

Legislative Report

State Financial Aid Fiscal Year 2025



Department of Education



State of Iowa
Department of Education
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Fiscal Year 2025 State Financial Aid Report

The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Iowa College Aid is submitting this report pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.177, subsection 8:

Submit by January 15 annually a report to the general assembly which provides, by program, the number of individuals who received state financial aid funding in the previous fiscal year, the amounts paid to or on behalf of the individuals, other key program indicators, findings, and recommendations. The report shall also include a description of the methodology and manner in which the commission makes the determination of awards for programs for which moneys are appropriated under section 256.194.

Highlights from academic year (AY) 2024-25 include:

- 137,149 applications for scholarships/grants were received and processed.
- 32,612 scholarship/grants were awarded to lowans completing postsecondary credentials.
- 458 loan repayment/income bonus awards provided to individuals working in high-need occupations/locations in Iowa.
- \$100,935,294 was distributed to lowans through financial aid programs administered by the Bureau of Iowa College Aid (ICA).

AY 24-25 Application Process and Summary

In AY 24-25, ICA administered nine state-appropriated scholarship and grant programs and one federal program. The intent of these programs is to ensure a postsecondary credential is affordable by reducing costs and student loan debt for any lowan who wishes to pursue a postsecondary education in this state – helping to build the Iowa’s future workforce.

ICA leverages the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as the primary application for scholarship and grant programs administered by the bureau. This allows Iowa residents to apply for both federal and state scholarships and grants in one application. ICA receives all Iowa resident FAFSA applications through an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid.

During the 2024-25 application cycle, a total of 137,149 Iowa resident FAFSAs were received under this agreement. This marks a 2.62% decrease in total applications from 2023-24 (140,839) and a 5.1% decrease from 2020-21 (144,580) (see Table 1). The application cycle typically begins in October prior to the next academic year, and scholarship and grant disbursements are generally made through the corresponding academic year and summer term – spanning a 23-month cycle from application to reconciliation for each award year.

Table 1. FAFSA Submissions

AY	Total Iowa Resident FAFSAs	Percent Change
24-25	137,149	-2.62
23-24	140,839	2.73
22-23	137,092	-2.39
21-22	140,446	-2.86
20-21	144,580	-1.85

Loan Repayment and Income Bonus Programs

In Fiscal Year 24-25, the ICA administered six loan repayment and income bonus programs. The intent of these programs is to ensure lowans have opportunities to stay and work in Iowa, encourage them to pursue credentials aligned to high-need occupations, and/or locate in geographical areas in the state experiencing shortages in certain occupational areas.

The following tables display each of the state, federal and privately funded financial aid programs administered by the Commission, and the corresponding FY24 and FY25 funding level for each.

Table 2. State-Appropriated Programs

Program	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Appropriation
All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Program (AIOS)	3,229,468	3,229,468
Future Ready Iowa Grant	275,000	425,000
Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship	23,927,005	23,927,005
Health Care Award Program	500,000	500,000
Health Care Professional Recruitment Program	500,973	500,973
Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship (NGSS)	6,600,000	6,600,000
Iowa Tuition Grant Program -- For-Profit Institutions (ITGp)	108,000	110,700
Iowa Tuition Grant Program -- Not-for-Profit Institutions (ITG)	51,421,531	52,707,069
Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program (IVTG)	1,750,185	1,750,185
Mental Health Practitioner Loan Repayment Program	520,000	520,000
Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program (RPC)	2,504,933	2,629,933
Rural Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program	700,000	700,000
Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant (Kibbie Grant)	5,000,000	5,000,000
Teach Iowa Scholar Program (TIS)	650,000	650,000
Workforce Grant and Incentive Program	6,500,000	6,500,000
Administration (Combined)	591,533	591,533
Total State-Appropriated Funding	104,778,628	106,341,866

