrastructure, education, and healthcare initiatives. REDG programs are managed by participating Rural Electric Coops.

IADG Energy Bank

- The IADG Energy Bank is a revolving loan fund for manufacturers. Loans of up to \$300,000 are available at 1% interest and can be used for equipment replacement projects that increase energy efficiency.

Ripple Effect

- In partnership with [Aureon](#), IADG supports projects and initiative in communities served by independent broadband companies participating with Aureon. The program offers grants for projects or initiatives like strategic planning and soft costs, community facilities, entrepreneurial and business expansion support, and business parks and sites.

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY

Economic Advantage 365 (EA365)

- The EA365 program offers financial assistance to communities to support economic development efforts in their service area. MidAmerican Energy's [economic development team members](#) provide guidance to communities and economic developers throughout the program. EA365 has two area of focus:
 - [Establish the foundation for a sustainable future](#). Examples of projects eligible for potential financial support include talent attraction and retention programs, entrepreneurial development planning or programming, or housing needs assessments.
 - [Expand and strengthen local economies](#). Examples of projects eligible for potential financial support include supply chain analysis, industry cluster analysis, site certification due diligence, economic development strategic planning, branding, or marketing materials.

Business Programs, Discounts and Rebates

- MidAmerican offers several programs for businesses to help them save money and energy.

ALLIANT ENERGY

Community Grants

- Grants are available for community organizations in one of four focus areas: hunger and housing, workforce readiness, environmental stewardship (including trail projects and park improvements), and community safety and engagement (including events)

Customized Rates & Resources for Businesses

- Alliant's **economic development team** can work with businesses to determine rates and programs based on the company's location and energy needs.

Iowa Community Foundations

There are more than 130 community foundations in Iowa. Most community foundations are operated by active volunteers in local communities and are known as affiliate community foundations. Affiliates work with one of the **17 qualified community foundations** in the state which serve as the legal and administrative hub for the local organizations. Community foundations provide grants to local nonprofit organizations to support community efforts in arts and culture, health, human services, the environment, education, and community development.

Councils of Governments (COG)

Iowa has **17 Councils of Governments and 1 non-COG Regional Planning Agency** that support communities and counties across the state. Services may vary by COG, but in general they provide planning and technical assistance to the regions and communities they serve. Services may include:

- Local comprehensive planning, managing revolving loan funds for local businesses, grant-writing assistance, and managing housing and workforce programs
- Regional planning such as transportation planning and CEDS development.
- Securing and managing competitive state and federal grants, such as CDBG, HUD, USDA, and EDA grants.

University of Northern Iowa

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Advance Iowa

- Advance Iowa works with businesses in growth and transition stages. Services include:
 - Business growth – strategic planning, continuous improvement, Industry 4.0/5.0 technology solutions and assessments
 - Business transition planning – business valuations, continuity consultations, ESOP pre-feasibility, and workshops and presentations.
 - Employee ownership guidance and support through the **Iowa Center for Employee Ownership (IA-CEO)**

Family Business Center

- The Family Business Center caters to family-owned firms of any size or industry. The Center offers generational succession planning, organizes peer groups, events, board bootcamps, and individual family governance consultations.

Institute for Decision Making (IDM)

- IDM works with economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, local governments and other organizations focused on economic or community development with strategic, communitywide, and other topical planning. The team also supports

clients with applied research (e.g. targeted industry analysis, impact analysis), surveys, and data analytics. IDM offers professional development and training for economic and community development professionals and their boards or leadership through the [Heartland Basic Economic Development Course](#), as well as offerings such as a BRE Academy, Economic Development 101, and board retreat facilitation.

Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC)

- IWRC helps small to medium-sized businesses with environmental cost efficiencies, regulation compliance, and waste reduction. They can provide on-site reviews and free and confidential environmental consultations. IWRC also manages Iowa's Green Brewery Certification.

John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC)

- UNI's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center offers support to entrepreneurs on and off campus. JPEC offers networking, mentoring, and pitch events for entrepreneurs and small businesses. It houses one of Iowa's [Small Business Development Centers](#) to provide customized business counseling and technical advice for a nine-county region in northeast Iowa. In collaboration with IEDA, the Center manages [IASourceLink](#), a free online resource for businesses.

Strategic Marketing Services (SMS)

- SMS provides businesses with research and analysis, including marketplace trends, opportunities and threats, and customer satisfaction and perceptions. Regent's Innovation Funds help support SMS work with small companies and organizations to keep costs down.

University of Iowa

Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC)

- IISC is an engaged-learning program at UI that draws students and faculty from multiple disciplines across the college to work on projects or solutions for communities in Iowa. Communities can apply through a competitive process to engage students and faculty in a yearlong process to develop reports and plans that help communities move forward productively on their projects or issues. Common project types include engineering projects, marketing and branding, planning for land use, studies, public art, GIS and more. Communities are asked to contribute funding, currently \$50,000, but payment terms can be flexible.

Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center (LAWINRC)

- The Larned A Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center offers technical assistance and training to strengthen the operational capacity of nonprofit organizations serving Iowa. It maintains the [Iowa Grants Guide](#) which includes a database of more than 500 funders based in Iowa or with an Iowa connection.

Iowa Data Center Decision Tool

- Managed by the Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative, this decision tool was developed to help community leaders and elected officials prepare for data center discussions and policy considerations. The Data Center Decision Tool includes questions to consider in topics including community engagement, utility resources, incentives, and working with developers in the construction phase.

Iowa State University

CENTERS

Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS)

- CIRAS provides assistance to manufacturing businesses across Iowa to help them improve their operations and grow, innovate, and thrive. Through consulting, research, workshops and training, CIRAS supports businesses with executive strategy, marketing, exporting, government contracting, process efficiencies, and workforce retention, recruitment and engagement. CIRAS helps companies in emerging topics as well: artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, applied research, and supply chain, and Industry 4.0 Technology adoption and deployment.

Center for Cybersecurity Innovation & Outreach

- **Iowa Cyber Resilience Initiative**: The initiative is a statewide program to strengthen cybersecurity readiness across local governments and public-sector organizations. The free program is available to all counties, cities and school districts in Iowa. The program includes an asset inventory to determine what services might be vulnerable to a cyber-attack, an assessment and evaluation of existing security practices, and Cybersecurity Incident Management Exercises (CIME) to simulate and help prepare for cyber threats.

ISU Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship

- The ISU Pappajohn Center serves students, faculty and alumni and others through entrepreneurial programming, competitions, and workshops. The ISU Pappajohn Center also houses one of **Iowa's SBDC offices**.

EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

Community and Economic Development

- **Rural Housing Readiness Assessment**: This program assesses the housing needs of a community with populations less than 20,000. Communities may apply through IEDA's **Rural Housing Readiness Assessment Grant Program** or work directly with the Community and Economic unit.
- **First Impression Tourism and Community Assessment**: In partnership with the Iowa Tourism Office, this Extension and Outreach program is a comprehensive community assessment conducted by a team of unannounced visitors. The program helps communities learn about their strengths and weaknesses through the eyes of first-time visitors.
- **Community Visioning Program**: In partnership with Trees Forever, the Community Visioning program is for communities with populations less than 10,000 that may have transportation enhancement planning needs such as roads, streetscapes, trails, sidewalk systems, entrance corridors, and walkability/bikeability. The program engages technical experts from Trees Forever, a private-sector landscape architect, and the Iowa State University Department of Landscape Architecture to create enhancement plans with communities.
- The Community and Economic Development Team also offer **goal setting, strategic planning and facilitation** services as well as **community leadership programming**.

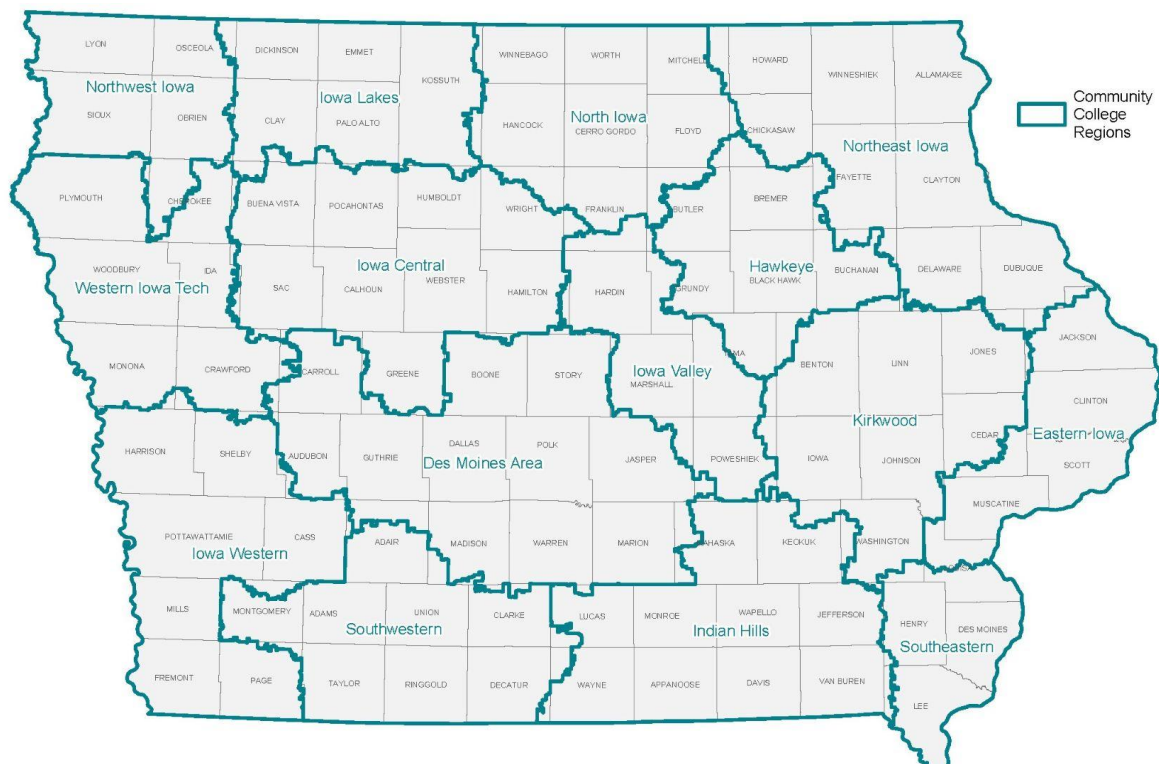
ISU RESEARCH PARK

- The [ISU Research Park](#) is a shared technology and incubator space for science and technology companies. The Park offers office space, research facilities and equipment, networking opportunities, business resources, financial guidance and mentorship. The facility serves as a launchpad for startups, a growth center for expanding businesses, and an R&D location for corporate teams.

Community Colleges

- Iowa has [15 Community Colleges](#) supporting students, businesses and communities across the state. Iowa's community colleges offer programs in three major areas of instruction: adult education, career programs of vocational and technical education, and college parallel. Most Community Colleges have a Business & Community Solutions team that works with businesses on customized training programs and resources for workforce development.
- | | |
|---|--|
| ○ <u>Northeast Iowa Community College</u> | ○ <u>Kirkwood Community College</u> |
| ○ <u>North Iowa Area Community College</u> | ○ <u>Des Moines Area Community College</u> |
| ○ <u>Iowa Lakes Community College</u> | ○ <u>Western Iowa Tech Community College</u> |
| ○ <u>Northwest Iowa Community College</u> | ○ <u>Iowa Western Community College</u> |
| ○ <u>Iowa Central Community College</u> | ○ <u>Southwestern Community College</u> |
| ○ <u>Iowa Valley Community College District</u> | ○ <u>Indian Hills Community College</u> |
| ○ <u>Hawkeye Community College</u> | ○ <u>Southeastern Community College</u> |
| ○ <u>Eastern Iowa Community Colleges</u> | |

COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGIONS



Iowa Local Workforce Development Areas

- Iowa has five Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs), each of which has a Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB). LWDBs were established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Local Boards make policy decisions about which workforce programs and resources should be prioritized in their area. Local Boards also work closely with Iowa Workforce Development as part of a system that strengthens and improves Iowa's workforce. LWDBs may have differing programs and training programs to support businesses within their areas.
 - **Northeast Iowa Workforce Development Board**. Serves Allamakee, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Howard, Mitchell, Winnebago, Winneshiek, and Worth counties.
 - **Eastern Iowa Workforce Board**. Serves Clinton, Jackson, Scott, Muscatine, Louisa, Henry, Des Moines, Lee, Appanoose, Davis, Hardin, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lucas, Mahaska, Marshall, Monroe, Poweshiek, Tama, Van Buren, Wapello and Wayne counties.
 - **East Central Iowa Workforce Development Board**. Serves Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington counties.
 - **Central Iowa Workforce Development Board**. Serves Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story, and Warren counties.
 - **Iowa Plains Local Workforce Development Area**. Operated by Iowa Workforce Development, the Iowa Plains region serves the remaining 42 counties on the west side of the state.

America's Cultivation Corridor

- The **Cultivation Corridor** is a cluster-based economic development organization that supports agribusinesses with resources, research and connections that help them innovate and grow. Their website offers links to business resources across Iowa, including a listing of **accelerators and incubators**, **lab and coworking spaces**, and **financial resources** for agribusinesses.

