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Legislative Report State Financial Aid Fiscal Year 2024



Department of Education

State of Iowa
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State Financial Aid Annual Report – Fiscal Year 2024

This report is filed pursuant to House File 2153, a bill that consolidated financial aid program reporting requirements under the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Commission).

2023-24 Highlights:

- 140,839 applications for scholarships/grants received and processed
- 31,437 scholarship/grant awards to lowans completing postsecondary credentials
- 275 loan repayment/income bonus awards to lowans working in high-need occupations/locations in Iowa
- \$104,310,833 distributed to lowans through financial aid programs administered by the Bureau of Iowa College Aid (Bureau)

2023-24 Application Process and Summary

Scholarships and Grants:

In 2023-24, the Bureau administered nine state-appropriated scholarship and grant programs, two federal programs and one privately funded scholarship. 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.

The Workforce Grant and Incentive Program, enacted during the 2023 Iowa legislative session, was implemented during the 2023-24 academic year. The entire \$6.5 million appropriation was spent on grants to students in their final two years of high-demand four-year degree programs or teacher preparation programs at Iowa Regent Universities.

The Bureau 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. The Bureau receives all Iowa resident FAFSA applications through an agreement with the United States Department of Education Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA). During the 2023-24 application cycle, a total of 140,839 Iowa resident FAFSAs were received under this agreement. This marks a 2.73 percent increase in total applications from 2022-23 (137,092), and a 4.3 percent decrease from 2019-20 (147,299) (see Table 1). The application cycle typically begins in October prior to the 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 state fiscal year.

Table 1. FAFSA Submissions

Academic Year	Total Iowa Resident FAFSAs	Percent Change
2023-24	140,839	2.73%
2022-23	137,092	-2.39%
2021-22	140,446	-2.86%
2020-21	144,580	-1.85%
2019-20	147,299	

Loan Repayment and Income Bonus Programs

In 2023-24, the Commission 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, and to drive them into high-need occupations and geographical areas in the state by providing either federal student loan repayment or income bonuses.

The following tables display each of the state, federal and privately funded financial aid programs administered by the Commission, and the corresponding FY23 and FY24 funding level for each.

Table 2. Programs

Program	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Appropriation
State-Appropriated Programs		
All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Program (AIOS)	3,229,468	3,229,468
Future Ready Iowa Grant	-	275,000
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)	4,700,000	6,600,000
Iowa Tuition Grant Program -- For-Profit Institutions (ITGp)	500,000	108,000
Iowa Tuition Grant Program -- Not-for-Profit Institutions (ITG)	50,118,451	51,421,531
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	2,504,933
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
Administration (Combined)	591,533	591,533
Total State-Appropriated Funding	95,192,548	104,778,628

Program	FY23 Appropriation	FY24 Appropriation
Federal/Private Funded Programs		
Education and Training Voucher	487,464	451,053
GEAR UP Scholarship	5,574,910	4,255,223
Iowa State Fair Scholarship	6,000	5,286
Total Federal/Private Scholarship/Grant Funding	6,068,374	4,711,562
Grand Total Financial Aid Funding Administered	101,260,922	109,490,190

Scholarship and Tuition Grant Reserve Fund

The Commission administers the Scholarship and Grant Reserve Fund authorized in Iowa Code section 256.193. Iowa Code requires that the Reserve Fund be used “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.” Monies in this fund do not revert to the state unless the funds exceed the maximum allowed balance, which is equal to two percent of the funds appropriated to the Iowa Tuition Grant and Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Programs.

The tables below illustrate the beginning and ending balance of the Scholarship and Grant Reserve Fund for each of the last six state fiscal years, as well as the deposits into, and transfers out of, the fund.

Table 3. Revenues

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Balance Brought Forward from Prior Year	498,811	487,573	397,999	898,627	882,364	1,047,372
Appropriation Ending Balance Transfers into Fund	66,328	397,999	898,627	40,162	556,569	81,316
Total Resources	565,139	885,572	1,296,626	938,789	1,438,933	1,128,688

Table 4. Expenses

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Vocational Technical Tuition Grant	0	10,000	0	56,425	39,561	0
Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship	0	477,573	377,999	0	352,000	0
Iowa Tuition Grant - For Profit	0	0	20,000	0	0	96,094
Teach Iowa Scholar	77,566	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	77,566	487,573	397,999	56,425	391,561	96,094

Table 5. Balances

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Ending Balance Carried Forward to Next FY	487,573	397,999	898,627	882,364	1,047,372	1,065,594
Maximum Balance of Scholarship and Grant Reserve Fund	487,574	498,799	997,597	1,022,049	1,047,373	1,065,594

Award Determination Methodology under Iowa Code Section 256.194

Each year, the Bureau 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 Iowa Tuition Grant Programs (ITG), the Iowa Vocational Technical Tuition Grant Program (IVTG), the Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program (KG), the Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship (LDS) and the Workforce Grant and Incentive Program. The FAFSA serves as the only application for these programs. Awarding parameters are generally released in April or May (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 Expected Family Contribution¹ range, FAFSA filing deadline and maximum award². The awarding parameters are set early in the application cycle to allow colleges and universities to inform applicants 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 has to analyze their college choice based on their financial resources and to secure additional financing, if necessary.