Table 3. Federal/Private Funded Programs

Program	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Appropriation
Education and Training Voucher	451,053	630,242
GEAR UP Scholarship	4,255,223	0
Iowa State Fair Scholarship	5,286	0
Total Federal/Private Scholarship/Grant Funding	4,711,562	630,242
Grand Total Financial Aid Funding Administered	109,490,190	106,972,108

Award Determination Methodology under Iowa Code Section 256.194

Each year, ICA analyzes data from the first six to seven months of the FAFSA application cycle to forecast future grant recipients and to set awarding parameters for the following programs:

- Iowa Tuition Grant Programs (ITG),
- Iowa Vocational Technical Tuition Grant Program (IVTG),
- Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program (KG),
- Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship (LDS), and
- Workforce Grant and Incentive Program.

The FAFSA serves as the only application for these programs. Awarding parameters are generally released in May or June (depending on the timing of appropriation enactment) prior to the academic year in which award disbursements will be made by colleges and universities.

Awarding parameters determine which students will qualify for awards, and generally include the Student Aid Index¹ range, FAFSA filing deadline and maximum award.² Awarding parameters are set early in the application cycle to allow applicants to be informed by colleges and universities of the federal, state, institutional and private aid sources for which they qualify. This information is sent to the student in a financial aid award package. The earlier a student receives the financial aid award package, the more time the student

¹ The Student Aid Index (SAI) is a metric computed from a completed FAFSA that is used to gauge a family's financial strength. This metric is primarily used to rank families by ability to pay, in order to prioritize funding to the applicants most in need of financial assistance. Prior to AY 24-25, the FAFSA calculated an Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which was calculated through a different federal needs analysis formula than SAI.

² Most state programs have a statutory maximum award. If funding does not permit all eligible applicants to receive awards, ICA can administratively set an annual maximum award that is lower than the statutory maximum award to ensure the expenses do not exceed the appropriation.

has to analyze their college choice based on their financial resources and to secure additional financing, if necessary.

To establish awarding parameters, ICA evaluates FAFSA application data from October through April/May to examine application rates. Iowa resident FAFSA applications are imported from the federal department on a weekly basis. Cumulative application figures are generally dependable if received two weeks prior to the date of analysis.³ Awarding parameters established on April 1 generally rely on FAFSA data received during the first five-and-a-half months of the application cycle. Awarding parameters established on April 14 generally rely on FAFSA data received during the first six months of the application cycle.

In setting awarding parameters, ICA evaluates current FAFSA application trends in relation to previous years, as well as the final application rate and expenditure outcomes⁴ of prior years. Due to the timing of this process, a number of assumptions must be made at the time awarding parameters are set. These assumptions are listed below:

1. The number of eligible applications received to date will be approximately ___% of the applications received on or before July 1. This assumption allows ICA to predict the number of eligible applications that are expected by the FAFSA filing deadline of July 1 for state aid programs. Prior-year application trends are traditionally used to project this rate.
2. The number of applicants that will attend an eligible college or university and receive an award will be approximately ___% of the eligible applications received on or before July 1. This assumption allows ICA to predict the number of applicants who will receive awards in the upcoming year. Prior-year applicant-to-recipient trends are generally used to project this rate, referred to as the “conversion rate.”
3. The average grant award at the end of the year will be approximately ___% of the maximum award. This assumption allows ICA to predict the expenditure for the upcoming year based on the maximum award⁵ that is administratively set for the program. Prior-year figures are generally used to project this rate.
4. Changes to the federal methodology which calculates a student’s SAI, which impacts eligibility counts.

³ The number of FAFSAs submitted, processed and received will fluctuate considerably in the two-week period following the date a student completes the FAFSA. Since data within that two-week period is unreliable from a historical comparative perspective, staff utilize application data from two weeks before the date of analysis.

⁴ The outcomes measured are typically eligible applications received on or before July 1, total number of recipients and average award.

⁵ Each program has a statutory maximum award. If the appropriation will not fund all eligible applicants during the academic year, the Commission can reduce the maximum award for certain programs so that all eligible applicants can receive an award.