Iowa Farm Bureau

RENEW RURAL IOWA

- **Renew Rural Iowa** works to help new and existing businesses grow in Iowa's small towns through a program of business education, mentoring, and financial resources. Renew Rural Iowa manages the Rural Vitality Fund. These funds are intended to work with traditional capital sources and offer equity and/or debt infusions to small or mid-sized firms, financial backing and private financing options as well as mentoring for entrepreneurial growth. No subprime loans, grants or forgivable loans are offered.

BioConnect Iowa

BioConnect Iowa supports the bioscience, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and other deep-tech sectors in these key areas: Biobased Products, Precision and Digital Agriculture, Vaccines, Diagnostics and Immunotherapeutics, and Medical Innovation. The group also manages Iowa's SBA Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer

Outreach Program, which helps entrepreneurs obtain federal grants and funding matches. BioConnect Iowa currently offers two programs:

- [**Iowa Go-to-Market \(G2M\) Accelerator**](#). The accelerator program provides advanced commercialization training and guidance to tech-driven companies.
- [**InnoVenture Iowa**](#). InnoVenture Iowa is a co-investment fund for early-stage startup companies in biosciences, advanced manufacturing and information technology.

Delta Dental

IOWA FIND PROJECT

- [**Fulfilling Iowa's Need for Dentists \(FIND\)**](#). To help underserved communities, this program assists dentists and dental students in establishing practices in these dental deserts. Through the FIND Project, new graduates or practicing dentists can receive education loan repayment of up to \$200,000 over a 5-year period for a dentist serving in a high-priority county, or up to \$125,000 over a 5-year period for a dentist serving in a priority or non-designated county.

Federal Programs

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Iowa Small Business Development Centers

- Iowa's SBDC network of 15 regional centers offer no fee, confidential business counseling in areas of business planning, market research, financials, and more for small businesses and entrepreneurs across Iowa. Businesses can access [**online on-demand training**](#), and get help from business counselors about accessing [**Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) and Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\)**](#) federal grant opportunities that help small businesses engaging in research and commercialization potential.

Iowa SBA District Office

- The Iowa office provides help with SBA services including funding programs, counseling, federal contracting certifications, and disaster recovery. Common business loan programs backed by the SBA include: [**7\(a\) loans**](#) through participating lenders, [**504 loans**](#) through [**Certified Development Companies**](#), and [**Microloans**](#) through nonprofit community-based intermediary [**micro-lenders**](#).

Department of the Treasury

New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC)

- The NMTC Program attracts private capital into low-income areas by allowing individual and corporate investors to receive a tax credit against their federal income tax in exchange for making equity investments in specialized financial intermediaries called Community Development Entities (CDEs). The credit totals 39% of the original investment amount and is claimed over a period of seven years.

International Trade Administration

Foreign Trade Zones

Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) are designated locations in the U.S. but considered to be outside U.S. Customs territory. Businesses that import merchandise for warehousing and distribution or for production into final products for sale domestically or for export are best positioned to take advantage of FTZ benefits, which include duty deferral or duty elimination opportunities, and reduction or elimination of duty drawback processes and expenses, brokerage fees and associate merchandise processing fees. Many types of businesses use FTZs to gain a competitive advantage, such as warehousing/distribution, motor vehicle assembly, general manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, machinery/equipment, and food processing (Note: retail trade is prohibited). The main advantages of FTZs for activated businesses include:

- **Duty Exemption:** Goods re-exported from the zone are not subject to duties or quota charges. Additionally, no duties are incurred on merchandise destroyed within the zone. This can be particularly advantageous for companies importing fragile goods or engaging in manufacturing processes that generate significant scrap or waste material.
- **Duty Deferral:** Customs duties and federal excise tax are deferred on imports until they leave the zone and enter the U.S. Customs territory and there is no limit on the length of time that merchandise can be stored or held within the Zone, whether or not duty is owed.
- **Duty Reduction (Inverted Tariff):** Often tariffs on U.S. component items or raw materials have a higher duty rate than the finished product. In an FTZ, the manufacturer pays the duty on whichever is lower, the inputs or the finished product. In addition, duty is not owed on labor, overhead or profit attributable to zone production operations.
- **Merchandise Processing Fee (MPF) Reduction:** MPF is only paid on goods entering the U.S. Customs territory. In an FTZ, users are able to file a single entry for all goods shipped from a zone in a consecutive seven-day period instead of one entry file for each shipment.

There are four designated Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ) operating in Iowa under the Alternative Site Framework (ASF) which allows businesses located within an approved service area to obtain streamlined trade zone status for their existing facilities, eliminating the need to relocate to pre-designated sites. FTZ grantees in Iowa include:

- The [**Greater Des Moines Partnership**](#) manages [**FTZ 107 - Polk County**](#). The service area covers Adair, Adams, Audubon, Boone, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Clarke, Dallas, Decatur, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Jasper, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Polk, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Story, Union, Warren, Wayne, and Webster Counties.
- The [**Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce**](#) administers [**FTZ 133 Quad-Cities, Iowa/Illinois**](#). The service area in Iowa that covers Cedar, Clinton, Des Moines, Dubuque, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Scott, and Washington Counties.
- The [**Cedar Rapids Airport Commission**](#) manages [**FTZ 175 - Cedar Rapids**](#) which includes the service area of Benton, Buchanan, Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine, and Scott Counties.

- Organized by Northwest Iowa Development Corporation, [FTZ 288 – Northwest Iowa](#) includes the service area of Cherokee, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, and Sioux Counties

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD)

- [USDA Rural Development Programs in Iowa](#). Link goes to a full list of all USDA-RD program opportunities in Iowa including business assistance, community infrastructure, and housing.
- [USDA Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan \(B&I\) Program](#). The program offers loan guarantees to support local financing agencies with loans to rural businesses that improve, develop, or finance business, industry and employment as well as improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities.
- [USDA Intermediary Relending Program \(IRP\)](#). The IRP provides loans to local organizations to establish revolving loan funds to assist with financing business and economic development activities that create or retain jobs in disadvantaged and remote communities.
- [USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant \(REDLG\)](#). This program provides funding to rural projects through local nonprofit utility organizations. Under the program, USDA provides zero interest loans to local utilities which they can relend to local businesses for projects that create and retain employment in rural areas.
- [USDA Rural Business Development Grant](#). This grant program provides funds to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas.
- [USDA Value-Added Producer Grants \(VAPG\)](#). Value-Added grant funds are available to local producers and cooperatives for planning activities or working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy.
- [USDA Community Facilities Grants/Loans](#). Funds are available to support the development of essential community facilities for public use in rural areas and may include hospitals, fire protection, safety, child care centers, and many other community-based initiatives.
- [USDA Rural Community Development Initiative](#). The program provides technical assistance and training funds to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations and low-income rural communities to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The [EDA](#) funds projects and initiatives, ranging from planning to infrastructure construction, that align with its current investment priorities:

- Critical Infrastructure: Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.

