

NEWS RELEASE

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**Recent Survey Demonstrates Difficulties Faced By Unemployed Iowans
*Government Services Deemed Critical for Recovery***

DES MOINES – Iowa Workforce Development released the findings of a survey conducted in cooperation with Iowa State University on the effects of unemployment on Iowans. The survey findings showed high long-term unemployment was found, with 76 percent of respondents unemployed for over half a year.

“The survey findings demonstrate the severity of the impact felt by Iowans during the recession,” state Iowa Workforce Development Director Elisabeth Buck. “The results demonstrate the overwhelming need for services designed to assist unemployed Iowans and the need for an extension of the federal extended unemployment insurance benefits.”

During the height of Iowa’s recession, over 8,000 individuals were filing initial claims for unemployment benefits, more than double of typical filings. The high levels of unemployment felt throughout the country caused more than 70 percent of Iowans to utilize retirement savings as living expenses and 77 percent to report high levels of stress over long periods of time.

As Iowa moves forward through its economic recovery, it will be important that Iowans gain and retain the skill sets necessary to meet the demands of new employment opportunities. Over 23 percent of respondents to the survey reported receiving training assistance to improve their skill sets.

The [full survey may be accessed here](#).

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