



ANNUAL REPORT **FY23**



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This report is being submitted under the reporting requirement in Iowa Code Section 256.177. No awards were distributed in fiscal year 2023 under the Chiropractic Loan Forgiveness Program (Iowa Code Section 256.205 – last appropriation in FY2010) or the Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program (Iowa Code Section 256.220 – last appropriation in FY2019). The FY2023 Health Care Award Program Report (Iowa Code Section 256.224) can be found [here](#).

EXECUTIVE REPORT

As Fiscal Year 2023 closed, we celebrated the start of Iowa College Aid's 60th year serving the state of Iowa and Iowans' pursuit of postsecondary education. Throughout the past 59 years, Iowa College Aid's history has been one of change as we continue to evolve to meet the growing needs of Iowa's communities and economy. For much of the last year, we continued that tradition of evolution and change as we prepared for our upcoming alignment with the Iowa Department of Education as the Bureau of Iowa College Aid. While this change will bring subtle, behind-the-scenes changes to Iowa College Aid, our mission remains unchanged and unaltered as we advocate for and support Iowans as they explore, finance, and complete educational opportunities beyond high school to increase family and community success.

Iowa College Aid continued to make great strides in achieving that mission and living our motto of 'Because College Changes Everything' with another successful year of helping Iowans achieve an education beyond high school.

The most tangible way we achieve this is by administering 17 financial aid programs that, in FY23, provided more than \$95 million to Iowans to pursue their educational goals through nearly 30,000 financial aid awards. The staff administering those awards continued to provide exemplary service, with financial aid directors at Iowa's colleges and universities ranking their collective satisfaction at a 4.73 out of 5.

However, to create more clear pathways to postsecondary education and these financial resources, many populations and communities need assistance removing barriers to postsecondary education. GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready is just one of our programs that helps remove those barriers in our growing state. GEAR UP Iowa, our Local College Access Networks (LCANs), Course to College, Course to College Coaches, and Virtual College Coach collectively create a proven pipeline of future talent to maintain Iowa's strong and vibrant economy and communities.

Our Postsecondary Authorization team protected that state financial aid and the hard-earned personal investment Iowans make in their education from unscrupulous providers. They authorized more than 250 schools to offer courses in Iowa and monitor those schools while vetting student disputes.

Every member of our agency supported all of these critical services, including our research staff, which continually provides real-time monitoring and evaluation of our programming. Their expertise also evaluated and delivered data-based guidance on many challenges facing postsecondary education, including the impact of the FAFSA Simplification Act. As a result, Iowa College Aid remains one of the national leaders in evaluating, modeling, and projecting the effects of this change and has served as a trusted source of knowledge not only to our partners in Iowa but throughout the nation.

As we launch into another year of significant change, we are inspired to build upon the reputation Iowa College Aid has carefully constructed in continuing to make postsecondary education a reality for more Iowans to meet their goals and the needs of their communities and Iowa.

Julie Ntem

Acting Executive Director & Bureau of Iowa College Aid Chief

Iowa College Aid

IOWA COLLEGE AID

Our motto, “Because College Changes Everything,” is borne out in the many and varied benefits of higher education. As individuals, college graduates earn higher wages, are more likely to hold jobs, and report greater satisfaction with their lives. As workers, they make their communities economically stronger and more competitive. As taxpayers, they contribute more while relying less on social services. As members of their communities, they are more likely to be active by donating, voting, and volunteering. As parents, they raise children who are more likely to go to college, extending the advantages through generations.

Just as the benefits of higher education spread across many areas, increasing college access and success requires a multitude of interconnected efforts. Iowa College Aid supports students and families through every step of the college-going process with services and aid that reach students directly, along with initiatives based in schools and communities.

GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready works in partnership with local school districts to build school capacity to improve early awareness and access to college and career possibilities for low-income and underserved students in the state. The program provides activities like academic coaching, skill building, and campus and workplace visits to encourage students to begin planning their paths beyond high school. GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready specifically works with partner schools to address the impacts of the pandemic on student outcomes.

Course to College also provides tools and resources for school counselors and other college access professionals as they create a college-going culture in their schools and communities. This step-by-step program creates a navigable path to guide students and their families through each step of the college-going process. At the student level, Course to College Coaches offer direct assistance in-person, virtually, and via text messaging. Websites, social media, and free publications guide students and families through the complex process of applying for college and financial aid.

Local College Access Networks (LCAN) partner with leaders from the business, education, and nonprofit sectors to identify and address barriers to postsecondary education in specific communities and populations. Through LCANs, Iowa College Aid invests in community efforts to improve college and career possibilities and supports community-led efforts to improve college attainment.

Our work is not finished when students enroll in college. Financial, academic, and social support continue to be key to their success. Grant and scholarship programs for Iowa undergraduates increase their chances of graduating and reduce the amount of debt they incur by distributing nearly \$95 million in aid.

Support also takes the form of consumer protection. Iowa College Aid is the state agency that evaluates and authorizes higher education institutions to operate in Iowa or to offer distance education to Iowans. In that role, we also handle student questions, concerns, and complaints.

Along with all these student-directed services, Iowa College Aid has a research team that produces trusted, reliable data about higher education in Iowa. This information might be as broad as a statewide report or as targeted as a dashboard for a single legislative district. Sound research helps us analyze our own programs and helps stakeholders make informed, data-driven decisions that benefit Iowans.

These intertwined efforts are difficult to capture in a brief description, but we hope this report will help you understand both their individual functions and their interconnections. Together, they all work toward fulfilling our mission and vision, always with “Because College Changes Everything” foremost in our minds.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

OUR MISSION

We advocate for and support Iowans as they explore, finance, and complete educational opportunities beyond high school to increase family and community success.

OUR MOTTO

Because college changes everything.

OUR VISION

All Iowans can achieve an education beyond high school.

AGENCY STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Be a trusted source of information for Iowa residents and higher education stakeholders on postsecondary education access, affordability, success, and completion.
2. Align programs and services with the postsecondary needs of Iowa residents and key stakeholders.
3. Increase and align resources to support agency programs and services.

