

The

WORKFORCE WIRE

News, events, and success stories about workforce programs in Iowa

After Iowa's Unemployment Overhaul: Jobless Returning to Work More Quickly, Using Fewer Benefits



Eighteen months after Iowa revamped its approach to unemployment and began providing earlier job search assistance to people seeking unemployment benefits, the average length of an unemployment claim has dropped to its lowest level in more than 55 years.

A recent review of Iowa Workforce Development data shows that unemployment claims lasted for an average of 10.7 weeks in calendar year 2022 – 10.1 weeks for the 12 months that ended May 31, 2023.

Those are the lowest figures that statistic has seen since claims lasted for an average 9.7 weeks in 1967.

The shorter average duration follows Iowa's adoption of its Reemployment Case Management (RCM) system in January 2022. RCM created a new requirement that unemployment claimants have weekly contact with IWD Career Planners starting with the first week of their unemployment claims. Career Planners review job searches, discuss job interviews, and provide direct assistance to clients by making connections to training and educational opportunities in high-demand careers.

"The numbers clearly show that the Reemployment Case Management program is making a difference," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "By providing job-seeking Iowans with more assistance as soon as they become unemployed, we are shortening the time between the loss of one job and the acquisition of the next, returning unemployment to what it was always intended to be – a bridge between jobs."

[Click here to keep reading.](#)

VIDEO: Team Workforce at the Fair



Once again this year (this time alongside new coworkers from Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services), Iowa Workforce Development has a booth at the Iowa State Fair. Kelli Hugo is one of many employees who have helped chat with lowans about workforce possibilities. [Click the image above](#) to learn a little more about what we do. Then, come see us in the Varied Industries building before the fair ends on August 20.

Reminder: Education Jobs = IowaWorks

Job-seeking educators and Iowa school administrators with still-open positions are being urged to revisit an IWD website set up earlier this summer to help Iowans find education jobs.

Iowa Workforce Development established a new [Education Jobs website](#) in June to provide training and information for individuals impacted by the closure of the former [Teach Iowa](#) website.

Teach Iowa, a jobs site formerly funded by the Iowa Department of Education, was shut down on July 1 after a new state law began mandating that all Iowa education agencies post their open positions on [IowaWORKS.gov](#). The requirement applies to any jobs posted by the Department of Education, school districts, charter schools, Area Education Agencies, and/or accredited nonpublic schools.

Linda Rouse, Division Administrator for the IWD unit that oversees [IowaWORKS.gov](#) and the IowaWORKS job centers, said many



IowaWORKS Helps Mom Find New Career

It was winter, and Shameka Williams was looking for all the help she could get.

Williams, a Chicago native, had moved to Iowa in December with her young daughter. She needed a job. After a coordinator at Dubuque Housing referred her to the local IowaWORKS office, Williams began visiting the job center once a week to take advantage of all the programs offered.

“I had been in the customer service field for several years,” she said. “I had a resume, but it was so out of date...”

Working with IowaWORKS Career Planner Stefani Link, Williams upgraded her resume and began to talk through what type of work she was interested in. They looked at different job boards, including [IowaWORKS.gov](#) and Access Dubuque to see which companies were hiring. Williams then signed up for a program through Northeast Iowa Community College to become certified in Customer Service.

On the morning of a career fair at the Julien Hotel, Williams visited IowaWORKS to continue working on

schools and teachers are still learning about the Teach Iowa shutdown and what it might mean for their future career prospects.

“The important thing is that there is help available,” Rouse said. “Whether you’re a school district or a job seeker, we have people ready to help you do what you need to do.”

[Click here to keep reading.](#)



her resume. Then, she printed off multiple copies to take to the career fair.

When one of those employers requested an interview, Williams returned to IowaWORKS for a practice interview session on the day before her official interview with the employer. Williams spent more than two hours answering mock questions from Link and then reviewing and improving her responses. On the way out of the door, she stopped by the Community Clothes Closet to pick up a new pair of black shoes for the interview.

