The Labor Center provides educational programs and resources to workers and their unions. For 70 years, we have served as a bridge between the state’s public university system and workers across Iowa’s 99 counties. The Labor Center is located within The University of Iowa College of Law.

We offer non-credit, continuing education courses for Iowa workers on workplace legal rights, industrial relations, and leadership. You can attend open-enrollment classes on campus or host a program that is customized for your members, held in your community.

Our staff also provides research, curriculum, and technical assistance to labor groups, and preserves Iowa’s rich labor history by curating the Iowa Labor History Oral Project.

What recent attendees are saying about our classes...

“...The ability to attend these classes has helped me educate my co-workers, family and community on various laws and workplace rights that affect all workers in the state of Iowa.

I learned the skills I need to organize and support my union and my community.

The information and education provided by the Labor Center is essential for low-income workers who want to learn about their rights and defend them.

I loved the hands-on, scenario-based workshops.

The Labor Center gave me the tools, confidence and ability to represent my co-workers and keep them safe on the job.”
Option 1: You come to us

2021/22 courses presented on The University of Iowa campus in Iowa City, in cooperation with the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

These courses feature instruction provided by Labor Center staff and university faculty as well as invited experts from the labor movement, the legal field, government agencies, and nonprofits.

Advanced Stewards’ School
Unemployment Benefits and Appeals
Financial Officers’ School
Collective Bargaining
Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
Combating Discrimination & Harassment
70th Annual Labor Short Course

• Standard per-person registration fees are: 1-day schools=$150, 2-day schools=$225, 3-day schools=$300, 4-day schools=$375, and 5-day schools=$450.
• Lodging options will be available either on site or at nearby hotels.
• Lodging/meal costs are not included in registration fees.
• English-Spanish interpretation is available for all programs with advance notice.

For more information or to register, call 319-335-4144, visit http://bit.ly/LC_Program_Registration, or scan here:

Option 2: We come to you

Host a Class Tailored for Your Group:
We conduct programs on dates and at times and locations convenient for your members on topics you care most about.

Sample class topics are listed on the right. For more details and to sponsor a class, call 319-335-4144.

Fees for Off-Campus Classes:
Standard fees are $350/teaching day plus print costs for classes in Iowa hosted by local unions with 1,000 or fewer members and $500/day plus print costs for Iowa locals or state/regional bodies with over 1,000 members. Out-of-state and national union program rates vary; call for details.

A reduced fee sliding scale is available for groups facing financial hardship.

Labor Federation Programs: The Iowa Federation of Labor sponsors a program in which chapters of AFL-CIO Area Labor Federations in Iowa can host Labor Center classes for their affiliates, workers, and community allies up to four times per year with no program fee. Call for details!

Iowa Worker Rights Workshops: Sponsored by Iowa labor organizations and grants, a limited number of Iowa Worker Rights Project classes are available at no charge to nonprofits, schools, community, or faith-based groups serving workers in underserved communities or populations facing barriers to employment. Classes can be delivered in multiple languages through simultaneous interpretation. Programming in Spanish is also available.

Quality Preapprenticeship Program

A free multi-week program designed as a pathway to entry into a Registered Apprenticeship training program. Includes approved curriculum and meets standards set by the US Department of Labor. Check our website for schedules and registration information.