
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2018

New Location. The College Student Aid Commission met on Friday, September 21, 2018, at its new offices. The Commission's new address is 475 SW 5th Street, Suite D, Des Moines, IA 50309.

FY 2020 Agency Budget Request. The Commission authorized staff to submit to the Department of Management an FY 2020 General Fund budget request totaling \$59.1 million, an increase of \$130,000 compared to estimated FY 2019. The increase is for one-time general administration funding for implementation of the Skilled Workforce Last-Dollar Scholarship and the Skilled Workforce Grant, both part of the Future Ready Iowa (FRI) initiative. The budget request does not include appropriations for the new programs, which were established in [HF 2458](#) (Future Ready Iowa Act) during the 2018 Legislative Session, but the Commission anticipates that both programs will be funded. The Commission is also requesting status quo funding of the Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant from the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.

FY 2020 Commission Members' Budget Request. As the Commission has done in previous years, the Commission approved a separate budget request that the Commission members will present to the Governor's Office. The Commission's General Fund request totals \$62.6 million, an increase of \$3.7 million compared to estimated FY 2019, and includes a 3.9% increase in funding for each of the State-funded aid programs. It also includes restoration of the General Fund standing appropriation of \$1.3 million for the College Work Study Program. From the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund, the Commission members are requesting an increase of \$195,000 (3.9%) for the Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant.

Proposed 2019 Legislation. The Commission unanimously authorized staff to prefile two pieces of legislation to be considered during the 2019 Legislative Session. The first proposal makes a correction to [SF 2415](#) (2018 Education Appropriations Act) to strike age provisions from language that made foster care youth and dependents of public safety workers killed in the line of duty preferentially eligible for the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship. The age provisions could prevent those students from receiving the maximum benefits otherwise available to them. The second proposal is a technical correction to the Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant to eliminate a reference to a statute that is scheduled for repeal July 1, 2019.

FY 2019 Financial Summary. The Commission reviewed financial summaries for the end of FY 2018 and the first two months of FY 2019. In FY 2018, the Commission received \$65.4 million in State funding for aid programs and distributed \$61.2 million. The remaining \$4.2 million will carry forward to FY 2019. The Commission also received State funding of \$429,000 for FY 2018 administrative operations and spent \$768,000. The overage of \$339,000 was funded from the Commission's operating reserve fund. The Commission received \$3.8 million in FY 2019 from its contract with Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation for management of the Commission's federal loan portfolio. Those proceeds are deposited in the operating reserve fund.

Highlights of Other Commission Action. Executive Research Officer Mark Wiederspan highlighted the newly released [2018 Condition of Higher Education](#) report. Executive Director Karen Misjak noted that final FY 2018 data on specific programs will be available in the [Higher Education Data Center](#) section of the Commission's website in the coming weeks.

Christina Sibauih, Division Administrator for Community Engagement, highlighted a report on the impact of GEAR UP Iowa on postsecondary enrollment and persistence. The research is published in the September 2018 edition of the journal *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*.

The Commission approved Notices of Intended Action on administrative rules, including the rescission of rules for the Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program, which has been replaced by the Health Care Loan Repayment Program. Rules for the new program were approved at an earlier meeting.

The Commission approved a third annual extension, under a five-year contract, of an agreement with the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) for administration of the Education Training Voucher. The DHS receives federal funds to cover the educational costs of youth who are aging out of foster care and paid \$600,000 to 177 students in the last academic year.

Commission staff reviewed the results of the agency's three-year strategic plan that ended June 30, 2018. A new strategic planning process is underway. The Commission also received a report on postsecondary registration.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the College Student Aid Commission is scheduled for November 16, 2018. The agenda and materials for each meeting can be found on the Commission [website](#).

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