Minor discrepancies between the initial assumptions from which awarding parameters are developed and the year-end outcomes can have a large impact on award commitments. For example, if the projected average award for ITG is lower by one percentage point than the actual average award, (and all other assumptions hold true), the program would experience a shortfall of approximately \$575,585.⁶ If the projected percentage of eligible applications received to date in relation to the number to be received by July 1 is lower by two percentage points (which would reduce the projected number of eligible applications received on or before July 1), the program would experience a shortfall of \$1,505,924.

Table 4. Example of Impact of FAFSA Submissions on Award Forecasts

	March Eligible Apps	Eligible Apps to Date in Relation to Eligible Apps on July 1	Total Eligible Apps on July 1	Conversion Rate	Recipients	Ave. Award	Expend.	Approp.	Short-fall
Projected	10,300	66.92%	15,392	62.68%	9,647	4,948	47,735,335	47,700,000	-35,335
Actual	10,300	64.92%	15,866	62.68%	9,945	4,948	49,205,924	47,700,000	1,505,924

As indicated in the examples, slight fluctuations in historical trends can have a more exaggerated effect on program commitment levels. Ultimately, a moderate change in consumer behavior could produce a large shortfall, or over-commitment, in a program.

⁶ This scenario would occur if the projected average ITG award was \$4,948 for 9,640 recipients, while the actual average award at year end was \$5,008.

FY25 State-Funded Financial Aid Program Summaries

All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship

The All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship is designed to provide need-based scholarships to recent high school graduates or students who aged out of Iowa foster care. Iowa residents who qualify can utilize the scholarship at Iowa community colleges, Regent universities and participating Iowa private colleges and universities. Students can receive up to eight full-time awards or the part-time equivalent.

Iowa administrative rule stipulates the priority criteria used to award funds if all eligible applicants cannot be awarded. The priority categories are listed in order below:

1. Eligible foster care students – all qualified applicants awarded in AY25.
2. Eligible surviving-child students – all qualified applicants awarded in AY25.
3. All remaining renewal students (students who received the award in AY24) —all qualified applicants awarded in AY25.
4. Students who participated in federal TRIO programs, alternative programs in high school or graduated from alternative high schools – 31.4% of qualified applicants awarded in AY25.
5. Students who participated in federal GEAR UP programs – no awards in this priority category in AY25.
6. All remaining applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for the scholarship – no awards in this priority category in AY25.

In AY 24-25, a total of 857 students were designated to receive the scholarship, and of those students 768 attended an eligible institution and received the award. A total of \$3,494,324 in scholarship funding was distributed, with an average award of \$4,491. The median SAI of recipients was -1,500, which is the lowest SAI possible (indicating the highest level of financial need a student can demonstrate). A total of 4,207 students completed an application for the scholarship. Table 5 illustrates All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship recipient attendance by Iowa higher education sector.

Table 5. All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Recipient Attendance

Recipients & Awards	Community Colleges	Regent Universities	Private Colleges/Universities
Recipients	291	335	152
Maximum Award	\$5,198	\$5,198	\$5,198
Average Award	\$4,162	\$4,618	\$4,843
Expenditures	\$1,211,181	\$1,546,876	\$736,267

Future Ready Iowa Grant

The Future Ready Iowa Grant is designed to provide up to four full-time grants, or the part-time equivalent, to students who are at least age 25 and are enrolled in high-demand programs of study at Regent universities, participating Iowa private colleges and universities and accredited and approved virtual institutions (which do not need to be located in Iowa).

The established high-demand program categories for the AY 24-25 included registered nursing, teacher preparation and social work. Funding is prioritized based on the date the application was submitted by the student. Eligible applicants were designated for awards in date-received order.

A total of 3,857 students applied for funding, 282 were designated for an award and 136 received funding. A total of \$289,296 in grant funding was distributed to students. Table 6 illustrates Future Ready Iowa Grant recipient attendance by Iowa higher education sector.

