

IOWA PLAINS COMMITTEE

Date: September 11, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM

Facilitator: Kent Heronimus – Interstates

IN ATTENDANCE

Andi Barnes – Iowa Workforce Development

Alison Malone – Elevate Roofers

Andrea Pohlsander – Life Skills Connections

Brittney Gutzmann – Iowa Workforce Development

Cody Bradley - Iowa Workforce Development

Dara Svendsen – Essentia Protein Solutions

Elizabeth Waigand – Iowa Workforce Development

Faith Miller – Iowa Workforce Development

Jamie Wubben – K.C. Nielsen

Jason Landess – Parker Hannifin

Joe Rios – Iowa Workforce Development

Kat Niemann – Cass Health

Kathy Leggett – Iowa Workforce Development

Kent Heronimus – Interstates

Kevin Grell – Iowa Workforce Development

Kirstin Burrows – Iowa Workforce Development

Kristin Russell – American Athletic Inc (Fruit of the Loom Inc)

Linda Rouse - Iowa Workforce Development

Lupita Nevarez – Quality Refrigerated Services, Inc.

Luke Huggins – McClure Engineering

Michelle Nicoson – Moveero

Nicolas “Omar” Valentine – Iowa Workforce Development

Ofelia Rumbo – Merrill Manufacturing

Randall McQueeney – Iowa Workforce Development

Sara Blair – Country Maid

Scotty Colt - BOOST Restart

Teresa Larson-White – Iowa Workforce Development

Wayne Pantini – Southwestern Community College

AGENDA

Sector Partnerships and Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Intermediary Update – Kathy Leggett

- Working to get things scheduled in North/Northwest sector. Kathy doing some follow up and adding more employers. Tentative agenda is done.
- Kathy met with an organization last week and a follow up meeting scheduled. Looking at 2 occupations in health care to use as RA.
- If you or anyone else in your area is interested in RA to use us as an intermediary, contact Kathy or Kent.
- A lot of youth usually don't know about opportunities in their area. This would be a great opportunity and concept to get our youth involved.
- If an employer is interest in doing this at anytime, who do they contact?
 - If they want to be their own sponsor – contact Iowa Office of Apprenticeship (IOA)
 - If they DON'T want to be their own sponsor (not doing admin work) – reach out to Kathy or Kent
 - Either is fine to go through
 - Wayne has an employer who has been trying to contact IOA, Wayne is going to send their contact info to Kathy today and reach out to remedy.

Boost Restart Grant Overview – Scotty Colt

- *One-Pager referral form attached*
- Grant focusing on re-entry for justice involved young adults (ages 18-24)
- DOL grant – Boost program in Sioux City is fully grant funded. Some sort of run in with criminal justice system and looking for education or training services to make them more employable.
 - Goal is to branch out and meet the needs of the individuals in communities.
 - Referral source is easy – 18-24, justice involved, we will enroll them

- RA is huge with this DOL grant.
- Main referral sources are from jails, police department, justice center, IWD, word of mouth, community collages
- Fill out the referral form with the information it requests
- BOOST Restart - director, scolt@siouxlandship.org, 712-253-8337

Jobs for State Grants (JVSG) & Home Base Iowa (HBI) – Cody Bradley & Joe Rios

- Services provided in the American Job Centers (AJCs)
- JVSG
 - *Cheat Sheet Attached*
 - 3 Iowa Plains DVOP. Important to get them to the office and we will get them in the right direction.
 - Check needs, skills, build a base resume, decide if we need to work on skills, job seeking, interviewing.
 - One point of entry, as long as you reach out to one of us, you get all of us.
 - Veterans get priority of service.
 - Key point of veteran knowledge.
- Homebase Iowa – WP program
 - *One-Pager attached*
 - State wide initiative
 - Over 280 certified employers
 - Outreach at job fairs talking to service members and veterans
 - Raise awareness
 - Incentive packages in each county that is participating
- Luke Huggins – Interested in skill bridge from IWD

One-Stop (OSO) Updates – Andrea Pohlsander

- *Report Attached*
- 97 total survey results for August 2026
- Received 181 total referrals through the Iowa Plains referral form in August
 - Title I & Dislocation Worker the highest referral counts
- Question: How is storm lake being served?
 - Storm lake is served from the Spencer IowaWORKS office

Success in the AJCs – Randall McQueeney, Andi Mann, Faith Miller

- *Sioux City*
 - Many people having people in from halfway houses.
 - Making sure customers have tools and resources to navigate job searches, explain work history & experience, and writing letters of explanation
 - Great OWDS functions and services – role model for the other offices to implement
- Partnering with DOT for seasonal and maintenance workers. In September, we will be partnering.

