

# JCED BULLETIN

Jones County Economic Development Newsletter

April/May/June 2020

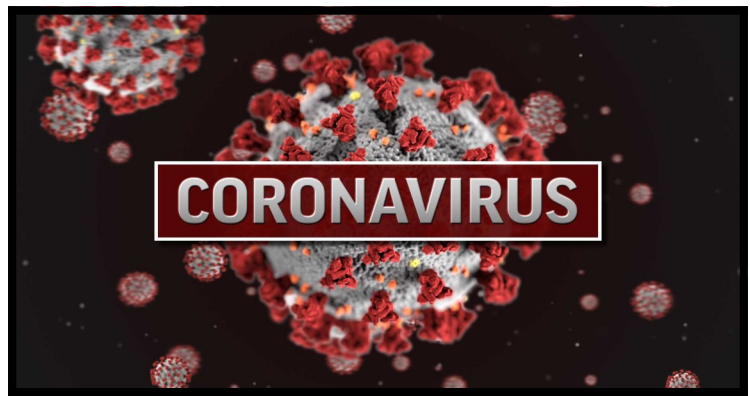
## CORONAVIRUS NEWS

### What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

### How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it



and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>

A public hotline has been established for Iowans with questions about COVID-19. The line is available 24/7 by calling 2-1-1 or 1-800-244-7431.

Jones County Public Health – Jenna Lovaas 319 480-9506 [jlovaas@co.jones.ia.us](mailto:jlovaas@co.jones.ia.us)

Jones County Emergency Management – Brenda Leonard 319 480-0617 [brendal@co.jones.ia.us](mailto:brendal@co.jones.ia.us)

## IOWA RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

The Iowa Economic Development Authority has rolled out programs to help businesses during the Coronavirus Crisis. These are in addition to federal programs through the CARES act passed by Congress and the Small Business Administration Loan Program recently announced. You can find more information on the programs, as well as other statewide information on the Coronavirus, by going to the following website:

<https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/businessrecovery>

## PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. The Paycheck Protection Program will be available through June 30, 2020.

For more information, click [here](#).



From Left: Representative Lee Hein, Representative Andy McKean, Senator Dan Zumbach, and Senator Carrie Koelker

## Legislative Forums Offer Chance to Interact with Legislators

Jones County Economic Development would like to thank our legislators for attending two of our legislative forums this winter.

Legislators got a chance to inform our communities about issues happening at the State house, including education funding, agricultural legislation, and other matters.

Additionally, community members got to ask questions about issues close to home. One of the main questions revolved around the possibility of passing the IWILL bill to help water quality, trails, and other natural amenities.

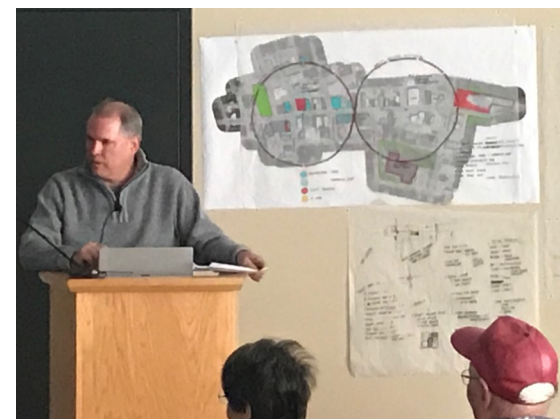
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature is in recess until at least April 12th.

## Downtown Assessments Bring Outside Perspectives

The cities of Anamosa and Monticello recently completed Downtown Assessments through the Iowa Downtown Resource Center. The Downtown Resource Center helps communities learn more about the importance of downtown development and specifically how communities can use specific tools to make downtowns more viable. The Assessments are designed to help identify the downtown's strengths and weaknesses while offering community-based and incremental solutions to keep the downtown strong.

"The downtown is the heart of a community," says Derek Lumsden, Executive Director of Jones County Economic Development. "If the downtown isn't strong, it's hard for the rest of the community to develop the way it should. It's harder to attract residents, jobs, housing, etc. These assessments were an ideal way to involve the community in removing the blinders from their eyes to the way outsiders see the communities."

Each community received a written assessment report, highlighting different areas that could be focused on by small groups working together. The assessments have both short-term and long-term goals for both communities to achieve. Both communities will also receive two free registrations to the Iowa Downtown Conference in Iowa City this summer to learn more about downtowns and learn best practices from other communities across the state.



Top Photo: Nick Sorenson during the Anamosa Downtown Assessment  
Bottom Photo: Jim Engle during the Monticello Downtown Assessment

## Jones County Young Professionals:

The Jones County Young Professionals, also known as Ignite, was founded in 2010 to enhance the lives of young professionals in Jones County.

Ignite helps build relationships, provide professional development, and engaging young professionals within the community.

Ignite is a group that strives to add value to the lives of young professionals living and working in the area.

Some of the past programming includes:

- \* Professional Development Speakers
- \* Networking Events
- \* Social Opportunities
- \* Movies in the Park

If you or any of your staff are interested in learning more about the Jones County Young Professionals, please reach out to Derek Lumsden at 319-480-7446 or by [email](#).

