

IOWA PLAINS COMMITTEE

Date: April 10, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM

Facilitator: Kent Heronimus – Interstates

IN ATTENDANCE

Linda Rouse-Iowa Workforce Development
Teresa Larson-White – Iowa Workforce Development
Nicolas “Omar” Valentine – Iowa Workforce Development
Elizabeth Waigand – Iowa Workforce Development
Tammi Erlbacher – Iowa Workforce Development
Andi Mann – Iowa Workforce Development
Brittney Gutzmann – Iowa Workforce Development
Sara Blair – Country Maid
Andi Barnes – Iowa Workforce Development
Kathy Leggett – Iowa Workforce Development
Kent Heronimus – Interstates
Jamie Wubben – K.C. Nielsen
Dara Svendsen – Essential Proteins
Melissa Haukap – Iowa Lakes Community College
Andrew Sheffield – CJ Bio America
Renea

AGENDA

Work base Learning - Elizabeth

- Reminder about work base learning opportunities in our areas. If you are working with customers and have someone who needs some hands-on experience, keep these opportunities in mind

- On The Job Training (OJT): already has work history and just need to learn new skills – employer hires on and gets a reimbursement amount.
- Work experience: no work history or experience - employer doesn't hire them but gives them experience.
- We have not had a time yet that we haven't been about to connect a customer with a business. BEC has been able to help us make connections.

Sector Partnerships – Kathy Legget

- Meeting with communications to make a template for success stories. Something on the employer referral too.
- Met with BEC team from Iowa Plains and discussed next steps and roles.
- How do we break up the Iowa Plains area? Data for occupation projections for 2 yr and 10 yr in the community college regions so that we can have that info and plot it on the map. Based on list of top occupations – what training/education is required and what is available. What are the gaps? Put it on the map. - Where are things happening already? Who are the champions who would be willing to help?
- Put a goal and keep measuring and work towards that. Rely on committee members to see if we can make connections further.

OSO Updates – Tammi

- *Report Attached*
- Jan-March trends and oversight.
- January is a busy month in our centers. We continue to get really good results in our customer satisfaction surveys and very positive feedback. QR codes in all 5 centers – 5 questions. Tammi gives a more detailed report on the surveys to managers for additional oversight.
- Outreach is ramping up with springtime happening. Trying to get creative in the way we are reaching people (both job seekers and employers).
- Referral system – referral link system and it all populates into a spreadsheet. Look for trends. Making sure we are following up appropriately.
- Keeping our career planners and staff informed on what we are doing and always thinking of efficiencies.

Outreach Research and Planning – Elizabeth

- Tammi touched on this, but we did get some feedback on our last monitoring on outreach and how we do outreach.
- Leadership looking at research and information in our areas. Looking at targets on who we can help based on our data. Making sure our outreach in our area makes the most sense.

Title I Success Story – Teresa

- Title I staffing: waiting on a reference but, career planner being hired in Denison. And open position for Title I career planner in Sioux City.
- We have a lot of people in training (both short term and long term).
- Customer came in Nov 2025 on UI, no HS diploma. Got CDL in Title I. He was getting frustrated and had moments he almost stopped. He completed and just became employed. CDL is a huge area of need.
- Working with I-Jag in Creston to work on post-secondary plans for out of school youth. Have plans for some summer work experiences.

