

## CHAPTER 14

### Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Last Dollar Scholarship (Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship)

Established in 2018, the Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship (LDS) provides financial assistance to Iowa residents enrolled in certain career and technical education (CTE) programs leading to certificate, diploma and associate degrees at Iowa community colleges and eligible private colleges and universities. Scholarships for students amount to the remaining tuition and institution-wide mandatory fees charged after other federal and state scholarships and grant aid have been awarded. A [Historical Appropriations Summary](#) can be found on the Iowa Department of Education's Higher Ed and Postsecondary Readiness Reports site.

#### A. ELIGIBILITY

##### 1. College/University

To be eligible to participate in the LDS, institutions must be an Iowa-supported community college defined in Iowa Code Section 260C.2 or a private college/university defined in Iowa Code Section 256.183, which offers an eligible program of study aligned with a high-demand job.

An eligible institution must:

- Require students to attend an orientation session, in-person or virtually, for the eligible institution.
- Require students to register for courses with the assistance of an advisor and participate in available academic advising sessions.
- Require students to create a graduation plan if required in the program of study.
- Require students to participate in available career advising sessions if required in the program of study, including creation of a career plan when possible.
- Facilitate connections through campus career centers and services to internships and similar local, state, and federal programs.
- Market eligible Future Ready Iowa programs of study on the institution's website.
- Report information annually to the Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Iowa College Aid (Iowa College Aid).

Students attending the following colleges are eligible to receive LDS awards:

Community College	Location
Des Moines Area Community College	Des Moines
Eastern Iowa Community College	Clinton, Muscatine, Bettendorf
Hawkeye Community College	Waterloo
Indian Hills Community College	Ottumwa, Centerville
Iowa Central Community College	Fort Dodge
Iowa Lakes Community College	Estherville
Iowa Valley Community College	Ellsworth, Marshalltown
Iowa Western Community College	Council Bluffs
Kirkwood Community College	Cedar Rapids
North Iowa Area Community College	Mason City
Northeast Iowa Community College	Calmar, Peosta
Northwest Iowa Community College	Sheldon
Southeastern Community College	Burlington
Southwestern Community College	Creston
Western Iowa Tech Community College	Sioux City

Private College	Location
Allen College	Waterloo
Dordt University	Sioux Center
Mercy College of Health Sciences	Des Moines
St. Luke's College	Sioux City

Each institution must complete an initial application for participation in the LDS. Institution officials must submit the application and supporting documentation establishing accreditation or accreditation plans before October 1 prior to the application year in which they want to participate. If the institution's application is approved prior to October 1, students at the institution may begin submitting need analysis applications (FAFSAs) in October to apply for funds. In summary, if a college application is received and approved prior to October 1, students attending that college could apply for LDS funding for the next academic year on October 1.

At any time after the institution is approved for LDS participation, if no disbursements are made for three consecutive years, the institution will be required to complete another application if it wishes to continue participation in the program. For example, if there are no disbursements in 2025-26, 2026-27, or 2027-28, an application must be completed by October 2027 to continue participation in LDS for 2028-29.

## **2. Student**

In addition to the general eligibility requirements found in Chapter 1, eligible LDS recipients must be admitted and in attendance in an eligible Title IV program of study of at least 15 weeks in length that confers no more than an associate degree.

The maximum eligible Student Aid Index (SAI) for recipients for the 2025-2026 academic year is 20,000. Students who received the Last-Dollar Scholarship in the 2024-2025 academic year but whose SAI is now above 20,000 are eligible for the Last-Dollar Scholarships during the 2025-2026 academic year as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements.

If a dependent student's parents refuse to provide information and the student is forced to only be awarded loans due to parent refusal, the student is not eligible for LDS.

