



STATEHOUSE NEWS

February 19, 2009

Gen. Dardis Presents Final Condition of National Guard

This week, Major General Ron Dardis presented his final Condition of the Iowa National Guard to a joint session of the Iowa Legislature. Gen. Dardis has spent nearly 43 years of military service with the Iowa National Guard, including the last 10 years as the Adjutant General.

This year, Gen. Dardis was proud to announce again that the condition of the guard is strong and that the Iowa National Guard is at 100% of authorized strength. This has been accomplished for more than eight years in a row. The retention rate exceeds national goals and is one of the highest in the nation.

Deployments

Gen. Dardis stated that 700 Iowa National Guard members are currently deployed overseas. In addition, another 200 have been alerted and are preparing for a Spring/Summer, 2009, deployment. In the last seven years, the Iowa National Guard has deployed nearly 13,000 soldiers and airmen for duties in Iraq, Afghani-

stan, the Balkans, the Sinai Peninsula and various domestic support missions across the United States.

Nationally, this past year over 4,000 Iowa National Guard men and women were activated to assist fellow Iowans with the tornadoes and floods, and multiple winter ice storms during 2008. This was the most extensive military operation in Iowa since the Civil War.

Most recently, over 1,000 Iowa Army and Air National Guard members helped provide security for the 56th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. Gen. Dardis specifically recognized one group of

service members for returning a lost child to their family during the inauguration activities.

Office Received Excellence Award

Gen. Dardis also recognized the Iowa Army National Guard's Facilities Management Office for being awarded the 2008 States Installation Management Excellent Award as the "best installation management program in the country."

With the joint partnership of the Iowa Legislature, the office has consolidated armories where needed, and expanded and built new facilities to maintain strength and readiness.

Support Services

In response to the stress placed on service members and their families, the Iowa National Guard has established a services directorate within the Iowa National Guard headquarters. The directorate consolidates a variety of services in one place making it easier for service members and families to receive the care and support they need.

In addition, due to the increasing rates of suicide attempts and suicides among service members, a broad suicide prevention program has been developed for the Iowa National Guard. The program is to help service members cope with added stresses caused by deployment, separations, and combat related anxieties.

Gen. Dardis concluded his speech by thanking the Iowa Legislature, Governor Culver and all Iowans for their support of the Iowa National Guard and its 9,400 members.

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Federal Stimulus to Create 37,000 Iowa Jobs

On Tuesday, President Obama signed into law the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Nationally, the stimulus package of tax cuts and carefully targeted investments is estimated to create or save 3.5 million jobs over the next two years.

Nationally, the economy is in a crisis not seen since the Great Depression. The financial credit markets are frozen, consumer purchasing power is in decline, in the last four months the country has lost 2 million jobs and we may see another 3 to 5 million lost in the next year.

The short term goal of the stimulus package is to prevent the loss of millions of jobs and to get the economy moving again. The long term goal is to make the needed investments that restore the ability of average middle income families to increase their income and build a decent future for their children.

The stimulus package targets investments to key areas that will create and preserve good jobs at the same time as it is strengthening

the ability of this economy to become more efficient and produce more opportunities for employment.

Iowa's Share of the Stimulus

Iowa's share of the federal stimulus package is estimated to be \$1.9 billion over the next two years. Details on how the funding will flow to Iowa are still being determined. These key investments are estimated to create or retain 37,000 jobs in Iowa over the next two years.



Highlights of the package:

- **Clean, Efficient, American Energy:** Put people back to work today, and reduce dependence on foreign oil tomorrow, by strengthening efforts directed at doubling renewable energy production and renovate public buildings to make them more energy efficient.
- **Transform our Economy with Science and Technology:** Put scientists to work looking for the next great discovery, creating jobs in cutting-edge-technologies, and making smart investments that will help businesses in every community succeed in a global economy.
- **Modernize Roads, Bridges, Transit and Waterways:** Build a 21st century economy by engaging

contractors across the nation to create jobs rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges, modernizing public buildings, and putting people to work cleaning our air, water and land.