Upcoming Events

- AJC Events/Updates
 - Sioux City/Denison - Trade based hiring is very slow because of economic issues. Industrial maintenance techs are also difficult to fill because of experience required. *"Industrial Maintenance Tech still is a tough job to fill for many companies. Some of the companies are getting to the point where the candidate also needs some background in Robotics/automation as well. (Perdue, Empirical, CoilCraft) The number of candidates with the knowledge base coming out of colleges are not equal to the positions needed"*. Ag employers are also having trouble filling positions because of long hours and work experience requirements. Working on soft skills and work ethic of candidates – working on adding some workshops to help with that.
 - Carroll: May 14th 11-1 for HWY 30 Corridor job fair-Carroll Library, May 18th for the next Sioux City in office job fair 1:30-3:30
 - Spencer: Apr 23rd - Build My Future event
 - 5/6 Resource Fair- Sheldon
 - CB- Tuesday Hiring Events in office
 - April 15: Upgrade Your Career at the Atlantic Public Library. Fortrex and Care Initiatives will be joining us to interview candidates.
 - Clarinda: April 30: Resource Fair, 10:30am – 12:30pm, at the Depot at Iowa Western Community College.
 - Mobile Unit at Red Oak, Creston, Osceola- schedule is on website
 - Fort Dodge/Spencer - Remodeling is also complete in Ft Dodge. Iowa Central just had a job fair for all of their students.
 - Spencer: Youth Summer Job Fair today in Okoboji attended by Title I staff in Spencer, Iowa Lakes Community College Career Day event on 04-07, Upcoming, Build My Future event pm 04/23 - I forgot to mention that the Mobile Unit will be there that day as well, 04/21 - Career Fair in Sibley, Iowa.
 - Fort Dodge: Iowa Central Community College job fair 04/09 - attended by Title III, Title I and our Veteran Career Planner, 04/15 at the Residential Correctional Facility in Fort Dodge staff will be doing mock interviews and resume workshops to prepare those with

criminal backgrounds be ready for the 2nd Chance Career Fair on May 7th.

- Council Bluffs/Creston - Creston I-Jag. But we are needing to expand outreach in this area. It is in the back of our minds. Mobile unit being in the Creston area, having community college come have students do a tour of our mobile center.

Committee Attendance

- New Members Introduction
 - Dara Svendsen (Essential Proteins) - food grade manufacturer. Makes the protein in grocery stores. HR & Safety professional. We also struggle in getting maintenance techs and retention. Harlan and Litton Iowa. Excited to network and work with the group for more job placements.
 - Kent requesting for any others that may know potential committee members

Committee Member Share – What is going well and what challenges are you facing?

- What can we help to connect with and communicate with?
- As much as we talk about Title I in our small rural areas, it is hard to get engagement. - Can we get the QR code?
- For any candidate not selected for a role, would love to include QR codes for the “no thank you” candidates.
- Jaime Wubben – how do we get more info out to us so we can get these events outs to attend? - Will work on sending emails out with events.
- As we look at the rest of 2026 – plans & goals. Do we want to take time to discuss how we are going to accomplish these things together? Maybe smaller groups? Ask out in an email. If we have goals, we have to have visibility to them.
 - We have several resources available for data parameters
- Still needing business reps for the committee – looking for business rep in general. Would love trucking, healthcare, manufacturing and really anything in high demand. Person must be really engaged and wanting to be part of the workforce/hiring throughout the year.
 - If you have someone really interested, Kent has an email already about why they would want to be on the committee.

ACTION PLAN

Next meeting – May 8th, 2026 / 8:30am – 9:30am

Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



IOWA PLAINS LWDA

Iowa Plains
LWDA

ONE STOP OPERATOR REPORT

PY2025-26

One Stop Operator Report
January 2026-March 2026

Prepared By:
Tammi Erlbacher

Prepared For:
Iowa Plains Executive Committee



IowaWORKS One-Stop Center Traffic

Center	January	February	March
Spencer	690	466	529
Fort Dodge	780	804	865
Sioux City	1919	1622	1570
Denison	322	301	260
Council Bluffs	1120	863	878
TOTAL	4831	4056	4102

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

Center	# Surveys January	# Surveys February	# Surveys March	Average Satisfaction Rating Q2 (1-4 Range)
Spencer	7	16	13	3.9
Fort Dodge	38	41	36	3.8
Sioux City	34	36	34	3.9
Denison	5	4	3	4
Council Bluffs	1	3	37	3.8
TOTAL	85	100	123	3.88

The survey results presented are derived from the Iowa Plains Local Area Customer Survey, which is made accessible to customers through QR codes and/or printed copies.

