



**Enriching Iowa's Economic Development
Through Innovative Workforce Services**



Economic Growth in Iowa

Iowa has the fastest growing economy in the Midwest and the 8th fastest growing economy in the U.S. for 2004, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2005). Iowa offers businesses a pool of citizens trained in the life sciences, advanced manufacturing, and information solutions. Iowa is expanding economic growth opportunities for its workers and

businesses through many forward-looking investments. In order to serve the growing demands of Iowa's economic capacities in this successful business climate, Iowa needs to produce and retain well-trained, educated, qualified workers who can meet the changing needs of employers around the state.

The Challenge to Put Iowans to Work

Although Iowa has grown economically, some individuals and families are being left behind. Recent cuts to the PROMISE JOBS program have led to higher caseloads and decreased ability to provide extra support that is often needed for individuals with multiple barriers to employment. Many working-age Iowans are facing a number of issues that must be addressed to help them contribute to society and support their families. These barriers include lack of education, job skills, mental health, disabilities, substance abuse, criminal history, and cultural and language barriers. Two years after leaving FIP, one in five families is again "back on" assistance. Sixty percent of FIP recipients not working after two years say that it is because of personal or mental health problems. Approximately 44% of FIP recipients have a disability, and those who have a disability are least likely to leave assistance. That is an estimated 7,279 PROMISE JOBS participants in Iowa.

The average person receiving funding through the Family Investment Program (FIP) is an unmarried white female with a 4-person household. Upon leaving FIP, the average individual earns just \$7.36 an hour. Families often lack access to affordable child care, and are therefore not able to become fully self-sufficient. In order for Iowa's working families to become financially independent, they need education and job skills to access higher paying jobs. A high school diploma makes a huge difference in the amount a person can earn. Workers without a high school diploma average a yearly salary of only \$18,734, while those with a high school diploma earn an average of \$27,915 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005).

Encouraging families to be more self-sufficient requires innovative solutions to multiple barriers, including lack of education, low wages, decreased resources, and complex health, mental health and substance abuse issues. With the appropriate use of resources, hard work and ingenuity, workforce services can improve upon the already exemplary services which currently provide the foundation for economic development in Iowa.

The Role of Workforce in Fostering Economic Growth

For five of the last six years, Iowa has received a significant incentive bonus from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a direct result of the outcomes produced by workforce staff. Workforce services are critical to maintaining Iowa's momentum in securing economic opportunities to boost Iowa's thriving economy. Workforce services promote economic growth by providing assistance for individuals to become tax payers instead of tax consumers. With the

assistance of workforce staff, Iowans access necessary job skills training, career planning, and life skills training, as well as some individualized services tailored to meet the specific needs of each person.

Iowa's Local Workforce Delivery System

Iowa@Work administers training and placement services for adult, youth and dislocated workers. Iowa Workforce Development administers unemployment insurance, job seeking, and job placement services. Iowa@Work (Workforce Investment Act providers) and Iowa Workforce Development in each of 16 regions partner to maximize service delivery in the one-stop centers. Both Iowa Workforce Development and Iowa@Work administer PROMISE JOBS (PROMoting Independence and Self-sufficiency through Employment) services, the employment component of the Family Investment Program (FIP). One-stop center services are funded by federal and state funds, as well as program-specific local funds, and may include other private providers.

One-Stop Workforce Center

Iowa@Work

Education | Job Training | PROMISE JOBS | Dislocated Worker | Career Planning & Development

Iowa Workforce Development

Job seeking | Job placement | PROMISE JOBS | Unemployment | Veterans Services

Additional partners located in some one-stop centers

Vocational Rehabilitation | Job Corps | Senior Employment | Youth Services | Farm Worker Training



The Association of Iowa Workforce Partners

The Association of Iowa Workforce Partners (AIWP) is an assembly of direct workforce service providers. AIWP strives to enrich Iowa's economic development through the delivery of innovative workforce services. AIWP works to provide the link between people, communities and industry. AIWP was established in 2000

and currently has 17 member organizations. Current members include low@Work providers, Iowa Workforce Development and agencies serving special populations.



ASSOCIATION OF IOWA
WORKFORCE PARTNERS

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