

Notice of Funding Opportunity

State Agency Name:	Iowa Department of Workforce Development
Funding Opportunity Title	2026 Advanced Manufacturing Pathway Development (AMP'D Iowa)
Announcement Type:	Initial
Assistance Listing Number (formerly CFDA Number):	17.280 WIOA Dislocated Worker National Reserve Demonstration Grants

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline:	Grant applications are due for the first round of funding by Friday, July 24th, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. CST
Application Webinar Date:	Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 1:00 PM via Microsoft Teams
Application Notification:	A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be posted on the following websites: www.iowagrants.gov ampd.iowa.gov

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the 2026 Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Development (AMP'D) Iowa is to increase training opportunities in the targeted industry of advanced manufacturing (manufacturing). AMP'D Iowa will reimburse Iowa manufacturing employers a portion of expenses to train and/or upskill new or current employees due to the implementation of new technology, creation of new workforce pipelines, and to address the skilled labor gap.

Iowa's manufacturing sector spans a wide variety of industries and products including but not limited to: agricultural and construction equipment, tires, windows, lighting, medical devices and machinery, appliance/furniture, food production, fuels, and the biotech industry, impacting not just the economy of Iowa, but the entire nation. This is not an exhaustive list of Iowa's manufacturing sector but represents a description of the variety of the manufacturing industries within Iowa. Applicants for the AMP'D Iowa program are not limited to these stated industries and are encouraged to review the eligibility requirements for this opportunity. Through Work Based Learning (WBL), manufacturing employers will increase domestic skills of Iowa's manufacturing workforce and ensure a well-trained workforce to meet the growing demand for the future.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Applicants

Advanced manufacturing organization must have a physical location, employ residents of Iowa, and conduct business in Iowa. Employers must have a NAICS Code classification of 31, 32, or 33 to be eligible. Eligible occupations must be listed in the certified H1B occupation list – Attachment E.

- No permanent layoffs within the last six (6) months prior to the application date
- Must be in good standing with the State of Iowa (not currently be in bankruptcy or pre-bankruptcy, nor be presently in arrears with taxes or owe money to the State of Iowa and must not have any active compliance penalties).
- Must be registered with and establish a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through SAM.gov prior to

submission of an application.

- Applicants will be required to provide the unique entity identifier (UEI) with the application submission. Awarded businesses will be required to maintain an active registration in SAM.gov through the federal interest period of this award.

As part of the application, applicants must disclose any or potential conflicts of interest at the time of application submission. If awarded, the awarded business is required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest that occur throughout the period of performance to the awarding agency.

Ineligible Applicants

Applicants who do not meet the stated eligibility requirements will not be considered for this award. Occupations not included on the certified H1B occupation list – Attachment E will not be considered.

The grant seeks applications from Iowa manufacturing employers offering employer-led training programs and that have met the below eligibility criteria:

- Commit to recruit and train new employees and/or upskill existing employees;
- Identify employee training needs and develop a training strategy to meet this need;
- Operate and located within the State of Iowa;
- The employer has not completed a layoff within the last six (6) calendar months at the time of the application submission;
- The employer must not currently be in bankruptcy or pre-bankruptcy;
- The employer must not be presently in arrears with taxes or owe money to the State of Iowa for any program administered by the State of Iowa.
- The employer must be in the advanced manufacturing sector and use this program to train employees in one or more of the occupations listed in Appendix E.
- The employer must be registered with and maintain an active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through SAM.gov throughout the federal interest period of this award.

Definitions

Advanced Manufacturing: a business that utilizes innovative technologies to create existing products and the creation of new products and identified with a NAICS code of 31, 32, or 33. This may include production activities that depend on information, automation, computation, software, sensing and networking.

Incumbent Workers: Individuals employed with a participating employer who need training to advance in their careers or retain their current positions.

Newly Hired Employee: Individual who have been hired by a participating employer within six months of beginning training.