- **Education for the 21st Century:** Enable more children to learn in 21st century classrooms, labs, and libraries to help our kids compete with any worker in the world.
- **Lower Healthcare Costs:** Save jobs, money, and lives, by updating and computerizing our healthcare system to cut red tape, prevent medical mistakes, and help reduce healthcare costs by billions of dollars each year.
- **Help Workers Hurt by the Economy:** High unemployment and rising costs have outpaced Americans' paychecks. Investing in worker training and helping them find jobs will help struggling families make ends meet.
- **Save Public Sector Jobs and Protect Vital Services:** Provide relief to states so they can continue to employ teachers, firefighters and police officers, and provide vital services without having to unnecessarily raise middle class taxes.

State Begins Atalissa Investigations

The Joint House and Senate Government Oversight Committee began hearings this week to address mistreatment of mentally retarded workers in Atalissa, Iowa. The committee is investigating how this facility was overlooked by state regulatory agencies and determine what can be done in the future to prevent similar abuses.

The workers, all employees of the Texas-based Henry's Turkey Service, were living in a 109-year-

old schoolhouse. The schoolhouse has since been shut down by the fire marshal for code violations.

In response to the growing scandal, Governor Culver has signed an executive order to create a Dependent Adult Task Force. The Task Force will be chaired by John McCalley, director of the Department of Elder Affairs, and includes directors from the following agencies: the Department of Human Services, the Department of Inspec-

tions and Appeals, the Department of Public Safety, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the Labor Commissioner, and representatives of the Governor's Office.

Governor Culver has given the Task Force the following responsibilities:

- Review Iowa laws, regulations, policies and procedures related to the care and employment of dependent adults with mental retardation.

- Coordinate with state agencies, non-profit organizations and citizens not formally named to the Task Force, but who are able to assist in the detection of neglect of dependent adults with mental retardation.
- Determine the extent to which dependent adults with mental retardation are residents of or are receiving care in unlicensed facilities.
- Assess existing methods, both within Iowa and in other jurisdictions, of preventing, investigating

and taking enforcement action against persons who neglect, abuse or take advantage of dependent adults with mental retardation.

- Identify and recommend potential regulatory or statutory changes that would improve prevention and enforcement efforts and systematically address the problem of the mistreatment of dependent adults with mental retardation in the State of Iowa.
- Develop a plan and a timeline, with input from appropriate stakeholder groups, to redress the prob-

lems caused by and prevent the mistreatment of dependent adults with mental retardation through coordinated legal and regulatory changes.

- Identify and recommend ways to prevent the mistreatment of dependent adults with mental retardation, such as through the dissemination of educational materials, thereby reducing the need for corrective action.

The Task Force will submit of final report and recommendations to the Governor no later than April 1.

Prevailing Wage to be Debated in the House

In an effort to help middle class families, House File 333 is eligible for debate by the Iowa House and would require that the wages and benefits on public projects be the same as those paid for similar work in the area.

Prevailing wage laws are required in 32 states. All of Iowa's surrounding states, except South Dakota, have a prevailing wage law. They are designed to level the playing field on construction projects.

Current Iowa law requires government to pick the lowest bidder

on public projects, regardless if a local contractor is bidding on the project. When wages can be exploited, it encourages a "race to the bottom" where out of state contractors can underbid local construction companies using unskilled cheap labor.

Opponents' say a prevailing wage law will raise the cost of construction. But several studies show that a prevailing wage does not increase government contracting costs. One report specifically studied health care and showed prevailing wage states have a higher per-

centage of construction workers with health care. Failure to pay health insurance can end up costing the taxpayer money.

Supporters argue that a prevailing wage law in Iowa would encourage certified apprenticeship and job training programs. This will help build a 21st century high-skilled workforce. It also increases wages for hard working middle class families and reduces reliance on government programs

Natural Resources Constitutional Amendment Advances

Both the House and Senate passed House Joint Resolution 1 this week to add an amendment to Iowa's constitution to protect natural resources and outdoor recreation funding. The amendment will now be on the November 2010 ballot for a vote of the people.

House Joint Resolution 1 creates a natural resources and outdoor recreation trust fund for pro-

tecting and enhancing Iowa's waters, parks, trails, fish and wildlife habitat, and agricultural soils. No revenue will be credited to the fund until the Legislature increases the sales tax in the future, after the public votes on the amendment.

The intent is to credit 3/8th of 1¢ of a future sales tax increase to this fund, which would generate approximately \$150 million. The Legislature would establish the pa-

rameters for distribution of the funds, but they can only go for protecting and enhancing water quality and natural areas in Iowa.

