

CHAPTER 13
FUTURE READY IOWA VOLUNTEER MENTOR PROGRAM

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/1/28

817—13.1(15H) Purpose and program description. 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 created in Iowa Code sections 261.131 and 261.132. 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 will manage this statewide program by partnering with employers, local high schools, nonprofits, local eligible institutions of higher education and others to develop mentoring cohorts.

[ARC 4722C, IAB 10/23/19, effective 11/27/19]

817—13.2(15H) Definitions.

“Commission” means the Iowa commission on volunteer service.

“Eligible institution” means an institution meeting the requirements outlined in Iowa Code section 261.131.

“Grant program” means the future ready Iowa skilled workforce grant program outlined in Iowa Code section 261.132.

“Last-dollar scholarship” means the future ready Iowa skilled workforce last-dollar scholarship program outlined in Iowa Code section 261.131.

“Program” means the future ready Iowa volunteer mentor program as defined 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 261.131 and 261.132.

“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.

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817—13.3(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 gender, career aspirations, geography and mentor-to-mentee ratio.

[ARC 4722C, IAB 10/23/19, effective 11/27/19]

817—13.4(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.

[ARC 4722C, IAB 10/23/19, effective 11/27/19; ARC 5239C, IAB 10/21/20, effective 11/25/20]

817—13.5(15H) Mentor request and application process.

13.5(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 261.131 and 261.132. The Iowa college 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.

13.5(2) *Mentor application process.* Prospective mentors should 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.

[ARC 4722C, IAB 10/23/19, effective 11/27/19; ARC 5239C, IAB 10/21/20, effective 11/25/20]

817—13.6(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.

[ARC 4722C, IAB 10/23/19, effective 11/27/19]

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

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