Williams returned to IowaWORKS the next week to tell Link she had gotten the job.

In April, following two weeks of intensive training, Williams completed her first shift on the front desk of Hilton Garden Inn.

“I’m thrilled,” she said. “I’m happy, and I really appreciate everyone who helped me at IowaWORKS.”

For more information on training available through IowaWORKS, visit IowaWORKS.gov and under “Job Seekers,” click on “Additional Services” and “Job Readiness Workshops.”

DOWNLOAD THE
**IOWAWORKS
APP!**

- Search local job listings
- Upload your resume
- Explore telework options
- Connect with IowaWORKS staff



www.iowaWORKS.gov



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Learn by Listening



More than 35,000 downloads so far by listeners around the world. Hosts Ben Oldach and Kathy Leggett will introduce you to a host of workforce programs and people making a difference.

[Click to download.](#)

Iowa's Maloney to be Honored by SSA

Brian Maloney, Iowa DDS Medical and Administrative Services manager, will receive the prestigious Office of Disability Determinations Associate Commissioner Legacy Honor Award.

Maloney, who joined Iowa DDS (Disability Determination Services) in 1984, has been Deputy Bureau Chief since 1996. In that capacity, he has overseen a wide range of areas, including financial management, human resources, medical consultant services, and disability investigations.



Liz McLaren, Division Administrator for Iowa DDS, praised Maloney as someone who has "adjusted and excelled in all of his duties."

"Brian shares his knowledge, coaches others, and provides perspective on the Iowa DDS process, progress, and potential," McLaren said. "With Brian's leadership and input, we have been able to provide superb public service and innovate through planning."

Maloney will be honored at a presentation next month.

Iowa Disability Determination Services, which evaluates disability claims for the Social Security Administration, became part of Iowa Workforce Development in a statewide government reorganization last month.

A Bit More on IWD at the Iowa State Fair



IWD staff with military experience again joined the parade Monday for Veteran's Day at the Iowa State Fair (above). We'll be at the fair from now through Aug. 20. Come visit us in the Varied Industries building and let us know your dream job!

See the latest [Mission: Employable podcast](#) for more on our plans for the fair.

Intermediary Grants Increase Focus on Building Work-based Learning



At its heart, work-based learning involves presenting Iowa youths with valuable information about the occupational possibilities available to them. Our hope is that if we give students on the eve of adulthood the opportunity to really learn more about work, they'll make informed choices and develop a brighter future.

Helping students evolve in this way – especially those in high school – has long been a priority for the state of Iowa. Nearly 10 years ago, Iowa launched a program of Statewide Intermediary Work-based Learning Grants to help create a strong foundation for career awareness and exploration in many schools. That program has continued to develop– most recently through another round of grants announced in July – as Iowa continues to adapt and strengthen its approach to work-based learning.

Over the last year, the Intermediary Work-based Learning Grant program transitioned from the Iowa Department of Education to Iowa Workforce Development as part of the state's drive to heighten efficiency by aligning workforce programs under IWD. In year to come, we expect Iowa's work-based learning landscape to evolve even more.

[Click here to learn why.](#)

Upcoming Events / Opportunities



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Find out more at HHSjobs.com



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Same Day Offers! All Shifts Open!**

HHS Offers:

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- A Positive Work Culture
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www.myvgh.org/careers




Now Offering Virtual Appointments and More!

- Resume Assistance
- Rx & Unemployment Work Search Certifying
- Interview Prep
- Work Search Assistance
- Career Planning
- And more...