Table 6. Future Ready Iowa Grant Recipient Attendance

Recipients, Programs & Awards	Iowa Regent Universities	Iowa Private Colleges and Universities	Accredited and Approved Virtual Institutions
Total Recipients	35	98	3
Teacher Preparation Recipients	15	91	3
Registered Nursing Recipients	14	1	0
Social Work Recipients	6	6	0
Maximum Award	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Average Award	\$2,126	\$2,131	\$2,000
Expenditures	\$74,415	\$208,881	\$6,000

Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship

The Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship is designed to provide up to eight part-time awards, or the full-time equivalent, to students enrolled in short-term, high-demand programs at Iowa community colleges and participating Iowa private colleges and universities.

Short-term programs include certificates, diplomas and associate degrees, and must be career/technical education programs. In AY 24-25, a total of 83 statewide and 32 regional programs of study were approved as eligible.

The maximum award covers a student's tuition and institution-wide mandatory fees minus other federal and state non-repayable aid. All qualified students receive at least \$500 if enrolled full time (prorated for part-time enrollment).

To be eligible in AY 24-25, a student must have filed the FAFSA on or before June 30, 2024, had an SAI at or below \$20,000 and have enrolled in an eligible program at an eligible postsecondary institution. A total of 36,856 students applied for funding and 10,519 received awards. A total of \$18,683,158 was distributed to students through the scholarship. Table 7 provides data on recipients who enrolled in the top-five programs of study in Iowa's community colleges, and award amounts. Table 8 details the number of recipients who enrolled in the top-five programs at Iowa's private colleges and universities and award amounts.

Table 7. Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship Recipient Attendance – Top Five Community College Programs

Top Five Programs & Awards	Recipient Enrollment & Award Amount
Total Community College Recipients	10,160
Nursing (RN,LPN)	1,382
Business Administration	706
Accounting	542
Computer Programming	450
Automotive Mechanic Technician	436
Largest Award	\$11,178
Average Award	\$1,800
Expenditures	\$18,292,106

Table 8. Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship Recipient Attendance – Top Five Iowa Private College/University Programs

Top Five Programs & Awards	Recipient Enrollment & Award Amount
Total Private College/University Recipients	399
Nursing	143
Diagnostic Medical Sonography	111
Radiologic Technology	60
Paramedicine	20
Physical Therapy Assistant	15
Largest Award	\$7,679
Average Award	\$1,089
Expenditures	\$391,052

Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship

The Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship provides members of the Iowa National Guard with up to 120 credit hours of scholarship awards if they attend an Iowa community college, Regent university or a participating Iowa private college or university. The maximum award is equal to the average tuition rate at the Regent universities, or the tuition rate charged by the institution, whichever is lower. Awards can be applied to any component in the cost of attendance at the institution.

A total of 1,151 students applied for funding, and 844 received an award. A total of \$5,182,166 was distributed to students through the scholarship.

Table 9. Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship Recipient Attendance

Recipients & Awards	Iowa Community Colleges	Iowa Regent Universities	Iowa Private Colleges/Universities
Recipients	247	386	120
Expenditures	\$908,068	\$3,455,043	\$819,055
Average Award	\$3,676	\$7,095	\$6,825

Iowa Tuition Grant: For-Profit

The for-profit Iowa Tuition Grant provides need-based tuition grants to students enrolled in participating Iowa barber and cosmetology schools. One institution currently participates - LaJames International College. Qualified applicants can receive up to four full-time grants or the part-time equivalent. Grants are applied directly to outstanding tuition charges.

To be eligible, Iowa residents must have filed the FAFSA by July 1, 2024 and had an SAI at or below \$13,000. The maximum award in 2024-25 was \$800. A total of \$62,373 was distributed through grants to 98 students during AY 24-25, with grant awards averaging \$636 per recipient. Participating schools are required to match 100% of the Iowa Tuition Grant funds received by their students with institutional financial aid to those same students.