AGENCY HISTORY

- 1963** Higher Education Facilities Commission created to administer federal grants for construction of academic facilities
- 1960s** Becomes state-designated guarantor for the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP); begins administering state grants, scholarships and loan forgiveness
- 1969** Iowa Tuition Grant begins
- 1973** Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant begins
- 1978** Renamed Iowa College Student Aid Commission
- 1996** Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Grant (NGEAP) begins
- 2007** All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship begins
- 2008** First GEAR UP Iowa grant begins
- 2009** I Have a Plan Iowa (IHAPI) begins
- 2010** FFELP eliminated; sponsors Iowa Financial Literacy Program (IFLP)
- 2012** FFELP portfolio transferred to Ascendium Education Group, then known as Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation; Kibbie Grant (Iowa Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant) begins
- 2013** Course to College (then known as 3-Step Process) begins
- 2014** First Local College Access Network (LCAN) begins; second GEAR UP Iowa grant begins
- 2015** IFLP transferred to Iowa Insurance Division
- 2016** Iowa Go Alliance Academy begins
- 2017** Course to College Corps (the precursor to College Access and College Success AmeriCorps) begins
- 2018** Iowa College & Career Readiness Academy replaces Iowa Go Alliance Academy
- 2019** Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship and Future Ready Iowa Grant begin
- 2020** Virtual College Coach begins. Rural Veterinary Loan Repayment Program begins
- 2022** GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready launches; The Postsecondary Attainment Institute, Iowa College's Aid 501(c)(3), is formed. Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program begins.
- 2023** On July 1, 2023, Iowa College Aid will become part of the Iowa Department of Education as part of a broader state government realignment to bring together entities working with similar subject matter.

FY23 IN REVIEW

JULY 2022

- Two Iowa College Aid bills are signed into law by Governor Reynolds. The bills allow students under age 20 to enroll part-time in an eligible program of study and qualify for the Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship and also updates the schools required to register with Iowa College Aid.
- Staff meets with the Iowa chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Iowa Hospital Association to discuss the creation of the new Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program and the implementation of the new program that offers up to \$40,000 in total loan repayment for mental health professionals who agree to practice for at least five years in Iowa.
- Eleven communities are awarded Local College Access Network (LCAN) grants for the Fiscal Year 2023. Ten of the 11 communities are returning grantees, with Math Pathways to Success being the newest initiative to receive funding. Math Pathways to Success is a statewide initiative focusing on eliminating barriers to college attainment transitioning from high school to postsecondary math courses.
- The annual Student Debt Report is published and finds that the overall percentage of graduates with student loan debt decreased from 61 percent to 56 percent and that the average loan debt from Iowa's colleges and universities dropped more than eight percent or approximately \$2,000.
- Staff members attended the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) annual conference. The conference is the national convening of professionals, students, policymakers, and community partners who support GEAR UP programs and the students they serve.
- The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) selected Iowa College Aid to participate in its Communities of Practice. The Communities of Practice project focuses on increasing the capacity and utilization of state postsecondary data systems and providing a forum for states to work on solutions to common issues with those systems.
- AmeriCorps summer associates completed their important work in communities across the state. Associates teamed up to provide summer melt prevention resources to their high school graduating classes of 2022 and college-access prep communication with soon-to-be high school seniors and their families.

AUGUST 2022

- Iowa College Aid kicked off the school year with its GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready partners in Des Moines. All 11 partner districts joined for a day of training, goal setting, and collaboration between school staff and partners.
- GEAR UP staff hosted a series of webinars with Area Education Agencies (AEA) as an orientation for AEA staff. These sessions familiarized those organizations with the programming GEAR UP Future Ready Iowa delivers in their school districts and how AEA staff can support those efforts.
- Three AmeriCorps College Coaches begin their term, aiding Iowa College Aid's efforts to assist high school and college students as they navigate the college-going process and college completion.
- Three college-going Iowans were awarded the Governor Terry E. Branstad State Fair Scholarship. The recipients were Ellyse Holubar of Solon High School, Hanna Bedwell of I-35 High School, and Brelynn Randall of Louisa-Muscatine High School.

SEPTEMBER 2022

- Iowa College Aid’s research staff released its annual FAFSA report examining trends and equity gaps in Iowa’s FAFSA filing rates during the last five FAFSA cycles. The 2022 FAFSA report found that 49 percent of Iowa high school seniors completed the FAFSA during the 2022-23 FAFSA cycle, ending a four-year trend of declining rates.
- Iowa College Aid is partnered with ICAN to host a series of virtual events designed to help students, parents, and school counselors get “on track” with the college planning process for the new school year. The events included daily FSA ID workshops and sessions covering a wide range of college-going topics.
- The Community Engagement division traveled to Atlanta for the annual National College Attainment Network (NCAN) Conference. Staff presented on how GEAR UP Iowa pivoted in the face of adversity to earn new funding to continue their essential work and on our Course to College coaching model that has a proven track record of assisting students and families navigating the college-going process.
- Our experienced staff of experts in their field also participated in the Future Ready Iowa Summit. The event brought together approximately 1,000 Iowa influencers to ask and answer the most challenging questions facing our educational and economic future, led by more than 50 innovators mapping the road ahead.
- Allen College in Waterloo was approved to accept Last-Dollar Scholarship students in its associate’s degree program in radiology starting in the 2023-24 academic year.

OCTOBER 2022

- Staff devoted significant time and efforts in facilitating College Application Fairs. The events allowed students to meet with representatives from colleges, universities and volunteers who assisted the students in completing their college applications and creating their FSA IDs.
- Governor Reynolds declared Oct. 10-14 as FAFSA Awareness Week in Iowa with an official proclamation. This proclamation was shared throughout our events during the week.
- Iowa College Aid hosted its first FAFSA Learning Day. Nearly 100 people from across the state participated in the virtual event led by our staff and experts in the field. The event covered the state of the FAFSA, changes for the current FAFSA cycle and the 2024-25 FAFSA cycle, the impact of those changes on the Iowa Tuition Grant, research on FAFSA completion, and statewide solutions to increase FAFSA completion.
- More than 100 Iowans joined Iowa College Aid and ICAN for the FAFSA Step-by-Step event. Participants were led by Iowa College Aid and ICAN staff to complete their FAFSA and receive real-time instruction and guidance. The Iowa Financial Aid application was also demonstrated for those in attendance.
- The scholarships and grants team traveled to college campuses across Iowa to meet with financial aid staffs. These in-person meetings allowed Iowa College Aid to proactively present our analysis of the impact the Student Aid Index (SAI) will have on the Iowa Tuition Grant.
- The scholarships and grants team also participated in the National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Program conference in Washington, D.C., and the Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (IASFAA) fall conference in Council Bluffs.

