

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:	7
IAC #:	283	Chapter/ SubChapter/ Rule(s):	Chapter 26	Iowa Code Section Authorizing Rule:	256.178 and 256.224
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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 practice areas, 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 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?

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 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, selection, and awarding of funds under the program. 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.

26.1 – obsolete.

26.5 – obsolete.

26.6 – consolidated into a different rule within the chapter.

26.7 – obsolete.

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

26.1, 26.5, 26.6, 26.7

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

CHAPTER 26
HEALTH CARE AWARD PROGRAM

283—26.1(256) Definitions.

“Advanced registered nurse practitioner” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 256.224(1).

“Eligible applicant” means an advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse educator, physician assistant, or registered nurse that 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 256.223. An eligible applicant agrees to sign a program agreement and agrees to complete the obligation.

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

2. The obligation is fulfilled upon completion of five consecutive years of full-time employment. Progression towards completion of the obligation is verified annually.

“Nurse educator” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 256.224(1) and is employed by an Iowa community college defined in Iowa Code section 260C.2, an accredited private institution defined in Iowa Code section 256.183, or an institution of higher learning governed by the state board of regents as a faculty member who teaches nursing as provided in 655—Chapter 2 at a nursing program approved by the board of nursing pursuant to Iowa Code section 152.5.

“Physician assistant” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 256.224(1).

“Registered nurse” means a nurse who is licensed by the board of nursing as a registered nurse and is employed as a registered nurse.

“Service commitment area” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 256.224(1). Locations and distances between cities are consistently measured and verified by calculating the shortest travel distance on paved roads. 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.

“Full-time” is defined by the employer of the eligible applicant.

283—26.2(256) Eligibility. An eligible applicant must be:

a. A student in the final year of a degree program leading to a license to practice as an advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or registered nurse who signs an agreement to practice in a service commitment area for five consecutive years; or

b. A licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or registered nurse who signs an agreement to practice in a service commitment area for five consecutive years; or

c. A nurse educator who signs an agreement to teach full-time in the fall and spring semesters, or the equivalent, for five consecutive years; or

d. A nurse educator teaching part-time in the fall and spring semesters, or the equivalent, if the individual is also employed as an advanced registered nurse practitioner or registered nurse in Iowa and the total hours worked between these occupations equates to full-time employment. for five consecutive years. An individual who meets the conditions of this subrule is not required to be employed in a service commitment area, is required to work at least part-time as a nurse educator, and can qualify for an award for up to five consecutive years.

283—26.3(256) Awarding of funds.

26.3(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 eligible applicants in each occupation category.

26.3(2) Extent of award and maximum award. Eligible applicants may receive up to \$30,000 upon completion of the obligation.

26.3(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. An eligible applicant selected for an award under a priority category will continue to meet the provisions of that category to maintain eligibility.

a. Eligible applicants who are Iowa residents or who are members of the of the Iowa national guard if requested by the adjutant general. If all eligible applicants in this category cannot be funded, awards will be made first to eligible applicants who are in their final year of the degree program that leads to a license to practice in a specified occupation under this chapter, by application date; then to eligible applicants practicing in a specified occupation under this chapter, with priority to advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, or registered nurses beginning practice in a service commitment area or to nurse educators beginning practice in the most recent fiscal year, by application date.

b. Eligible applicants who are not Iowa residents and are not members of the Iowa national guard requested by the adjutant general. If all eligible applicants in this category cannot be funded, awards will be made first to eligible applicants who are in their final year of the degree program that leads to a license to practice in a specified occupation under this chapter, by

application date; then to eligible applicants practicing in a specified occupation under this chapter, with priority to advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, or registered nurses beginning practice in a service commitment area or to nurse educators beginning practice in the most recent fiscal year, by application date.

26.3(4) *Applicants who are members of the Iowa national guard requested by the adjutant general.* Applicants who are members of the Iowa national guard, if requested by the adjutant general, are subject to the following provisions:

- a. Members of the Iowa national guard are exempt from the service commitment area requirement, and
- b. Members of the Iowa national guard must have satisfactorily completed required guard training and must maintain satisfactory performance of guard duty.

26.3(5) *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.
- d. The commission will pay the award directly to the eligible applicant after the eligible applicant’s employer verifies completion of a portion of the obligation.

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:	4
Proposed word count reduction after repeal and/or re-promulgation	791
Proposed number of restrictive terms eliminated after repeal and/or re-promulgation	14

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