

**283—28.4 (261) Awarding of funds.**

**28.4(1) Selection criteria.** All applicants meeting the eligibility requirements will be considered for funding. In the event that all on-time applicants cannot be funded with the available appropriation, criteria for selection of recipients will be prioritized as follows:

- a. Award renewal status;
- b. Graduation date, grouped by academic year, with the most recent academic year graduates given priority;
- c. Prioritized annual ranking of eligible teaching fields by the department, with the highest ranking fields being served first, if information is available;
- d. Prioritized annual ranking of regional need within eligible teaching fields by the department, with the highest ranking regions being served first within each ranked eligible teaching field, if information is available;
- e. Iowa resident status;
- f. Date of application.

**28.4(2) Maximum award and extent of receipt.**

- a. The maximum annual award shall not exceed \$4,000.
- b. A recipient may receive up to \$20,000 over a five-year period, beginning with the first year of receipt.
- c. Designated applicants teaching hard-to-staff subjects shall not be impacted in subsequent years if the subject is no longer identified by the department as a hard-to-staff subject.

**28.4(3) Disbursement of award.** The maximum annual award will be paid either directly to the teacher or to the teacher's eligible student loan holder upon successful completion of each annual employment obligation. The commission will annually verify completion of the teacher's employment obligation with the eligible school or agency prior to payment.