

# Status Report on I-JOBS Implementation

Iowa's Department of Management (DOM) prepared a status report to the Governor on the implementation of Iowa's Infrastructure Investment Initiative Program (I-JOBS). The report also evaluated how I-JOBS is complementing other infrastructure and flood response programs in Iowa to support jobs.

The report notes that while implementing the I-JOBS program, which has reached all 99 counties in Iowa, participating departments placed a high priority on funding infrastructure projects that were "shovel ready;" were likely to support or save jobs immediately; and were able to leverage additional federal, local, or private sector funds.

There are three different methods to measure the number of jobs supported through the I-JOBS program: direct jobs, indirect jobs, and induced jobs. DOM notes that in order to ramp up construction projects quickly, so that communities could cope with the devastating disasters of 2008, the I-JOBS program did not originally require all contractors and subcontractors to submit reports on the number of direct, indirect, or induced jobs. As a result, the data on job creation for projects through December 31, 2009, is incomplete.

The report estimates how many jobs were created based on five different academic and economic studies that estimate how many jobs public infrastructure projects typically support. Applying these economic impact analyses to I-JOBS spending by December 31, 2009, the range of jobs supported is from 23,225 to 9,944 jobs. For total I-JOBS funds granted and leveraged through fiscal year 2011, the range of jobs supported is from 36,764 to 15,724 jobs.

The report also said a telephone survey of contractors and sub-contractors in early July provided a "snapshot" of the positions currently supported by I-JOBS projects. This survey indicated there were more than 7,000 directly supported positions on payroll on I-JOBS projects in July, 2010.

So that the state gets more accurate numbers in the future, all I-JOBS funding recipients are now required to submit data on all jobs supported moving forward. DOM has created a new I-JOBS reporting procedures and guidance document that will have to be completed of all I-JOBS recipients.

## ***Improving Iowa's Infrastructure***

As of July 20, 2010, more than 1,688 I-JOBS shovel ready projects were started, with an investment \$705.4 million. This funding leveraged an additional \$610.6 million in other state, federal, local, and private sector funds, for a combined investment in Iowa's infrastructure, and specifically disaster recovery and prevention, of \$1.32 billion. The report notes that these figures will continue to increase as additional I-JOBS projects underway as of this spring and summer construction season continue.

According to a May 28, 2010, study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Iowa's focus on entrepreneurship, innovations, and exports has lead to an eighth-place ranking on the Chamber's list of top economic-performing states. Iowa ranked high overall as "a solid performer across most of our metrics" according to the Chamber's *Enterprising States* survey.

In addition, according to a June 14, 2010, economic survey issued by Manpower, Inc., Iowa's employment outlook ranks third in the nation. The Manpower survey found that employers in Iowa expect to hire at a "solid pace" during the third quarter of 2010.