Eligible students will be placed in one of two groups:

- Group 1 - Enroll in an eligible program of study at an eligible institution on at least a half time basis (minimum 6 credits or equivalent) after graduating from an Iowa high school or completion of a homeschool program or an equivalency diploma.
- Group 2 - Following completion of high school or a high school equivalency diploma, and on or after attaining age twenty, enroll on at least a half-time basis (minimum 6 credits or the equivalent) in an eligible program at an eligible institution. Age is calculated as of July 1 prior to the year of enrollment.

Once a student receives a payment in a certain group, they will remain in that group until they are no longer eligible for LDS.

### **3. Program of Study**

The Iowa Workforce Development Board will update and approve the list of statewide high-demand jobs used for LDS. Iowa College Aid translates these high-demand jobs (using standard occupation classification codes) to corresponding programs of study (using classification of instructional program codes). Iowa College Aid will work with participating colleges annually to update the list of eligible programs of study offered at each institution. Statewide workforce shortage programs (all of which are CTE programs) are approved by Iowa College Aid and Iowa Workforce Development in consultation with the Iowa Department of Education.

Each participating community college also has authority to identify up to five additional regional high-demand jobs. Each community college must consult with regional career and technical education planning partnerships, and obtain approval from the board of directors at the community college when developing the list of regional jobs. Once finalized and approved, only students enrolled in the programs of study aligned with the regional jobs at that community college may receive an LDS (ex. A student at ABC Community College could not receive an LDS if enrolled in a program of study that is not aligned with a statewide high-demand job or that is not aligned with a regional job submitted by ABC Community College.)

## **B. STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS**

Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as described in Chapter 1, on or before the deadline established by Iowa College Aid, as students are required to apply for all federal and state non-repayable financial aid each year.

## **C. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS**

Institution officials award scholarships to eligible students. Recipients must be on-time applicants (those meeting the priority application deadline for 2025-2026). The Application Receipt Date on the student's Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) MUST indicate that the student met the priority filing deadline of December 31.

**NEW!** As of December 12, 2025, the ISIR deadline was updated to June 30, 2026.

Eligible students must be enrolled in eligible programs of study to be awarded the LDS. CIP codes are reported by college administrators in the Iowa College Aid Processing System (ICAPS®) for each recipient. All institutions participating in LDS can award students enrolled in a program of study aligned with the statewide list of

eligible programs. Only students enrolled in regional programs of study identified by the specific community college can be awarded the LDS.

ICAPS will flag each eligible student with their eligibility group (Group 1 or 2). If a student does not receive LDS under Group 1 and subsequently turns 20 as of July 1 prior to the academic year, the student's flag will change to Group 2 to allow eligibility as a Group 2 recipient.

If a student is taking prerequisites before being admitted into a program, the student will not qualify for LDS if the student is not enrolled in an eligible program. Once enrolled in an eligible program a student will qualify for LDS as long as all other requirements are met. If a student is enrolled in an eligible program after turning 20 (both first-time enrollees and continuing students), and did not receive an LDS payment as a Group 1 recipient, that student may qualify as a Group 2 recipient as long as all other requirements are met.

Students who are required to complete arts and science classes as a part of their eligible program of study may have these classes included as eligible classes for LDS funding as long as those students are enrolled in eligible CTE programs.

Students taking remedial courses are also eligible for LDS funding as long as those students are enrolled in eligible CTE programs and the remedial courses are eligible for Title IV aid.

Students with a bachelor's degree may receive LDS if they enroll in an eligible program of study and meet all other eligibility criteria.

## **D. AWARDING**

### **1. Award Amounts**

The maximum LDS is the amount of tuition and institution-wide mandatory fees charged by the institution minus federal and state non-repayable aid. Only fees which are consistently charged to all on-ground or all online students at the institution should be included as institution-wide fees for LDS.

A material fee, an activity fee, or a tech fee charged to all students enrolled in all on-ground programs of study at the college would qualify for LDS. An online charge assessed to all online students at the institution would also qualify. Program-specific fees or one-time fees (i.e. graduation fees) are not included.