- **Workforce:** Economic Development planning or implementation projects that support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or promote labor force participation.
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure; promote business development and lending; or foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.
- **Economic Recovery Resilience:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or economic impacts from natural disasters.
- **Manufacturing:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

The [EDA Program List](#) describes each program briefly. Iowa is part of the [Denver Regional Office](#), whose economic development representatives can explain possible funding for specific projects. In addition, Iowa's Councils of Governments Often represent EDA "Economic Development Districts" and will have information on EDA opportunities for businesses and communities.

Partners in Economic and Community Development



Membership Organizations

Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI)

- PDI is Iowa's economic development membership organization. PDI offers members networking and training opportunities through conferences and webinars; advocacy at the state level for issues impacting economic development across the state; and mentoring and the ConnectED certification program designed to engage and support Iowa's newest professionals.

Iowa Association of Chambers of Commerce (IACC)

- IACC is the professional association for Chamber of Commerce executives and staff. IACC provides members with professional training and networking through conferences, member meetings and webinars.

Iowa Chamber Alliance

- The Iowa Chamber Alliance is a coalition of 14 of the state's largest Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development organizations. The Chamber Alliance is a policy-focused coalition, supporting policies and initiatives that promote economic growth by helping communities build attractive places for employers to invest in and where employees want to live.

Iowa Travel Industry Partners (iTIP)

- iTIP is Iowa's statewide association for the tourism and hospitality industry. iTIP offers members training, resources and advocacy that support tourism efforts in Iowa.

American Planning Association – Iowa Chapter (APA Iowa)

- APA Iowa serves as the state chapter for the American Planning Association. Members are professional planners, planning educators, planning commissioners and planning students. APA supports its members' professional development through local and state planning workshops and events, the annual state and national planning conferences, and AICP certification and Advanced Specialty Certification. APA Iowa sets an annual legislative agenda and provides members with state and federal policies that may impact their work.

Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC)

- ISAC is a membership organization formed of [16 affiliate associations](#) to support county governments in Iowa. ISAC offers resources, training, and advocacy for county leaders and officials. ISAC sponsors conferences and workshops for members, two member-wide, annual conferences and special conferences, workshops and seminars offered throughout the year on timely issues affecting county officials.

Iowa League of Cities

- The League of Cities serves as the association for Iowa's cities. More than 850 of the cities in Iowa, both large and small, are members. The Iowa League of Cities provides advocacy, training and guidance to its members to strengthen their communities. The League offers [resources](#) in a variety of topics relevant to communities and their governance, including tax incentive options, nuisance abatement, permitting and more.

International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

- The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a membership organization for economic developers. It offers training courses and conferences; and manages professional credentials, including the Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) certification and the Entrepreneurship Development Professional credential (EDP). The organization also publishes industry updates and academic research through publications like the Economic Development Journal. Additionally, IEDC [accredits economic development organizations](#), offers disaster recovery support, and engages in federal policy advocacy on issues affecting local and regional economic growth.

National Rural Economic Developers Association (NREDA)

- The National Rural Economic Developers Association (NREDA) is a member-based organization focused on advancing rural economic and community development. Its membership includes rural economic developers, key account managers from electric and telecommunications cooperatives, government agency representatives, and others promoting community and economic development in rural America. The association offers professional development and networking through annual conferences, regional workshops, webinars, and specialized podcasts. NREDA advocates for rural issues through policy white papers and meeting annually with federal partners to share the development priorities and infrastructure issues that affect rural America.

Other Partners

Iowa Rural Development Council (IRDC)

- The Rural Development Council supports rural communities through programming that addresses rural issues, builds capacity in rural communities, and offers resources and information that help rural areas thrive. IRDC sponsors and organizes the [Iowa Leadership Exchange](#) and works with Iowa's Center for Rural Revitalization to administer the [Rural Leadership Bootcamp](#). The Rural Development Council also hosts the annual [Iowa Rural Summit](#).

Homes for Iowa

- In partnership with Iowa Prison Industries (IPI), Homes for Iowa helps train offenders in the building trades while providing much needed affordable, high quality housing for communities across the state. Homes are built offsite with several floor plans available.

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG)

- iJag focuses on career development programming which includes leadership training, career education, individualized guidance, and employer engagement. They work to be a bridge between education and the workplace, serving more than 10,000 students in [205 programs](#). Programs vary depending on the unique needs of middle schools, high schools, and alternative school partners across the state. Programs may include local career education goals, workforce development needs, career, soft-skill development programs, and an emphasis on resiliency, leadership training, career preparedness, dropout prevention initiatives, and other academic benchmarks.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

- CCR&R works with child care providers, employers, and communities to improve child care in Iowa. Child care consultants are located throughout the state and can provide communities with system consultations, connections, and [data](#) that helps communities understand and address their child care service needs. CCR&R has developed a [Child Care Roadmap](#) for stakeholders that offers tailored solution ideas based on their specific situation.

Professional Development

Besides the valuable training offered by the membership organizations and other partners, there are specific courses and programs specifically designed to advance overall knowledge in economic development. *Note: PDI offers a limited number of competitive [scholarships](#) each year to support members attend educational opportunities that further their expertise in the field.*

Heartland Economic Development Course

- The Heartland Economic Development Course is held annually in the Kansas City area and offers intensive training in the basic concepts, information, methods, and strategies of local economic and community development. Heartland is led by a board of directors appointed and supported by the economic development associations from six Midwest states, including Iowa. Heartland is one of several [IEDC-sanctioned basic economic development courses](#).

PDI ConnectED

- PDI ConnectED is a 12-month cohort program for mid-career economic development practitioners. Designed for PDI members with at least two years of experience who have completed a basic economic development course such as Heartland, the program pairs participants with experienced state mentors. Its Iowa-specific training includes topics such as state incentives, local public financing, site readiness, project management, and capital stacking. Overall, the program focuses on the practical side of managing economic development projects within Iowa.

University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute (OU EDI)

- After attendance at a basic economic development course like Heartland, OU EDI is the next level of economic development training. Courses are delivered through a combination of online courses and multi-day in-person institutes. The curriculum covers core industry topics such as business retention and expansion, strategic planning, entrepreneurship, and marketing and attraction. The program's coursework aligns with International Economic Development Council (IEDC) guidelines, satisfying the advanced education requirements necessary to sit for the Certified Economic Developer (CECd) exam through IEDC.

International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

- IEDC also offers the required training courses to sit for the CECD exam. All of IEDC's courses are delivered as online courses. IEDC manages the [CECd certification](#) and the [Entrepreneurship Development Professional \(EDP\) certification](#) and renewal process. In addition, IEDC has added a Certificate program for talent and workforce development professionals.