NOVEMBER 2022

- FAFSA reports started being issued to Iowa high schools.
- Led by Iowa College Aid's intense research on the anticipated effects of the transition from the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to the Student Aid Index (SAI), staff presented at the National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Program conference in Washington, D.C., and the Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (IASFAA) fall conference in Council Bluffs.
- Applications for the Teach Iowa Scholar program closed, and 426 Iowa educators applied, a 137 percent increase from the previous year.

DECEMBER 2022

- Staff attended the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) Financial Aid Learning Community Convening in Washington, D.C. to analyze the impact of the future changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the needs analysis methodology on state financial aid programs.
- Iowa College Aid offered supplemental support grants to Local College Access Networks (LCAN) for the second-consecutive year. These grants help ensure the continued, long-term sustainability of LCANs in those communities.
- Iowa College Aid presented research and insight to Greater Des Moines Partnership members on Iowa's college-going culture, college enrollment, and the state's talent pipeline.
- Iowa College Aid published the biennial Condition of Higher Education report. The report summarizes college attainment, readiness, and success trends in Iowa. It also examines the actual price of college and how Iowans are financing their postsecondary education.
- The annual Home Base Iowa Postsecondary Education report was published. Home Base Iowa is intended to help veterans transition to civilian life in Iowa. The report found that 1,196 first-time enrolled veterans are undergraduate students in Iowa.
- The annual fall enrollment report is published. The report details 2022 fall enrollment at all colleges and universities operating within Iowa, broken down by sector and student demographics.

JANUARY 2023

- Iowa College Aid staff partnered with the Board of Regents, Community College for Iowa, and the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to host a briefing for state legislators on higher education in Iowa.

FEBRUARY 2023

- Iowa College Aid leadership met with staff and members of the Iowa Congressional delegation to discuss the treatment of small businesses and family farms as assets in the new FAFSA formula.
- Leadership met with the U.S. Department of Education to expand on the implications the delay in the release of the 2024-25 FAFSA will have on the financial aid landscape and for students and families.
- Iowa College Aid joined in National School Counseling Week by recognizing more than 20 school counselors from across Iowa on social media.

- Iowa College Aid’s scholarships and grants division issued a biennial customer satisfaction survey to financial aid directors at Iowa colleges and universities. The 2023 survey results were incredibly encouraging and reflect our staff’s tremendous work. Respondents ranked staff on eleven questions with a scale of 5 (strongly agree) to 1 (strongly disagree). The average ranking was 4.73, an increase over the 4.63 average of the previous survey.
- GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready hosted its first in-person conference since 2019 with ‘Reigniting the Flame,’ a two-day event to re-inspire and reinvigorate our GEAR UP districts. More than 80 educators joined our staff for two successful days of learning, collaboration, and planning to help maximize the impact of GEAR UP Iowa programming for their students.

MARCH 2023

- Iowa College Aid received 28 applications for the Rural Iowa Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program program, which provides up to \$15,000 annually for up to four years for veterinarians practicing in a designated shortage area. A total of 13 veterinarians were selected for the program.
- Iowa College Aid’s research and advocacy on the impact of the FAFSA Simplification Act on farm and small business owners has helped encourage Iowa Representatives Zach Nunn, Randy Feenstra, and Mariannette Miller-Meeks to co-sponsor a bi-partisan bill that would exclude family farms and small businesses from the new FAFSA federal needs analysis formula.
- Iowa College Aid released its annual Student and Faculty Diversity Report. The report summarizes trends in representation by minority population groups among students, faculty, and state financial aid recipients. The report found that in the fall of 2022, racial and ethnic minorities accounted for 20 percent of Iowa colleges and universities’ enrollment. Since the report was first commissioned in 1992, enrollment of racial and ethnic minorities at Iowa’s colleges and universities has increased by 310 percent.
- Iowa College Aid received notification that the Department of Education will host a GEAR UP grant competition for states in part due to our congressional delegation encouraging the Department of Education to open a competition.
- Local College Access Network staff hosted a successful two-day conference March 7-8 in Ames, Iowa, with LCAN partners. The first in-person conference the LCANs have had since 2019, featured two days of rigorous discussion, planning, and learning. The first day of the event focused on new or potential LCANs, while the second allowed existing LCANs to focus on opportunities to maximize their impact.
- Iowa Wesleyan University announced its pending closure. Our staff, in conjunction with Iowa Wesleyan’s leadership, ensured that enrolled students are able to complete their degrees with as little disruption as possible.

APRIL 2023

- Iowa College Aid visited the Capitol for its ‘Day on the Hill’ to share our mission and impact with legislators and policymakers. In addition to many staff members, a wide array of Iowans participated, including students, educators, college staff, community leaders, and others that Iowa College Aid’s programs serve.
- Iowa College Aid’s research staff released its annual analysis of the Education and Training Voucher (ETV). In the most recent four-year cohort, 11 percent earned a postsecondary credential. Meanwhile, 20 percent of the most recent six-year cohort had earned a credential. The report recommended that current and past students enrolled in the program no longer be required to complete the Iowa Financial Aid Application annually as evidence suggests potential administrative burden prevents students from accessing the ETV award.

- Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa and Senator Jon Tester of Montana introduced the bipartisan Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act. The bill aims to reverse upcoming changes to the federal needs analysis in the FAFSA that would consider the value of family farms and small businesses as assets. Senator Grassley has also signed on to the bill. The proposed legislation resulted from Iowa College Aid’s continued research and advocacy on this issue that may have adverse effects for many Iowans.

MAY 2023

- Staff selected 31 recipients for the Health Care Professional Recruitment Program that awards health care professionals in rural Iowa if their employer provides a match. The program received 51 applications, and 38 met the requirements. More than \$1 million was awarded to the selected recipients.
- Iowa College Aid hosted its annual statewide virtual College Decision Week by celebrating more than 1,600 participating Iowa high school seniors making their postsecondary decisions. A total of 22 high schools and 32 colleges and universities participated in the week’s celebrations, with high schools sharing their students’ decisions and colleges and universities welcoming those students. Each day of the week celebrated a different postsecondary pathway, including the military, workforce, certificate and apprenticeship programs, two- and four-year degrees, and those still deciding.
- In addition to the week of coordinated virtual celebrations, staff helped facilitate in-person Decision Day events at more than 60 schools.