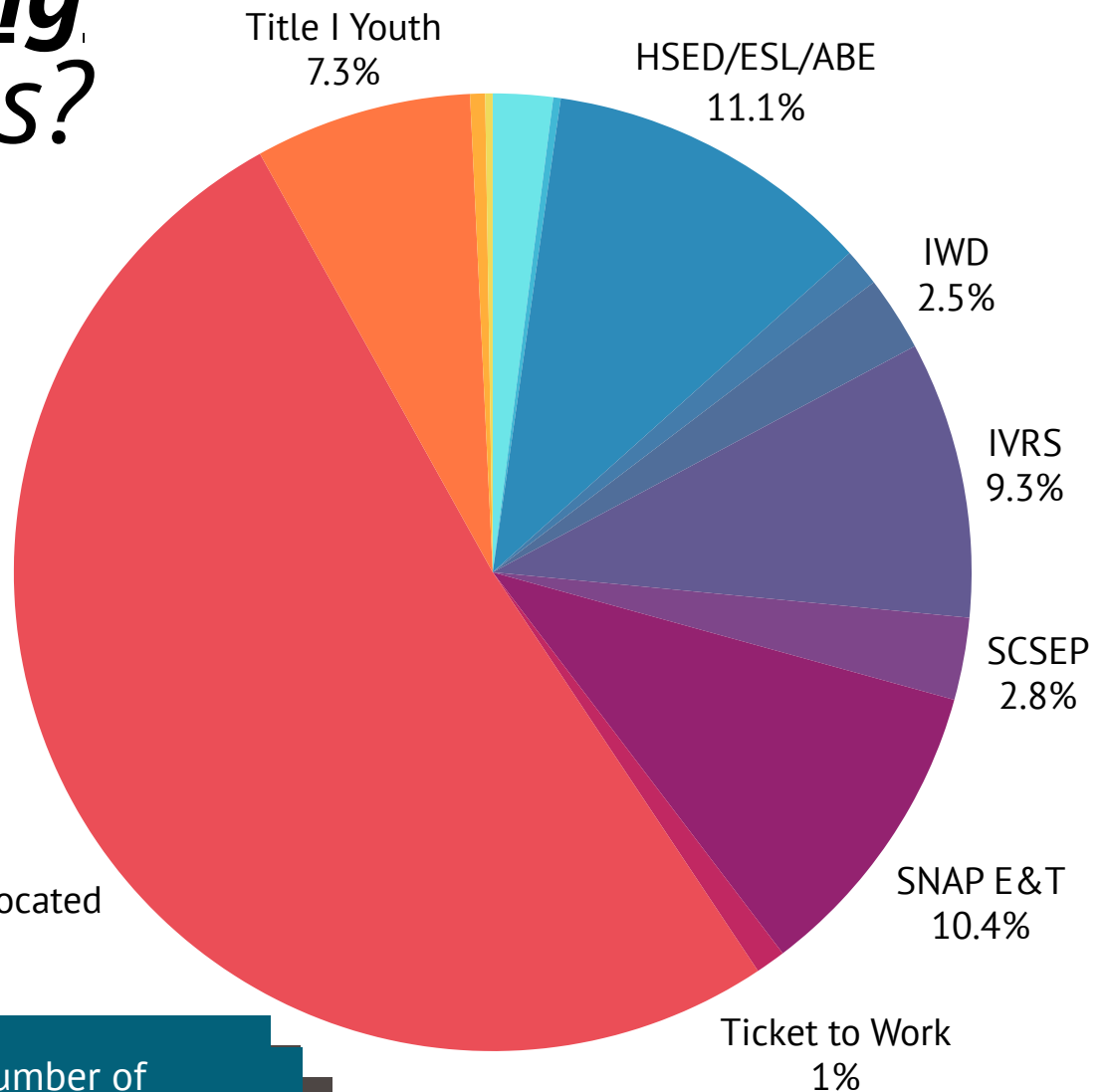
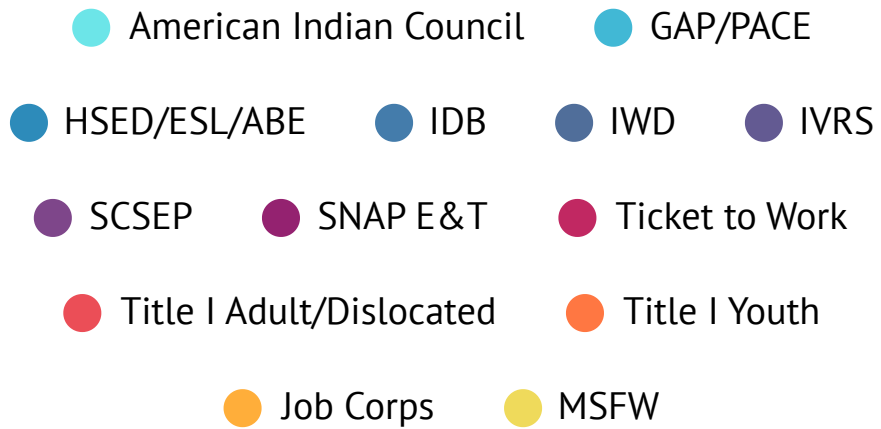
Outreach Contacts