The resolution is identical to one passed by the Legislature in 2008. To add an amendment to Iowa's constitution, it has to pass two consecutive general assemblies before it can be placed on the ballot.

Bill Requires Health Insurance to Cover Prosthetics

The House passed legislation to require health insurers to cover certain prosthetic devices without any annual or lifetime spending caps. If the bill becomes law, Iowa would become the 11th state to adopt this standard. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

House File 311 requires health insurance to cover medically necessary prosthetic devices designed to replace all or part of an arm or leg. The patient's doctor will decide what type of prosthetic is medically necessary. The requirement takes effect for policies issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2009.

Although this applies to individual and group insurance, not all of Iowa's 14,000 amputees will benefit, since federal law exempts self-insured employers from state insurance regulation. Typically, an employer must exceed 100 employees before it is feasible to self-insure. 2,176 of Iowa's 91,598 employers have 100 or more employees – representing 43% of all employees.

About four years ago some health insurers began putting annual or lifetime caps on prosthetic coverage. Caps may be as low as \$2,500 per year or \$15,000 lifetime.

The cost of prosthetics vary depending on the type of amputation. It may cost \$7,000 to \$10,000 for a below the amputations – but more

than \$20,000 for above the knee amputations.

Low caps can result in the insurer paying for a temporary prosthetic but leaving patients on their own when it's time to get a permanent prosthetic. Low caps are especially problematic for children, who may need several prosthetic replacements as they grow.

Opponents claim that this will cause a big increase in insurance premiums. But evidence from other states suggests it will cost about 12¢-24¢ per member per month.

Since Iowa's larger insurers already provide coverage with no caps, most Iowans would see no cost increase.

2-1-1 Helped Iowans During Flooding

United Way officials say that between May 25 and August 25, the 2-1-1 centers in Iowa fielded over 57,000 calls from Iowans. Many of these calls were disaster related. They continue to get calls from disaster victims, although now the focus is on financial concerns and mental health problems.

United Way and 2-1-1 officials made a presentation to the House Rebuild Iowa/Disaster Recovery Committee about the work they did during the floods and tornadoes. United Way provides the funding for the 2-1-1 system.

2-1-1 is a free information and referral helpline that answers calls 24-hours per day, 7 days per week. Iowans can call 2-1-1 throughout Iowa, just as they can call 9-1-1 from any community.

The 2-1-1 centers provide Iowans with assistance or direct them to agencies that can help.

Iowa is one of only 17 states that have 2-1-1 access across the entire state.



In addition to assistance to victims, 2-1-1 was also used as a clearinghouse for volunteers last summer. In just four days, they deployed over 2,000 volunteers to help within Polk County. In this way, volunteers were directed to where they were most needed and emergency management staff was freed up so they could deal with the flooding.

United Way and 2-1-1 officials indicated that, after Hurricane Katrina, they realized they needed to coordinate with Iowa's county emergency management programs so they would be prepared if a disaster struck Iowa. The preparation helped make last summer go much more smoothly. Even though they were prepared, they called in operators from as far away as Hawaii to help relieve Iowa 2-1-1 operators.

United Way is also working with the Long Term Disaster Committees being used to help Iowans receive disaster assistance now. They said the additional state funding, which passed the Legislature in January, has been a huge help to Iowans. The centers are now trying to identify people who have not previously received assistance and help them apply for the new housing program and the disaster grant program.

Federal Rules Slow Disaster Recovery

The Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), Michael Tramontina, told the House Rebuild Iowa/Disaster Recovery Committee that federal rules are holding up distribution of federal funds to Iowans affected by last summer's flooding and tornadoes. Despite these federal hoops, Tramontina said that in 2005 it took Texas nine months to set up a distribution system for money to victims of Hurricane Rita and it took Iowa only 6 weeks this summer to set up a system.

Most of the funding that IDED is using to fund housing assistance comes from the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Iowa has been awarded \$257 million so far, and IDED is applying for another \$125 million this week. The money is going to the Jumpstart program to help homeowners and small businesses.



In order to help make the process simpler, IDED has sought every waiver possible. However, the federal government will not waive some requirements. After Hurricane Katrina, the federal government became concerned about fraud and put more hoops in place.

