
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates

Program Overview

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a state-based national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing dropouts among young people considered most at risk. The original JAG model was launched in 1979 in the state of Delaware as a "school-to-work transition program" designed to keep students in school through graduation and help them transition into the workplace in quality jobs.

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG), the State-accredited JAG organization, is an independent, statewide 501(c)(3) private nonprofit corporation established in 1999. The ultimate objective of an iJAG Program is to provide participants with classroom and work-based learning experiences that result in a career after graduation, or completion of a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) and the HiSET exam. The primary process objectives differ depending on the program type. The iJAG Program has four types of program applications:

- High School Model: The primary objective is to keep participants in high school through graduation and improve the rate of success in achieving education and career goals.
- Middle School Model: The primary objective is to significantly increase the number of low-income students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.
- Out-of-School Model: The primary objective is attainment of graduation requirements or the completion an HSED and the HiSET exam, and the attainment of occupational-related skills.
- Early College Success Model: The primary objective is completion of a degree-seeking program at the community college level.

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates programs are taught by a certified JAG Specialist, who is not required to be an Iowa-licensed teacher (school districts decide if they would like a licensed teacher in the position). The JAG Specialists provide individual and group instruction to 35 to 45 students.

Funding

The iJAG Program had a nine-year average annual appropriation of \$472,000 from FY 2005 to FY 2013. The State appropriation is typically made from the General Fund, except in FY 2011, when an appropriation of \$540,000 was made from the Cash Reserve Fund. Currently, the Program receives a \$4.7 million General Fund appropriation. The Program also receives funding from the private sector and from participating school districts.

More Information

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates: www.ijag.org

Iowa Department of Education: educateiowa.gov

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Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Administrative Code [281](#)

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