On-the-Job Training (OJT): Training by an employer that is provided to a paid participant while engaged in productive work in a job that:

- Provides knowledge or skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job;
- Provides some reimbursement to the employer for the extraordinary costs of

- providing the training and additional supervision related to the OJT;
- Is limited in duration as appropriate to the occupation for which the participant is being trained, considering the content of the training, the prior work experience of the participant, and the service strategy of the participant, as appropriate.

Employee Participant: A person that is employed as newly hired or incumbent worker for a participating employer that is at least 17 years old and not enrolled in secondary school. The individual must successfully complete the approved training program and is determined eligible to have a portion of their training reimbursed to the participating employer by the grant. Individuals may participate if they are otherwise eligible and authorized to work in the United States.

Participating Employer: An employer that is determined eligible to receive reimbursements for the cost of employee training and commits to adhere to program requirements in exchange for receiving the reimbursement funds.

Training Costs: Costs incurred by an eligible employer which are paid to, or on behalf of, eligible training participants for their education and training expenses. Examples include tuition and related fees from a third-party vendor, training program books, and exam fees. Training costs also include wages paid to the employee by the employer for work performed while in a structured work-based learning activity as well as wages for employees delivering in-house instruction or on-the-job learning/mentoring.

Training Program: A defined set of instructional activities, including training and educational services and/or work-based learning, that results in the acquisition of skills, experience, or credentials when all activities are completed and conducted with a commitment by the employer to retain the employee participant upon the successful completion of the training.

Work-Based Learning: Training activity that includes sustained interactions with industry or community professionals in real workplace settings or simulated environments. These interactions are designed to provide in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks required in a given career field and are aligned with educational curriculum and instruction. Work-based learning aims to bridge the gap between training and employment by ensuring that the skills and knowledge gained through training are directly applicable to the workplace.

AWARD INFORMATION

Program Authority

Funding is provided to Iowa Workforce Development by the United States Department of Labor under federal award #25A60IN000011-01-00 and funded by the 17.280 WIOA Dislocated Worker National Reserve Demonstration Grants for this Notice of Funding Opportunity. As a condition of receiving the funds appropriated through this Notice of Funding Announcement (NOFO), the subrecipient shall testify upon the request of any committee or subcommittee of the State of Iowa General Assembly regarding the expenditures of such funds.

All costs incurred for this project must align within the federal award period. The performance period for IWD for this program began October 1, 2025, and ends June 30, 2029.

Performance Measures

- Number of participants who begin training.
- Number of participants who successfully complete training.
- Number of participants who successfully complete training and earn a recognized postsecondary credential, certificate, or license as a result of the training.
- Total number of participants who complete training and are retained in employment with the same employer for six months after training completion.

Estimated Award Amount

- The total allocation available under this award is an estimated \$4,214,000.
- Individual award allocations will be considered up to a maximum of \$250,000 per participating employer.

Funding decisions are made as funding is available and administered as a first-come, first-serve basis. IWD is not obligated to provide the maximum grant amount requested.

State or Federal Match Requirement

There is match requirement/cost sharing associated with this Notice of Funding Opportunity. The percentage of the match requirement is dependent on the size of the awarded business based on total number of full-time employees. Details of the match requirement are listed in the Use of Funds section of this NOFO.

Project and Award Period

Pursuant to the terms of the award, the period of performance for awarded employers is between August 15, 2026, and no later than December 31, 2028. Individual contract agreements with participating employers may dictate a shorter period of performance specific to the individual award. Expenses incurred related to this program outside of the period of performances listed in individual contract agreements are not eligible for reimbursement under this award. Any funds not expended for activity completed by December 31, 2028, will be forfeited and IWD will not be obligated to provide additional funding for program completion. Awarded projects not meeting these timelines may result in a default of the award and all grant funds may be required to be returned to IWD.

