
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

FUTURE READY IOWA SKILLED WORKFORCE LAST-DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR FALL 2019

Scholarships Awarded. The College Student Aid Commission reports that the Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Last-Dollar Scholarships have been awarded for fall 2019. A total of 6,041 students have received awards totaling \$6.8 million. The students are enrolled at Iowa's 15 community colleges and 2 private nonprofit two-year colleges.

Scholarship Program. The scholarship program was created in 2018 as part of the Future Ready Iowa Initiative but did not receive funding until FY 2020. The Program provides financial aid to students attending community colleges or accredited private nonprofit institutions. Students must be enrolled in programs of study that lead to a postsecondary credential, up to and including an associate degree, aligned with a high-demand job as designated by Iowa Workforce Development or the community colleges.

The scholarship is available to new high school graduates who enroll in a qualified program of study full-time for the fall semester immediately following high school graduation and to adult learners age 20 or older enrolled in a qualified program full- or part-time. Students must apply for all other available State and federal grants and scholarships.

FY 2020 Award Statistics. The Commission reports that 21.2% of the awards went to recent high school graduates, totaling \$2.2 million. The remaining 78.8% went to adult learners, totaling \$4.7 million. Of the total dollars awarded, 76.2% went to students pursuing credentials aligned with high-demand jobs as designated by the State through Iowa Workforce Development. The remaining portion went toward credentials aligned with occupations designated regionally by the community colleges.

Program Policy Amendments. The Commission, with the approval of Governor Kim Reynolds, has submitted proposed amendments to Iowa Code section [261.131](#), which establishes the Last-Dollar Scholarship Program. The amendments would address issues related to eligibility for the scholarship, specifically for recent high school graduates who are unable to begin the required program of study by the fall semester after graduation.

LSA Staff Contact: Robin Madison (515.281.5270) robin.madison@legis.iowa.gov

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