- Emailing customers, putting up flyers, etc
- About 500 positions DOT is hiring for the season
- Mobile unit will be on location to assist along with DOT providing their staff
- Workforce Development Month - September
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month - October
 - Setting up reverse trick or treat
 - Getting out to businesses to recognize them for working with this population
- *Spencer*
 - Clay county fair
 - Booth at the fair. Making connections with fairs and finding employment positions during this fair. And providing them with information on IWD services
 - BEC's also come out to talk with vendors for additional employment requests/needs
- *Fort Dodge*
 - Oct 29th is a speaking event with SHRM credit for National Disability Employment Awareness Month
 - Oct 29th Open House of the new Fort Dodge office with ribbon cutting & career fair

Employer Roundtable Discussion: Is AI impacting your business? – (Kent)

- Employer Spotlight for October 9, 2026 meeting
 - Dara Svendsen will be spotlight
- Customer trying to find remote jobs, able to plug in job posting information into AI to see if it is a scam or a legit job posting
- Trend for some internships posted, AI bots submitting applications
- Using AI to create flyers and categorize engagement survey formats
- Data analysis, proof reader, etc.
 - Anthropic information that came out this week? Lots of fear existing about AI taking jobs away – per the news.
 - Former anthropic employee stating that the models could lead to the downfall of humanity in a few years.
- UPS went on strike – cant bring in automation to replace humans
- AI has been created to look successful, it is not that it is always actually accurate information.

ACTION PLAN

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

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



SHIP has been awarded the U.S. Department of Labor RESTART Grant to continue the BOOST GO program (slated to end 9/30/26).

Grant duration: 42 months (starting 7/1/26, ending 12/31/29)

Population served: Young adults 18-24 residing in Sioux City (Woodbury County, IA) and South Sioux City (Dakota County, NE), and in Clay, Dickinson, Buena Vista, Harrison and Shelby Counties, IA.

served: 267

Funding: \$1,999,999

Program subgrantees: Sky Ranch Behavioral Services, TBD

Program partners: Woodbury County Jail & Electronic Monitoring, Iowa Department of Corrections Residential Treatment Facility (RTF), Nebraska State Probation 6th District, Iowa Workforce Development (Iowa WORKS), Iowa Office of Apprenticeship, Dakota County Sheriff, Sioux City Police Department, Unity Point Health – St. Luke's, Western Iowa Tech Community College, Northeast Community College, North Central State Regional Council of Carpenters, Seaboard Triumph, CW Suter, Plains Mechanical Services, Sioux City Foundry, Urban Native Center, Beyond the Bell, Holy Spirit Retirement, The Warming Shelter, Jolly Time Pop Corn, Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, The Child Saving Institute, Heartland Counseling Services, Hope St. of Siouxland, Life Skills Connection Inc., Women Aware, and the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors.

Program purpose: BOOST Restart will reach and deliver customized job driven services focused on in-demand industries leading to industry-recognized credentials and employment. Services focus on training, education, placement, retention, career advancement, support services and follow-up.

Sioux City BOOST RESTART is an Official Grant of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Program that is funded for \$1,999,999.00



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On-The-Job-Training (OJT): Part of the BOOST RESTART grant is an opportunity for participants to have OJT with local employers. The BOOST RESTART program will reimburse employers who offer OJT to participants for up to 12 months. BOOST RESTART will pay for a minimum 240 hours of OJT, at a minimum of \$18.00 per hour. Reimbursement will be 80% of employer costs for the first 3 months and then reduced to 60% thereafter, for an agreed upon amount of time. During this time participants will work with employers to learn necessary skills to continue employment and advance their careers in their desired fields.



Sioux City **BOOST RESTART**

BOOST Referral Form

Name of Client _____ Date _____

Client's DOB _____

Client's Address _____

Email _____

Client's Phone Number _____

Has the client been a part of the Juvenile or Adult Justice system? **YES** or **NO**

Charges _____

Has the Client been on probation or parole? **Yes** or **NO**

Referral by _____

Phone number _____ Email: _____

Please contact Scotty Colt at (712) 224-2166 (O) / (712) 253-8337 (C) or email at scolt@siouxlandship.org if you have any questions.