All final expenses and reports must be completed and submitted to IWD no later than February 15, 2029. Under 2 CFR 200.334-338, awarded business of this award will be required to maintain records for a minimum of three (3) years from the date of close out and allow access by federal and state auditor, as well as any oversight entities.

Type of Award

Awarded advanced manufacturing participating employers will be considered beneficiaries under 2 CFR 200 and subject to reporting requirements specified by IWD and those in accordance with [2 CFR 200.332](#). Grant funds are administered as reimbursement only and no advance payments will be provided.

IWD will pay out grant funds to awarded business as a reimbursement after the submission and approval of monthly project reports, validation of submitted expenses, and milestone completion of employee participants.

Use of Funds

The funds provided are designed to assist with employer-led training costs associated with upskilling new

or incumbent employees. Grant funds provided to eligible advanced manufacturing employers can only be used for expenses related to the project identified in the approved application and align with an eligible expense category listed below. Expenses for related training must logically align with the proposed program and be approved as part of the approved budget for the award.

IWD will utilize a tiered reimbursement approach, with the percentage of actual training costs that can be reimbursed with grant funds based on the size of the business. The maximum reimbursement is set at eighty percent (80%) of training costs, up to a maximum of \$4,000.00 per employee trained, as outlined in the chart below:

Reimbursement Tier	Total Reimbursement of Actual Training Costs	Milestone 1 Training Completion	Milestone 2 Job Retention
Tier 1 – 20% Match Required (less than 250 full-time employees)	80%	40%	40%
Tier 2 – 35% Match Required (250-499 full-time employees)	65%	32%	33%
Tier 3 – 50% Match Required (500 or more full-time employees)	50%	25%	25%

EXAMPLE:

- ZYX Company applies and receives an award under this program
- ZYX Company trains one employee and the total training cost is \$5,200.00 (combination of training materials and employee wages)
- ZYX Company begins training employee A on August 15, 2026, and the training is completed on October 15, 2026
- ZYX Company will report successful completion of training and provide proof of training expenditures totaling \$5,200.00
- The chart below shows example reimbursement rates for each Tier, based on a total training cost of \$5,200, with a maximum reimbursement rate of \$4,000 per employee trained

Tier	Total Reimbursement of Actual Training Costs	EXAMPLE: \$5,200 Total Training Cost (Up to \$4,000)	Milestone 1 Training Completion	EXAMPLE: Milestone 1 Rate x Total Training Cost of \$5,200	Milestone 2 Job Retention	EXAMPLE: Milestone 2 Rate x Total training cost of \$5,200
Tier 1	80%	\$4,160 capped at \$4,000	40%	\$2,080 capped at \$2,000	40%	\$2,080 capped at \$2,000
Tier 2	65%	\$3,380	32%	\$1,664	33%	\$1,716
Tier 3	50%	\$2,600	25%	\$1,300	25%	\$1,300

Reimbursement will be provided at the completion of the following two milestones:

1. The employee participant has completed the training program.
2. The employee participant retains employment with the employer for six (6) months after completion of the training program.

Validation of award funds will be subject to evidence that funds were expended defined by the contract agreement. To be considered, all expenses must be entered into and submitted on the IWD expense tracker document (Attachment G) and must include proof of purchase and proof of payment documentation for consideration for reimbursement.

Specific expense categories eligible for grant funds include:

- Supply Costs associated with designing and implementing employer-led training delivered by the employer to its employees, as long as the total cost is allocated to the number of employees trained via this method.
- External or Internal Instructor Fee (If the instructor is an internal employee, only wages for the internal employee instructor related to the training is an eligible expense).
- Mentor/On-The-Job Trainer Wages
- Participant Wages for eligible times throughout the program, including both classroom and/or on-the-job training. Estimated hours for paid classroom and on-the-job training time per participant will be identified in the program plan and must be clearly identified on employee paystubs. Hours paid for studying, vacation, sick, paid time off, or holidays are not eligible for reimbursement expenses.
- Third-party Tuition and related fee expenses for coursework specific to the employer training program for program participants.
- Third-party Credentialing, Licensing, and/or Exam Expenses (excluding graduation or ceremonial expenses).