There will be informational meetings scheduled once the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines can be safely relaxed.

# 10 REASONS TO INVEST IN JONES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jones County Economic Development's mission is to be a public/private partnership dedicated to strengthening the economic base in the region by assisting existing businesses, attracting new investment and jobs, and fostering a business climate favorable for economic growth.

Below are ten great reasons to invest\* in JCED and help us make Jones County the premier place to live, work, and play:

1. Listing of your business with a link to your website on our website: [www.jonescountydevelopment.com](http://www.jonescountydevelopment.com)
2. Recognition as a sponsor of our Annual Agricultural Appreciation Event.
3. One paid conference registration to either the SMART Conference in Des Moines or the Iowa Downtown Conference.
4. Recognition as a sponsor of one of our Community Career Tours. These tours are held in conjunction with the local school districts, showcasing some of the great career fields that can be found in Jones County.
5. One Jones County Young Professionals membership for one of your employees (Must meet Young Professionals guidelines).
6. Annual Business Spotlight on the JCED website.
7. Opportunity to provide information for dissemination through our email list.
8. The ability to post jobs on the Careers feature of the JCED website.
9. Recognition as a sponsor of one of our Legislative Forums.
10. Your business promoted locally and regionally.

Jones County Economic Development works to be comprehensive in bringing economic development to the community. We focus on workforce development issues in conjunction with our major employers, such as transportation, housing, and childcare. We work with business prospects to have them locate and/or expand operations locally. We work with our local school districts and Kirkwood's Regional Center to highlight all of the great careers we have in Jones County. We focus on quality of life amenities like trails, major tourism events, childcare initiatives, and more. Our Executive Director, Derek Lumsden, is a full-time resource in our communities to help meet community goals and needs.

We partner with local and regional organizations, such as Chambers of Commerce, Jones County Tourism, Hometown Pride, Jones County Young Professionals, local municipalities, Jones County, and other governmental organizations like East Central Iowa Council of Governments, Prosperity of Eastern Iowa, and ICR Iowa.

*\*Benefits will depend on which level of investment is made. Benefits run on a calendar year from January to December.*



# 2019 MONTICELLO LABORSHED INFORMATION

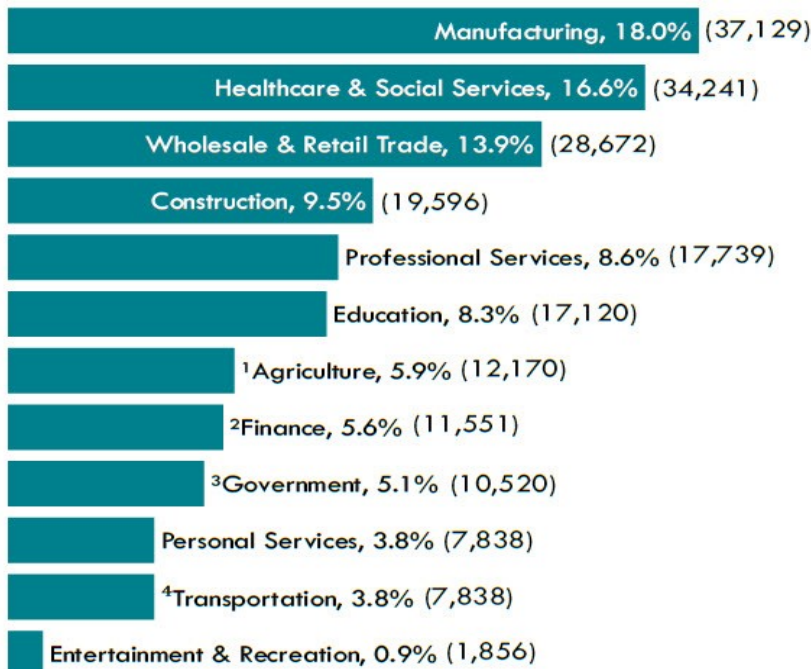
A Laborshed area is defined by its commuting pattern and illustrates which communities contribute to an employment center's workforce and at what level. The following information is only a representation of the data from the 2019 Laborshed. For the complete information, please visit [www.jonescountydevelopment.com](http://www.jonescountydevelopment.com) and click on the Workforce Tab.

## MONTICELLO LABORSHED ANALYSIS

### EMPLOYMENT STATUS (ESTIMATED TOTAL)\*



\*Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage above does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.



### TOP CURRENT BENEFITS OF THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYED

	Health/Medical Insurance <b>86.0%</b>
	Pension/Retirement/401K <b>86.0%</b>
	Dental Coverage <b>80.4%</b>
	Life Insurance <b>77.1%</b>
	Paid Vacation <b>76.0%</b>
	Disability Insurance <b>74.5%</b>
	Paid Holidays <b>74.2%</b>
	Vision Coverage <b>72.7%</b>
	Paid Sick Leave <b>68.3%</b>
	Prescription Drug Coverage <b>64.6%</b>

## 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](#).