One problem, according to Tramontina, is that the CDBG program only reimburses for work accomplished. This means they cannot pay until all the repairs or renovation is finished, which can take months. In addition, the federal

government prohibits duplication of benefits. This means that IDED must verify how much funding each applicant received from FEMA, the Small Business Administration, the State of Iowa, insurance and any other sources.

According to Tramontina, of the 3,600 houses eligible for recovery assistance, IDED has checked 500 already. However, he stressed that the risk of doing something wrong is high and the cost of errors is also high. If any of the federal agencies involved find an error, they will demand that the state repay the money. Therefore, IDED must proceed carefully to avoid errors.

Tramontina said the state money for Jumpstart does not have all the same hoops to go through, so it has enabled the state to get some help to Iowans faster.

Iowa Homeland Security's Disaster Efforts

While the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) played a large role during the floods and other natural disasters in 2008, they are also proud of their accomplishments outside of disasters.

The director of HSEMD, David Miller, said their agency works hard to minimize the impact, loss of life, loss of property, and suffering caused by disasters and terror-

ist attacks. The division's accomplishments include: all counties now have wireless E911 technology, provide training to 900 responders of various emergencies, and ensure that Iowa is in compliance with the National Incident Management System. Accomplishing these items ensures that when disasters happen, Iowa is able to pull down federal funds.

Director Miller also said the floods of 2008 were five times bigger

than 1993. His agency has been working with all levels of government and non-profits to coordinate communication and assessment of needs to the federal government. Every state dollar appropriated for operations is matched with federal dollars, which helps to ensure that state dollars are being used effectively.

Tougher Mortgage Broker Regulation Passes Committee

The House Commerce Committee passed a bill to more tightly regulate mortgage brokers. These are persons who provide mortgages to borrowers but are not employed by a financial institution.

House Study Bill 72 was proposed by the Iowa Attorney General. It requires a mortgage broker, as an agent of the borrower, to do the following:

1. Act fairly and in good faith and

use reasonable care in the performance of duties.

2. Put the borrower's interest ahead of all others, including that of the broker.

3. Disclose all material facts that

might reasonably affect the borrower's rights or interests.

4. Not accept compensation from any party, unless disclosed to the borrower.

5. Account for all money and property received from the borrower.

6. Carry out all lawful instructions of the borrower.

7. These standards cannot be waived by the borrower.

A mortgage broker is not required to provide a mortgage with terms not usually available to the broker, or a mortgage from a lender with whom the broker does not have a business relationship.

The Superintendent of Banking also supports the bill. Speaking

before the Commerce Committee, he said that *"Having the [mortgage] broker be the advocate for the borrower is a good idea,"* as he thought that mortgage brokers were the *"source of many of the problems in the mortgage area.."*

Pharmacies to Track Pseudoephedrine Electronically

If House File 331 becomes law, all pharmacies will track the sale of pseudoephedrine products through an electronic logbook. Currently, there is a pilot project in Greene, Boone and Story counties that requires this be done. This project is showing that not only is it quicker and easier for the customer, it provides real time information for tracking purposes.

Currently, when a person purchases a package of pseudoephedrine (i.e. common cold medicine), their name, address and signature

must be captured in a logbook. These logbooks are kept so that law enforcement and pharmacists can detect if the purchaser is using the pseudoephedrine for illegal purposes. Pseudoephedrine is a key ingredient in making methamphetamine.

With an electronic logbook, the person's license or identification will be scanned and the data will immediately be transferred to a central storage warehouse. This warehouse will enable law enforcement to better track persons who travel from

store to store to purchase pseudoephedrine to make meth.

Accomplishing this will cost money, but Iowa has access to a \$700,000 federal grant. The bill states that if there is no money available, then the state will not implement the electronic logbook.

The bill is now before the full House of Representatives for consideration.

School for Troubled Teens Receives Accreditation

The Iowa State Training School for boys in Eldora received accreditation this month after over ten years of being unaccredited. The American Correctional Association (ACA) gave the school a 99% passing grade in their final evaluation.

The facility in Eldora was previously accredited in 1985, but it had to relinquish the accreditation three years later due to a rapid population expansion to more than

270 boys. Currently, the school has 189 beds and serves an average of 165 troubled boys.

All of the boys at the facility are placed there by court order. The average age at admission is 16. About one-third of the boys have five or more separate psychiatric diagnoses, two-thirds need substance abuse treatment, and nearly half have special education needs.