Iowa Tuition Grant: Not-for-Profit

The Iowa Tuition Grant provides need-based tuition grants to Iowa residents enrolled at participating Iowa private colleges and universities. During AY 24-25, 28 institutions participated in the program. Qualified applicants can receive up to eight full-time grants or the part-time equivalent. Grants are applied directly to outstanding tuition charges.

Iowa residents must have filed the FAFSA on or July 1, 2024 and had an SAI at or below \$16,000 to qualify. The maximum award was \$8,500. A total of 8,127 students received an average grant award of \$6,951, with ICA distributing a total of \$56,488,034 in grants to offset students' tuition costs.

Participating institutions are required to provide a dollar-for-dollar match of institutional funds for students receiving Iowa Tuition Grants. In AY 24-25 institutions provided \$128,680,300 in matching funds to their Iowa Tuition Grant recipients.

Table 10. Iowa Tuition Grant – Not-for-Profit Awards

Recipients & Awards	Amount
Recipients	8,127
Expenditures	\$56,488,034
Maximum Award	\$8,500
Average Award	\$6,951
Average Institutional Match	\$15,834
Average Eligible Private College/University Tuition	\$35,796

Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant

The Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program provides need-based tuition grants to Iowa residents who enroll in career and technical education (CTE) programs at Iowa community colleges. Qualified Iowa residents can receive up to five full-time awards or the part-time equivalent.

Iowa residents must have filed the FAFSA on or before July 15, 2024 and had an SAI of \$201 to \$6,800 to qualify. Maximum awards ranged from \$200 for a full-time student at the lower end of the SAI range, to \$1,200 per full-time student at the top end of the SAI range. (The program works in conjunction with the federal Pell Grant, so as SAI increases, the Pell Grants decrease, and the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant offsets those decreases.) Overall, 1,976 students received a total of \$1,752,452 in grants, providing an average award of \$887 per recipient.

Table 11. Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Recipient Attendance –Top Five Programs

Top Five Programs & Awards	Recipient Enrollment & Award Amount
Recipients	1,976
Nursing (RN,LPN)	373
Business Administration	144
Criminal Justice	79
Accounting	73
Computer Programming	65
Maximum Award	\$1,200
Expenditures	\$1,752,452
Average Award	\$887
Average Community College Tuition/Fees	\$6,815

Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant (Kibbie Grant)

Established in 2012, the Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant provides need-based grants to Iowa residents enrolled in high-demand CTE programs at Iowa community colleges. Iowa residents can qualify for up to five full-time grants or the part-time equivalent.

Iowa residents must have filed the FAFSA on or before July 1, 2024 and had an SAI at or below \$6,000 to qualify. Maximum awards ranged from \$400 at the lower end of the SAI range to \$3,000 per full-time student at the higher end of the SAI range. A total of 6,249 students received \$4,974,470 in grants, averaging \$796 per recipient.

Table 12. Skilled Workforce Tuition Grant Recipient Attendance – Top 5 Programs

Top 5 Programs and Awards	Recipient Enrollment & Award Amount
Recipients	6,249
Nursing (RN,LPN)	1,426
Criminal Justice/Political Science	295
Accounting	266
Automotive Mechanic Technician	249
Computer Programming	247
Maximum Award (including summer)	\$4,500
Expenditures	\$4,974,470
Average Award	\$796
Average Community College Tuition/Fees	\$6,815

Workforce Grant and Incentive Program

The Iowa Workforce Grant and Incentive Program provides up to four full-time grants or the part-time equivalent to juniors and seniors enrolled in high-demand programs at Iowa Regent Universities. Iowa Workforce Development and the Iowa Regent Universities determine the list of high-demand programs. During AY 24-25, a total of 125 high-demand programs at Iowa Regent Universities were eligible for funding.