State and Federal programs that must be included in the calculation are as follows:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
- All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship
- Education & Training Voucher Program
- Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship
- Iowa Tuition Grant
- Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant
- Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant (Kibbie Grant)

Community colleges must use the actual tuition and institution-wide mandatory fees charged to the student, after subtracting federal and state non-repayable aid, to calculate the award.

Students are required to apply for and accept the maximum federal and state non-repayable aid prior to the calculation of last-dollar scholarship.

If a student meets his or her cost of attendance with other aid, colleges should reduce other aid to allow for the payment of the minimum LDS in order to allow the student to remain eligible due to continuous enrollment/receipt.

There is no maximum to the number of credits in a term that a student can receive LDS. If all credits are required for the eligible program of study, the student can receive LDS for any number of credits in a given term. However, only Title IV credits are eligible.

Private colleges must use the average tuition and fees charged at Iowa's community colleges in the prior academic year, after subtracting federal and state non-repayable aid, to calculate the award. The annual average full-time tuition and institution-wide fees at Iowa's community colleges in the prior academic year was \$5,275 and awards cannot exceed the annual average.

### Average Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees

Enrollment Level	Credits	Fall
Full-time (F)	12+	\$2,638
Three-quarter time (P)	11	\$2,427
	10	\$2,189
	9	\$1,978
Half-time (H)	8	\$1,767
	7	\$1,530
	6	\$1,319
Less-than-half-time (L)*	5	\$1,108
	4	\$ 870
	3	\$ 659

\*Only allowed if final term of program

The following chart provides the minimum LDS award allowed per credit. Please note, unlike other Iowa College Aid programs, the LDS pays each full-time student a minimum of \$250 per semester, or equivalent, even if the award calculation (tuition/fees minus state/federal programs) results in an award of less than \$250 per full-time semester. The minimum amount from the following chart should be awarded to students if their calculated award is less than the amount on the chart. For minimum LDS, awards will be based on the enrollment status and not enrollment intensity.

### Semester Minimum Award

Enrollment Level	Credits	Fall	Spring	Summer
Full-time (F)	12+	\$250	\$250	\$250
Three-quarter time (P)	9-11	\$188	\$187	\$188
Half-time (H)	6-8	\$125	\$125	\$125
Less-than-half-time (L)*	3-5	\$ 63	\$ 62	\$ 63

\*Only allowed if final term of program

### Quarter Minimum Award

Enrollment Level	Semester Credits	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Full-time (F)	8+	\$167	\$167	\$166	\$250
Three-quarter time (P)	6-7	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$188
Half-time (H)	4-5	\$ 84	\$ 83	\$ 83	\$125
Less-than-half-time (L)*	3	\$ 42	\$ 42	\$ 41	\$ 63

\*Only allowed if final term of program

Summer payments are allowed when authorized explicitly by Iowa College Aid. Summer awards are authorized for the 2025-2026 school year.

## 2. Awarding priority

If funding is not sufficient to award all eligible students in a semester, Iowa College Aid will prioritize students based on returning LDS students and then by application receipt date. Iowa College Aid will notify colleges if prioritization is necessary.

## 3. Community College Awarding Scenarios

A full-time student with an SAI of -1,500 taking 15 credits at a semester based community college. Tuition is \$160 per credit hour and institution-wide fees are \$40 per credit hour:

Tuition	\$ 2,400
Institution-Wide Fees	\$ 600
Pell Grant	\$ (3,698)
Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant	\$ (100)
Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant	\$ -
<u>Remaining Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees</u>	<u>\$ (798)</u>
 <b>LDS Amount</b>	 <b>\$ 250</b>



A half-time student with an SAI of 1,101 taking 6 credits at a semester based community college. Tuition is \$160 per credit hour and institution-wide fees are \$40 per credit hour:

Tuition	\$ 960
Institution-Wide Fees	\$ 240
Pell Grant	\$ (1,849)
Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant	\$ (700)
Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant	\$ (450)
<u>Remaining Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees</u>	<u>\$ (1,799)</u>
<b>LDS Amount</b>	<b>\$ 125</b>

A full-time student with an SAI of 20,000 taking 12 credits online at a community college. Tuition is \$160 per credit hour and institution-wide fees are \$40 per credit hour for online students:

Tuition	\$ 1,920
Institution-Wide Fees	\$ 480
Pell Grant	\$ -
Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant	\$ -
Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant	\$ -
<u>Remaining Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees</u>	<u>\$ 2,400</u>
<b>LDS Amount</b>	<b>\$ 2,400</b>

#### 4. Private College/University Awarding Scenarios

A full-time student with an SAI of 0 taking 15 credits at a private college/university. Tuition is \$1,000 per credit hour and institution-wide fees are \$100 per credit hour:

Average Community College Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees	\$ 2,638
Pell Grant	\$ (3,698)
Iowa Tuition Grant	\$ (3,750)
<u>Remaining Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees</u>	<u>\$ (4,810)</u>
<b>LDS Amount</b>	<b>\$ 250</b>

A half-time student with an SAI of 1,101 taking 6 credits at a private college/university. Tuition is \$1,000 per credit hour and institution-wide fees are \$100 per credit hour:

Average Community College Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees	\$ 1,319
Pell Grant	\$ (1,849)
Iowa Tuition Grant	\$ (1,875)
<u>Remaining Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees</u>	<u>\$ (2,405)</u>
 LDS Amount	 \$ 125

A full-time student with an SAI of 20,000 taking 12 credits at a private college/university. Tuition is \$1,000 per credit hour and institution-wide fees are \$100 per credit hour:

Average Community College Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees	\$ 2,638
Pell Grant	\$ -
Iowa Tuition Grant	\$ -
<u>Remaining Tuition and Institution-Wide Fees</u>	<u>\$ 2,638</u>
 LDS Amount	 \$ 2,638

## E. AWARD OFFERS

College officials must provide award notices to all LDS recipients. Award notices must clearly indicate award amounts and the state programs from which students will benefit. All notices concerning state grants must include the following award notification statement:

**NEW!** “The amount of grant money you receive from the Iowa Department of Education may change based on state funding.”

Iowa College Aid recommends award notices to LDS recipients include the following standard language.

**“As a recipient of the Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship, you must meet certain criteria to keep your scholarship. Visit [educate.iowa.gov](http://educate.iowa.gov) for more information about ongoing requirements.”**

## F. RENEWAL AND LIFETIME ELIGIBILITY

Students can receive a maximum of 8 part-time awards or the equivalent. Students must maintain continuous enrollment/receipt and must be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours. LDS students are not required to enroll in the summer to maintain continuous enrollment. However, if a student chooses to enroll during the summer and they receive LDS, that student will be required to enroll in the following fall to maintain continuous enrollment and the summer award will count toward the lifetime limit.

ICAPS determines the lifetime maximum by the usage of points. Students can receive a lifetime maximum of 8 part-time awards or 3 points. The following chart indicates the point values given per term based on the enrollment status indicated in the ICAPS.

**Points Established by Enrollment Status**

Enrollment Status	Credits	Semester Points	Quarter Points
Full-time (F)	12+	0.5	0.333
Three-quarter time (P)	9-11	0.375	0.25
Half-time (H)	6-8	0.25	0.167
Less-than-half-time (L)	3-5	0.125	0.083

Information on previous payments is found in ICAPS under the 'Payment History' section of the student record or by utilizing the grant history report in ICAPS.

If a student enrolled in an LDS program of study subsequently withdraws from the core classes during that term of enrollment, the student may remain eligible for the LDS disbursement for that term of enrollment. If other eligibility criteria, such as enrollment level, is not met, the student may no longer be eligible for LDS after that term. If a student loses eligibility after receiving a disbursement of LDS, that student is ineligible for LDS in future terms of enrollment.