JUNE 2023

- The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) featured Iowa College Aid’s data usage to drive FAFSA completion in a published brief. TICAS praised how Iowa College Aid strategically tracks and reports student data to increase FAFSA completion rates. The report highlighted Iowa College Aid’s weekly FAFSA reports issued to all public schools in the state and the efforts of Iowa College Aid’s Course to College program. As a result of these efforts, more than 100 high schools in Iowa experienced increases in FAFSA completion this academic year, with nearly 15 schools achieving gains of 15 percentage points or more.
- Iowa College Aid issued its annual FAFSA Report, examining trends and gaps in Iowa’s FAFSA filing rates during the last six FAFSA cycles. The report finds that half of Iowa public high school seniors in the class of 2023 applied for college financial aid via the FAFSA, reversing a five-year trend of declining or flat FAFSA completion rates in the state. However, despite the FAFSA completion rate making gains, the rate has not rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and significant differences remain in the filing rates between gender, race, and income levels.

FINANCIAL AID

\$95M

State appropriations

7

Scholarship and grant programs

6

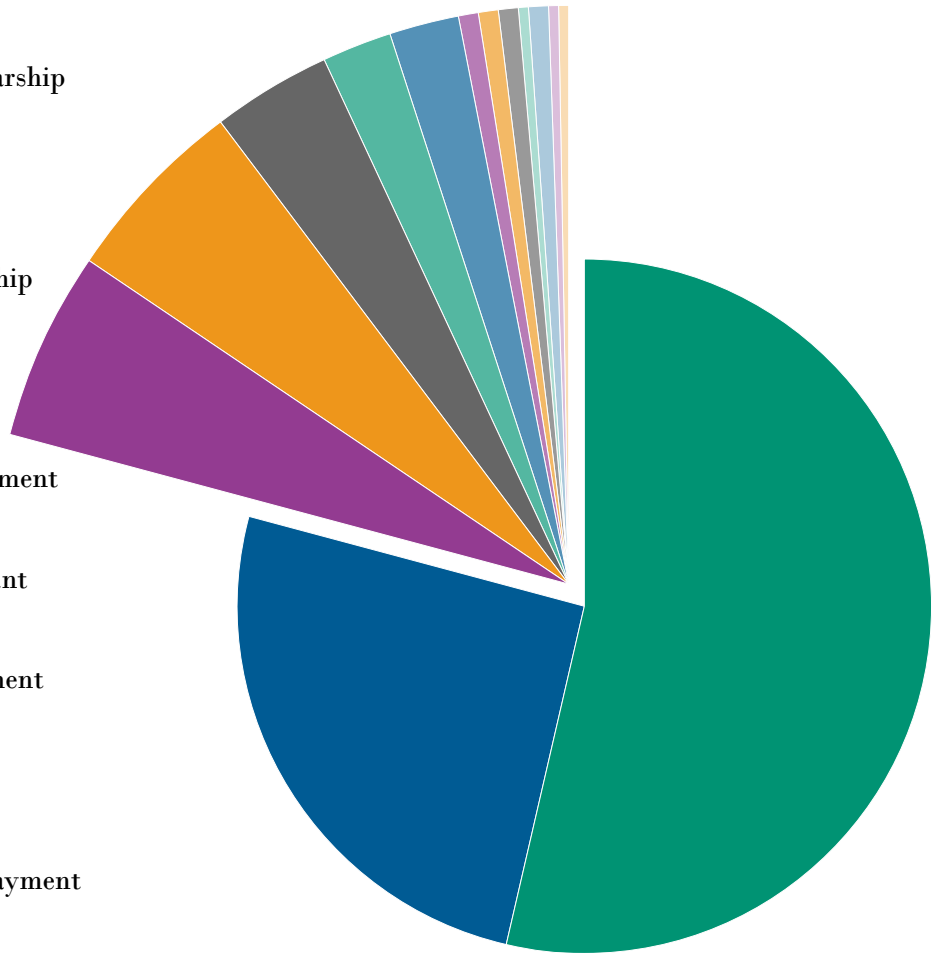
Loan forgiveness programs

29K+

Awards made in FY23

FY 2023 state appropriations: \$95,192,548

- Iowa Tuition Grant Not-for-Profit
\$50,118,451 | 52.65%
- Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship
\$23,927,005 | 25.14%
- Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant (Kibbie Grant) \$5,000,000 | 5.25%
- Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship
\$4,700,000 | 4.94%
- All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship
\$3,229,468 | 3.39%
- Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment
\$2,504,933 | 2.63%
- Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant
\$1,750,185 | 1.84%
- Rural Iowa Veterinarian Loan Repayment
\$700,000 | 0.74%
- Teach Iowa Scholar
\$650,000 | 0.68%
- Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program
\$520,000 | 0.55%
- Health Professional Recruitment
\$500,973 | 0.53%
- Iowa Tuition Grant For-Profit
\$500,000 | 0.53%
- Health Care Award Program
\$500,000 | 0.53%
- Administration—General
\$591,533 | 0.62%



Scholarship & Grant Reserve Fund balance

Beginning balance for FY23: \$882,364.16

Ending balance: \$1,047,373

Iowa College Aid administers the Scholarship and Grant Reserve Fund authorized in Iowa Code Section 261.20 “to alleviate a current fiscal year shortfall in appropriations for scholarship or tuition grant programs that have the same nature as the programs for which the monies were originally appropriated.” The maximum balance is two percent of the funds appropriated to the Iowa Tuition Grant and Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant programs.

State-funded scholarships and grants

All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship:

Need-based assistance for students at risk of not pursuing higher education because of social and financial barriers.

Future Ready Iowa Grant:

For Iowa residents returning to school for a bachelor’s degree in a high-demand program of study.

Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship:

For Iowa residents working toward a certificate, diploma, or associate’s degree in a high-demand program of study.

Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship:

For members of Iowa Air and Army National Guard units in undergraduate programs at Iowa colleges and universities.