The ACA standards cover every aspect of a facility's operations including safety, security, and justice for the residents. In addition, the standards cover for programs and services, management, accounting and personnel operations.

This is the first facility to win accreditation under the ACA's latest standards.

Bill Updates Grain Indemnity Fund

Farmers could receive up to \$300,000 from the grain indemnity fund under a bill adopted by the House Agriculture Committee this week. House File 374 would pay farmers 90% of their losses, up to \$300,000, due to non-payment of grain sold to an elevator or ethanol plant that went out of business.

Iowa's grain indemnity fund was created in 1986 during the farm crisis. The current maximum payment is \$150,000. With the price of grain today, legislators wanted to increase this amount because it doesn't take as many bushels to reach this \$150,000 maximum.

The bill also changes when fees paid into the fund no longer need to be assessed. Current law says the fees are automatically waived once the balance in the fund exceeds \$6 million. The bill increases this to \$8 million.

The bill does not change current law that prohibits claims for grain sold on credit-sale contracts. These are also known as deferred payment contracts or futures contracts.

In 1986, the grain indemnity fund was funded by an assessment on licensed grain dealers and warehouse operators of ¼ cent per bushel purchased. Assessments were stopped in 1988 after the

fund exceeded its statutory maximum of \$6 million. Assessments are required if the fund gets below \$3 million.

Through June 30, 2008, the indemnity fund has an ending balance of \$8.2 million. It has paid out over \$13.3 million in claims, and made \$8.6 million in recoveries, including repayments from receiverships where the department of agriculture and land stewardship re-

vokes a default company's license and sells their assets.

The bill was suggested by Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey as a means to modernize the fund. The department has agreed to hold meetings this summer with interested parties to work out an agreement on any changes to the current fee structure.

Climate Change Council Recommendations

The Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council (ICCAC) held a briefing to review the recommendations of the organization. The Council, created during the 2007 legislative session, was charged with submitting a proposal to address greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

Professor Eugene Takle, professor of Agricultural Meteorology in the Department of Agronomy at Iowa State University, stated that



scientists cannot explain the rise in temperatures we have recorded at the end of the last century without considering greenhouse gases and aerosol sulfates. He noted that the effect of these continually rising temperatures will be dryer regions of the earth getting dryer while wetter regions get wetter.

Professor Jerry Schnoor, co-director of the University of Iowa

Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research, discussed the work of the advisory council. He noted that many of the recommendations would actually be revenue generating largely due to greater efficiency.

The council recommended 56 policy options for reducing greenhouse gasses. The full report can be found at <http://www.iaclimatechange.us/capag.cfm>.

DNR Proposes a Residential Burn Ban

Rich Leopold, the director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), stated that background levels of particulate matter are dangerously high to putting the entire state in nonattainment of the federal Clean Air Act. In order to control this issue, the department is focusing on a residential burn ban to address some of these background particulate matter issues.

The ban was discussed during a committee meeting of the House Environmental Protection Committee.

Director Leopold noted that throughout much of Iowa, levels of particulate matter under the federal Clean Air Act are high. In two counties, Scott and Muscatine, levels of particulate matter have been recorded at levels that put these areas out of attainment.

Floodplain Management

To address some of the issues that came up from last summer's floods, Director Leopold said the department would like to put areas of the state into permanent flood

easements. According to DNR, there is interest in this option, but funding is needed.

Director Leopold noted that while Iowa has a decent law and policy on floodplain management and dam safety, there is insufficient staff within his agency to assure these standards are being followed. Director Leopold is asking for additional funding to fully staff the department's dam and floodplain management inspection program.

Public Comments Scheduled for Coal Fired Power Plant

Public hearings have been scheduled for a proposed coal fired power plant at Marshalltown. Interstate Power and Light proposes building the plant at the company's Sutherland Generating Station.

Four public meetings have been scheduled, as follows

- March 16, 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m., Iowa Veterans' Home, Whitehill Chapel (1501 Summit Street, Marshalltown)

- March 16, 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Iowa Veterans' Home, (1501 Summit Street, Marshalltown)

- March 17, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., Meskwaki Tribal Center (346 Meskwaki Road, Tama)

- March 17, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Meskwaki Tribal Center, (346 Meskwaki Road, Tama)

Public comments are limited to five minutes. Any presentation materials must include a hard copy for inclusion in the public record.