To establish awarding parameters, the Bureau evaluates FAFSA application data from October through April/May to examine application rates. Iowa resident FAFSA applications are imported from the United States Department of Education on a weekly basis. Cumulative application figures are generally dependable if received two weeks prior to the date of analysis³. 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, the Bureau 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 ____ percent of the applications received on or before July 1. This assumption allows the Bureau 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 ____ percent of the eligible applications

¹ The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) 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 most financially needy applicants. For the 2024-25 academic year, the EFC was replaced by the Student Aid Index (SAI), which is calculated through a different federal needs analysis formula than the EFC.

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

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.

received on or before July 1. This assumption allows the Bureau to predict the number of applicants that 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 ____ percent of the maximum award. This assumption allows the Bureau 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 EFC, which impacts eligibility counts.

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 the 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 \$575,585⁶. 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 \$1,505,924⁷. 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.

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.

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.

⁷

	March Eligible Applicants	Eligible Apps to Date in Relation to Eligible Apps on July 1	Total Eligible Apps on July 1	Conversion Rate	Recipients	Average Award	Expenditure	Appropriation	Shortfall
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

State-Funded Financial Aid Program Summaries – FY24

All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship

Established in 2008, 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 FY24
2. Eligible surviving-child students – all qualified applicants awarded in FY24
3. All remaining renewal students (students who received the award in FY23) – all qualified applicants awarded in FY24
4. Students who participated in federal TRIO programs, alternative programs in high school or graduated from alternative high schools - ___% of this population was served
5. Students who participated in federal GEAR UP programs – no awards in this priority category in FY24
6. All remaining applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for the scholarship – no awards in this priority category in FY24

In 2023-24, a total of 925 students were designated to receive the scholarship, and of those students 737 attended an eligible institution and received the award. A total of \$3,294,100 in scholarship funding was distributed, with average award of \$4,470. The median EFC of recipients was 0, which is the lowest EFC possible (indicating the highest level of financial need a student can demonstrate). A total of 5,977 students completed an application for the scholarship. Recipients attended institutions within the following sectors of higher education in Iowa:

Table 6. All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Recipient Attendance

	Community Colleges	Regent Universities	Private Colleges/Universities
Recipients	304	306	134
Maximum Award	\$5,198	\$5,198	\$5,198
Average Award	\$4,005	\$4,714	\$4,733
Average full-time	\$6,518	\$10,396	\$36,350
Expenditures	\$1,217,557	\$1,442,372	\$634,171

Future Ready Iowa Grant

Established in 2018 and first funded in 2019, 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 Iowa 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 2023-24 academic year 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, with the final designees applying on October 24, 2023.

A total of 576 students applied for funding, 119 were designated for an award and 99 received funding. A total of \$267,875 in grant funding was distributed to students. Recipients attended institutions within the following sectors of higher education:

Table 7. Future Ready Iowa Grant Recipient Attendance

	Iowa Regent Universities	Iowa Private Colleges/Universities	Accredited and Approved Virtual Institutions
Recipients	29	67	3
Recipients by Program of Study			
Teacher Preparation Programs	19	49	0
Registered Nursing Programs	4	9	3
Social Work Programs	6	9	0
Amounts			
Maximum Award	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Average Award	\$2,806	\$2,672	\$2,500
Expenditures	\$81,375	\$179,000	\$7,500

Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship

Established in 2018 and first funded in 2019, 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 2023-24, a total of 84 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 2023-24, a student must have filed the FAFSA on or before July 15, 2023, have an EFC at or below \$20,000 and enroll in an eligible program at an eligible postsecondary institution. A total of 21,381 students applied for, and 8,013 received, funding. A total of \$18,352,005 was distributed to students through the scholarship.

Table 8. Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship Recipient Attendance

	Iowa Community Colleges		Iowa Private Colleges/Universities
Recipients	7,782		231
Recipients in Top 5 Programs of Study		Recipients in Top 5 Programs of Study	
Nursing (RN,LPN)	1,635	Nursing	126
Criminal Justice/Political Science	372	Radiologic Technology	42
Computer Programming	367	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	37
Automotive Mechanic Technician	364	Physical Therapy Assistant	17
Business Administration	355	Respiratory Care	6
Amounts			
Largest Award	\$11,608		\$7,419
Average Award	\$2,331		\$928
Expenditures	\$18,137,690		\$214,315

Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship

Established in 1996, 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, Iowa Regent University, or participating Iowa private college or university. The maximum award is equal to the average tuition rate at Iowa 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 1,344 students applied for and 958 received funding. A total of \$5,882,013 was distributed to students through the scholarship.

