
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2026

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

ACE Infrastructure — SWJCF

Purpose

The Accelerated Career Education (ACE) Infrastructure appropriation provides funding for capital projects at the community colleges that benefit the ACE Program. The ACE Program allows Iowa community colleges to partner with businesses to establish or expand programs that train individuals for high-need occupations. Businesses that partner with community colleges agree to the following requirements:

- Provide a 20.0% match of the program costs, prorated by the percentage of students in the program that the business sponsors.
- Assist with program design.
- Consider graduates of the program for employment.

The ACE Program is funded in large part through job credits from withholding taxes under agreements between the colleges, the Department of Revenue, and employers. The ACE Infrastructure appropriation supplements that amount and funds only projects that meet the statutory definition of vertical infrastructure. Pursuant to Iowa Code section [8.57\(5\)\(c\)](#), vertical infrastructure includes “only land acquisition and construction; major renovation and major repair of buildings; routine, recurring maintenance; all appurtenant structures; utilities; site development; recreational trails; renewable fuel infrastructure programs; and debt service payments on academic revenue bonds issued in accordance with [Iowa Code] chapter 262A for capital projects at board of regents institutions.” The Iowa Code section specifies that vertical infrastructure “does not include operational expenses or leasing of a building, appurtenant structure, or utility without a lease-purchase agreement.”

Funding

Since FY 2014, ACE Infrastructure has received annual appropriations of \$6.0 million from the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund. Prior to that, the funding was appropriated from a variety of infrastructure funds, including the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF).

Through intent language, the General Assembly specifies that the appropriation be allocated equally among the 15 community colleges and that qualifying projects must include at least one of the following:

- ACE Program capital projects.
- Major renovations and repairs.

More Information

Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund:

educate.iowa.gov/higher-ed/community-colleges/iowa-skilled-worker-job-creation-fund

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Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [260G](#)

Iowa Code section [8.57\(5\)\(c\)](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [281—21](#)

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