Center	January	February	March
Fort Dodge	21	44	41
Sioux City	23	23	22
Denison	35	21	40
Council Bluffs	27	22	18
Spencer	7	18	22
TOTAL # Contacts	113	128	143

This chart illustrates the comprehensive outreach efforts conducted across Iowa Plains. The outreach activities encompass a variety of initiatives, including community presentations, newsletters, one-on-one meetings, rapid response efforts, community events, mobile unit events, and additional engagement strategies.

Partner Referrals

*Who is
receiving
referrals?*



396

Total Number of Referrals
January- March

All referral data comes from the Iowa Plains referral form

Partner Referrals

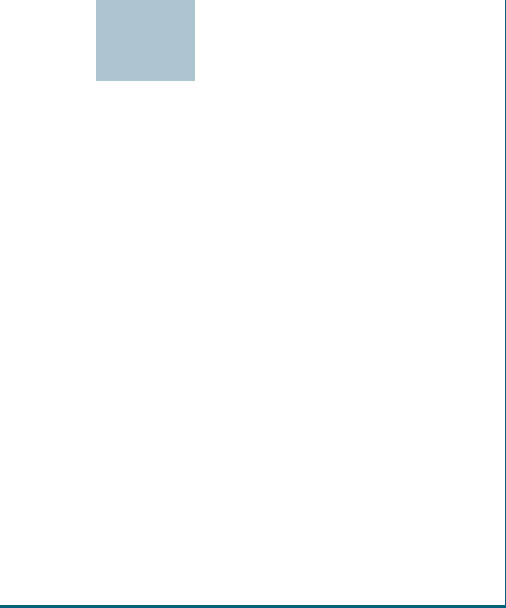
Title 1 Referral Outcomes

Center	# Referrals January	% Referrals Enrolled January	# Referrals February	% Referrals Enrolled February	# Referrals March	% Referrals Enrolled in March
Iowa Plains	64	19%	71	24%	97	In Process

This data does not reflect the actual monthly enrollment totals; rather, it represents the number of referrals received through the Iowa Plains referral form, along with the percentage of those referrals that resulted in enrollment.

OSO Service Delivery Report

	January	February	March
# Center Visits	4	3	6
BEC/Title I Collaboration Meeting	1/6/2026	2/3/2026	3/3/2026
Staff Training Topics	IDB, Title I, Individual Center Trainings	Virtual Workshops, 2026 Goals, IET Program	LMI, DAP, Individual Center Trainings
Partner Meetings	Core and Required Partners-1/13	Core Partners-2/10	Core Partners-3/10
Efficiencies	n/a	n/a	Business Survey with Marketing Material Created



WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

FT. DODGE JOB FAIR

This event is designed specifically to connect local employers with job ready candidates who have justice-involved backgrounds.

Why employers should attend:

- Have face to face conversations with job seekers who are prepared for employment.
- Learn about risk-mitigation tools like WOTC (tax credits) & Federal Bonding Program.
 - Support partners from the local area will be attending this event.
- Strengthen your talent pipeline & support community workforce integration.

What is asked of employers:

- Keep an open mind.
- Have at least one position you are willing to consider for candidates attending this event.
 - Your hiring standards and processes - they remain your own.

For Employers: Event Registration Contact Information:

When: May 7th, 2026 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM / **Where:** AFES, 712 3rd St. NW. Ft. Dodge, IA

Contacts: Brian Pibal or George Koslowski

brian.pibal@iwd.iowa.gov / 515.576.3131 - george.koslowski@iwd.iowa.gov / 515.576.3131



Reasonable accommodations may be requested in order to participate in any American Job Center (AJC) program, service, or activity. Please contact your local AJC as soon as possible to request reasonable accommodations for an event.