Any student who establishes (attends) the required minimum enrollment and partially withdraws, but does not completely withdraw, will be allowed to continue to receive the last-dollar scholarship and will be considered to be meeting the minimum enrollment requirement for continuous enrollment. For example, if a Group 1 student enrolls in and attends 6 credit hours, drops a 3 credit hour course after the census date and is charged for 6 credits, that student will continue to be eligible in the following term as long as the student attended the course beyond the census date.

A student who completely withdraws, officially or unofficially, and whose last day of attendance was later than 60% into the part-of-term, is considered to be continuously enrolled. A student who completely withdraws, officially or unofficially, and whose last day of attendance was earlier than 60% into the part-of-term, will not be considered to be continuously enrolled. The last date of attendance should be calculated as is done for Title IV aid.

ICAPS will consistently identify students as a Group 1 or Group 2 recipient. Once final disbursements are reported for a term, ICAPS will make recipients ineligible for future terms if they are not continuously enrolled in an eligible program of study at the required enrollment level. It is important to note, if awarding a student prior to a corresponding final reporting deadline their eligibility status may change depending on their receipt and status of LDS in the prior term. In addition, ICAPS will monitor lifetime eligibility used. Refer to the payment history reference guide on the ICAPS training page for more information on lifetime eligibility.

A student who received LDS in an eligible program at a participating college and then transferred to another participating college (while maintaining continuous enrollment and enrollment level requirements) into another eligible program will continue to be eligible as long as the student has not reached the lifetime limit.

A student who received LDS that graduates and immediately enrolls in another program that is eligible (no matter if it is the same CIP or not) will continue to be eligible for LDS up to the lifetime limits as long as all other criteria are met.

If a student discontinues enrollment or falls below the minimum enrollment requirement due to military deployment, a temporary medical incapacity, in relation to the declaration of a national or state emergency, or other exceptional circumstances a waiver form needs to be completed, sent to Iowa College Aid with any supporting documentation and be approved before such student can be considered eligible for the Last Dollar Scholarship in the future. Exceptional circumstances must be beyond the student's control and waivers must be submitted within 2 years of the circumstance (unless military related). Situations that will not qualify for a waiver include but are not limited to missing the application deadline, satisfactory academic progress issues, ineligible SAI, or changing majors to an ineligible major. An electronic version of the waiver form can be found [here](#).

## **G. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

Chapter 3 provides a complete description of the payment process. While tuition and institution-wide fees are used to calculate LDS, the award itself can be applied to any expense within the student's cost of attendance.

LDS disbursements must be made as a student attends courses within a semester/quarter once the minimum threshold is established. If a student is enrolled in a modular program and it is anticipated the student will be eligible for LDS at the time of award, the institution may disburse LDS based on the anticipated enrollment.

In the event a student does not attend a course or set of courses, LDS must be removed or reduced to reflect accurate enrollment for courses attended and the student will lose future eligibility for LDS if the minimum enrollment threshold is not maintained during that term of enrollment. Schools should follow their refund/recalculation policies and award accordingly.

## **H. CHANGES/CORRECTIONS**

Any changes in awards must be provided to Iowa College Aid electronically via ICAPS by the reporting deadlines established in Chapter 3 of the Iowa Student Financial Aid Guide.

## **I. VERIFICATION/COMPLIANCE**

Institution officials are responsible for completing required federal verification procedures and for coordinating all aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility and allowable award amounts.

For students selected for federal verification, one disbursement of state-funded student financial aid may be made prior to completing the verification process as long as institution officials have no reason to believe application information is inaccurate. If students become ineligible for aid due to verification activities, refunds must be made to state-funded programs.

## **J. LAST DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIP SHORTAGE PROGRAMS**

A list of eligible shortage programs by participating college can be found in the attachment to this chapter.