



Beth Townsend
Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development
Des Moines, Iowa

Beth Townsend is the Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), a state agency that administers the UI program and helps Iowans find jobs and employers find a skilled workforce. As a result of realignment in 2023, IWD now administers all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs including Vocational Rehabilitation, various state workforce programs, the UI program and disability determination services for the state of Iowa. Director Townsend has been in her current position since 2015, was reappointed in 2019 and 2023, and confirmed by the Iowa Senate each time. Director Townsend practiced law in Iowa until she was appointed as the Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in 2011. Director Townsend previously served in the United States Air Force as a member of Judge Advocate General and retired in 2010 as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Air Force Reserve after 21 years of active and reserve duty.