How To Sign Up
Call or Email your local office to register
<https://www.iowaworksdevelopment.gov/contact>

Or Register through IowaWORKS.gov
Sign into your account on IowaWORKS.gov
On Dashboard under "My Calendar"
Click "All Events"
Select (click on #) the workshop on the calendar according to the date and time that works for you
Click "Register" (bottom of screen)
Watch your email for the calendar invitation and instructions regarding your "meeting" or "workshop/training"
Review basic information for directions to access virtual workshops via ZOOM

AUGUST VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS
IowaWORKS is pleased to offer virtual workshops throughout the month of August. These workshops are available for all IowaWORKS users. For more information on our virtual workshops, visit www.iowaworks.gov.

Workshop	Monday, August 7, 2023	Tuesday, August 8, 2023	Wednesday, August 9, 2023	Thursday, August 10, 2023	Friday, August 11, 2023
Resume Assistance	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Rx & Unemployment Work Search Certifying	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Interview Prep	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Work Search Assistance	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Career Planning	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

www.iowaworks.gov

Opportunity Knocks Job Fair

Employers Onsite:

- Wells Fargo
- Walmart
- Target
- Home Depot
- Best Buy
- Costco
- CVS
- Walgreens
- Publix
- Meijer
- Hy-Vee
- Lowes
- Tractor Supply Co.
- Home Depot Pro
- Home Depot Garden
- Home Depot Paint
- Home Depot Hardware
- Home Depot Electrical
- Home Depot Plumbing
- Home Depot Roofing
- Home Depot Siding
- Home Depot Windows
- Home Depot Doors
- Home Depot Fencing
- Home Depot Decking
- Home Depot Grills
- Home Depot BBQ
- Home Depot Outdoor Furniture
- Home Depot Lawn Care
- Home Depot Pesticides
- Home Depot Fertilizers
- Home Depot Seeds
- Home Depot Plants
- Home Depot Trees
- Home Depot Shrubs
- Home Depot Flowers
- Home Depot Garden Tools
- Home Depot Power Tools
- Home Depot Hand Tools
- Home Depot Storage
- Home Depot Organization
- Home Depot Cleaning
- Home Depot Maintenance
- Home Depot Repairs
- Home Depot Remodeling
- Home Depot Construction
- Home Depot Landscaping
- Home Depot Hardscaping
- Home Depot Softscaping
- Home Depot Irrigation
- Home Depot Lighting
- Home Depot Security
- Home Depot Smart Home
- Home Depot Automation
- Home Depot Energy
- Home Depot Sustainability
- Home Depot Green Building
- Home Depot Eco-Friendly
- Home Depot Low-Carbon
- Home Depot Net-Zero
- Home Depot Carbon Footprint
- Home Depot Climate Change
- Home Depot Environmental
- Home Depot Social Responsibility
- Home Depot Diversity
- Home Depot Inclusion
- Home Depot Equity
- Home Depot Accessibility
- Home Depot Transparency
- Home Depot Accountability
- Home Depot Integrity
- Home Depot Honesty
- Home Depot Trust
- Home Depot Respect
- Home Depot Compassion
- Home Depot Empathy
- Home Depot Kindness
- Home Depot Patience
- Home Depot Tolerance
- Home Depot Understanding
- Home Depot Open-Mindedness
- Home Depot Flexibility
- Home Depot Adaptability
- Home Depot Resilience
- Home Depot Perseverance
- Home Depot Determination
- Home Depot Persistence
- Home Depot Dedication
- Home Depot Commitment
- Home Depot Passion
- Home Depot Enthusiasm
- Home Depot Energy
- Home Depot Positivity
- Home Depot Optimism
- Home Depot Hope
- Home Depot Faith
- Home Depot Love
- Home Depot Compassion
- Home Depot Kindness
- Home Depot Generosity
- Home Depot Gratitude
- Home Depot Humility
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**Monday, August 7, 2023
&
Monday, August 28, 2023**
8:00 am - 1:00 pm

IowaWORKS
1001 E Kimberly Rd
Des Moines, Iowa

GRAB A JOB

Employers who are hiring!

1pm-3pm at IowaWORKS offices in Cedar Rapids & Iowa City

Joining event every Monday!