Iowa residents must have filed the FAFSA on or before July 1, 2024 and had an SAI at or below \$7,000 to qualify. The maximum award for full-time students was \$1,180 for the academic year. A total of 3,676 students received \$3,450,007 in grants, averaging \$939 per recipient.

Students who receive a Workforce Grant and graduate can qualify for an income incentive payment of up to \$2,000 if they remain in Iowa and are employed full-time in a high-demand job within six months of graduation. The incentive payment is paid directly to the individual after verifying with their employer that they worked full-time for 12 consecutive months in the high-demand job. During FY25, 131 recipients received a total of \$262,000 in incentive payments.

Table 13. Workforce Grant and Incentive Program Recipient Attendance – Top 5 Programs

Recipient Programs & Awards Information	Recipient Enrollment & Award Amount
Recipients	3,676
Elementary Education	380
Biology	181
Computer Science	179
Psychology	159
Business Administration	138
Maximum Award	\$1,180
Expenditures	\$3,450,007
Average Award	\$939
Average Full-Time Tuition/Fees	\$10,669

Health Care Award Program

The Health Care Award Program provides a \$6,000 annual income bonus to registered nurses (RNs), advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) or physician assistants (PAs) who agree to practice full-time in rural Iowa for five consecutive years, and to nurse educators who agree to teach full time at eligible Iowa colleges and universities for five consecutive years. The intent of the program is to increase the number of health care practitioners practicing in rural Iowa and retain them in those communities.

Eligible health care practitioners do not have to complete their training at an Iowa college or university, but must qualify for an Iowa license to practice.

A total of 103 new applications were received during the 2024-25 application cycle, and 26 new applicants were designated to receive awards. A total of \$780,000 in funding was obligated to these designees, which will be paid out over the course of the next five years as completion of their service obligation is verified. Eighty-seven percent of applicants graduated from Iowa high schools, and 72% of applicants completed their health care training program of study in Iowa.

Table 14. Health Care Award Program Applications

Applications & Awards	Nurse Educators	RNs	ARNPs	PAs
Applications Received	25	61	24	8
Award Designations	7	7	7	5

Health Care Professional Recruitment Program

The Health Care Professional Recruitment Program was established to increase the number of ARNPs, athletic trainers (ATs), occupational therapists (OTs), physical therapists (PTs), physicians (phys.), PAs, podiatrists (pod.) and RNs practicing in rural Iowa. A health care professional who signs an agreement and practices in a rural Iowa community for up to four consecutive years can qualify for up to \$50,000 in loan repayment awards. The rural community in which the health care professional is serving is required to match the state loan repayment award on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Eligible health care professionals must have graduated from an eligible Iowa college or university.

A total of 63 applications were received during the 2024-25 application cycle, 56 of which were eligible for funding. Twenty new applicants were designated to receive awards, with \$692,665 in total funding obligated to these designees. This funding will be paid directly to their federal student loan servicers over the course of the next four years as completion of their service obligation is verified. Recipients on average reported an average of \$123,785 in outstanding federal student loans. Eighty-five percent of recipients graduated from Iowa high schools and 100% of recipients completed their health care training program of study in Iowa.

Table 15. Health Care Professional Recruitment Program Applications & Awards

Applications & Awards	ARNP	AT	OT	PT	Phys.	PA	Pod.	RN
Eligible	4	1	7	38	0	3	0	3
Award	4	1	4	5	0	3	0	3
Average Award	\$46,816	\$5,000	\$40,000	\$47,660	0	\$29,033	\$0	\$5,000
Recipient Average Student Loan Debt	\$117,240	\$16,542	\$180,411	\$150,049	NA	\$146,686	NA	\$26,083

Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program

The Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program was established to increase the number of non-prescribing mental health practitioners serving high-need communities in Iowa. A mental health professional who signs a program agreement can receive up to \$40,000 in loan repayment awards if they complete up to five consecutive years of full-time service or seven consecutive years of part-time service.

