

Iowa Workforce Monthly

March 2011

Issue 21



Unemployment Insurance Assistance

Unemployment insurance is like home or car insurance except you do not pay any part of the cost. Unemployment insurance is paid entirely by employers who are covered by the Iowa Employment Security Law. The intent is to pay benefits to eligible claimants during periods of unemployment when suitable work is not available.

Based on need, unemployment insurance provides temporary benefits for people who are:

- Unemployed or working reduced hours through no fault of their own
- Able and available for work
- Actively looking for work (unless waived)

You must meet certain eligibility requirements set by law.

Additionally, people receiving benefits must register for work. If you do not expect to be recalled to your job, it is your responsibility to register for work at a local IowaWORKS office. Failure to register for work can result in a disqualification for benefits. If you have access to the Internet, you may elect to register for work on-line at www.iowaworkforce.org.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you will need to go into your nearest IowaWORKS office to register for work in person. This requirement may be waived if you meet certain criteria.

For more information, visit:
www.iowaworkforce.org/ui/guide.htm

RES Orientation Workshops Help Workers Gain Skills for Employment

The Reemployment Services (RES) program is designed to be an early intervention program by offering intensive services to job seekers receiving unemployment insurance. A profiling model uses multiple characteristics to rank an individual's difficulty in returning to work quickly.

The assessment and service delivery methods are

designed to be in alignment with IWD's implementation of an integrated services philosophy. This approach allows job seekers to access the total array of IWD services and move to employment quickly.

In 2010, over 22,500 job seekers attended the all day RES workshop. Over 6,800 additional job seekers attended the workshop voluntarily.

Statewide, over 1,300 RES workshops were provided.

Additionally, the RES program identified over 750 individuals who were potentially filing fraudulent weekly benefit claims. This has saved the unemployment insurance trust fund almost \$2 million.

For more information, visit
www.iowaworkforce.org.

Headlines

Iowa Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.3 Percent...pg. 2

Success Story-IowaWORKS: Fort Dodge.....pg. 2

Northeast Iowa ECI: Promoting Workplace Safety Training Session.....pg. 3

Additional Unemployment Insurance Options.....pg. 3

Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements & Accomplishments.....pg. 3

Inside this Issue

Director's Message.....pg. 2

Employee News: New Hires.....pg. 4

Anniversaries.....pg. 4

Retirements.....pg. 4

IOWA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Message from the Director



Teresa Wahlert
IWD Director

On February 17th, IWD presented information to the Economic Development Appropriations Sub-Committee. Our operational model is based on Governor Branstad's goals to create 200,000 new jobs, increase Iowa's education standing, increase family income

and secure a 15 percent reduction in the size of government.

Labor Services Division
In order to ensure the OSHA enforcement section remains in compliance with a U.S. Supreme Court decision, the department recommended an action to the Governor's team that fully funds Labor Services.

Workers' Compensation Division
Our proposed budget will eliminate road venues and consolidate compliance activities of the division. The new PERFECT technology system will provide enhancements for the division in the coming months

to assist with these changes.

Field Offices
The department has proposed a new and enhanced system that will provide 16 regional integrated one-stop offices and over 500 locally enhanced access points through public libraries, ISU Extension offices, Iowa Career Access Points and others. The new system will provide greatly enhanced services, including greater availability to the public with evening and weekend hours. We will streamline operations and provide efficient customer driven services to businesses and job seekers. Additionally, IWD will continue to enhance



technology based services throughout the new system for the benefit of all clients.

I realize change can be challenging, but I have observed a wonderful workforce within this department who is skilled at adapting. I'm sure will be able to move through this process positively. I will do my best to keep everyone informed of any changes as we progress through the discussions.

Iowa Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.3 Percent

Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 6.3 percent in December from 6.6 percent in November, reflecting the largest monthly decrease in the rate for the year.

The state's jobless rate stood at 6.5 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate also took a sharp drop in December, falling to 9.4 percent from a November rate of 9.8 percent.

Iowa's monthly "household survey," which is used to derive the state's unemployment rate,

depicted a much stronger employment picture in December than the payroll survey.

While monthly nonfarm employment dropped by 6,500, total employment increased by 5,800. This is not unusual since the household survey starts to pick up improvement earlier than the payroll survey in the initial stages of an economic recovery.

An important feature of the household survey is that it captures all forms of employment; including agriculture, small businesses and the self-employed.

Success Story

IowaWORKS: Fort Dodge

Nancy got laid off from HP in Clarion, Iowa back in June. By the time she was given a letter of lay off, she had already contacted IowaWORKS to find out if the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) could help her pay for the CNA course training.

At that time, she completed all the requirements and was enrolled in WIA. She took her CNA training in July-August of 2010.

After looking for work for the last couple of months, Nancy called the IowaWORKS office

to let them know she started working at Wright Medical Center in Clarion about a month ago.

She started as a part-time employee but her hours have recently increased to almost full time.

Nancy stated she appreciated the assistance WIA provided for her not just the financial part but also the moral support she needed when she was laid off from the company she thought she would retire from.

Promoting Workplace Safety Training Session

Employers who are interested in promoting safety in the workplace are welcome to attend a 10-hour Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) general safety training session. The Northeast Iowa ECI is holding the session in partnership with Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Town Clock Center for Professional Development.