Iowa Tuition Grant For-Profit:

Need-based assistance for Iowa residents in undergraduate programs at Iowa’s for-profit private colleges and universities.

Iowa Tuition Grant Not-for-Profit:

Need-based assistance for Iowa residents in undergraduate programs at Iowa’s not-for-profit private colleges and universities.

Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant:

Need-based assistance for Iowa residents in career or technical programs of study at Iowa community colleges.

Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition (Kibbie) Grant:

Need-based assistance for Iowa residents in high-demand career or technical programs of study at Iowa community colleges.

State-funded loan repayment programs

Health Professional Recruitment:

Health care professionals who graduate from eligible Iowa colleges and universities and practice in high-need communities in Iowa.

Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment:

For graduates of Des Moines University or the University of Iowa who practice in specified rural Iowa communities.

Rural Iowa Veterinarian Loan Repayment:

For veterinarians in their final year of a doctor of veterinary medicine program or those who have graduated in the last five years and are practicing in specified rural locations.

Teach Iowa Scholar:

For highly qualified Iowa teachers who teach in designated shortage areas.

Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment:

For mental health practitioners that agree to spend at least 70 percent of their time serving Iowans who reside in federal mental health shortage areas.

Health Care Award Program:

For nurse educators teaching full-time at eligible Iowa colleges and universities, as well as applicants who agree to practice as registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, or physician assistants in service commitment areas for five consecutive years, and who meet the requirements of the program.

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Other aid programs administered by Iowa College Aid

Education & Training Voucher:

Federal program for students who are or were in foster care or who were adopted from foster care.

Karen Misjak GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship:

For students that participated in GEAR UP Iowa at partner schools.

Governor Terry E. Branstad Iowa State Fair Scholarship:

For outstanding Iowa high school seniors who have strong academic and leadership credentials and have actively participated in the Iowa State Fair.

| Program | Initial appropriation | Total applicants | Unduplicated recipients | Total awards | Average award | Max award for FY23 |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Iowa Tuition Grant Not-for-Profit | \$50,118,451 | 21,895 | 8,151 | \$49,707,285 | \$6,098 | \$7,500 |
| Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship | \$23,927,005 | 21,832 | 9,895 | \$29,177,867 | \$2,949 | NA |
| Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant | \$5,000,000 | 19,312 | 4,467 | \$5,036,789 | \$1,128 | \$3,000 |
| Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship | \$4,700,000 | 1,353 | 988 | \$6,484,739 | \$6,564 | \$10,122 |
| All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship | \$3,229,468 | 5,829 | 749 | \$3,248,789 | \$4,338 | \$4,983 |
| Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant | \$1,750,185 | 19,312 | 2,522 | \$1,788,392 | \$709 | \$1,000 |
| Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment | \$2,504,933 | 18 | 18 | \$3,239,779 | \$179,988 | \$200,000 |
| Future Ready Iowa Grant | \$ - | 6 | 3 | \$5,000 | \$1,667 | \$5,000 |
| Iowa Tuition Grant For-Profit | \$500,000 | 809 | 181 | \$386,608 | \$2,136 | \$3,200 |
| Health Professional Recruitment | \$500,973 | 50 | 27 | \$886,631 | \$32,838 | \$50,000 |
| Teach Iowa Scholar | \$650,000 | 426 | 149 | \$596,000 | \$4,000 | \$4,000 |
| Rural Iowa Veterinarian Loan Repayment | \$700,000 | 28 | 13 | \$780,000 | \$60,000 | \$60,000 |
| Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program | \$520,000 | 120 | 13 | \$520,000 | \$40,000 | \$40,000 |
| Health Care Award Program | \$500,000 | 183 | 45 | \$696,000 | \$15,467 | \$30,000 |
| Karen Misjak GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship | NA | 2,539 | 2,080 | \$5,574,910 | \$2,680 | \$3,000 |
| Education & Training Voucher | \$482,288 | 363 | 140 | \$487,464 | \$3,482 | \$5,000 |
| Governor Terry E. Branstad Iowa State Fair Scholarship | NA | 79 | 3 | \$6,000 | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |

COURSE TO COLLEGE COACHING

27

Student leaders in 16 schools

8

Summer FAFSA associates

3

College coaches

14K+

Member hours

Removing barriers to college

AmeriCorps members, placed by Iowa College Aid in high schools, community colleges, and statewide virtually as Course to College coaches work to remove barriers to college access, success, and completion as student leaders, college coaches, and summer FAFSA associates. They provide customized direct support to students and capacity development for schools and colleges. In FY23, the student leaders, college coaches, and summer FAFSA associates served more than 1,100 students and provided more than 14,000 hours of service.

Student leaders are high school students who serve in their schools to help their fellow students and create a college-going culture in their community by:

- Preparing students for college.
- Helping students apply to college.
- Ensuring students complete a FAFSA and research all finance options.
- Celebrating students' decisions about postsecondary education.

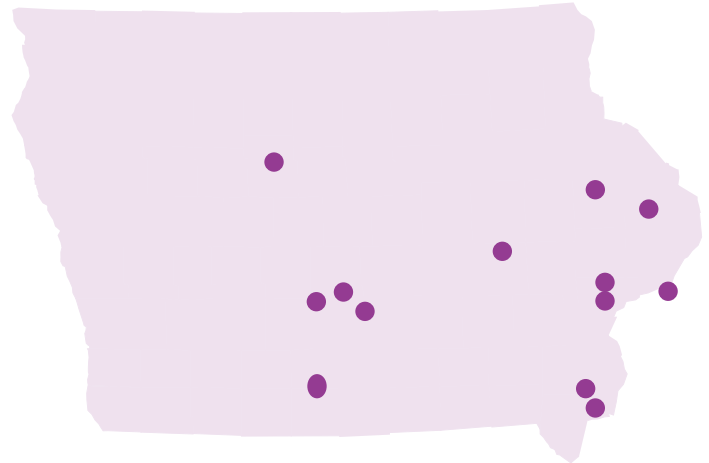
College coaches support college students by:

- Promoting the Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship throughout Iowa and ensuring award recipients remain eligible.
- Assisting incoming students with transitioning from high school graduation to college campuses.
- Providing individualized holistic college success services to current college students.