Key Data Sources

Iowa Sources

IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE AUTHORITY

- [Iowa Profile](#): The Iowa Profile offers data dashboards at the statewide, county, city and zip code level. Dashboard data includes demographics, economy (jobs, workforce, etc.), quality of life, housing, and for state and county levels, housing forecasts.
- [LocationOne Iowa](#): LocationOne Information System (or LOIS) serves as Iowa's available sites and buildings database, but it also includes demographic and economic reports at the state, regional, county, or city level, regardless of whether a site or building is listed in that jurisdiction. ESRI profiles and reports, Lightcast Workforce Reports, and state-generated informational reports (county level and above), are all accessible through the site.

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (IWD)

- [IWD Labor Market Information](#): IWD tracks and reports data on multiple aspects of Iowa's labor market. The Labor Market Information (LMI) Division releases a monthly "[Labor Market Quick Stats](#)" infographic highlighting data from the links below.



- **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)**: Includes monthly or annual data at the state or county level for labor force, employment, unemployment, unemployment rate, and labor force participation rate.
- **Iowa Wage Report**: Developed using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program, the dataset includes occupational employment and wages, sortable by occupational grouping or specific occupations. The data is available at the statewide, four Balance of the State (BOS) areas, Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA), and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) levels. **Iowa Staffing Patterns** are published in conjunction with the occupational projections and provide detailed information on which occupations are employed in each industry sector/sub-sector.
- **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)**: The QCEW measures monthly employment and quarterly wage information by industry across Iowa. Data is available at the statewide and county level.
- **Laborshed Studies**: Laborshed studies assess the labor availability within a laborshed, the area or region from which an employment center draws workers. Based on telephone surveys of people within that area, laborshed studies assess underemployment, availability of labor and likeliness of the employed or not employed to change or accept employment. Other topics covered within a Laborshed analysis include: current and desired occupations, wages, hours worked, job search resources and distance willing to commute to work.
- **Workforce Needs Assessment**: The Workforce Needs Assessment Survey is an annual employer survey conducted by Iowa Workforce Development. Employers are asked to provide information regarding both their current level of employment and their current and expected job vacancies to help understand their challenges, the demand for workers, and skills required of workers. Data is available at the state, Local Workforce Development Area, or county level.
- **Industry Projections**: Long term (2024 to 2034) industry employment projections by Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA).
- **Iowa Employer Database**: Sourced from the national Data Axle database, the Employer Database provides a listing of Iowa employers by industry sector, filtered by county, employer size, or city.
- **Current Employment Statistics (CES)**: Data comes from a survey of establishments that provides detailed industry-by-industry data on employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls.
- **Employment Benefit Analysis**: Through a survey conducted by Iowa Workforce Development, employers across Iowa are asked to provide information regarding benefits they currently offer their full-time and part-time employees. Data is presented at state, LWDA, and county levels.
- **Employer Dashboard**: An interactive dashboard that displays commuting data, occupational wages, benefit information, available labor, demographic information and more at the county level.

- **Unemployment Insurance (UI) Statistics**: Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments by industry and county. In addition, IWD tracks the **characteristics (demographic and industry) of UI claimants** and produces printable **monthly profiles** of the UI benefit recipients.
- **Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN)**: The WARN Act requires employers with 100 or more employees to give 60 calendar days' written notice when there is a plant closing or mass layoff. IWD maintains a log of all WARN notices in Iowa that includes the layoff dates, the company, and number of employees affected. Data can be filtered by Industry, LWDA, County, or City.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT (DOM)

- **City Data**: Includes links to reports or spreadsheets for city consolidated property tax rates and comparisons, property valuations, and city budgets.
- **County Data**: Includes links to county property tax rates, property valuations, and budget reports.
- **Iowa Data Hub**: The DOM manages the State of Iowa's data in multiple categories as published by many of the State's departments.

*Tip: Need a quick business list? The **Active Iowa Business Entities Explorer** allows users to filter by home office city to visualize and pull information on active business entities who are authorized to transact business in the State of Iowa. The list does not include sole proprietorships, partnerships, or other select business structures that are not required to register with the secretary of state.*

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **PK-12 Education Statistics**: Offers several datasets including PK-12 public and nonpublic school enrollments and enrollment projections, graduation rates, and assessments. Data can be reviewed by district or by school.
- **Higher Ed & Postsecondary Reports**: Includes datasets for 2 and 4-year college enrollments and links to other data dashboards:
 - **Iowa Student Outcomes**: This dashboard offers access to Iowa's student outcomes, providing information related to student success in PK-12 education and college readiness, postsecondary education, apprenticeships, and adult literacy programs.
 - **Postsecondary Readiness Reports**: A data dashboard that includes information on enrollment in colleges and universities, participation in registered apprenticeships and Iowa community college noncredit coursework, and postsecondary retention and completion rates for students who graduated from public high schools in Iowa. Data is available statewide, by Iowa high school and by student group.

THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA

- **State Data Center of Iowa**: Offers online easy access to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, some Iowa state agencies, and other state and federal sources. The site offers data covering demographics, housing, migration, business and industry, and government. Depending on the data topic, information can be parsed at the state, metropolitan and micropolitan areas, county, school district, and city levels.

TRAVEL IOWA

- Travel Iowa's [Industry Partners research tab](#) includes:
 - Tourism economic impact reports by county through an [interactive dashboard](#), and offers an Excel download of the same information as well.
 - [Annual geolocation visitation reports](#) provide total estimated travelers, state and DMA of origin, length of stay, seasonality, and comparisons of out-of-state travelers to all travelers. The reports provide data for an entire travel area and do not include county or city-level visitation information. This Geolocation Visitor Data is available at no cost but must be requested from state staff.
 - Additional state and regional impact [research reports and studies](#) are available for outdoor recreation, biking and trails, breweries, spirits and wineries, and outdoor participation trends.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- [City and County Traffic Maps](#): An interactive map with the latest traffic counts for roads in Iowa. The map can be zoomed in to the city street level for local traffic counts.
- Rail Information: Users can find information on rail owners and operators, as well as spurs through the [Interactive Rail Map](#) and find railroad economic development and manager contact information through the [Freight Rail Profiles](#) page.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

- [ISU Community Insights](#). ISU Community Insights offers multiple ways to access U.S. Census and other federal and state agency data. [Interactive dashboards](#) include information on population and demographics, income and poverty, housing, health, workforce and jobs. The [Insights Resource Library](#) contains ready-made handouts, dashboards, and spreadsheets with data in multiple topic areas and geography levels.

