

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 new and renewal foster care students will receive first priority for funding. Awards to eligible foster care students 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. If all students in a given EFC level cannot be funded, students will be ranked according to the date the state application was filed.

b. All new and renewal eligible surviving-child students will receive second priority for funding. Awards to eligible surviving-child students 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. If all students in a given EFC level cannot be funded, students will be ranked according to the date the state application was filed.

c. All eligible renewal applicants will receive third priority for funding. 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. If all students in a given EFC level cannot be funded, students will be ranked according to the date the state application was filed.

d. If funding remains after all eligible foster care students, eligible surviving-child students, and renewal students have been awarded, fourth priority will be given to students who participated in federal TRIO 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. If all students in a given EFC level cannot be funded, students will be ranked according to the date the state application was filed.

e. If funding remains after all priority applicants have been awarded, fifth priority will be given to students who participated in federal GEAR UP programs. 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, followed by awards to students at increasing EFC levels until the maximum EFC level is reached. If all students in a given EFC level cannot be funded, students will be ranked according to the date the state application was filed.

f. 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, followed by awards to students at increasing EFC levels until the maximum EFC level is reached. If all students in a given EFC level cannot be funded, students will be ranked according to the date the state application was filed.

8.4(3) Maximum award. All Iowa opportunity scholarships are provided during the traditional nine-month academic year, which is generally defined as September through May. Effective in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, new recipients attending eligible colleges and universities may receive no more than 8 full-time or 16 part-time semesters of all Iowa opportunity scholarships.

a. The maximum award for full-time students will be the lesser of:

- (1) The amount of financial need demonstrated by the student as calculated by the commission, or
- (2) One-half of the average tuition and fees for regent university students for the award year.

b. The maximum award for a full-time student will not be affected by the ranking system used to prioritize grants. A part-time student 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) *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(3).

[**ARC 1958C**, IAB 4/15/15, effective 5/20/15; **ARC 2206C**, IAB 10/28/15, effective 12/2/15; **ARC 2943C**, IAB 2/15/17, effective 3/22/17; **ARC 3381C**, IAB 10/11/17, effective 9/20/17; **ARC 4183C**, IAB 12/19/18, effective 1/23/19]