Sioux City BOOST RESTART is an Official Grant of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Program that is funded for \$1,999,999.00



Office of Apprenticeship

Kim Reynolds, Governor

Chris Cournoyer, Lt. Governor

Beth Townsend, Executive Director

April 1, 2026

VIA EMAIL mohman@siouxlandship.org

Matt Ohman
Siouxland Human Investment Partnership
2540 Glenn Avenue
Sioux City, IA 51106

RE: Letter of Commitment – Iowa Office of Apprenticeship and BOOST Restart for Young Adults –
RESTART FOA (ETA-26-17)

Dear Mr. Ohman:

This letter of commitment is submitted by the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship in support of the application submitted by Siouxland Human Investment Partnership (SHIP).

The Iowa Office of Apprenticeship confirms its commitment to collaborate with SHIP over the full 42-month grant period beginning July 1, 2026, to support implementation of the BOOST Restart for Young Adults project.

BOOST Restart focuses on preparing justice-involved young adults for employment in high-demand industries, including pathways into Registered Apprenticeship Programs.

The Iowa Office of Apprenticeship agrees to support apprenticeship alignment, including guidance on apprenticeship standards, connection to Registered Apprenticeship Programs, and collaboration with employer and training partners to expand access to apprenticeship opportunities.

The Iowa Office of Apprenticeship will be a valuable partner in the DOL RESTART grant by supporting the development and expansion of Registered Apprenticeship opportunities aligned with regional workforce needs, creating clear career pathways for participants. In collaboration with the IowaWORKS office in Sioux City, the partnership with SHIP will provide coordinated workforce services, including job placement assistance, labor market information, and employer connections. Together, these partners will strengthen participant access to high-quality training and sustainable employment opportunities across the Siouxland region.

The Iowa Office of Apprenticeship agrees to collaborate with SHIP and partners to strengthen apprenticeship pathways and workforce alignment. The organization agrees to cooperate with data collection and reporting activities as applicable.

The parties acknowledge that project strategies may be refined and agree to collaborate in good faith.

Page 2
Matt Ohman
April 1, 2026

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beth Townsend". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Beth Townsend
Executive Director



Cody's Employment Cheat Sheet For Veterans

Important Contacts:

Cody!!

712-233-9030 x46035
matthew.bradley@iwd.iowa.gov

VET CENTER

Kevin Brown
605 728 4335

Kevin.brown11@VA.gov

Woodbury County VA

712-279-6605

Plymouth County VA

712-546-7090

Crawford County VA

712-236-2720

Cherokee County VA

712-255-6319

Monona County VA

712-433-3710

Ida County VA

712-364-4716

WESTCARE FAVA

Darrell Mayo

641-231-0014

darrell.mayo@westcare.com

Siouxland Mental Health

712-252-3871

Support Siouxland Soldiers

712-541-8020

Community Action Agency

712-274-1610

Siouxland Food Bank

712-274-1610

Iowa Legal Aid

712-560-7996

Gospel Mission

712-255-1769

Unemployment Questions

866-239-0843

VA 411

800-698-2411

VA BENEFITS

800-888-8387

Sioux City DHS

712-255-0833

Siouxland Community Health

712-252-2477

STAFFING AGENCIES

IMKO

Imko.com

712-244-2480

Short Staffed

Shortstaffedusa.com

712-224-0022

AVENTURE adventure.com

712-258-2453

Notes

EMERGENCY

Food: Siouxland Food Bank, Community Action Agency, Support Siouxland Soldiers

Healthcare: Siouxland community Health, VA Health Benefits, DHS Hawki for Dependents

Housing: FAVA WEST CARE, VRSI (Omaha), VA HUD VASH

Money: Iowa Unemployment, Support Siouxland Soldier Grant, Community Action Agency, VA Disability Benefits, Social Security (Note: None of these are fast options)

Basic Job Readiness

Base Resume We will work on this together.

Can also complete in IowaWorks

Transportation: Disabled Vets ride bus free in Sioux City, FAVA WESTCARE *might* provide Buss Passes, IowaWorks SNAP ENT Program *might* Help

Clothing: Programs that *might* have funds for clothing: FAVA, SNAP ENT, VRSI (Omaha), Title 1

Access: IowaWorks has computers available for you to complete job searches during business hours.