Federal Sources for Iowa Information

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

- The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) conducts more than 130 surveys and programs every year. Data is generally accessed through the [Explore Census Data](#) search tool. Some of the most useful include:
 - [Decennial Census](#). Conducted every ten years, the decennial census counts every resident in the country. Data is used to apportion government representation, allocate federal monies, and serves as the base for new population estimates over the next decade.
 - [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#). The ACS is a continuous survey. It creates period estimates, representing the characteristics of the population and housing over a specific data collection period. These are provided in 1-year and 5-year estimates. 1-year estimates are published for areas with populations of more than 65,000, and county and city level data is published in the form of 5-year estimates.
 - [Annual Business Survey \(ABS\)](#). ABS provides information on selected economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by sex, ethnicity, race, and veteran status. Data is available at the national, state, MSA, county and place levels.

- **Center for Economic Studies** This program uses microdata from existing censuses and surveys, and from administrative sources, to create innovative public-use data products, including:
 - **Job-to-Job Flows Explorer**. Includes statistics on job-to-job transition rates, hires and separations, earnings changes due to job change, and the characteristics of origin and destination jobs for job-to-job transitions. Available at the national, state, and metropolitan area levels and by worker and firm characteristics.
 - **OnTheMap**. OnTheMap is a visual tool for LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES). It includes data on commuting distances and destinations both in and out of geographic selections, with information about the workers by age, earnings, and the industries in which they work.
 - **Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) Explorer**. The QWI Explorer includes employment, job creation, earnings, and other measures of employment flows. Data can be sorted by detailed firm characteristics (geography, industry, age, and size) and worker demographics information (sex, age, education, race, and ethnicity) and are available at the state, metropolitan/ micropolitan areas, county, and Workforce Investment Board (WIB) areas.
 - **Post-Secondary Outcomes Explorer (PSEO)**. The PSEO Explorer tool contains earnings outcomes and employment flows for recent graduates of colleges and universities in a given geography. Outcomes data can be filtered by degree level and visualized by educational program area.
- **County Business Patterns (CBP)**. CBP includes data on the number of establishments, employment, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll. Data is available at the state, county, MSA, CSA, ZIP code, or Congressional District level.
- **Foreign Trade**. The Census Foreign Trade data includes import and export information through state and NAICS-based searches. Detailed trade information is accessed through **USA Trade Online**.
- **Population Estimates Program (PEP)** produces annual estimates of the population for the United States, states, MSAs, counties, cities, and towns.
- **Census Business Builder (CBB)**. The CBB is an interactive data analytics tool designed to support business decision making and planning. The tool provides business intelligence in a simple to use format. Users can generate reports at various geographic levels that include information on customer demographics, industries, and consumer spending.

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS)

- The **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)** maintains multiple databases in several subject areas: Inflation & Prices, Employment, Unemployment, Employment Projections, Pay & Benefits, Spending & Time Use, Productivity, Workplace Injuries, and Occupational Requirements. Databases of likely interest to economic developers include:
 - **Current Employment Statistics (CES)**. Based on a monthly survey, this dataset includes employment, hours, and earnings for workers on non-farm payrolls. Data is available by state and by MSA, and is based on where the employer is located. Data can be further refined by industry sector.

- [Local Area Unemployment Statistics \(LAUS\)](#). This monthly model-based dataset produces monthly and annual labor force participation rates and numbers, unemployment rates and numbers, and employment numbers by state, metro/micro area, and county. Data is based on place of worker residence.
- [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics \(OEWS\)](#). Based on a semiannual survey, this dataset offers estimates of employment and wages for specific occupations in non-farm establishments. Data can be refined by state or MSA, by industry, and by occupation. Data includes employment, average annual and hourly wages by occupation, and location quotients.
- [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages \(QCEW\)](#). This quarterly dataset includes the number of establishments, monthly employment, and wages for workers covered under the Unemployment Insurance system (covering more than 95% of U.S. jobs). The data also includes location quotients for employment and wages. Data is based on place of employment and can be filtered by state, MSA, or county, and by industry, ownership, or establishment size. QCEW data can also be accessed through the [QCEW State and County Map](#).
- [Business Employment Dynamics \(BDM\)](#). This quarterly dataset includes national and statewide statistics on gross job gains and gross job losses, establishment openings and closings, and establishment expansions and contractions. Data can be filtered by employee size or industry. The Center for Economic Studies updates the [Business Dynamics Statistics \(BDS\) Explorer](#) as a data visualization tool for this dataset.

U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (BEA)

- The [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis \(BEA\)](#) offers data **by topic**: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Spending, Income & Saving, Industries, International Trade & Investment, Prices & Inflation, Investment in Fixed Assets, Employment, Government, and Special Topics; and **by geographic area**: global, national, state, county, metro, and other local areas. This includes data such as per capita personal income by state, county, or MSA; Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by state, MSA, or county; and proprietor income by state, MSA, or county. Users can access state, county, or MSA fact sheets with data on personal income and GDP through [BEARFACTS](#).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- The USDA offers data through two resources:
- [Economic Research Service \(ERS\)](#). State Fact Sheets provide information that includes farm characteristics, farm financial indicators, top commodities, and agricultural exports. Links to additional agricultural related information can also be found here.
- [National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\)](#). NASS provides information and links for state and county level agricultural production and value. Users can link to the [Census of Agriculture](#) for state and county profiles as well as the searchable [Quick Stats](#) database with data from the Census of Agriculture or the Agricultural Survey, and a direct link to Iowa's current [Agricultural Overview](#).

STATSAMERICA

- [StatsAmerica](#) is not a data source, but rather a portal to or an aggregation of US data and tools. The StatsAmerica portal is supported by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and managed by the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. The portal includes links to comprehensive regional profiles for [states](#), [counties](#), or [cities](#), and an interactive [Innovation Intelligence](#) tool that builds Innovation Capacity Profiles for state, economic development districts, metro areas, and counties.

Other Data Sources

LOCATIONONE INFORMATION SYSTEM (OR LOIS)

- [LocationOne](#) serves as the Iowa Sites, Buildings and Area Database. It also includes Workforce Reports and ESRI Reports at the state, regional, county, or community level. A selection of ESRI reports include:
 - Business Summary
 - Demographic & Income Profile
 - Retail Marketplace Potential
 - Community Profile
 - Market Profile
 - Disposable Income Reports
 - Household Expenditure ReportsAdditional informational files are available at the county level.

CENTER ON RURAL INNOVATION (CORI)

[CORI's Economic Development Tool](#). This interactive dashboard displays data for counties or regions across 25 critical indicators in the areas of workforce, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, demographics and housing. Includes selectable comparison benchmarks for data.