Summer FAFSA associates are high school counselors:

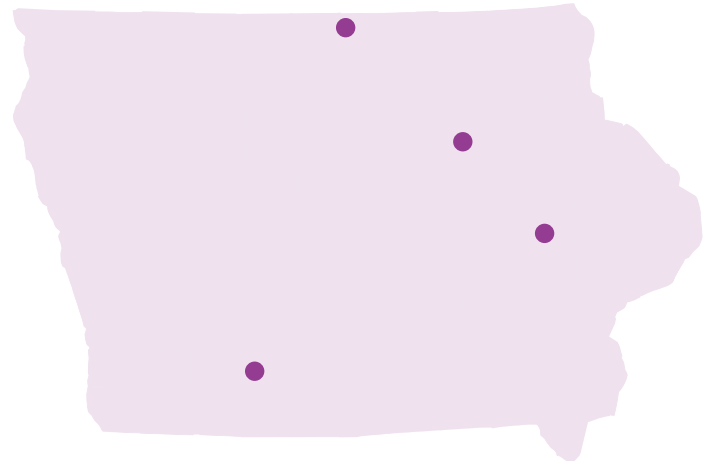
- Who work eight weeks during the summer to engage with students, families, and communities to expand the college-going culture within Iowa.
- They work on FAFSA completion and minimizing summer melt.

Student Leaders



College Coaches

Including one state-wide virtual coach



"I value the time spent in postsecondary education as one of the most impactful times in one's life and enjoy supporting students as they discover success and fulfillment before, during, and after college."
— Levi Kirkpatrick, Virtual College Coach

LOCAL COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORKS

11

Communities funded

\$469K

Awarded in grants

156

LCAN Action Team Members

2,400+

Students, families and community members reached

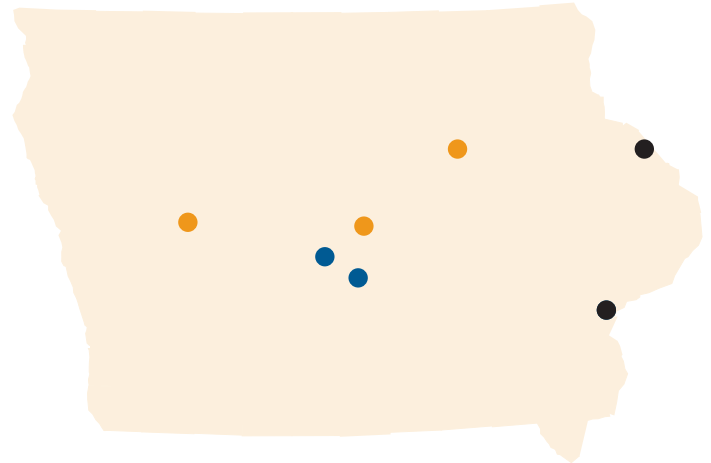
Collective Impact to raise attainment

Local College Access Networks (LCANs) work in communities to raise college attainment. Iowa College Aid provides funding, training, and technical assistance to align the efforts of the education, government, business, and nonprofit sectors—a model known as Collective Impact. The total awarded in FY23 was \$468,724. Of the 11 LCANs funded, seven are centered on a geographic area, while four are specific to a statewide student demographic.

“The LCAN Grant is helping students in Perry make the connection between their future plans and post-secondary education. We are also seeing leaders across various sectors of our community, collectively and actively engage in bringing a college education within the reach of our students. That is LCAN, that is progress, and that is why we do this work. A win for one student is a win for all of Perry because our entire community is enriched by their success.”

- Connie Saenz
Future Ready Perry Coordinator

LCAN communities



YEAR I

Math Pathways to Success*

YEAR II

Brother To Brother (Des Moines)

Future Ready Perry

YEAR IV

Black Hawk County CAN

Carroll Area CAN

Latinos CAN*

OPT-in CAN for System Involved Youth*

Story County CAN

SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT

Aligned Impact Muscatine (AIM)

Dubuque CAN

La Luz - Mission Possible (Franklin County)

*Statewide

IOWA COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS ACADEMY

59

Enrolled in courses

34

Schools and agencies enrolled

8

Courses available

Continuing ed for college access professionals

This suite of eight Iowa-specific online courses helps college access and success professionals provide equitable postsecondary opportunities for all students. Participants who complete the first three courses are certified as College Access Professionals; those who complete five courses are certified as College Access Specialists. Equity Badges and Specialist Certificates are awarded to those who complete six courses.

Iowa College & Career Readiness Academy graduates help their schools and districts develop practices that lead to postsecondary success, ensuring that all students—especially low-income and first-generation—have access to postsecondary opportunities. Participants learn to effectively prepare students for education beyond high school, whether through on-the-job training or at a trade school, college or university.



Courses offered

- 101: Foundations of College and Career Readiness in Iowa
- 201: Creating Iowa’s College and Career Readiness Culture
- 301: Systems and Optimization
- 401: Planning and the District’s Role in Creating a Student-Centered Career and Academic Plan
- 501: Introduction to Planning, Accessing and Financing Postsecondary Opportunities
- 601: Advanced Equity Issues In Planning, Accessing and Financing Postsecondary Opportunities
- 602: Supporting College & Career Readiness For Systems-Involved Students
- 701: College & Career Readiness for K-5 School Counselors and Educators

GEAR UP IOWA FUTURE READY

18

High school partners

11

School districts

7,300

Students received services

9

Hosted nine college and career site visits

GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready continues

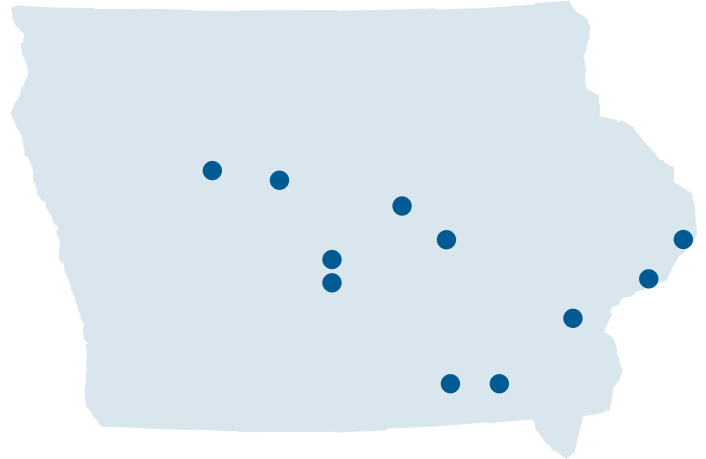
GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready successfully completed the second year of its cohort, with more than 7,300 students in 18 high schools receiving the proven GEAR UP programming through GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready. More than 2,000 recipients of previous GEAR UP Iowa cohorts also received more than \$5.5 million in scholarships.

