

JCED BULLETIN

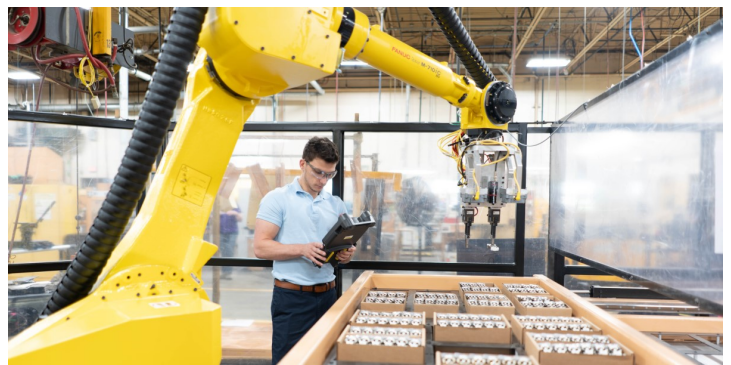
Jones County Economic Development Newsletter

April/May/July 2023

MANUFACTURING 4.0 GRANT OPPORTUNITY

During the pandemic, many manufacturing businesses in Iowa stayed open, continuing to keep people on the job and supplying much-needed goods and services around the world. However, due to illnesses, childcare woes, school closures, etc., these same businesses did not always have the workforce necessary to maintain its production. This encouraged the state of Iowa to come out with the Manufacturing 4.0 Grant program.

This program was designed to help small-to-mid-size Iowa manufacturers invest in the adoption of and integration of smart technologies with grant funding made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act. This grant was launched to ensure the state's manufacturers continued to remain globally competitive through emphasis on automation and smart technology.



The Manufacturing 4.0 Grant Program offers two grant opportunities to prioritize both aspects of advanced technology: The equipment itself and the connectivity of the product. These grant programs are only for manufacturing companies that have between 3 and 150 employees. The two different grant awards are:



- ◆ The Manufacturing Innovation Equipment grant awards up to \$50,000 for the purchase of machinery and specialized equipment to improve operations. Eligible project include: Machinery acquisition, such as a 3-D printer; Specialized equipment for automation, such as collaborative robots; Advanced and autonomous robotics; and Equipment for process improvements.

- ◆ The Manufacturing Industrial Internet of Things Infrastructure Investment grant awards up to \$25,000 for the purchase of specialized hardware or software in

Industry 4.0 Technology groups. Eligible projects include: Infrastructure hardware, such as enhanced server equipment to enable more cloud computing; Cybersecurity Software; Predictive Maintenance Software; Data Analytics Software/Engineering; Data Visualization Software; Augmented Reality Equipment; Radio Frequency Identification tagging software and equipment to track inventory; and much more.

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IOWA WORKS AN ASSET TO LOCAL EMPLOYERS

Iowa WORKS is Iowa's network of American Job Centers, which are part of a one-stop shop solution created to provide universal access to an integrated system of employment services. Job seekers can get help researching the job market, figuring out what careers they qualify for, learn about potential pay, and a variety of other topics.

Employers have multiple benefits from the Iowa WORKS website as well. Whether you're developing, expanding, or consolidating your business, IWD can help facilitate your workforce needs. Their experts can provide one-on-one assistance with a host of questions, whether you're looking for help with recruiting, tax credits to hire new employees, customized training opportunities, or detailed information about your labor market. Some of the services that Iowa Works can provide include:

1. Job postings go nationally along with advertising on social media by Iowa Works for free.
2. Employers can list certain requirements for their jobs and only candidates that match those requirements will be sent to them, which helps employers save on sorting through applications.
3. Employers can elect to be notified about Veterans looking for work etc.
4. If they have a current job website, employers can have it indexed from their own job site, so they don't have to duplicate their work.