State Government



Executive Branch

Iowa's Executive Branch is responsible for carrying out the laws of the state as passed by the General Assembly. The Executive Branch is led by the Governor and consists of six elected leaders and 16 executive branch departments. The following table identifies the state's elected officials and executive branch agencies:

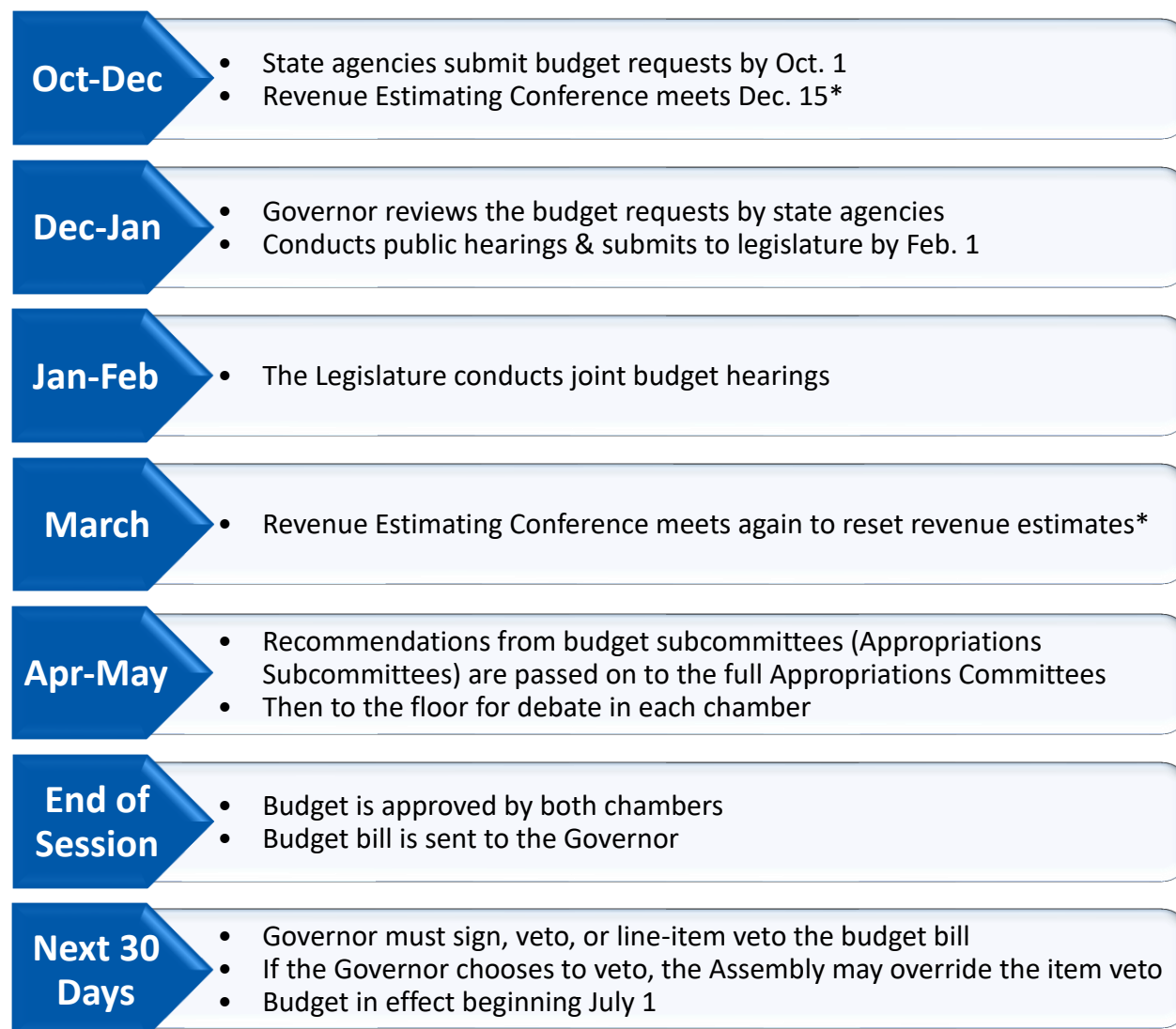
Position or Agency Name:	Current Elected Official or Agency Lead:	Phone Contact:
Governor	Kim Reynolds	515.281.5211
Lieutenant Governor	<u>Chris Cournoyer</u>	515.281.3371
Secretary of Agriculture (Dept. of Ag. & Land Stewardship)	<u>Mike Naig</u>	515.281.5322
Attorney General (Dept. of Justice)	Brenna Bird	515.281.5164
Auditor of State	<u>Rob Sand</u>	515.281.5835
Secretary of State	<u>Paul D. Pate</u>	515.242.5952
Treasurer of State	<u>Roby Smith</u>	515.281.5368
Department of Administrative Services	<u>Mark Campbell</u>	515.281.3481
Department of Corrections	<u>Beth Skinner</u>	515.725.5704
Economic Development & Finance Authority	<u>Debi Durham</u>	515.348.6146
Department of Education	<u>McKenzie Snow</u>	515.281.3333
Department of Health and Human Services	<u>Larry Johnson</u>	515.281.5457
Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt.	<u>John Benson</u>	515.725.3208
Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing	<u>Aaron Baack</u>	515.777.5549
Department of Insurance and Financial Services	<u>Doug Ommen</u>	515.654.6541
Department of Management	<u>Kraig Paulsen</u>	515.281.3322
Department of Natural Resources	<u>Kayla Lyon</u>	515.491.0998
Department of Public Defense	<u>Stephen Osborn</u>	515.252.4020
Department of Public Safety	<u>Stephan Bayens</u>	515.725.6182
Department of Revenue	<u>Mary Mosiman</u>	515.518.9207
Department of Transportation	<u>Scott Marler</u>	515.239.1101
Department of Veterans Affairs	<u>Todd Jacobus</u>	641.753.4309
Department of Workforce Development	<u>Beth Townsend</u>	515.281.5364

Legislative Branch

The Iowa General Assembly consists of 100 members in the Iowa House of Representatives and 50 members in the Iowa Senate. Each state house member represents about 33,000 Iowans, while each state senator represents about 65,000. Iowa House of Representatives members serve two-year terms, and state Senators serve four-year terms. There are no term limits. Iowa is represented at the federal level by four members of the U.S. House of Representatives, elected by each of the four [U.S. Congressional Districts in Iowa](#); and two members of the U.S. Senate, elected by the state's entire electorate.

Iowa's General Assembly lasts two years. The General Assembly convenes yearly on the second Monday in January. Even though the session may be adjourned earlier or later, per diem expenses only extend up to 110 calendar days during the first year of the General Assembly (odd-numbered years) and up to 100 calendar days during second year of the General Assembly (even-numbered years).

