

## Red Tape Review Rule Report (Due: September 1, 2025)

<b>Department Name:</b>	College Student Aid Commission	<b>Date:</b>	7/3/2023	<b>Total Rule Count:</b>	10
<b>IAC #:</b>	283	<b>Chapter/ SubChapter/ Rule(s):</b>	Chapter 16	<b>Iowa Code Section Authorizing Rule:</b>	261.132(4)(b)
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**PLEASE NOTE, THE BOXES BELOW WILL EXPAND AS YOU TYPE**

**What is the intended benefit of the rule?**

Iowa residents, eligible institutions, and the College Student Aid Commission benefits from the rule as it clarifies the processes by which Iowans will apply for and qualify for the Future Ready Iowa Grant to help fund training and education in programs of study aligned with high-demand occupations, while also illustrating the duties of the institutions, the Commission, and applicants in the administration of the program.

The rule publicly illustrates the process that will be used to administer and disburse Future Ready Iowa Grants, describe the duties of eligible institutions, articulate the priority criteria and general provisions of eligibility, and ensure the integrity of the program through periodic compliance reviews. In addition, the rule details the process used to align high-demand occupations with programs of study offered by eligible institutions and the application process for institutions to participate in the program.

**Is the benefit being achieved? Please provide evidence.**

The benefit of the rule is achieved, as each of the processes and provisions intended to provide a benefit are illustrated within the rulemaking.

**What are the costs incurred by the public to comply with the rule?**

Since the application process is the same as that leveraged by other state scholarship/grant programs, there is no additional cost to the public to comply with the rule.

**What are the costs to the agency or any other agency to implement/enforce the rule?**

Compliance reviews: Compliance reviews are performed at the institution-level, covering all state-funded financial aid programs in which the institution disburses funds. Since the review itself covers multiple programs, the College Student Aid Commission can't assign a direct cost to a specific program. Although, staff spend an estimated cumulative total of 40 hours on a compliance review for an institution; a fraction of which could be assigned to a specific program. Data obtained from institutions suggests that institutional staff spend under 10 hours collecting the required documents, transmitting them to the College Student Aid Commission, answering questions, responding to findings, and developing corrective action plans; again, a fraction of which could be assigned to an individual program.

**Do the costs justify the benefits achieved? Please explain.**

The costs justify the benefits achieved. The cost of inaction would be confusion in the process and criteria to be used in the application and awarding of funds under the program, as well as the potential for awarding errors and irregularities that would remain unchecked without periodic compliance reviews.

**Are there less restrictive alternatives to accomplish the benefit?  YES  NO**

**If YES, please list alternative(s) and provide analysis of less restrictive alternatives from other states, if applicable. If NO, please explain.**

The Commission has not identified a more cost effective alternative to the current internal process utilized for compliance reviews. Existing staff within the agency perform the compliance reviews, and the internal time commitment isn't such that outsourcing the compliance reviews would result in the elimination of agency staff – outsourcing would only lead to additional costs born to an external service provider.

In addition, the rule provides consistency related to general student eligibility criteria across all state financial aid programs, allowing for more efficient eligibility determinations and awarding of funds.

**Does this chapter/rule(s) contain language that is obsolete, outdated, inconsistent, redundant, or unnecessary language, including instances where rule language is duplicative of statutory language? [list chapter/rule number(s) that fall under any of the above categories]**

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Senate File 560, Division VIII, made significant amendments to the Future Ready Iowa Grant, including striking the requirements that a student apply after two years of no enrollment and have completed at least half of the credits attributable to a bachelor's degree aligned with a high-demand job. In addition, SF560 added a provision requiring recipients to be at least age 25. The Commission is leveraging this opportunity to remove duplication between statute and rule and eliminate the obsolete provisions of the rule, in accordance with EO10. Listed below are the rules from which most of the redundant and obsolete language was removed.

16.3: Removed redundant and obsolete language.

16.7: Removed redundant language.

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

16.3(3),16.3(4),16.3(6)-(8)16.3(10), 16.7(2)

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

CHAPTER 16  
FUTURE READY IOWA SKILLED WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM

**283—16.1(261) Basis for aid.** Assistance available under the future ready Iowa skilled workforce grant program is for Iowa residents who are age twenty-five or older and are enrolled in approved programs aligned with high-demand jobs.

**283—16.2(261) Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

“*Approved program*” means an eligible program of study approved through the process described in rule 283—16.6(261).

“*Continuous enrollment*” means an eligible student is enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis in successive fall and spring semesters, or the equivalent, after receiving the award. Enrollment in the summer semester is not required to meet this condition.

“*Eligible institution*” meets the criteria in Iowa Code section 261.132(1), lettered paragraph “c” and the provisions of 16.7.

“*Full-time*” is defined in in 283—Chapter 10.

“*Iowa resident*” is defined in in 283—Chapter 10.

“*Part-time*” means enrollment in at least 6 but less than 12 hours per semester or the equivalent. An eligible student may enroll in fewer than 6 semester hours, or the equivalent, in the semester that the credential will be completed if part-time enrollment is not required to complete the program of study.