Additionally, Iowa WORKS focuses on keeping area employers informed on upcoming trainings and job fairs in the area. Many resources, such as Goodwill of the Heartland, has free trainings such as computer skills, custodial technician, informational technology, and more! Other training opportunities for the Jones County region would be through Kirkwood and can be accessed here:

<https://www.goodwillheartland.org/what-we-do/people-services/certified-for-success/>

Finally, Iowa WORKS can assist in those areas where transitions or turnover might occur. IWD can help your business with surviving a slowdown by assisting with turnover and layoff aversion through the Voluntary Shared Work program as well as the Incumbent Worker Training Program. Under the Voluntary Work Program, work reductions are shared by reducing employees' work hours while Unemployment Insurance partially replaces lost earnings. By avoiding layoffs, employees stay connected to their jobs and a skilled workforce is maintained for the business. The Incumbent Worker Training Program is designed to meet the special requirements of an employer to retain a skilled workforce or avert the need to lay off employees by assisting local works in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment.

If you have questions about Iowa WORKS, you can contact our regional representative, Shelby Hollett at 319-365-9474 or via email at:

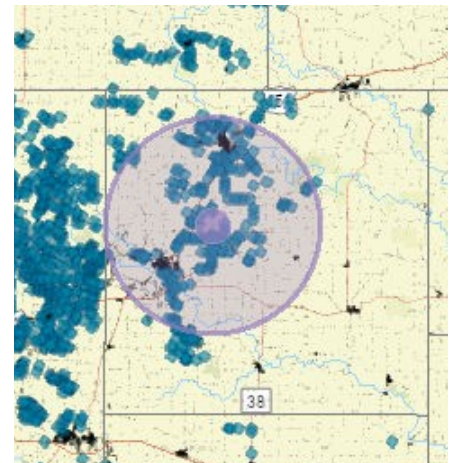
Shelby.Hollett@iwd.iowa.gov



Broadband Intervention Zone Application Completed for Jones County

Jones County Economic Development recently applied for Jones County to be recognized as a Broadband Intervention Zone. This means that there are areas in Jones County that are unserved or underserved by broadband internet.

The application asked for an area within the county to be designated as a Broadband Intervention Zone. The area chosen can be shown in the map diagram below. While not all of Jones County can be included, the addresses in this circle represent the majority of the county.



If designated, telecom providers in Jones County would have the opportunity to go after federal funding to install more broadband internet into those underserved or unserved areas.

Please note that this designation does not guarantee funding or that any telecom will be able to provide service.

IOWA'S TARGETED SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Starting a small business can be a challenge, especially when it feels like there are not a lot of resources out there to get started or overcome hurdles. Jones County Economic Development and the State of Iowa understand that creating and helping maintain opportunities for diverse businesses is key to continuing economic growth and vibrancy in our region. The State of Iowa's Certified Targeted Small Business Program is designed to help women, individuals with minority status, service-connected disabled veterans and individuals with disabilities overcome some of those hurdles that can impede starting or growing a business. Support is given through both certification as a targeted small business and through microloans to businesses.

To qualify, a business must meet the following criteria:

- Located in the state of Iowa
- Operating for a profit
- Make less than \$4 million in gross income
- Majority owned (51%) by a woman, individual with minority status, service disabled veteran, or an individual with a disability.



Additionally, certification can provide a host of other benefits. This includes listing on the State's Directory; invitations to exclusive events; introductions to partners who aid with state purchasing; and more. All departments within the state are required to establish annual projections for spending with these certified businesses and report on their goals.

These procurement benefits include:

- Access to a bid notification site to view state procurement opportunities 48 hours in advance of the state posting publicly
- Ability to access non-competitive bids for under \$25,000
- Bond waivers for up to \$50,000 for state projects, if unable to secure a bond because of the lack of experience, net worth, or capital



Finally, the Targeted Small Business Program also offer loans through this assistance program. The criteria to qualify are the same except a business does not have to be certified to obtain a loan. Loans are available for up to \$50,000 for startup or existing businesses. These funds can be used for business improvements and expenses. These loans include favorable fixed interest rates, fixed monthly payments, and non-pre-payment penalties.

