

Career Academy Incentive Fund (CAIF)



COMMUNITY COLLEGES &
WORKFORCE PREPARATION

CAIF Grants & Regional Centers



With the implementation of CTE Redesign legislation (2016), the state's 15 regional planning partnerships (RPPs) have been tasked with coordinating the development of regional center facilities within each of their regions. Each RPP is required to establish a clear plan for providing consistent and equitable access to a variety of high-quality career and technical education (CTE) program opportunities for all high school students. The culmination of individual regional planning will result in a statewide network of physical locations called regional centers that are strategically located to maximize student access and availability of numerous high-quality career and technical education programs.

In an effort to support this state priority, the Career Academy Incentive Fund was established in 2019 through the reauthorization of the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) that extends a statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure through January 2051. The fund provides targeted grants to support partnerships between school districts and community colleges that expand and increase equitable access to career academy programs, with a focus on programming efficiently delivered through regional centers. At least \$1 million will be awarded annually, with potential growth up to \$5 million annually to support career academy partnerships among community colleges, school districts and business and industry to increase student access to college programs, state-of-the-art equipment and career paths in Iowa's in-demand fields.

Career Academy Incentive Fund (CAIF) Summary Four \$1,000,000 CAIF Grants Awarded

1

Fiscal year 2020

3

Fiscal year 2021

The Career Academy Incentive Fund aligns with the Future Ready Iowa goal of 70 percent of the workforce having education or training beyond high school by 2025.

CAIF Grants in Action

North Iowa Area Community College was the first recipient of the CAIF grant and funds will be used to develop a new regional center facility in Forest City, providing students from four school districts the opportunity to enroll in four career academy programs. Eastern Iowa Community College's grant will be used to create a new regional center through Clinton Community College at the crossroads industrial park in DeWitt to serve students from eight rural districts in eastern Iowa. Waterloo's funds will be used to expand its career center, which serves seven surrounding school districts, three nonpublic schools and the Waterloo CSD. Indian Hills will establish a new regional center in Centerville for seven southern Iowa school districts.

CAIF Grant Recipients - Regional Centers	Fiscal Year Awarded	Regional Center Location	Grand Opening Date
North Iowa Area Community College - John V. Hanson Career Center	2020	Forest City, Iowa	Fall 2021
Eastern Iowa CC/Clinton CC - Career and Technical Education Center	2021	DeWitt, Iowa	Fall 2022
Waterloo CSD - Waterloo Career Center	2021	Waterloo, Iowa	Fall 2023
Indian Hills CC - Hills West Regional Center	2021	Centerville, Iowa	Fall 2024

Number of Career Academy Programs by CTE Service Area

Students enrolling in career academy programs delivered through these new and expanded regional center facilities will have access to CTE programs in high-demand fields.



Over \$28 million dollars in non-career academy incentive funds have been leveraged by grant recipients to support the region's efforts towards the development of career academies delivered through regional center facilities. Funding comes from a variety of sources, including but not limited to partnering school districts; business sponsors/partners; bond levy/referendums; in-kind donations; additional SAVE funds; external grant opportunities; Perkins funding; general operating budget; regional planning partnerships (RPPs); and land donations.

For any questions about this information, please contact Jen Rathje (jennifer.rathje@iowa.gov).