Ineligible Expenses

- Equipment defined as tangible, non-expendable property that has a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition costs of \$5,000 or more.
- Travel expenses, including mileage, airfare, food, lodging, and fuel charges
- Food expenses
- Transportation expenses
- Administrative and Indirect expenses

All expenses must be able to be directly attributed to an individual employee, including purchased supplies for the training. Awarded businesses may submit proportionate training expenses that are charged for multiple participants. Additional documentation may be required to validate the training expense. Example: If a training instructor fee for a course is \$1,000.00 for 20 participants, the proportionate training expense per participant would be \$50.00.

Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will be required to submit expenditures, program participant logs and reports to document how funds were spent and certify funds were used in accordance with the approved grant application and grant program. The awarded business will be required to submit progress reports monthly as well as a final report prior to grant closeout. All Awarded businesses must provide a detailed final report to Iowa Workforce Development by February 15, 2029. All reporting will be completed via a report template provided by IWD and designed to require the least amount of information necessary to determine grant outcomes. See Attachment F for the reporting template.

The following information will be required for each employee who receives training under this program:

- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Date of Birth*
- Sex
- Ethnicity
- Race
- Veteran Status*
- Hourly Wage

* IWD reserves the right to request verification of these elements or additional information if deemed necessary.

IWD may change, add or remove reporting metrics throughout the award period.

Monthly reports are due ten (10) days after the end of each month. For example, month end September 30 report is due October 10. If the reporting deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date extends to the subsequent workday.

Reporting deadlines will be further detailed in the employer contract agreement.

Reimbursement Schedule

Reimbursement will only be provided after the verification of successful completion of each milestone. If an employee completes training but does not retain employment for six months post training, only the Milestone 1 reimbursement will be issued. Refer to the Milestone information included in the Use of Funds section of this NOFO.

Additional Considerations

Participant program logs that include participant name and employee number, along with itemized and detailed timesheets and paystubs will be required as part of reimbursement submission to validate participant expenses. IWD reserves the authority to amend eligibility requirements if necessary.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Electronic Submission Instructions

Applicants must submit applications electronically via IowaGrants.gov. IWD recommends that applicants create an account and begin the application in advance of the deadline. For registration guidance, refer to "IowaGrants.gov New User Registration Instructions" (See Appendix B).

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must be using his or her own IowaGrants.gov account to sign and submit the application.

Official email communication from IWD regarding this application will be issued from a representative from Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). Applicants are required to ensure these communications are received and responded to accordingly.

Content

Applicants will enter or attach the following components of a complete application in www.iowagrants.gov.

2026 AMP’D Iowa Overview and Project Plan:

- 1. Applicant Information
- 2. Program Summary
- 3. Program Description and Need
- 4. Program Goals
- 5. Program Training Plan and Timeline
- 6. Organizational Capability

2026 AMP’D Iowa Budget:

- 1. Description of proposed costs and an overview of how budgeted expenses are calculated.
- 2. Ensure totals reconcile with the amounts included on the 2026 AMP’D Iowa Budget Form.
- 3. Outline of anticipated reimbursed expenses, per budget category.

Attachments to be Uploaded:

- Completed Organization W-9
- 2026 AMP’D Iowa Budget (use of provided template required – Attachment C)
- 2026 AMP’D Iowa Assurance Program Plan (use of provided template required-Appendix D)
- Other Attachments such as a Procurement Policy may be requested

See Appendix A for further information and application guidance.

Submission Dates and Times

- Please see the Important Dates section at the beginning of this announcement for the submission deadline. IWD reserves the right to extend the submission deadline, and any notice of such extension will be posted on IWD’s website and/or IowaGrants.gov.
- Attempted submission of a completed application after the stated due date and time will not be allowed by the system.
- If a submission is attempted after the published date and time, the applicant will receive a notice stating, “The Funding Opportunity is closed.”

