



Department of Education

2022-23 Education & Training Voucher Program

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Introduction

Funded by the federal government and administered by the Bureau of Iowa College Aid (Iowa College Aid) through a contract with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) awards up to \$5,000 per year to students who aged out of the state foster care system or were adopted after age 16. Students may qualify for funding for up to five academic years or until they reach age 26, whichever is first. Students can use ETV for tuition/fees, room/board, books/supplies and other personal living expenses.

The following analysis utilizes custom data sets from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Iowa College Aid Processing System (ICAPS) and National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). We establish first-time, first-year cohorts by identifying applicants who self-report on the FAFSA as first-year students, receive their first ETV award in that same year, and do not have a previous credential (students meeting these criteria are referred to as “first-time recipients”). This report provides the demographic composition and distribution of each cohort and details how ETV recipients progress through postsecondary education.

Descriptive Analyses

The number of first-time ETV recipients declined from a high of 105 in 2013-14 to a low of 48 in 2020-21 and then slowly increased back to 60 in 2022-23. The percentage of first-time recipients reporting as female has fluctuated between 55% to 70% across all years. Meanwhile, the percentage of first-time recipients who are first-generation college students has been at least 72.7% over the past five years. The average EFC of first-time recipients is consistently low, only exceeding \$100 in the 2022-23 academic year. Even so, all but two recipients in the 2022-23 cohort had an EFC of 0, and 99% met the financial eligibility requirements for the federal Pell Grant. The average first-year award has remained consistent over time, but doubled between the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years due to an increase in the maximum ETV award that was authorized under the Federal CARES Act (the maximum award increased from \$5,000 in 2020-21 to \$12,000 in 2021-22). The maximum award reverted back to \$5,000 for the 2022-23 academic year. Finally, typical first-time ETV recipients received ETV awards for just under two academic years.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

Cohort	Number of Students	Female		First-Generation		Average EFC	Average First Year Award	Average Number of Years Receiving Award
		Awarded %	Awarded (N)	Awarded %	Awarded (N)			
2013-14	105	54.8%	57	68.6%	72	\$89	\$3,386	1.81
2014-15	97	63.9%	62	56.7%	55	\$39	\$3,161	2.13
2015-16	86	57.0%	49	70.9%	61	\$98	\$3,054	1.92
2016-17	65	60.0%	39	64.6%	42	\$56	\$3,035	1.92
2017-18	78	61.0%	47	64.1%	50	\$0	\$3,270	1.92
2018-19	64	55.6%	35	76.6%	49	\$4	\$3,215	2.09
2019-20	66	65.2%	43	74.2%	49	\$78	\$3,631	1.94
2020-21	48	70.8%	34	81.2%	39	\$0	\$3,610	1.50
2021-22	55	60.0%	33	72.7%	40	\$71	\$7,088	1.24
2022-23	60	61.7%	37	75.0%	45	\$344	\$3,301	1.00
Averages of First-Time Recipients in First-Year of College	724	60.5%	436	69.3%	502	\$76	\$3,569	1.79
Averages of All Recipients	831	62.1%	513	68.7%	571	\$96	\$3,612	1.79

Persistence

Persistence is measured by the total number of students taking any kind of academic coursework in the years following their first year of college divided by the number of students in a cohort without a college degree. Cohorts are defined by whether the student is in their first-year of college (as defined by their FAFSA submission) and in their first-year of receiving the ETV. Any student taking a single course throughout the academic year that meets this definition is included in a Cohort. The persistence rate reflects the number of first-time recipients who have not completed a credential but continue to enroll from one academic year to the next (see Table 2).

The second year persistence rate was highest in 2014-15, at 56.3%. The second year rate dropped to between 43.5%-47.6% from 2015-16 to 2018-19, before increasing to 53.9% in 2019-20. Then, the persistence rate of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 cohorts dropped below 40%.

While there are noticeable differences in the third-year persistence rate in the last few years, the fourth-year persistence rate is similar across all years. With the exception of the 2015-16 cohort, fifth-year retention in the cohorts was a little over 20%.