A total of 57 eligible applications were received during the 2024-25 application cycle, and 15 were designated to receive awards. A total of \$600,000 in funding was obligated to these designees, which will be paid directly to their federal student loan servicers over the course of the next seven to nine years as completion of their service obligation is verified. One-hundred percent of recipients completed their health care training program of study in Iowa.

Table 16. Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Applications & Awards

Nurse Educators	Psychologists	Social Workers	Marriage & Family Therapists	Mental Health Counselors
Eligible Applications	1	24	1	31
Award Designations	0	3	0	12
Average Award	NA	\$40,000	NA	\$40,000
Average Student Loan	NA	65,724	NA	\$47,193

Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program

The Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program was established in 2012 to help address the critical doctor shortages in rural Iowa communities. A graduate of a doctor of medicine or a doctor of osteopathy degree program from the University of Iowa or Des Moines University who signs a program agreement can receive up to \$200,000 in loan repayment awards if they complete up to five years of full-time service in rural Iowa.

During the 2024-25 application cycle, 13 graduates were designated to receive awards, obligating \$2,350,098 in loan repayment awards. These funds are paid directly to the federal student loan servicer as the employment obligation is completed, and following completion of an eligible residency program. Individuals who were designated for an award reported an average of \$259,078 in outstanding federal student loans.

Enough time has passed for the first three cohorts of recipients to have completed their residency and employment obligations. A total of 29 Iowa medical school graduates were designated for an award in AY 13-14, AY 14-15 and AY 15-16. Twenty-six of those individuals completed an eligible residency program. (At that time, the Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment required completion of an Iowa-based residency program.) Fourteen of those individuals (54%) began work in an eligible area in Iowa. All 14 (100%) of those recipients completed five years of practice in eligible areas of Iowa. The following table provides the number of individuals who signed program agreements since the inception of the program, by specialty.

Table 17. Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program Agreements 2013-25

AY	Participants	Family Med.	Pediatrics	Gen. Surgery	Psychiatry	Internal Med.	OB
13-14	8	5	2	1	0	0	0
14-15	12	10	0	0	1	1	0
15-16	9	7	1	0	0	1	0
16-17	10	7	1	0	2	0	0
17-18	12	9	1	0	2	0	0
18-19	11	6	2	1	1	1	0
19-20	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
20-21	13	8	1	1	2	1	0
21-22	17	12	1	1	0	3	0
22-23	18	13	3	0	1	1	0
23-24	17	13	2	2	0	0	0
24-25	13	5	1	0	5	1	1
Total	149	104	15	6	14	9	1

Rural Iowa Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program

The Rural Iowa Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program was established to help address critical veterinarian shortages in Iowa. Selected applicants who sign program agreements can receive up to \$60,000 in loan repayment awards if they complete up to four years of full-time employment in high-need areas.

Thirty-one applications were received during the 2024-25 application cycle, and 15 were designated to receive awards. A total of \$900,000 was obligated to these designees, which will be paid directly to their federal student loan servicers over the course of the next four years as completion of their service obligation is verified. On average, recipients reported \$101,451 in outstanding federal student loans.

Seventy-four percent of applicants graduated from Iowa high schools, and 92% of applicants completed their veterinary medical training program of study in Iowa.

Teach Iowa Scholar

The Teach Iowa Scholar Program provides qualified Iowa teachers with awards of up to \$4,000 annually, for up to five years, for teaching in designated instructional shortage areas in Iowa schools. Qualified teachers must have completed in the top 25% academically of all teacher preparation program graduates at their institution. A qualified teacher can choose to receive the payment directly as an income bonus or request to have the award applied to their outstanding federal student loans.

In the 2024-25 application cycle, 409 teachers applied for funding and 187 received awards totaling \$748,000. Approximately 58% of recipients chose to receive the award as an income bonus. Recipients who elected to have the award applied to their outstanding federal student loan balance reported an average loan debt of \$23,636.