

Red Tape Review Rule Report (Due: September 1, 2025)

Department Name:	Iowa Department of Education – Bureau of Iowa College Aid	Date:	10/18/2024	Total Rule Count:	3
IAC #:	283	Chapter/ SubChapter/ Rule(s):	Chapter 14	Iowa Code Section Authorizing Rule:	256.178 and 256.223
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PLEASE NOTE, THE BOXES BELOW WILL EXPAND AS YOU TYPE

What is the intended benefit of the rule?

Eligible applicants, eligible institutions, eligible rural communities, and the Commission will benefit from the rulemaking since it clarifies the application process, selection criteria, priority ranking of awards, and awarding process for the loan repayment program.

Is the benefit being achieved? Please provide evidence.

The benefit of the rule is achieved, as each of the processes and provisions intended to provide a benefit are illustrated within the rulemaking.

What are the costs incurred by the public to comply with the rule?

Applicants are required to submit an application for the loan repayment program. Without requiring individuals to submit an application showing interest and perceived eligibility for the program, the Commission could not identify eligible applicants.

Employers are required to verify completion of the employment obligation. While this requirement is not specifically established in law, an alternative data source that could effectively replace the employer’s timely verification of employment has yet to be found. The Commission has implemented similar requirements for employers in other programs and does not anticipate the administrative burden of the requirement to result in measurable cost. Ensuring the timely payment of the of the loan repayment award is a critical part of the effective operation of the program, and this cannot be done without the assistance of employers.

What are the costs to the agency or any other agency to implement/enforce the rule?

The agency would incur minimal costs to implement and enforce the rule.

Do the costs justify the benefits achieved? Please explain.

The costs justify the benefits achieved. The cost of inaction would be confusion in the process and criteria to be used in the application and awarding of funds under the program and an inability for individuals to self-select into the program without an application. In addition, the program could not be administered without employer verification of completed obligations of the eligible applicants.

Are there less restrictive alternatives to accomplish the benefit? YES NO

If YES, please list alternative(s) and provide analysis of less restrictive alternatives from other states, if applicable. If NO, please explain.

The rulemaking proposes an efficient administrative method of collecting applications and disbursing funding, reducing any administrative burden that otherwise might be introduced. The administrative method proposed for this program is the most cost-efficient method utilized by the Commission in the administration of similar programs.

Does this chapter/rule(s) contain language that is obsolete, outdated, inconsistent, redundant, or unnecessary language, including instances where rule language is duplicative of statutory language? [list chapter/rule number(s) that fall under any of the above categories]

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Much of the language within each rule was condensed or eliminated because it was redundant of Iowa Code. The following rules were eliminated entirely.
14.3 – obsolete rule.

RULES PROPOSED FOR REPEAL (list rule number[s]):

14.3

RULES PROPOSED FOR RE-PROMULGATION (list rule number[s] or include rule text if available):

CHAPTER 14
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

283—14.1(256) Definitions.

“Eligible applicant” means an individual who is a health care professional or agrees to become a health care professional, agrees to sign a program agreement, and agrees to complete the obligation. The eligible applicant completes applications on or before the date established by the commission, does not meet a condition in 283 – subrule 10.3(1), and has not received an award under Iowa Code section 256.224.

1. The program agreement specifies the obligation and other details pertaining to the program.

2. The obligation is fulfilled by providing health care professional services to clients in eligible rural communities on a full-time basis for four consecutive years. Progression towards completion of the obligation is verified annually.

“Eligible institution” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 256.223(5). An eligible institution seeking to participate will complete an application provided by the commission and agree to notify students preparing for licensure and graduates who have obtained a license to practice as health care professionals in Iowa of the availability of the program.

“Eligible loan” includes federal Stafford loans, federal Grad PLUS loans, and consolidated federal Stafford and Grad PLUS loans. An eligible applicant who signs a program agreement and then refinances an eligible loan by obtaining a private education loan may continue to receive loan repayment awards.

“Eligible rural community” means a rural Iowa city with a population of less than 26,000 that is located more than 20 miles from a city with a population of 50,000 or more. Locations and distances between cities are consistently measured and verified by calculating the shortest travel distance on paved roads. The eligible rural community provides a dollar-for-dollar loan repayment matching award to the state health care professional recruitment program award. After an eligible applicant signs an agreement to practice in a service commitment area, subsequent population increases will not impact that applicant’s continued eligibility for the program.

“Health care professional” means an individual who completes a program of study at an eligible institution that leads to a license to practice in Iowa in a profession listed in Iowa Code section 256.223(5).

“Full-time” is defined by the employer of the health care professional.

283—14.2(256) Awarding of funds.

14.2(1) Selection criteria. All eligible applicants will be considered for an award. The commission will ensure, to the extent possible, that an equal number of new agreements are available to health care professionals in each occupation category.

14.2(2) Extent of award and maximum award. Eligible applicants may receive up to \$50,000 upon completion of the obligation. The loan repayment award and the eligible rural community matching award will not exceed the outstanding balance of the eligible applicant’s eligible loans, and the loan repayment award will not exceed the eligible rural community matching award.

14.2(3) Priority for awards. New awards will be made in the order of the following priority categories if funding is insufficient to award all eligible applicants.

a. Awards will be made first to eligible applicants who are in their final year of the degree program that leads to their qualification as a health care professional, by application date;

b. If funding remains, awards will be made to eligible applicants who are practicing health care professionals, with priority to those meeting the definition of health care professional in the most recent fiscal years, grouped by fiscal year. If all eligible applicants who met the definition of health care professional in a given fiscal year cannot be funded, eligible applicants will be prioritized by application date.

14.2(4) Awarding process.

a. The commission will provide notice of the eligibility criteria and the application process annually.

b. The commission will designate eligible applicants for awards, and notify all applicants of their eligibility.

c. The commission will track eligible applicants selected to receive awards through completion of their obligation. An obligation is fulfilled in align with subrule 14.2(2).

d. The commission will pay the loan repayment award directly to the holder of the eligible applicant’s eligible loan only after the eligible applicant’s employer verifies that a portion of the obligation has been completed and the dollar-for-dollar loan repayment matching award has been paid.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 256.

***For rules being re-promulgated with changes, you may attach a document with suggested changes.**

METRICS

Total number of rules repealed:	1
Proposed word count reduction after repeal and/or re-promulgation	289
Proposed number of restrictive terms eliminated after repeal and/or re-promulgation	23

ARE THERE ANY STATUTORY CHANGES YOU WOULD RECOMMEND INCLUDING CODIFYING ANY RULES?