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Scoring Criteria

Program Description and Need	20 points
Program Goals	10 points
Project Plan and Timeline (includes Appendix D)	40 points
Organizational Capability	10 points
Budget Narrative and Form (includes Attachment C)	20 points
TOTAL	100 points

See Appendix A for further information and application guidance.

Funding Priorities

Priority will be given to applicants that:

- Are past recipients of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Manufacturing 4.0 awards
- Are classified as small-to-medium sized businesses (499 employees or less)
- Utilize a training model that leads to an industry-recognized credential or certification
- Provide a wage increase upon the completion of the training program
- Training opportunities focused on incumbent worker training within their current workforce.

Review and Selection Process

A review team selected by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) will use the criteria listed in this document to determine eligibility and Appendix A to review applications under this funding announcement.

Applicant Clarification

Some applicants may receive requests to provide clarifying information and/or make changes to their application, including changes to their budget. This information is used by IWD in making funds recommendations. Applications may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked clarifying questions. A request for clarification does not guarantee a grant award. Failure to respond to requests adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of applications from consideration.

Selection for Funding

Decisions to award grants and the funding levels will be determined by application based upon compliance with the requirements of this funding announcement. Applicants may be selected to enter into a grant agreement, finalizing grant terms, budget, and scope-of-work provisions, at which time the final decision to make a grant award will be made. Submission of an application is not guaranteed of an award.

AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

Please direct any questions regarding this NOFO to:

Melanie Johnson

Iowa Workforce Development

melanie.johnson@iwd.iowa.gov

515-725-9074

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance (TA) will be provided throughout the application process, in the form of webinars and direct support. All technical assistance will be shared on the IWD [website](#).

Other Information

- If an applicant fails to meet any eligibility criteria at the time of an application deadline, the application may still be reviewed but the State will not make an award until all eligibility criteria are met.
- IWD reserves the right to request additional information from applicants to evaluate applications.
- IWD, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to reject all applications; to reject individual applications for failure to meet any requirement; to award in part or total, and to waive minor defects and non-compliance. Such a waiver will not modify the program requirements or excuse the applicant from full compliance with program specifications or grant agreement requirements if the grant is awarded. Submission of an application confers no right to an award or to a subsequent grant agreement.
- All application submissions become the property of IWD. If funds are awarded, the contents of all

applications will be in the public domain at the conclusion of the selection process and will be open to inspection by interested parties subject to exceptions provided in Iowa Code Chapter 22 or other provision of law.

- IWD is not obligated to award any grants under this program, to pay any costs incurred by the applicant in the preparation and submission of an application or pay any grant-related costs incurred prior to the grant beginning date.
- Upon IWD's approval, the successful applicant will receive a grant agreement via email from IWD. The applicant has 15 business days to sign the grant agreement. If the agreement is not executed within 15 business days, IWD reserves the right to cancel the award. IWD, at its sole discretion, may extend the timeframe for executing the grant agreement.
- Any grant agreement awarded by IWD shall include specific provisions, terms, and conditions.
- All decisions by IWD are final.

APPENDIX A: 2026 AMP'D IOWA APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Please review the following guidance when preparing your grant application in IowaGrants.gov. The application gathers general information, narratives, budget information, and attachments. Each section includes prompts that must be addressed.

