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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2023



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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. Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG), the State-accredited JAG organization, is an independent, statewide 501(c)(3) private nonprofit corporation. The ultimate objective of the 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 High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) exam.

Each iJAG program is operated as a for-credit elective course during the regular school day. The course is designed to offer a venue for students to interact with employers and community-based organizations and teach 37 core competencies comprised of the following six skill sets: personal skills, leadership skills, communication skills, job attainment skills, job success skills, and career development skills.

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 prefer a licensed teacher in the position). The iJAG specialist serves as adjunct faculty within our partnering school districts. JAG specialists provide individual and group instruction to 35 to 45 students and continue to work with students into the summer in areas of leadership, employment, and, in some cases, academic support. After finishing high school, students receive one year of follow-up supports from their education specialist.

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 of a 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.

### Funding

Currently, the program receives a \$9.1 million General Fund appropriation. The program also receives funding from the private sector and from participating school districts.

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### More Information

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates: [www.ijag.org](http://www.ijag.org)  
Iowa Department of Education: [educateiowa.gov](http://educateiowa.gov)  
LSA Staff Contact: Simon Sheaff (515.281.4611) [simon.sheaff@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:simon.sheaff@legis.iowa.gov)

**Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Administrative Code [281](#)

**Budget Unit Number**

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