The legislature is responsible for debating and appropriating the state's budget each year. The total budget for FY2027 is 9.65 billion. The budgeting process in Iowa follows this basic schedule:



**Note on Revenue Estimating Conference: for each fund except for the General Fund, the total amount appropriated or budgeted to be spent may not exceed the estimated revenues plus the unappropriated surplus fund balance.*

PDI Legislative Priorities

The PDI Legislative Committee monitors state policies that may impact economic development in Iowa. Each year, the Legislative Committee puts together formal [legislative priorities](#) and works with the PDI lobbyist to share PDI's priorities and advocate on behalf of the PDI membership for policies that support economic development. Additionally, PDI hosts legislative

roundtables and a spring legislative reception. Members are kept informed and updated at conferences and through biweekly membership calls during the legislative session. Members can also access the [PDI bill tracker](#) anytime to check for updates to bills of interest to PDI members.

State Agencies

This section includes a brief description of each office or department and what they do or offer to support economic and community development.

Secretary of State

The Iowa Secretary of State's office operates three divisions: the [Business Services Division](#), the [Elections Division](#), and the [Safe at Home Division](#). The Business Services Division handles registration filings, reports, and other forms for business and nonprofit entities doing business in Iowa. The Elections Division supervises the administration of election laws and administers the statewide voter registration system, trains election officials, and provides voter registration and education services. Safe at Home is an address confidentiality program that provides survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, stalking, and assault participants with a confidential substitute address.

Treasurer of State

The Iowa Treasurer's office serves as the state's "banker" managing various investments, including [ABLE Savings](#) and [529 Savings](#) Plans, judicial and peace officers pension funds, and the small business Linked Investments program ([LIFT](#)). The office also offers online [financial education programs](#) for all ages.

Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

The DAS provides human resource services for state agencies and employees. The department is also responsible for managing and maintaining the buildings and grounds at the Capitol Complex, and the state's vehicle fleet. The [Office of the General Counsel](#) is housed within the DAS.

Department of Corrections (DOC)

The DOC is responsible for nine institutions across the state that house approximately 8,200 individuals and oversees the accreditation and funding of eight district correctional services departments. They supervise about 30,800 people in the community on any given day including probation, parole, and work-release programs. Institutions partner with other state and regional agencies or organizations to provide education, apprenticeships, vocational training, and substance abuse programming for inmates.

Economic Development & Finance Authority

The Iowa Economic Development & Finance Authority focuses on economic and community development across the state. The department provides financial assistance and technical support through several business, community and housing programs, most of which are included in the ["Incentives and Support"](#) section of this resource guide.

Department of Education

The Department of Education oversees Iowa's PK-12 public elementary and secondary schools in 325 districts, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, Iowa's nine area education agencies, 15 community colleges, and teacher preparation programs. The Department also includes Iowa College Aid, the Board of Educational Examiners, the Iowa School for the Deaf, the Iowa School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Governor's STEM Advisory Council.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Iowa's department of Health and Human Services is responsible for overseeing multiple programs that support the health and wellbeing of Iowans. HHS supports assistance programs in food, housing, public health, Medicaid, employment, child care and more. HHS funds [**Iowa Child Care Connect**](#) which offers users a child care search feature, a vacancy dashboard, and a supply and demand dashboard useful for communities researching their child care assets and needs.

Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)

HSEM is responsible for state disasters and emergency preparedness and response. HSEM works with local emergency managers through training and offers grants to support hazard mitigation efforts.

Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL):

DIAL is responsible for inspecting and licensing or certifying multiple professions and programs. From the [**Find a Record or License**](#) page, users can search online services to verify professional licensures, and review inspection and survey records. Among the department's eight divisions, [**Iowa OSHA's Consultation & Education Services**](#) can provide no-cost and confidential services to small- and medium-sized businesses in Iowa to help them identify dangers in the workplace, provide guidance to help follow OSHA standards, and help create and improve safety and health programs without leading to penalties or citations. IOSHA also provides training and general information about OSHA's resources, hazard recognition, and how to comply with OSHA standards through seminars, workshops, and other speaking events. With the recent state realignment, four separate units are attached to DIAL: the [**Employment Appeal Board**](#), the [**Office of Civil Rights**](#), the [**Racing and Gaming Commission**](#), and [**State Public Defender's Office**](#).

Department of Insurance and Financial Services

The Department of Insurance and Financial Services includes three divisions: Banking, Credit Unions and Insurance. The divisions are charged with oversight and regulation in each area. Users can search for [**banks in Iowa**](#) and [**bank**](#), [**credit union**](#), and [**insurance**](#) data.

Department of Management (DOM)

The Department of Management manages the state's financial resources. The DOM operates through three divisions: the Division of Budget, Finance, and Human Resources, the Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement, and the Division of Information Technology. Key responsibilities include the preparation of economic and revenue projections for the Revenue Estimating Committee and creating the Governor's budget recommendations, managing state and local budgets, and overseeing the state's performance management system.

Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

The Department of Natural Resources manages the state's fish and wildlife programs, manages forests and prairies, and provides recreational opportunities in Iowa's state parks. IDNR is responsible for carrying out state and federal laws that protect air, land and water. They do this through technical assistance, permitting, and compliance programs. The DNR also conducts outreach and education programming to encourage the enjoyment and stewardship of natural resources.

Department of Public Defense (DPD)

The Department of Public Defense supports the Iowa National Guard. The DPD website includes [How-to Guides](#) for guard members in topics from assistance programs to employment to recreation in Iowa.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety includes several divisions including the Iowa State Patrol, the Division of Criminal Investigation, Narcotics Enforcement, and the State Fire Marshal.

Department of Revenue

The Department of Revenue is responsible for tax administration, alcoholic beverage control, and lotteries. The Department offers [research, reports and statistics](#) including retail sales and use tax reports that show the retail sales tax collections by county and city. The Department is also responsible for [permitting and licensing](#) of businesses and certain activities.

Department of Transportation (IDOT)

The Department of Transportation has both public facing operations and systems and planning operations. Systems and planning operations include modal transportation information and data, traffic and crash data, system maps, funding programs for various transportation projects, and state transportation plans from aviation and rail to bike and pedestrian paths.

Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA)

The Department of Veterans Affairs serves Iowa's veteran population through three operational areas. The Benefits Division administers state-funded financial assistance programs, such as the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund and the Injured Veterans Grant Program and trains and certifies County Veterans Service Officers in each county for local veteran support. Other operations include the Iowa Veterans Home and the Iowa Veterans Cemetery.

Department of Workforce Development (IWD)

Iowa Workforce Development is responsible for employment services for jobseekers and employers. Services range from individual job seeker support through career counseling, workshops, and training identification/connection to business engagement that helps employers find workers, access upskilling or new training programs, and apply for qualifying tax credits. In addition to programs and data previously mentioned, IWD manages the [IowaWORKS](#) jobs database, the [Career Explorer](#) portal with salary and education needs identified for numerous occupations in each county, Iowa's unemployment system and [Home Base Iowa](#), a program that connects veterans and their families to careers and communities in Iowa.

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