

Department of Public Safety Recruitment Initiative

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is seeking to significantly expand its efforts to rehire public sector employees and create a foundation for a strong and equitable recovery of the state's public safety workforce. During the pandemic, it became increasingly difficult to generate deep hiring pools of qualified applicants in the public safety arena. The next five years will be pivotal to maintaining the public safety workforce. Recruitment funds will be used for the development of recruitment tools, including programming and outreach materials to engage family and education partners in providing state of Iowa law enforcement career guidance. Additionally, funds will be used for digital marketing and website development that provides a prospective applicant a full overview of positions, hiring processes, and offers a modern and streamlined application portal. Lastly, recruitment funds will be used to hire a law enforcement marketing consultant to advise the department on overall strategic direction.

Following the full implementation of recruitment strategies, plans, tools, and initiatives in calendar year 2023, DPS experienced a 41% increase in applicants testing to become certified state peace officers from 2023 to 2024. Encouragingly, applicant testing numbers in 2025 are already surpassing those of the previous two years, signaling sustained momentum in recruitment efforts. DPS plans to launch a new academy in July 2025, aiming to have over 30 recruits – a class size not seen in over a decade.

Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System (CAD/RMS)

The program will invest \$4 million to implement a modern Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RSM). By implementing the CAD/RMS system, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) will increase officer dispatching and arrival times on calls for service, streamline communication dispatch operations, improve access to law enforcement data, and facilitate data-driven crime prevention and lead generation strategies. The new system will also enhance officer safety by expediting the sharing of critical information and improve the sharing of relevant data during high-risk events such as Amber Alerts. Additionally, the integration of an arrest warrant tracking program within the CAD/RMS system will decrease the turn-around time for warrant confirmation requests, improve warrant tracking and cancellations, and mitigate the risk of false arrests and civil liability. The implementation of this project will align DPS with other law enforcement dispatch centers in Iowa and promote public and officer safety. The “Go Live” of the new CAD/RMS system is scheduled for April 2026.

Iowa State Patrol Aircraft

The current aircrafts in the Iowa State Patrol (ISP) Air Wing fleet are insufficient to meet the demands of conducting aerial searches for missing persons, locating fugitives, providing surveillance during criminal investigations, and documenting crime scenes. The ISP Air Wing plays a crucial role in law enforcement activities, responding to calls for service from various agencies and providing support in areas such as traffic enforcement, search and rescue, surveillance of criminal activity, and transportation of personnel and emergency medical supplies. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in speed citations over 100 mph and pursuits, highlighting the need for enhanced capabilities to address these challenges. The project will support costs to procure a new aircraft and imaging air surveillance system for the ISP Air Wing, along with a new airport hangar at the Ankeny Regional Airport. The aircraft will be equipped with modern video and thermal camera technology to enhance the ISP Air Wing's effectiveness in fulfilling its missions and ensuring public safety. The aircraft will be equipped with up-to-date video and thermal camera technology, enhancing the capabilities of the aircraft and allowing for more effective and efficient operations. The delivery of the new aircraft and system occurred in December 2024 and construction of the new hangar is estimated to be completed by December 2025. This program is crucial to enhancing the ISP Air Wing's capabilities and ensuring the safety and security of Iowa communities.

Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship Supplemental Spring 2022

The Iowa National Guard responded to the COVID-19 pandemic response starting in 2020, assisting in the transportation of medical PPE and running multiple testing centers. These servicemembers played a critical role in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship (INGSS) program saw an increase in program demand since the pandemic and utilization outside of historical calculated projections. To cover the increased demand, \$600,000 in SLFRF funds was provided to supplement the program. The INGSS provides tuition for Citizen Soldiers equipping them through their professional development and creating a Future Ready Iowa workforce. The entire \$600,000 has been spent on 135 recipients attending 9 colleges/universities in Iowa.