

283—8.4 (261) Awarding of funds.

8.4(1) *Selection criteria.* All applicants who submit applications that are received on or before the published deadline will be considered for funding.

8.4(2) *Priority for grants.* Only applicants with expected family contributions (EFCs) at or below the average tuition and fees for regent university students for the academic year for which awards are being made will be considered for awards.

a. All eligible renewal applicants will be funded prior to new applicants. Awards to renewal applicants will be made based on EFC levels within the parameters defined by the commission, with students in the lowest EFC levels awarded first and at increasing EFC levels until the maximum EFC level is reached.

b. If funding remains after all eligible renewal students have been awarded, priority will be given to students who participated in federal TRIO programs, participated in federal GEAR UP programs, participated in alternative programs in high school, or graduated from alternative high schools. Awards will be made to students in this category based on EFC levels within the parameters defined by the commission, with students in the lowest EFC levels awarded first and at increasing EFC levels until the maximum EFC level is reached.

c. If funding is available, awards to remaining eligible applicants will be made based on EFC levels within the parameters defined by the commission, with students in the lowest EFC levels awarded first and at increasing EFC levels until the maximum EFC level is reached.

8.4(3) *Maximum award.* The maximum award for full-time students will be the average tuition and fees for regent university students for the award year or the tuition and fees paid by the student, whichever is less. The maximum award for a full-time recipient will not be affected by the ranking system used to prioritize grants. A part-time recipient will receive a prorated award, as defined by the commission, based on the number of hours for which the student is enrolled.

8.4(4) *Awarding process.*

a. College and university officials will provide information about eligible students to the commission in a format specified by the commission.

b. The commission will designate recipients until all funding has been expended.

c. The commission will notify recipients and college and university officials of the awards, clearly indicating the award amount and the state program from which funding is being provided and stating that funding is contingent on the availability of state funds.

d. The college or university will apply awards directly to student accounts to cover tuition and fees, room and board, and other bona fide education expenses, such as books, equipment, and transportation.

e. The college or university is responsible for completing necessary verification and for coordinating other aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility requirements and allowable award amounts. The college or university will report changes in student eligibility to the commission.

8.4(5) *Award transfers and adjustments.* Recipients are responsible for promptly notifying the appropriate college or university of any change in enrollment or financial situation. The college or university will make necessary changes and notify the commission.

8.4(6) *Academic-year awards.* All Iowa opportunity scholarships are provided during the traditional nine-month academic year, which is generally defined as September through May. Students attending eligible community colleges may receive no more than four semesters of full-time all Iowa opportunity scholarships or eight part-time semesters. Students attending eligible regent universities and other eligible colleges and universities may receive no more than two semesters of full-time all Iowa opportunity scholarships or four part-time semesters.

8.4(7) *Renewal.* Applicants must complete and file annual applications (FAFSAs) for the all Iowa opportunity scholarship program by the deadline established by the commission. If funds remain available after the application deadline, the commission will continue to accept applications. To be eligible for renewal, a recipient must maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the eligible college or university and must not have exceeded the funding limit as described in 8.4(6).

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