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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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### FUTURE READY IOWA SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAMS READY TO BEGIN AWARDS

**Awards Authorized.** The College Student Aid Commission has notified participating colleges and universities that they can begin awarding the [Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship](#) and the [Future Ready Iowa Grant](#) for the 2019-2020 academic year. Both programs are designed for students pursuing credentials in high-demand career fields, as determined by Iowa Workforce Development and the community colleges. Both programs require applicants to have applied for all other available State and federal grants and scholarships.

**Scholarship.** The Last-Dollar Scholarship is funded by a \$13.0 million General Fund appropriation for FY 2020. Applicants must be enrolled at an Iowa community college or accredited private college. The award for qualified students will fund the difference between the total of other State and federal aid for which the student qualifies and the cost of tuition and qualified fees.

To be eligible, applicants must be either a new high school graduate enrolled full-time for the fall semester immediately following high school graduation or an adult learner, 20 years of age or older, enrolled full- or part-time. The Future Ready Iowa website has a [directory](#) of schools and programs that are eligible for the scholarship for FY 2020. The Commission's website has a list of [ongoing requirements](#) for recipients of the scholarship.

**Grant.** The Future Ready Iowa Grant is funded by a \$1.0 million Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund appropriation for FY 2020. Applicants must have previously earned at least half of the credits necessary for a bachelor's degree that leads to a high-demand job and must be enrolled in at least six semester hours unless the applicant's degree can be completed in less time. The Future Ready Iowa website has a [directory](#) of schools and programs that are eligible for the grant for FY 2020. The Commission's website has a list of ongoing requirements for recipients of the grant. The maximum annual grant award for FY 2020 is \$3,500.

**Mentoring.** Recipients of the scholarship or grants may request [mentoring and support services](#) via the College Student Aid Commission's website. Commission staff will respond to requests and put students in touch with an AmeriCorps member at an eligible college or university. Adult students will be connected with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

**Administrative Rules.** The College Student Aid Commission has promulgated administrative rules for the implementation of the two new Future Ready Iowa programs. The proposed rules were discussed by the Administrative Rules Review Committee on July 9, 2019, at which time several members expressed interest in pursuing legislation to address possible gaps in eligibility for the Last-Dollar Scholarship for students under the age of 20 who do not enroll in higher education immediately following high school graduation. A representative of the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees said the organization will propose several legislative changes to address that issue and others in the 2020 Legislative Session.

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