Basic Job Search

If you are not comfortable job searching, I suggest you take the JOB SEARCH workshop.

We also offer a Digital Literacy class if you would like to improve your overall computer skills.

Common Websites for Job Searching:

IowaWORKS

lowaworks.gov

!!Phone APP!!

National Labor Exchange

Usnlx.com

Indeed

Indeed.com

!!Phone APP!!

LinkedIn

Linkedin.com

!!Phone APP!!

Interviewing

Practice, Practice, Practice!!

We offer 2 Resume workshops

Upon completion we can do practice interviews to sharpen your skills in the office. You can also practice with a trusted friend

Dress Appropriate, Use S.T.A.R Method, Maintain posture & eye contact, be confident, and PRACTICE

Advance Resume

There are 2 resume workshops. You will continue to refine and reshape your resume throughout the process.

Skill Building

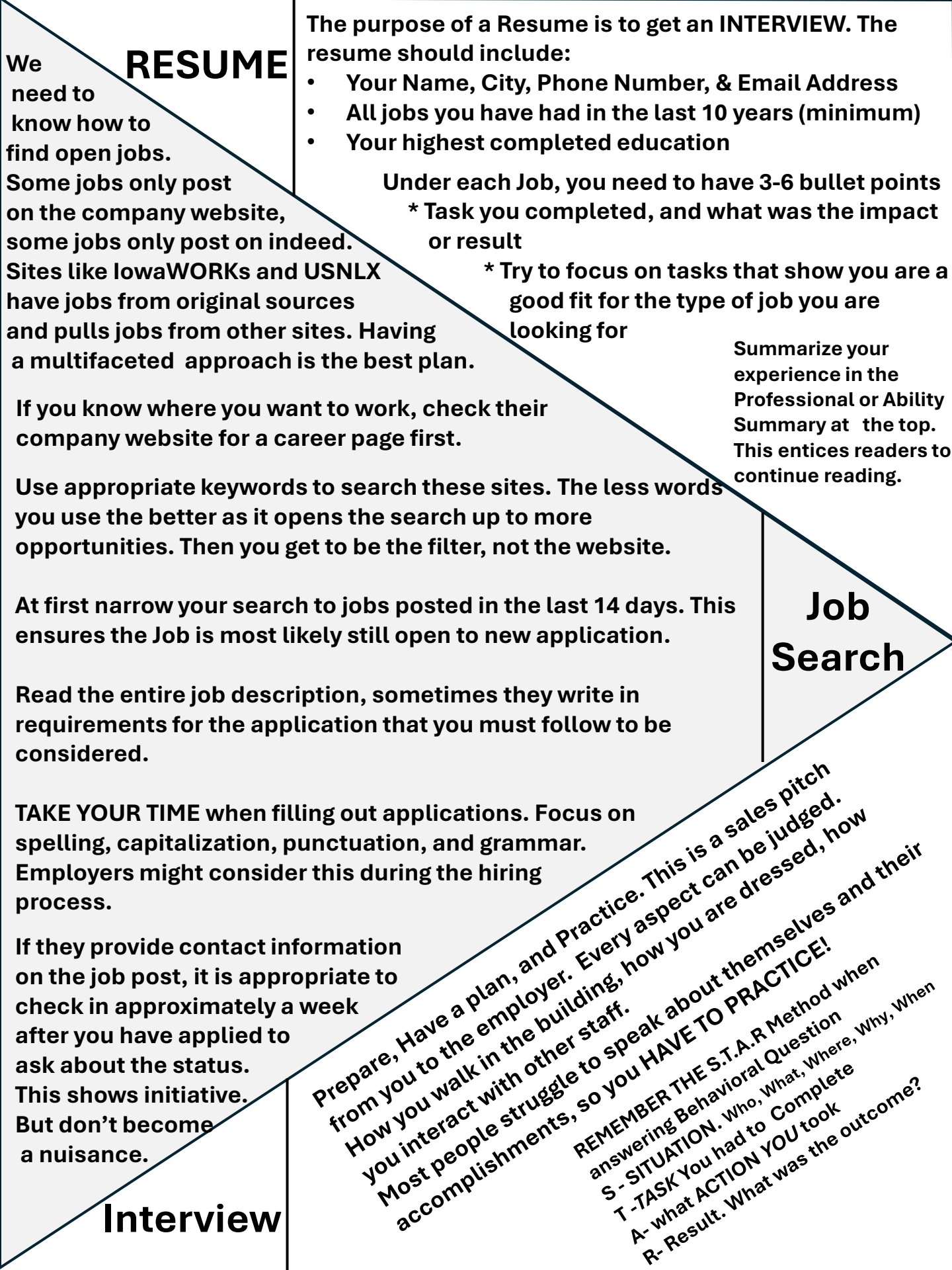
Programs that *might* help with additional education:

VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Title 1

Last Dollar Scholarship

Alison.com is a website that offers free training in a multitude of subjects.