If you are a business being run by a woman, individuals with minority status, service-connected disabled veterans and individuals with disabilities, this program is worth looking into to see if it might help you and your business grow in the state of Iowa. For more information, you can go to:

<https://www.iowaeda.com/small-business/targeted-small-business/>

Manufacturing 4.0 Grants (Continued from Page 1)

One of the key aspects of this program is that manufacturing companies can apply for both grants simultaneously, meaning that a company can apply for up to \$75,000 for the two grants over the lifetime of the business. However, companies should be aware that there are restrictions on the grant applicant:

- I. Manufacturing companies must have between 3 and 150 full-time employees.
- II. Manufacturing companies must have a 1:1 match. Any cost over the \$75,000 match portion of the grant will be paid by the company receiving the grant.
- III. Prior to applying, manufacturers must complete an Industry 4.0 Assessment provided by Iowa State University's Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) to determine need and readiness.

Derek Lumsden, Jones County Economic Development Executive Director, commented that, "We have had a number of businesses go through the process to see if their project might be viable. From there, I set up the CIRAS visit and get them to town as soon as possible to review the operation and make suggestions that ultimately strengthen any application. Jones County has been very lucky so far to have received four CIRAS recommendations for Manufacturing 4.0 grant applications to be submitted on behalf of local businesses. And we hope that number continues to expand."

Derek can be on hand to walk through your project with you to see if it meets the guidelines, set up the CIRAS visit, and assist with the grant paperwork. Grant applications must be submitted through www.iowagrants.gov and grant applications are open now. Grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funding is expended. For questions about the grant or to get more information, businesses can reach Derek via email at director@jonescountydevelopment.com

For more information on Manufacturing 4.0 Grants:
<https://www.iowamfg.com/technology-investment-program/>

Cascade Manufacturing 70th Anniversary Celebration Details

Cascade Manufacturing is hosting a 70th anniversary celebration on Saturday, May 20th in Cascade at the Cascade Lumber Retail store!

There will be a cook-out from 11am -1pm with beef from the beef producers, ice cream from the dairy producers, giveaways, tours, and more! Come celebrate with Cascade Manufacturing!



Contact Us

Jones County Economic Development has two convenient offices:

107 S. Ford Street in
Anamosa inside City Hall

200 E. 1st Street in
Monticello inside City Hall

Our Executive Director, Derek Lumsden, can also be reached by Phone at 319-480-7446 or by [email](#).

New Year, New Friends, and New Experiences with JCYP



We know it can be tough to find the time to get out, meet new people and other people your age, especially when you have other responsibilities between work, family, and more. That's why the Jones County Young Professionals organization works to give networking options to our members.

These networking options not only allow you the opportunity to meet other young professionals in the area, but also a chance to experience several local businesses so you can help be an ambassador for Jones County and Cascade.

To kick off 2023, JCYP hosted some networking socials to welcome in the new year and all of the new members to our organization. We had a great meet-and-greet at T&D's in January, welcoming several new members to the fold.

Following that, JCYP hosted a night at the Drive on Main golf simulator, thanks to the largesse of JCYP member Kathy Dearborn. Members got to enjoy trying out the simulator, learning more about what got Kathy interested in business and returning home to Anamosa, and meeting new friends.

Our final event of the first quarter was a family-friendly night in Monticello! So many of our members can find it hard to come to evening events due to family activities, so the organization is looking at hosting more events where your whole family is invited. In March, JCYP went to the Creative Adventure Lab in Monticello for a night of fun and games. The Creative Adventure Lab has great stations for Legos, construction, and pottery painting. As you can see below, our JCYP members and their families have some budding artists on their hands! We hope this event is the first of many to include our members and their families in future events.



To learn more, you can follow us on Facebook at Jones County Young Professionals or you can email us at:

jonescounty.youngprofessionals@gmail.com

Meet the Member!

Kathy Dearborn grew up in Anamosa but moved to Illinois during high school. She is a graduate of Northern Illinois University (NIU) with Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and Master of Business Administration degrees.

She was a member of the NIU Women's Softball Team, but she has become an avid golfer which has drawn her to the golf industry professionally.