Table 9. Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship Recipient Attendance

	Iowa Community Colleges	Iowa Regent Universities	Iowa Private Colleges/Universities
Recipients	293	541	137
Expenditures	\$1,133,418	\$3,838,240	\$910,355
Average Award	\$3,868	\$7,095	\$6,645

Iowa Tuition Grant – For-Profit

Established in 2017, 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, 2023 and had an EFC at or below \$13,500. The maximum award in 2023-24 was \$1,600. A total of \$170,012 was distributed through grants to 129 students in 2023-24, with grant awards averaging \$1,318 per recipient. Participating schools are required to match 100 percent of the Iowa Tuition Grant funds received by their students with institutional financial aid to those same students. In 2023-24, LaJames International College provided \$170,012 in institutional aid to Iowa Tuition Grant recipients.

Iowa Tuition Grant – Not-for-Profit

Established in 1969, the Iowa Tuition Grant provides need-based tuition grants to Iowa residents enrolled at participating Iowa private colleges and universities. In 2023-24, 28 institutions participated in the program. Waldorf University entered the not-for-profit Iowa Tuition Grant program for the first time in 2023-24, following their conversion from a for-profit to a not-for-profit institution. 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, 2023 and had an EFC at or below \$16,000 to qualify. The maximum award was \$7,500. A total of 8,326 students received an average grant award of \$6,170, distributing a total of \$51,374,755 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 2023-24 institutions provided \$141,329,728 in matching funds to their Iowa Tuition Grant recipients.

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

Recipients and Award Information	Amount
Recipients	8,326
Expenditures	\$51,374,755
Maximum Award	\$7,500
Average Award	\$6,170
Average Institutional Match	\$16,975
Average Private College/University Tuition	\$36,126

Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant

Established in 1973, the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Program provides need-based tuition grants to Iowa residents who enroll in career/technical education 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 1, 2023 and had an EFC of \$201-\$6,000 to qualify. Maximum awards ranged from \$200 for a full-time student at the lower end of the EFC range, to \$1,000 per full-time student at the top end of the EFC range (the program works in conjunction with the Federal Pell Grant, so as EFC increases, the Pell Grants decrease, and the Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant offsets those decreases). Overall, 2,690 students received a total of \$1,717,258 in grants, providing an average award of \$638 per recipient.

Table 11. Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant Recipients and Expenditures

Recipients and Award Information	Amount
Recipients	2,690
Recipients in Top 5 Programs of Study	
Nursing (RN,LPN)	454
Business Administration	181
Computer Programming	120
Accounting	112
Criminal Justice/Political Science	104
Amounts	
Maximum Award	\$1,000
Expenditures	\$1,717,258
Average Award	\$638
Average community college tuition/fees	\$6,518

Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant

Established in 2012, the Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant provides need-based grants to Iowa residents enrolled in high-demand career/technical education 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, 2023 and had an EFC at or below \$6,000 to qualify. Maximum awards ranged from \$900 at the lower end of the EFC range to \$3,000 per full-time student at the higher end of the EFC range. A total of 5,270 students received \$5,210,779 in grants, averaging \$989 per recipient.

Table 12. Skilled Workforce Tuition Grant Recipients

Recipients and Award Information	Amount
Recipients	5,270
Recipients in Top 5 Programs of Study	
Nursing (RN,LPN)	1,222
Criminal Justice/Political Science	267
Computer Programming	259
Automotive Mechanic Technician	233
Welding Technology	180
Maximum Award (including summer)	\$4,500
Expenditures	\$5,210,779
Average Award	\$989
Average Community College Tuition/Fees	\$6,518

Given the similarities between the Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship, Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant and Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant, the [Career and Technical Education Scholarship and Grant Programs Report](#) provides a side-by-side illustration of the eligibility criteria among the three programs.

Workforce Grant and Incentive Program

Established in 2023, 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 the 2023-24 academic year, a total of 123 high-demand programs at Iowa Regent Universities were eligible for funding.

Iowa residents must have filed the FAFSA on or before July 1, 2023 and had an EFC at or below \$7,000 to qualify. The maximum award for full-time students was \$2,400 for the academic year. A total of 3,393 students received \$6,619,622 in grants, averaging \$1,951 per recipient.

