

# MAKE OUR ADVANTAGE YOUR ADVANTAGE



## DATA AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Often referred to as Silicon Prairie, Western Iowa is home to a number of data and national information and data technology companies. Global leaders such as Facebook, Google and Microsoft also have data centers in Iowa. Why? The state offers the ideal combination of talented and dedicated employees, abundant energy, low cost of doing business, and excellent quality of life.

### ACCESS TO BROADBAND AND FIBER

While offerings vary from county to county, lightning fast internet is a priority in Western Iowa. So you'll find high-speed connectivity in just about every corner of the region. In addition to high-quality fiber-optic Internet with speeds up to 1Gbps, providers also offer point to point fixed wireless 3.65 high speed services. Our providers also offer a host of value-added services including Managed IT services. Area providers offer excellent bandwidth, redundancy, network monitoring, security, virtualization, disaster recovery, desktop and mobile communications, and technical support.

**TOP 10!**

Cost of Doing Business  
& Quality of Life

Source: Forbes Best States for Business 2020

Employers	Industry
American Home Shield	Home Warranty
Aureon	Technology
Biokenimetrics, Inc.	Medical Imaging Software
First American Home Warranty	Home Warranty
ICE Technologies	Technical Services
Professional Computer Solutions	Software for Utility Companies

### COMPETITIVE WAGES

Occupation	Iowa	USA
Information Security Analysts	\$39.92	\$49.26
Computer Programmers	\$37.87	\$43.04
Software Developers, Systems Software	\$44.22	\$54.78
Database Administrators	\$43.50	\$44.32
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$35.96	\$41.77
Computer Network Support Specialists	\$26.89	\$32.90
Computer Occupations, All Other	\$37.66	\$44.55

Source: EMSI 2020

## OUR EDUCATION ADVANTAGE

Our well-prepared workforce is the product of an excellent educational system. Three area community colleges, Des Moines Area Community College, Western Iowa Tech Community College, and Iowa Central Community College, offer associates degrees, certificates and many other industry-specific training programs to prepare students for the work of today and tomorrow.

### Programs

- WITCC offers relevant programs in Computer Support, Cybersecurity, Information Security Analyst, Networking Administration and Security, and more.
- DMACC offers relevant programs in Computer Information Systems, Computer Languages, Cybersecurity, Digital Forensics, and Information Technology/Network Administration.

In addition, Buena Vista University and the University of Northern Iowa provide advanced degrees. Nearby, Iowa State University and the University of Iowa both have world-renowned undergraduate and graduate agricultural and food science degree programs.

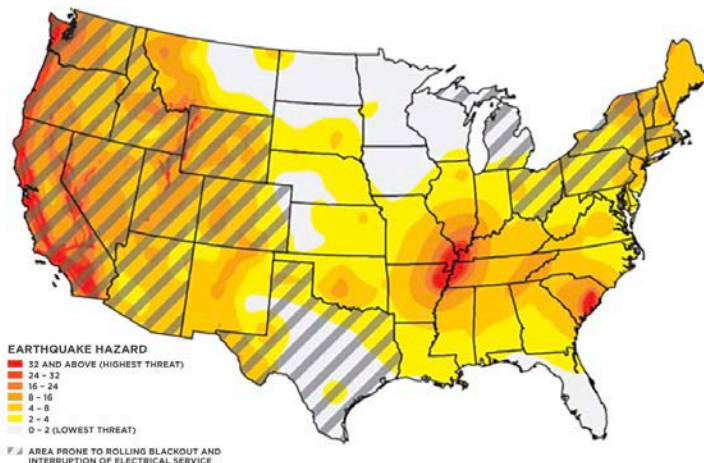
## UTILITY ADVANTAGES

Western Iowa's utilities are reliable, inexpensive and easily accessible. In addition, they're also renewable. Iowa is 2nd in the nation in wind energy as a percentage of total power output (AWEA, 2018). The region has a mix of investor-owned utilities, rural electric cooperatives and municipal providers to meet the demands of your data information technology business.

**Natural Gas Providers:** MidAmerican Energy, Alliant Energy, Black Hills Energy, and various municipal providers.

**Electric Providers:** MidAmerican Energy, Alliant Energy, Western Iowa Power Cooperative, Nishnabotna Valley REC, Racoon Valley Electric Coop, Midland Power, Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association, and other municipal providers.

### LOW EARTHQUAKE AND BLACKOUT RISK



Source: USGS Earthquake Hazard Program

## SAFETY

Natural disaster risk is an important factor for data centers and statistically, Iowa is one of the safest places in the U.S. With virtually no earthquake activity and manageable storms in summer and winter, disruptions in business activity are few and far between.

## Unique Partnership:

### The Forge by Accenture Technology

The Forge is the only rural technology hub in Iowa and is being used to attract "satellite" technology locations for major tech companies located in Silicon Valley and other parts of the country. High school students have the opportunity for jobs and additional training in computer coding and other technologies as part of this unique partnership.

## THE TAX ADVANTAGES

- No Sales and Use Tax on Machinery & Equipment Purchases
- No property tax on new industrial machinery and business equipment
- No personal property tax, including corporate inventories of goods-in-process, raw materials, and salable goods.
- Iowa Corporate Income Tax
- 50% deductibility of federal taxes from Iowa corporate income
- Single-factor, non-unitary based only on the percentage of total sales income within the state
- Iowa corporate income tax may be reduced or eliminated by the New Jobs Tax Credit
- Research and Development Tax Credit for increasing research activities: up to 6.5% of company's allotted share of qualifying research expenditures in Iowa.

**In addition, thanks to legislation passed in 2009, Iowa Information and Data Technology companies may be eligible for 50 or 100% refund on the sales and use tax for:**

- Electricity purchased for use in data centers
- Power infrastructure equipment
- Computer purchases
- Temperature control equipment
- Racking systems and cabling

## Contact Western Iowa Advantage today:

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Western Iowa Advantage

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