

Governor Reynolds Heeds AMOS' Call to Invest in Iowa's Workforce

August 26, 2020 –

We commend Governor Reynolds for her announcement today to invest \$5 million to up-skill Iowa's workforce, especially those displaced by the pandemic. We thank Kathy Leggett with Future Ready Iowa for her leadership on this initiative and Governor Reynolds for heeding AMOS' call to invest in job training paired with wrap-around services. This initiative will ensure workers have the training and supports they need to get back to work and thereby strengthen their families and the communities they live in.

After hearing stories from Iowans facing the stress of unemployment amidst a shifting economic environment, AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) began researching how to help workers get back to work in living wage jobs.

“Losing a job is a trauma for workers and their families,” says AMOS leader Rev. Dr. Benjamin Bell Jr. “We know that workers need not only training to be able to access higher-wage work, but also support for that trauma, childcare access, and assistance to help them complete a training program and be ready to re-enter the workforce.”

On July 23, 2020, AMOS organized a Virtual Workforce Summit with nearly 100 community and business leaders to present their proposal: invest in job training programs combined with wrap-around services that lead to employment in high-demand jobs. AMOS leaders called on Governor Reynolds to use federal CARES Act funds to fund that investment and help workers re-enter the workforce on stronger footing.

AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) is a broad-based organization of nearly 40 faith-based, non-profit, and neighborhood organizations working together to improve the quality of life for all Iowans.