Table 13. Workforce Grant and Incentive Program Recipients

Recipients and Award Information	Amount
Recipients	3,393
Recipients by Program	
Elementary Education	351
Computer Occupations	148
Biology	134
Psychology	126
Business Administration	124
Maximum Award	\$2,400
Expenditures	\$6,619,622
Average Award	\$1,951
Average full-time tuition/fees	\$10,396

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. The first Incentive Payments will be paid in FY25.

Health Care Award Program

Established in 2022, the Health Care Award Program provides a \$6,000 annual income bonus to registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners or physician assistants 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 150 new applications were received during the 2023-24 application cycle, and 20 new applicants were designated to receive awards. A total of \$600,000 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 69 percent of applicants completed their health care training program of study in Iowa.

Table 14. Health Care Award Program Applications

	Nurse Educators	Registered Nurses	Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners	Physician Assistants
Applications Received	38	70	26	16
Award Designations	5	5	5	5

Health Care Professional Recruitment Program

The Health Professional Recruitment Program was established to increase the number of advanced registered nurse practitioners, athletic trainers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, physicians, physician assistants, podiatrists and registered nurses practicing in rural Iowa. A health care professional who signs an agreement and practices in a rural community in Iowa 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 61 applications were received during the 2023-24 application cycle, 44 of which were eligible for funding. A total of 25 new applicants were designated to receive awards. A total of \$805,033 in funding 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. Recipients, on average, reported an average of \$115,055 in outstanding federal student loans. Eighty-four percent of recipients graduated from Iowa high schools, and 100 percent of recipients completed their health care training program of study in Iowa.

Table 15. Health Care Professional Recruitment Program Applications

	Adv. Reg. Nurse Practitioners	Athletic Trainers	Occ. Therapists	Phys. Therapists	Physicians	Phys. Assts.	Podiatrists	Reg. Nurses
Eligible	3	3	4	30	0	1	2	1
Award	3	3	4	11	0	1	2	1
Average Award	\$26,667	\$38,333	\$30,470	\$36,559	0	\$25,000	\$28,000	\$5,000
Recipient Average Student Loan Debt	\$113,043	\$76,725	\$101,749	\$114,922	NA	\$112,164	\$233,153	\$57,455

Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program

The Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program was established in 2022 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 68 eligible applications were received during the 2023-24 application cycle, and 13 were designated to receive awards. A total of \$520,000 in funding was obligated to these designees, which will be paid directly to their federal student loan servicers over the course of the next five to eight years as completion of their service obligation is verified. A total of 100 percent of recipients completed their health care training program of study in Iowa.

Table 16. Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Applications

	Psychologists	Social Workers	Marriage and Family Therapists	Mental Health Counselors
Eligible Applications	0	39	2	27
Award Designations	0	7	0	6
Average Award	NA	\$40,000	NA	\$40,000
Average Student Loan	NA	\$80,967	NA	\$67,728

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 degree or 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.

In 2023-24, 17 graduates were designated to receive awards, obligating \$3,265,847 in loan repayment awards which 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 \$263,589 in outstanding federal student loans.

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

Academic Year	Total	Family Medicine	Pediatrics	General Surgery	Psychiatry	Internal Medicine
2013-2014	8	5	2	1	0	0
2014-2015	12	10	0	0	1	1
2015-2016	9	7	1	0	0	1
2016-2017	10	7	1	0	2	0
2017-2018	12	9	1	0	2	0
2018-2019	11	6	2	1	1	1
2019-2020	9	9	0	0	0	0
2020-2021	13	8	1	1	2	1
2021-2022	17	12	1	1	0	3
2022-2023	18	13	3	0	1	1
2023-2024	17	13	2	2	0	0
Total	136	99	14	6	9	8

An appropriate amount of time has passed for the first three cohorts of recipients to have completed their residency and employment obligation under the program. A total of 29 Iowa medical school graduates were designated for an award in the 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 academic years. Twenty-six of those individuals completed an eligible residency program (the program required completion of an Iowa-based residency program at that time), and 14 (54 percent) of those individuals began work in an eligible area in Iowa. All 14 (100 percent) of those recipients completed five years of practice in eligible areas of Iowa.

Rural Iowa Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program

Established in 2020, 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 2023-24 application cycle, and 15 were designated to receive awards. A total of \$779,990 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. Recipients, on average, reported \$101,452 in outstanding federal student loans. Seventy-four percent of applicants graduated from Iowa high schools, and 90 percent of applicants completed their veterinary medical training program of study in Iowa.

Teach Iowa Scholar

Established in 2013, 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 their teacher preparation program in the top 25 percent academically of all teacher preparation program graduates at the 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 2023-24, 657 teachers applied for funding and 185 received awards totaling \$740,000. Approximately 62 percent 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 \$29,187. In addition, almost 84 percent of recipients completed a teacher preparation program in Iowa (as opposed to out-of-state programs) prior to teaching.