While facilitating the current GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready program, staff also worked with tremendous fervor to secure federal funding to continue GEAR UP Iowa's ability to expand its program and deliver integral services and supports to Iowans for many years to come.

The implementation of GEAR UP Iowa aids high schools in

- Diagnosing the student barriers to higher education.
- Facilitating the completion of a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.
- Providing intensive academic and social support to students.
- Implementing activities to educate and inform Iowa families about the value of a postsecondary education.
- Guiding students and families through the college search, application, and enrollment process.

GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready districts



- Centerville
- Clinton
- Columbus
- Davenport
- Davis County
- Des Moines
- Fort Dodge
- Marshalltown
- Saydel
- South Tama
- Storm Lake



"At first, I didn't want to go to college at all. I just didn't know what to do. Nothing really interested me, But with "GEAR UP," we started going to different colleges and I saw their medical field things and that just interested me a lot." "

– Evelyn Fonseca, GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready student

VIRTUAL COLLEGE COACH

15K+

Students enrolled

289K

Text messages sent

20K

Text messages received

Participation in Course to College Coaching surges

Student engagement in our Course to College Coaching text messaging platform grew exponentially in FY23, with more than 15,000 students enrolled in the program, representing a 73.7 percent increase from the previous year and impressive growth from the 907 students enrolled in the program’s first year.

The number of text messages sent by staff increased by more than 100,000 in FY23, and messages received increased by 53.8 percent.

In addition to adding Last-Dollar Scholarship recipients, Virtual College Coach also offers expanded services to all high school grade levels and their guardians. Each grade level receives personalized information to assist them at their point in the college-going process. Text support is also available for school counselors to assist them as they directly influence a students’ decision to pursue a postsecondary education.

To continue this meteoric growth, we partnered with AmeriCorps to recruit an additional three college coaches to assist with virtual communication and assistance for Last-Dollar Scholarship recipients. This addition allows coaches to better assist students as they navigate college and offer individual appointments to assist them in completing the FAFSA, addressing FAFSA errors, and fulfilling FAFSA verification requirements. These efforts ensure LDS recipients meet the program’s FAFSA eligibility requirements.

The addition of these AmeriCorps members allows for the continued growth of the program and the expansion of our support offered to our Course to College partners, including college-going assistance to high school students and families. With the planned implementation of the Better FAFSA and its delay, these coaches will dive into aggressively communicating those changes to enrolled Iowans and be available to assist families through the process.

Text Messaging Metrics as of June 30, 2023

| | Future Ready Iowa / LDS | College Access |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Enrolled | 14,327 | 1,302 |
| Messages sent | 267,688 | 21,749 |
| Messages received from students | 18,823 | 1,464 |
| Engagement | 63.8% | 44.2% |

POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION

268

Schools registered/
authorized

185

Based in Iowa

83

Based out of state

82

Student dispute
cases and student
inquiries

Program oversight and consumer protection

Iowa College Aid is the state agency that authorizes postsecondary schools to operate in Iowa and to offer postsecondary education programs to Iowans, whether from a physical location in Iowa or via distance education. The Postsecondary School Authorization team also ensures that students receive the consumer and financial protections afforded under Iowa law.

Our agency accepts questions and complaints from any student attending an Iowa postsecondary school and from Iowa residents attending any postsecondary school in the United States.

The team monitors schools under its oversight and takes action, when possible, to close Iowa enrollment when a school is in danger of closing. Schools provide information related to their teach-out plans, a list of current students, and transcript retention.

Covered schools

Postsecondary schools that fall under Iowa College Aid's authority include:

- Degree-granting colleges and universities
 - In-state and out-of-state
- Non-degree postsecondary schools and education providers such as:
 - Private non-degree allied health schools
 - Cosmetology, barbering, and massage therapy schools
 - Schools of religious study
 - Other non-degree vocational schools
 - Personal driver's education schools
 - Real estate, mortgage, and appraisal schools
 - Continuing education schools

State requirements

To offer postsecondary instruction to Iowans, a school must be authorized under one of the following:

- Registration
- Exemption from Registration
- State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
- Financial Responsibility
- Financial Responsibility Exemption

In addition, some schools might be required to demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Student consumer protection laws including a surety bond or letter of credit payable to the State of Iowa
- Compliance with Iowa's tuition refund policy for students who withdraw
- Disclosures to students about total program cost; estimated fees for license exams or fees charged by others to obtain a credential; the percentage of students who complete or terminate the program; and additional disclosures if a school makes income or placement claims.

RESEARCH

50%

of Iowa high school seniors filed the FAFSA

62%

of Iowa high school graduates enrolled in college in the fall after graduation

140K

Iowans enrolled in postsecondary education

70%

of recent high school graduates that enrolled in college earned a credential within six years

Trusted source of data

In addition to continuous evaluation of Iowa College Aid programs, our Research team provides analytics and insight for higher education stakeholders, the media, and the general public. We delivered every Iowa legislator with an individual dashboard detailing high school graduation rates, FAFSA filing rates, college-going rates, educational attainment level, financial aid recipients and dollar amounts, and participation in Iowa College Aid programs for their House or Senate district.

EFC to SAI Transition Research

Throughout this year, the research team has continued to work on the transition from the Expected Family Contribution to the Student Aid Index. Staff has presented multiple times to a variety of stakeholders from local leaders to national organizations.

Research staff has focused on the direct impact this change will have on many state-funded financial aid programs in Iowa with detailed analyses on the Iowa Tuition Grant, Last-Dollar Scholarship, and All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship.

Additionally, members of Iowa College Aid are a part of a national group examining the change in the formula and developing ways to communicate and market the change in financial aid eligibility to constituents.