Comments can be submitted in writing before 4:30 pm on March 20, to Chris Roling, Air Quality Bureau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 7900 Hickman Road Ste 1, Urbandale, IA 50322.

Documentation of the project is available at <http://aq48.dnraq.state.ia.us:8080/airpermit/eecomment.jsp>.

87 Counties Require Master Matrix for Livestock Producers

The Department of Natural Resources reported that, by the end of January, 87 counties had notified DNR they intend to evaluate construction permit applications for livestock confinements by using the master matrix. Animal producers in these counties must meet higher standards than other confinement producers who also need a construction permit.

The master matrix requires producers to earn points by choos-

ing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on air, water and the community. The following counties will not be using the matrix in 2009: Decatur, Fremont, Iowa, Jasper, Keokuk, Lee, Mahaska, Osceola, Plymouth, Warren, Wapello and Washington.

While all counties may submit comments to DNR during the review process for permit applications, counties that adopt the master matrix can also appeal a preliminary

permit approval to the Environmental Protection Commission. The deadline for enrolling in the program is Jan. 31 of each year.

Producers and citizens can obtain more information and view a map of participating counties at www.iowadnr.gov/afo/matrix.

Gambling Treatment Program Update

Mark Vander Linden, Program Coordinator for the Gambling Treatment Program, provided an update of the program to the House State Government Committee. He noted that Iowans have relatively easy access to gambling opportunities. In 2009, there are 20 casinos, 2,600 lottery outlets, over 3,000 social and charitable gaming licenses, and countless internet and other illegal gaming opportunities.

Definition of Problem Gambler

Mr. Vander Linden stated that for most people gambling is recrea-

tional. But for some, gambling leads to serious problems. These problems affect more than just the gambler. The actions of the problem gambler affect his/her family, job, and communities.

He indicated that a recent survey in New York found that ten percent of youth meet the criteria for problem gambling.

Some of the signs indicating that an individual has a problem with gambling include:

1. Preoccupation with gambling.
2. Need to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve the desired excitement.

3. Repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop gambling.

4. After losing money gambling, returning another day to "get even."

5. Lying to conceal the extent of gambling.

6. Jeopardizing or losing significant relationships because of gambling.

7. Relying on others to provide money to relieve financial problems caused by gambling.

Gambling Treatment Program

Recognizing that problem gambling is an issue that impacts more than just the person experiencing the problem, the Iowa Gambling Treatment Program utilizes a broad community-based strategy to assure education and treatment. Some of the services include:

- Counseling for persons affected either directly or indirectly by problem gambling.
- Information about problem gambling through 1-800-BETS OFF helpline.
- Transitional housing for persons receiving treatment who have no other safe housing.

- Training for counselors providing problem gambling treatment.

All 99 counties are served through 10 agencies in 11 regions across the state. Information provided to the committee shows that the number of clients served from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2008 ranged from 944 to 1,205 people.

Slow Out-Migration of College Graduates

The Generation Iowa Commission, which was established to study ways to keep young people in Iowa, presented to the Economic Growth Committee this week. Their message was that Iowa needs to act to prevent young people from leaving the state.

The commission noted that Iowa is doing the best job of any Midwest state in attracting young people to our higher education institutions. The latest numbers show that Iowa institutions have seen an over 8,000 per year gain in people ages 18 to 22.

Unfortunately, Iowa is also a “net exporter” of its next generation workforce that is ages 22 to

32. From 2000-2007, Iowa saw an annual net loss of 4% of its next generation, which is the nation’s 4th worst.

A survey of young Iowans indicated that their highest priority is high paying jobs. According to the commission, every Iowa county with an average wage above the state mean is gaining population.

The commission’s recommendations include the following:

- More ambitious state job creation programs to better funnel efforts toward high-skill jobs.
- Young Iowans need to be members on the state’s economic development, education and quality-of-life boards.

- Double economic development support of small business internships.

- Increase education grants to AmeriCorps’ disaster volunteers.

The Legislature created the Generation Iowa Commission in 2007, which is a 15 member commission made of 18 to 35 year olds. They were asked to come up with recommendations on how Iowa, both rural and urban, can attract and retain the next generation.