

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE, IOWA COMMISSION ON[817]

### Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 817—Chapter 13  
“Future Ready Iowa Volunteer Mentor Program”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 15H.10  
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code section 15H.10

### *Public Hearing*

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

May 19, 2026  
10 a.m.

Microsoft Teams  
Meeting ID: 255 692 208 678 60  
Passcode: vo97ff7g

### *Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

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### *Purpose and Summary*

The purpose of the Future Ready Iowa Volunteer Mentor Program is to match volunteer mentors with student mentees and to support implementation of the Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Last-Dollar Scholarship Program and the Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Grant Program described in Iowa Code sections 256.228 and 256.229, respectively. The Future Ready Iowa Volunteer Mentor Program is an optional program for recipients of these scholarships and grants and is designed to provide mentors to help recipients increase success in school and make meaningful career connections. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Commission) manages this statewide program by partnering with employers, local high schools, nonprofits, local eligible institutions of higher education and others to develop mentoring cohorts.

This proposed chapter underwent a Red Tape Review in accordance with Executive Order 10. As a result of the review, redundant information was eliminated and outdated cross-references were updated.

### *Analysis of Impact*

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**
  - **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**  
There are no costs associated with this proposed rulemaking.
  - **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

Individuals who would like to be Future Ready Iowa volunteer mentors, should the program be funded, will benefit from this proposed rulemaking.

**2. Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**

• **Quantitative description of impact:**

Quantitative data on this program is not available at this time.

• **Qualitative description of impact:**

Should the program be funded in the future, this proposed chapter will provide guidance to interested individuals.

**3. Costs to the State:**

• **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

The Department incurs personnel and other administrative costs associated with this proposed rulemaking. The Commission reimburses the Department for all personnel and other administrative costs.

• **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

This proposed rulemaking has no impact on State revenues.

**4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

Rulemaking is required by Iowa Code section 15H.10.

**5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

Not applicable.

**6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

• **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

Not applicable.

• **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Rulemaking is required by Iowa Code section 15H.10.

*Small Business Impact*

**If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:**

• Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.

• Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

• Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

• Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.

• Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

**If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?**

This proposed rulemaking has no impact on small business.

*Text of Proposed Rulemaking*

ITEM 1. Rescind 817—Chapter 13 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 13  
FUTURE READY IOWA VOLUNTEER MENTOR PROGRAM

**817—13.1(15H) Definitions.**

“*Eligible institution*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 256.228.

“*Grant program*” means the future ready Iowa skilled workforce grant program as described in Iowa Code section 256.229.

“*Last-dollar scholarship*” means the future ready Iowa skilled workforce last-dollar scholarship program as described in Iowa Code section 256.228.

“*Program*” means the future ready Iowa volunteer mentor program as described in Iowa Code section 15H.10.

“*Student mentee*” means a student who has elected to participate in the program, has agreed to program expectations, and has been matched with a volunteer mentor through the program. Student mentees must meet the criteria in Iowa Code sections 256.228 and 256.229.

“*Volunteer mentor*” means an adult who has applied to be a mentor, has met the screening guidelines, has attended mentor training, has committed to meeting with the mentee according to program guidelines, and has been matched with a mentee in the program.

**817—13.2(15H) Program standards, guidelines, and expectations.** The commission will maintain on its website standards, guidelines, and expectations for a productive and appropriate relationship between volunteer mentors and student mentees. Standards, guidelines, and expectations are aimed at helping students meet the last-dollar scholarship or grant program requirements, identify work-based learning opportunities, and make career-related connections that are advantageous to participants in the program through a healthy mentor-mentee relationship. Failure to adhere to the program standards may result in ineligibility to participate in the program. To the extent possible, volunteer mentors and student mentees will be matched based on sex, career aspirations, geography and mentor-to-mentee ratio.

**817—13.3(15H) Mentor/mentee agreement.** All volunteer mentors and student mentees matched with a volunteer mentor must complete and sign a written agreement issued by the commission as part of the program enrollment process. This does not include students receiving texting services only. Agreements will include expectations on regular communication, appropriate conduct, utilization of the online platform and participation in any training or resources offered to improve the efficacy of the mentor-mentee relationship. Failure by either party to adhere to the agreement may result in dismissal from the program.

**817—13.4(15H) Mentor request and application process.**

**13.4(1) *Mentor request process.*** Students may request a volunteer mentor through the commission’s website or partner agencies, including through referrals from high schools and eligible institutions. Eligible institutions must collaborate in the facilitation of this subrule by providing information on the mentor request process to all students who meet the criteria of Iowa Code sections 256.228 and 256.229. The college student aid commission may enroll eligible students into the texting services whenever possible to facilitate overall student success and communication about career mentoring opportunities. Students may opt to not participate in the program.

**13.4(2) *Mentor application process.*** Prospective mentors may apply to be a volunteer mentor through the commission’s website or through high schools, eligible institutions, or partner agencies or employers. These partner agencies may also enlist employers and other partners to help make direct mentoring connections with local mentoring cohorts. Prospective mentors must complete an application, consent to an Iowa division of criminal investigation criminal background check, attend orientation training and agree to the minimum commitment and guidelines outlined in the mentor/mentee agreement.

**817—13.5(15H) Subrecipient award process.** If the commission deems it necessary, the commission may seek subrecipients to carry out components of the program through the commission’s regular grant program application processes. The commission may also work with partner state agencies to assist in the administration of this chapter.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 15H.10.