
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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FUTURE READY IOWA EMPLOYER INNOVATION FUND AWARDS — MARCH 2021

Program. On March 11, 2021, Governor Reynolds announced 13 awardees of the [Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Fund](#), a matching grant designed to help employers carry out solutions to help their employees achieve postsecondary training and education. A total of \$386,000 in funds was awarded by the [Iowa Department of Workforce Development](#) to employers, nonprofits, and employer consortiums across the State. It is estimated that the grants will serve 2,665 Iowans. The purpose of the grant is to provide opportunities for Iowans to earn noncredit and for-credit postsecondary credentials leading to high-demand jobs.

Eligibility. Eligible applicants include employers, employer consortiums, community organizations, and other entities. If the applicant is not an employer, the organization(s) must be aligned with one or more employers and demonstrate this via an employer commitment letter in the proposal. Registered apprenticeship programs may also be eligible.

Guidelines. Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Grant program funds can be used to support for-credit and noncredit credential attainment, along with wraparound support such as child care, transportation, books, equipment, fees, or other innovative ideas and proposals that help Iowans complete education or training beyond high school leading to high-demand jobs. They cannot be used for administrative expenses of operating the program or implementing the project. Qualifying credentials include postsecondary certificates, diplomas, or two- and four-year degrees leading to high-demand jobs. Education or training programs do not have to be Pell Grant-eligible to qualify for the grant.

Funding. Award amounts range from \$1,000 to a maximum of \$50,000 and must be spent within 12 months of receipt.

Award Information. For a list of Employer Innovation Fund grant awards, see [here](#).

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