“*Satisfactory academic progress*” is defined in in 283—Chapter 10.

“*Semester*” means the fall, spring, or summer term of enrollment at an eligible institution, if the eligible institution is on a semester system, or the equivalent, if the institution is on a system other than a semester system.

**283—16.3(261) Eligible applicant.** An eligible applicant is an Iowa resident enrolled full-time or part-time in an approved program at an eligible institution and meets the eligibility criteria in Iowa Code Section 261.132 and the following provisions:

1. Annually completes the applications required by the Commission by the date established by the Commission and meets all other conditions specified in Iowa Code Section 261.132, subsection 1, lettered paragraph “e”.

2. Meets satisfactory academic progress standards; does not meet a condition in IAC 283 10.3(1); and upon receipt of the grant, maintains continuous full-time or part-time enrollment during successive fall and spring semesters.

3. Is age 25 or older as of July 1 prior to the year of enrollment.

**283—16.4(261) Awarding of funds.**

**16.4(1) Selection criteria:** All eligible applicants will be considered for an award.

**16.4(2) Extent of award and maximum award.** Eligible applicants may receive no more than the equivalent of 4 full-time awards. The maximum award will be established annually by the Commission, but will not be less than one thousand dollars for a full-time student over the course of the fall and spring semester.

**16.4(3) Priority for awards.** In the event that funds available are insufficient to provide maximum awards to all eligible applicants, awards are prioritized in the following order:

a. Eligible applicants who received the grant in the prior state fiscal year, by application date.

b. Eligible applicants who did not receive the grant in the prior state fiscal year, by application date.

**16.4(4) Awarding process.**

a. The commission will provide notice of the eligibility criteria and maximum award to participating eligible institutions annually to authorize awarding.

b. The commission will designate eligible applicants for awards, and provide eligible institutions with rosters of designated eligible applicants.

c. Eligible institutions will notify recipients of the awards, clearly indicating the award amount and the state program from which funding is being provided and stating that the award is contingent on the availability of state funds.

d. Eligible institutions will apply awards directly to student accounts to cover items included in the cost of attendance, as defined in Tit. IV, pt. B, of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended.

e. Eligible institutions will provide information about eligible applicants to the commission in a format specified by the commission. Eligible institutions will make necessary changes to awards due to a change in enrollment, program of study, and financial situation, and promptly report those changes to the commission.

f. Eligible institutions will complete necessary verification and coordinate other aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility requirements and allowable award amounts. Eligible institutions will report changes in student eligibility to the commission.

g. The commission will periodically investigate and review compliance of eligible institutions participating in this program with the criteria established in Iowa Code section 261.132 and this rule.

**283—16.5(261) Exceptions.** If an eligible applicant discontinues enrollment at the eligible institution due to military deployment, a temporary medical incapacity, in relation to the declaration of a national or state emergency, or other exceptional

circumstances approved by the commission, the eligible applicant may apply for a waiver. If the waiver is approved, the eligible applicant is not required to maintain continuous enrollment during the period covered by the waiver.

**283—16.6(261) Determination of programs of study aligned with high-demand jobs.**

**16.6(1) High-demand jobs.** The commission will utilize the department of workforce development’s most recent list of statewide high-demand jobs pursuant to Iowa Code section 84A.1B, subsection 14, and align those jobs to eligible programs of study.

**16.6(2) Eligible programs of study.** The eligible institution offers a baccalaureate degree that is aligned with a high-demand job. The classification of instructional program code and the standard occupation code will be used to align eligible programs of study to high-demand jobs.

**16.6(3)** Eligible institutions will designate the eligible programs of study offered in the corresponding academic year.

**16.6(4) Approved program.** Before an eligible program of study is considered an approved program of study, the department of workforce development and the college student aid commission will jointly certify that the program of study is aligned with a high-demand job pursuant to 84A.1B(14).

**16.6(5)** If the state workforce development board removes a high-demand job from a list created pursuant to Iowa Code section 84A.1B, subsection 14, an eligible applicant who received an award in a program of study aligned with that high-demand job will continue to receive the award as long as the eligible applicant continues to meet all other eligibility criteria.

**283—16.7(261) Institution eligibility requirements.**

**16.7(1) Application process.** An institution requesting to participate in the program can apply to the college student aid commission using the college student aid commission’s designated application. An applicant institution will provide the college student aid commission with documentation establishing their eligibility as an eligible institution that offers eligible programs of study. Applicant institutions will submit the application and documentation establishing their eligibility by October 1 of the year prior to the beginning of the academic year for which they are applying for participation.

**16.7(2)** A list of all eligible programs of study, as well as the required courses and the suggested course sequence, will be available in a prominent location on the eligible institution’s website.

**\*For rules being re-promulgated with changes, you may attach a document with suggested changes.**

**METRICS**

<b>Total number of rules repealed:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Proposed word count reduction after repeal and/or re-promulgation</b>	<b>546</b>
<b>Proposed number of restrictive terms eliminated after repeal and/or re-promulgation</b>	<b>22</b>

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