Kathy moved back to Anamosa in February of 2020 when she started her role as the Controller at the Cedar Rapids Country Club. Before working at the Cedar Rapids Country Club, she worked at a private club, a public accounting firm, and a law firm in the Chicagoland area.

Kathy also started her own golf simulator business, Drive On Main, in the Spring of 2021 which is located in downtown Anamosa.

Kathy enjoys living and working in Jones County and joined the JCYP to meet other young professionals in the area and hopefully mentor some of the "younger" members.



Don't forget to like our Facebook page:

Jones County Young Professionals!

JOIN JCYP FOR SOME GREAT SUMMER FUN!

The Jones County Young Professionals are a great mix of fun, volunteering, and professional development. The group wants to learn about ways to advance their careers, help their community non-profits, and get to know a wide range of people. This is done through a variety of events each month and there are some great ones coming up on the lead-in to summer.

On **Monday, April 10th**, join JCYP as they hear from Michael Wampler, the Small Business Development Center Representative from Kirkwood. We will be meeting at **12pm in the lower level of Fidelity Bank in Cascade at 1550 1st Avenue**. Michael will talk about what it takes to start a small business and what young entrepreneurs will want to keep in mind. There will also be time for questions as well. If you have thought about starting a business or need a leg up on getting yours going, Michael is a well of information. This is also a great chance for young professionals in your business to get to know other young professionals in Jones County and Cascade. The more relationships are developed, the easier it is to retain on to your workforce talent.



Volunteerism is another key component of what drives the Jones County Young Professionals. By getting involved and helping those in need in our many communities, JCYP gives back to the areas where they live and work. Additionally, it helps them feel connected to the communities in a way they are not if they are just passing through from 9-5 or just coming home at night to rest. With summer approaching and warm weather hopefully here to stay for a while, JCYP is offering two great opportunities to volunteer in May and June:

* **Wednesday, May 10th at 6pm.** JCYP will be building community garden beds for the Olin Community School District. JCYP will do the build and initial preparation work on the project so the community can take part in the Day of Caring on Friday, May 12th. If you are interested in a little manual labor and some fun afterwards, come to the Olin School at 212 Tribly Street.



* **Saturday, June 10th at 12pm.** JCYP will be doing a river clean-up and kayaking event. We will kayak down the Wapsipinicon River, picking up trash and debris to help keep our river clean for tourism. The trip will stop at Stone City where dinner and drinks can be had to round out the hard work of the day. RSVPs are required for this event and you can sign up at the following link:
<https://forms.gle/5wokdZcAoQ5gJiVM8>

Please Note: The above two volunteer events are open to everyone, not just JCYP members. Helping our communities prosper is not bound by age and we want to make sure that all generations are invited to help and learn from each other.

Finally, JCYP will be hosting a Mental Health Night on **Monday, July 10th at 6pm**. Mental Health has been a huge topic the last few years, especially with the pandemic changing the way we view our relationships with work and with each other. It has changed the way we do business and the ways we interact more than has been done in over a century. Join JCYP for a night of learning more about mental health. Melissa Paulsen-Oberbreckling will be the featured speaker and the event will take place at her office (Rise Counseling and Consulting) in Anamosa at 213 E. Main Street.

The Jones County Young Professionals thrive on learning more about themselves, the world they live in, and the communities where they work and reside. If you are between the ages of 18-40 and either live/work in Jones County or Cascade, this would be a great chance to meet some colleagues in the region and start growing your professional network too!



JONES COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

**DO YOU LIVE OR WORK IN JONES COUNTY
OR CASCADE?**

**ARE YOU 40 YEARS OLD OR UNDER?
DO YOU HAVE A JOB?**

**IF YOUR ANSWER IS YES, COME JOIN
JCYP!!**

JCYP is an organization focused on
developing networks and friendships
and leaders among community
members.

Join JCYP the 10th of EVERY Month for
networking, professional
development and volunteering!

For more information on events and locations,
scan the QR code or contact Bri Langdon at
(319) 310-5078 or blangdon2013@gmail.com



SCAN ME