Research projects

- Iowa College Aid research staff continue to participate in the Statewide Longitudinal Data System.
- “FAFSA Filing in Iowa: 2022,” July 2022.
- “Estimating All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Eligibility Under The Student Aid Index,” June 2023
- “Estimating the Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship Under the Student Aid Index,” June 2023
- The Enrollment Report illustrated that overall college enrollment declined from Fall 2021 to Fall 2022 by about 1,600 students. November 2022.
- “Legislative Aid Reports,” December 2022.
- The annual Student and Faculty Diversity Report found that 39,971 minority students were enrolled at Iowa colleges and universities last fall, representing 20 percent of enrollment. Since these reports began in 1992, the number of racial and ethnic minority students enrolled in Iowa’s colleges and universities has increased by about 310%. March 2023.
- The annual Student Loan Debt Report found that the percentages of graduates with student loan debt from Iowa colleges and universities continues to decline. April 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS

205K

Visits to website

3.4K

Followers on social media

98K

Free publications given away

26.8K

Digital newsletter subscriptions

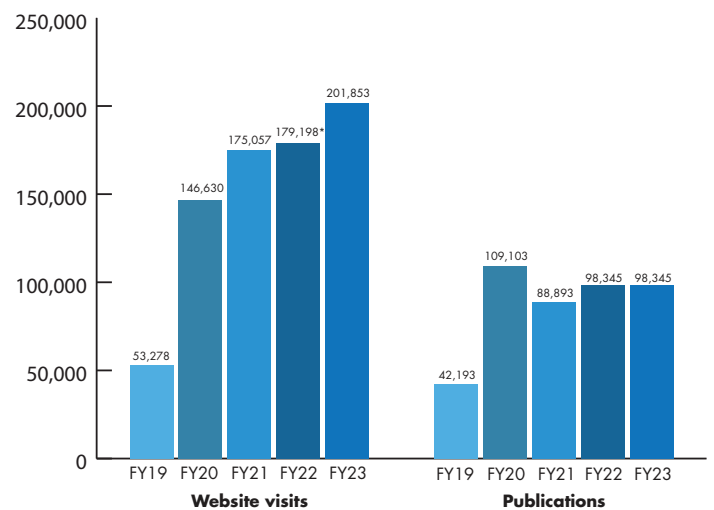
Daily, weekly, and annual outreach

Through digital and print media, Iowa College Aid puts information in the hands of college-bound students and their families. We maintain the agency's websites and social media accounts while providing support for all of Iowa College Aid's divisions and programs.

We reach Iowan through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and our e-newsletters. We also produce annual publications in English and Spanish to help students and families navigate the process of applying for college and financial aid. In FY23, visits to our agency website continued to grow as more Iowans engage with our programs with a nearly four-fold increase in visits over the last five years. Distribution of our publications also more than doubled over the last five years, driven by increases in the promotion of Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship and the continued growth of the Course To College program. Our social media following and newsletter subscriptions continued their growth and have seen 81 percent and 200 percent increases, respectively since 2017.



Year-over-year metrics



* Only accounts for an eight-month period as website visitors were not tracked during the website migration and transition.

FINAL FY23 OPERATING EXPENSES

| | STATE APPROPRIATED PROGRAMS | STATE MANDATED/ UNFUNDED PROGRAMS* | POSTSECONDARY REGISTRATION | FEDERAL GRANT/ PROGRAMS | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | FFELP/PLP COLLECTIONS, ASCENDIUM** | TOTALS |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| FY2023 number of programs | 14 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 29 |
| FY2023 fed award (admin)/others | | | | 6,457,646 | | | |
| Federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund | | | | 1,167,509 | | | |
| FY2023 state appropriation/grant (scholarship) | 94,601,015 | | | | | | 94,601,015 |
| FY2023 state admin/fees/other | 591,533 | | 536,251 | 7,625,155 | | 2,332,465 | 11,085,404 |
| Total Revenues | 591,533 | | 536,251 | 7,625,155 | | 2,332,465 | 11,085,404 |
| Personnel | 801,307 | 162,642 | 487,925 | 1,563,343 | 920,313 | 31,338 | 3,966,868 |
| Travel | 20,065 | 4,073 | 12,218 | 39,148 | 23,045 | 785 | 99,334 |
| Supplies, printing, postage & equip repair | 29,430 | 5,973 | 17,920 | 57,418 | 33,801 | 1,151 | 145,693 |
| Rent, communication & prof/outside serv. | 232,548 | 47,200 | 141,601 | 453,699 | 267,085 | 9,095 | 1,151,228 |
| State legal, audit, state reimbursements | 49,429 | 10,033 | 30,098 | 96,436 | 56,770 | 1,933 | 244,699 |
| Advertising & publicity | 1,179 | 239 | 718 | 2,300 | 1,354 | 46 | 5,836 |
| State transfer/reimbursements/IT exp | 100,773 | 20,454 | 61,362 | 196,607 | 115,739 | 3,941 | 498,876 |
| Total operating cost* | 1,234,732 | 250,614 | 751,842 | 2,408,949 | 1,418,108 | 48,289 | 6,112,533 |
| Aid to individuals | | | | 489,463 | | | 489,463 |
| Grants to K-12 schools/communities (sub grants) | | | | | 414,967 | | 414,967 |
| Scholarships/grants* | 91,411,267 | 6,000 | | 5,585,696 | | | 97,002,963 |
| Unexpended Funds* | | | 112,053 | (14,985) | | | 97,069 |
| Total expenditures (incl. scholarship) | 92,645,999 | 256,614 | 751,842 | 8,484,107 | 1,833,075 | 48,289 | 104,019,925 |
| Fund committed for scholarship and aid* | 4,696,396 | | | | | | 4,696,396 |
| Total expenditures (non pass-through) | 1,234,732 | 250,614 | 863,895 | 8,469,123 | 1,833,075 | 48,289 | 12,699,727 |
| Net gain/loss | (643,199) | (250,614) | (327,644) | (843,968) | (1,833,075) | 2,284,176 | (1,614,323) |
| Overall % total expense | 89.07% | 0.25% | 0.72% | 8.16% | 1.76% | 0.05% | 100.00% |

*Related to Chapter 261 of Iowa Code—Branstad State Fair Scholarship, loan programs

**Great Lakes Higher Education Corp. & Affiliates changed its name to Ascendium Education Group on November 15, 2018



Because College Changes Everything

BUREAU OF IOWA COLLEGE AID

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