2026 AMP'D Iowa Overview and Program Plan:

- **Applicant Information (required, not scored)**
 - Contact information of your organization's Authorized Representative
 - Contact information of your organization's Fiscal Officer/Agent
 - Identification of County(is) participating, involved, or affected by the proposal
 - Identification of Congressional District(s), Iowa Senate District(s), and Iowa House District(s) involved or affected by the proposal
 - Legal Organization Name
 - Organization type
 - Business Address

- **General Information**
 - Address of training program
 - Associated SOC codes
 - Estimated length of time for the training program
 - Past or current partnership with CIRAS and IEDA

- **Program Description and Need**
 - Provide an overview of the stated need for this program, identified workforce gaps and/or position openings that relate to this program. List the specific occupation(s) the training plan will support. Provide details of how these occupations reflect both the needs of the organization
 - Provide information on how this need was determined. If partnered with the ISU Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS), provide detail of this partnership.
 - Provide specific information regarding the number and type of credentials to be completed per participant per occupation, along with any additional industry-recognized certifications or licenses, if applicable.
 - Describe how these credentials will benefit the business.
 - Provide activities or events that signal a successful completion of the training program and how this will be documented throughout the program.

- **Program Training Plan and Timeline**
 - Discuss the implementation and delivery methods of the training program.
 - Provide a detailed timeline for the program including the anticipated length of the training program, number of education/classroom hours, and number of on-the-job training hours.

Provide information on any key milestone activities, timeline of activities, and measures of program success.

- Describe the recruitment plan to ensure the program can achieve the desired participation. Provide information related to participation for both current employees and newly hired employees (beginning within the last 6 months).
- Provide information on the support measures the program will provide the participants to ensure successful completion of the training program.

- **Organizational Capability**

- Describe the staff and partners who will be involved with this project including the roles and scope of their involvement. Provide details of roles such as training, partners and employee communication, marketing, program instruction, financial and grant reporting.
- Describe any previous experience the organization has implementing employee training programs, registered apprenticeships, and/or other work-based learning training models.

- **2026 AMP'D Iowa Grant Budget:**

- Complete the budget template (Attachment C), which will include a description of proposed costs, and an overview of how budgeted expenses are calculated. Outline total expenses separated by the approved budget categories.
- Provide a detailed narrative of budget expenses and how the expenses are necessary and appropriate for the proposed training program. For wages, include details such as the number of hours of the training program, number of participants, etc. Ensure totals reconcile with the amounts included on the 2026 AMP'D Iowa Budget Form (Attachment C).

Application Attachments

Upload the following in the Attachment section in IowaGrants.gov:

- W-9 as a PDF
- 2026 AMP'D Iowa Budget (Excel File): Attachment C
- 2026 AMP'D Iowa Assurance Program Plan: Appendix D

Minority Impact Statement

Pursuant to 2008 Iowa Acts, HF 2392, Iowa Code Section 8.11, all grant applications submitted to the State of Iowa must include a Minority Impact Statement. This requires applicants to consider the potential impact of the grant project's proposed programs or policies on minority groups. This form includes a series of questions for the applicant to complete identifying either a potential positive impact, negative impact, or no impact.

APPENDIX B: IOWAGRANTS.GOV NEW USER REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these basic instructions to create an account and begin your grant application.

1. Watch this 4 min video <https://dom.iowa.gov/iowa-grants-login>
2. Go to www.iowagrants.gov
3. Always select the blue button “Click Here to Access Single Sign-On Tool” no matter if this is your first time accessing the system or you’re already registered.
 - a. Do not use the “enter your user ID and password” options
4. If you do not have an account, select “Sign Up” at the bottom of the screen.
5. Enter your first name, last name and valid email address.
6. Complete the Set Up for security methods, including setting your password.
7. Verify your email and enter the verification code that was sent by the system.
 - a. This email is sent by Admin@id.iowa.gov.
 - b. This provides you with a one-time code to complete the verification process.
8. Complete your registration by entering your contact information on the Registration page. Enter your basic information and select your Program Area of Interest. While the system instructions do not make this clear, it is important that you select a program area of interest from the drop-down list. This will expedite registration.

Once complete, your registration is pending final system approval. You will receive a confirmation email once your approval is complete.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions or want additional assistance, please contact Patrick Rice at patrick.rice@iwd.iowa.gov or 515-725-9077.

