

# The Power of Iowa's One-Stop Workforce Centers

Every day, hardworking frontline career navigators at Iowa's one-stop workforce centers across the state serve Iowans looking for work through intake, coordinated job training and education, credentialing, and follow-up services. In today's highly competitive employment environment, Iowa's one-stop workforce centers are serving more hard-to-place and non-traditional candidates with multiple barriers to employment.

## ENSURING RURAL EQUITY IN ACCESS TO SERVICES

Iowa's one-stop workforce centers are located within each of 15 community college-aligned regions across the state. Such a structure ensures that rural Iowans, especially, do not have to travel long distances to access employment services. This structure also ensures that businesses have localized support for job vacancies, training, and credentialing. Especially in today's job market, having people in a local office to support job seekers and employers is a critical service that cannot be understated.

## CO-LOCATION OF SERVICES AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS FUEL ECONOMIC VITALITY

Iowa's one-stop workforce centers co-locate services and programs so job seekers have easy access to the upskilling and support they need to be successful in their employment journey. Co-located services increase access to services for both employers and job seekers. Local partnerships have made possible targeted hiring events for veterans as well as English as a Second Language job seekers. Having easy access to such programming locally drives the continued growth of local economies because job vacancies have a greater chance of being filled by qualified employees.

## WORKFORCE FUNDS INTENDED FOR REGIONS SUPPORT LOCAL NEEDS

Iowa's 15-region workforce structure ensures that needs are both identified and met locally. Regional Workforce Development Boards are charged with determining local workforce needs of job seekers and employers and coordinating the allocation cannot be overstated. It is critical that local stakeholders have a voice in how to meet their own needs. Such a structure ensures local interests are prioritized and resources are most efficiently and effectively utilized.

## INVEST IN IOWA'S ONE-STOPS TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Every day, Iowa's one-stop employment centers across the state connect job seekers and employers to the resources they need to meet the demands of today's local economies. The state should continue to invest in a regional structure that promotes economic growth through equity in access to services, co-location and partnerships, and meeting locally-determined needs. Now is not the time to decrease investments in Iowa's workforce infrastructure. If economic growth is to be on-going, Iowa must ensure that job seekers and employers are well-connected locally to the resources they need to grow and thrive.