Apprenticeships and Work Experience Programs *might* be another avenue to explore



We need to know how to find open jobs.

Some jobs only post on the company website, some jobs only post on indeed.

Sites like IowaWORKs and USNLX have jobs from original sources and pulls jobs from other sites. Having a multifaceted approach is the best plan.

If you know where you want to work, check their company website for a career page first.

Use appropriate keywords to search these sites. The less words you use the better as it opens the search up to more opportunities. Then you get to be the filter, not the website.

At first narrow your search to jobs posted in the last 14 days. This ensures the Job is most likely still open to new application.

Read the entire job description, sometimes they write in requirements for the application that you must follow to be considered.

TAKE YOUR TIME when filling out applications. Focus on spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar. Employers might consider this during the hiring process.

If they provide contact information on the job post, it is appropriate to check in approximately a week after you have applied to ask about the status. This shows initiative. But don't become a nuisance.

Prepare, Have a plan, and Practice. This is a sales pitch from you to the employer. Every aspect can be judged. How you walk in the building, how you are dressed, how you interact with other staff. Most people struggle to speak about themselves and their accomplishments, so you HAVE TO PRACTICE!

REMEMBER THE S.T.A.R Method when answering Behavioral Question

S - SITUATION. Who, What, Where, Why, When

T - TASK You had to Complete

A- what ACTION YOU took

R- Result. What was the outcome?

Interview



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Contacted by
our Team



Iowa Plains One Stop Operator (OSO) Update

August 2026 Updates

Provided to Committee: September 4, 2026

OSO: Andrea Pohlsander, LifeSkills Connection, Inc.

Monthly Survey Results

Paper/QR Code Surveys Submitted	Statewide Surveys Submitted	Total Surveys Submitted	Overall Satisfaction Rate — August 2026	Overall Satisfaction Rate — Last Year (PY26)
67	30	97	87.6%	87.5%

Center breakdown of submissions: 19 Council Bluffs, 3 Denison, 32 Fort Dodge, 28 Sioux City, 13 Spencer, 2 Other/Online.

August Staff/Partner Trainings

- 8/5 EAP – Cassandra Plaza (IWD HR)
- 8/12 Individual Center Trainings
- 8/19 No training (State Fair)
- 8/26 Center Individual Needs

Core Partner Meeting

- 8/13 Creston Partner Meeting
- 8/24 Local Core Partner Meeting – Denison
- 8/25 Local Core Partner Meetings – Spencer & Council Bluffs+Creston
- 8/26 Local Core Partner Meeting – Fort Dodge

Business Engagement Consultant (BEC)/Title I Collaboration Meeting

- 8/4

OSO Center Presence

- 8/6 Council Bluffs AJC
- 8/10 Sioux City AJC
- 8/13 Denison AJC
- 8/21 Fort Dodge AJC
- 8/25 Denison AJC
- 8/27 Spencer AJC

Events & Observations

- 8/10 Title IV Observations – Sioux City
- 8/27 Iowa Plains Disability Access Committee

Iowa Plains Referrals

- 181 Referrals on Iowa Plains Referral Form – August 2026 (full breakdown on next page)

Iowa Plains One Stop Operator (OSO) Update

Program	# Referrals
American Indian Council	0
GAP/PACE	2
HSED/ESL/ABE	24
IDB	0
IVRS	22
Job Corps	0
SCSEP	9
SNAP E&T	17
Ticket to Work	7
Title I Adult/Dislocated Worker	85
Title I Youth	8
Title III	0
Unknown	7
TOTAL	181

Current OSO Initiatives

- Local Partner Meeting Kickoffs
- Referral Contact Audit – Implementation
- Desk Aid
- Increase Survey Responses
- Partner Newsletter