Employers can learn about potential hazards at their worksites and improve their occupational safety and health management

systems. The training session will be led by Mike Whitmore, Compliance Assistance Specialist with the Iowa Department of Labor, Iowa Workforce Development.

Workplace Safety Training
Tues., March 22, 2011
8:00 am – 3:30 pm

Training Completion
Wed., March 23, 2011
8:00 am – 11:00 am

NICC Town Clock
Center for Professional
Development
680 Main Street
Room 106B
Dubuque, IA 52001

Some of the topics covered include:
Introduction to OSHA Standards, Walking/

Working Surfaces/Falls, confined spaces, lockout/tag out, machine guarding, means of Egress/ Fire Protection, Personal Protective Equipment, Materials Handling, Back Ergonomics, Electrical Safety, Hazard Communication, and OSHA recordkeeping.

The cost is \$35.00 which includes program expenses, lunch, refreshments and a certificate of completion. Pre-registration is required.

For registration or more information, call
(563) 557-8271 ext. 380 or
(888) 642-2338 ext.380.



Additional Unemployment Insurance Options

Department Approved Training (DAT)

You may receive benefits if you are attending school or a training course if approved by IWD.

You must make a written application for DAT on a form provided by IWD.

If available when you apply for benefits, provide the name of the school, type of training, class schedule, and the beginning and ending dates of training.

Most requests for DAT will be approved if the training has a substantial curriculum. Approval or denial is always in

writing and you may appeal if you are denied.

While attending approved training, you do not have to be available for work or search for work to continue to be eligible for benefits.

However, if you stop training for any reason, you must notify IWD and must immediately search for work as instructed.

Training Extension Benefits (TEB)

TEB are an additional 26 weeks of benefits available to individuals:
– Who meet the eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits,

- Who are laid-off or voluntarily separated from a declining occupation or involuntarily separated as a result of a permanent reduction of operations at the individual's place of employment.

In addition to the above requirements:

- your training must be for an occupation that is considered to be a High Occupational Demand (HOD) as defined by IWD, or
- a high-tech occupation or training approved under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), or
- you must be working

towards a GED in an approved program.

Application for these TEB must be submitted before the end of the benefit year of the UI claim.

TEB is only payable after all payments on regular and extension unemployment insurance benefits are exhausted and is only available to individuals who are attending a department approved training program meeting the above requirements.

Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements and Accomplishments

We appreciate the feedback we get from our customers. Here are a few noteworthy comments we've received:

– Tonia Abell, Sioux City, and Lori Seibold, Sioux City, received a letter of appreciation from Myree Coleman. He said Tonia's "professionalism

and attention to detail inspired me to believe that I had been hired already." He continues to write that Lori "is very knowledgeable in the area of finance budgeting and dealing with change just to mention a few of her skills." Coleman also thanks them for

their support and all of their efforts.

- William Sims sent in a note complimenting Carmela Shaw, Des Moines. "She was very professional and answered my questions in a very timely manner," said Sims.
- Wendy Martin sent a message to let us know

about the good job Sherry Sayavongchanh, Des Moines, did while helping her set up an account. Wendy added Sherry "was so patient and helpful during the process. She was clear in her directions and was so pleasant to work with."

If you would like to send us your noteworthy comment, send it to: kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov.

Iowa Workforce Monthly

1000 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319
(800) 562-4692

For Deaf or Hard of Hearing, call Relay 711

Iowa Workforce Monthly is intended to help keep Iowa employers, job seekers and IWD employees informed about critical employment issues affecting Iowa. For more information, contact Kathryn Hommer via e-mail at kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov or (515) 281-5407.

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Teresa Wahlert
Director

Kerry Koonce
Communications Director

Mark French
Web Master

Kathryn Hommer
Marketing/Communications
Coordinator

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
Auxiliary aids and services are available
to individuals with disabilities upon request.

Employee News

New Hires

Carmela Alden
Michael Barr
Michael Mauro
Patricia Mendoza
Kathryn Blake
Robert Fulton
Eunice Meyer
Faith Miller
Jennifer Rice
Sherry Sayavongchanh
Trudi Snyder
Stacy Mooney

Rachel Daily
Teresa Deatsch
Wendy Dershem
Patricia Henrich
Tuan Nguyen
Meagan Vogel
Donnell Anderson
Julian Bryan
Downey
Linda Fine
Jose Garcia
John Grant

Amy Gruelke
Andrew Helt
Brian Jennings
Fadwa Magzoub
Marion Mealey
Richard Oshlo
Mark Petersen
Linda Rupe
Jennifer Snead
Matthew Van Dyke
Teresa Wahlert

Anniversaries

5 Years
Brienne Croushore
Donna Hays
Julie Little
Mary Marsh
Cheryll Scott
William Stuflick

10 Years
Theresa McCabe

20 Years
Colleen Monroe
Bonny Hendricksmeier

25 Years
Antoinette Angle
Dixie Beyer

30+ Years
David Brown
Gloria Cano
Diane Oak-Goode
Lee Goers
Ann Wagner
Suzanne Hutton

Promotions/ Transfers

Pamela Kershner
Andrea Pintar
Brett Conner
Matthew Mardesen
Ellen Batten
Paula Fastenau
Hannah Jensen