Table 2. Persistence

Cohort	Number of Students	2 nd Year		3 rd Year		4 th Year		5 th Year	
		Awarded (%)	Awarded (N)	Awarded (%)	Awarded (N)	Awarded (%)	Awarded (N)	Awarded (%)	Awarded (N)
2013-14	105	54.4%	56/103	36.6%	37/101	26.0%	25/96	21.6%	19/88
2014-15	97	56.3%	54/96	39.8%	37/93	27.8%	25/90	20.5%	17/83
2015-16	86	43.5%	37/85	34.5%	29/84	32.5%	27/83	10.7%	8/75
2016-17	65	46.9%	30/64	37.1%	23/62	31.0%	18/58	21.8%	12/55
2017-18	78	46.2%	36/78	33.3%	25/75	29.6%	21/71	21.1%	15/71
2018-19	64	47.6%	30/63	38.7%	24/62	29.5%	18/61	24.6%	14/57
2019-20	66	53.9%	35/65	43.6%	27/62	29.5%	18/59		
2020-21	48	39.6%	19/48	29.8%	14/47				
2021-22	55	36.4%	20/55						

Credentials

Table 3 illustrates the percentage of students receiving any postsecondary credential within four and six years of their first receipt of ETV. Of first-time recipients in 2013-14 to 2019-20, 14.1% (79) received some kind of credential within four years. The highest four-year credential receipt rate was 19.7% in the 2019-20 academic year, 10.7 percentage points higher than the 2017-18 rate. The highest six-year credential receipt rate was 22.7% in the 2014-15 academic year, while the low of 14.1% occurred in 2017-18.

When comparing the percentage of Iowa's ETV recipients who graduated by the age of 24 (18.8%) to ETV recipients across ten other states (16.0%), Iowa's rate was 2.8 percentage points higher (Hanson, 2022). When Iowa ETV recipients are restricted to those who were age 17 or 18 upon first receiving the award, 21.8% received a credential within six years.

Table 3. Credentials Received in Four and Six Years

Cohort	Number of Students	Four Years		Six Years	
		Awarded (%)	Awarded (N)	Awarded (%)	Awarded (N)
2013-14	105	16.2%	17	19.0%	20
2014-15	97	14.4%	14	22.7%	22
2015-16	86	12.8%	11	17.4%	15
2016-17	65	15.4%	10	20.0%	13
2017-18	78	9.0%	7	14.1%	11
2018-19	64	10.9%	7		
2019-20	66	19.7%	13		
Analytic Sample Total	561	14.1%	79	18.8%	81
18 Years or Younger Upon First Award				21.8%	48
Sample of 10 States's Recipients (Hanson et al., 2022).				16.0%	

Table 4 indicates the types of credentials awarded within six years of students receiving their first ETV award. Table 4 also illustrates the percentage of recipients who received an ETV award in the same year they completed the corresponding credential. Overall, 18.8% of all ETV recipients received a postsecondary credential. A total of 81 credentials were awarded to 61 individual ETV recipients (20 of those recipients received multiple credentials). The associate's degree was the most awarded credential, and the second highest number of credential awarded was a bachelor's degree.

Table 4. Credentials Earned Among First-Time, First-Year ETV Recipients: 2013-14 to 2017-18 Cohorts

Credential	Credential Received		Received Credential While Receiving ETV	
	Awarded (%)	Awarded (N)	Awarded (%)	Awarded (N)
Certificate	4.4%	19	68.4%	13
Associates	10.2%	44	72.7%	32
Bachelors	8.4%	36	72.2%	26
Graduate Degree	0.5%	2	0%	0
Any Degree	18.8%	81		
Multiple Degrees	4.6%	20		

References

Hanson, D., Pergamit, M., Tucker, L.P., Thomas, K., & Gedo, S. (2022). Do Education and Training Vouchers make a difference for young adults in foster care? *Urban Institute*.