

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates

Program Overview

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a state-based national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing dropouts among young people considered most at risk. The original JAG Model was launched in 1979 in the State of Delaware as a "school-to-work transition program" designed to keep students in school through graduation and help them transition into the workplace in quality jobs.

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG), the state accredited JAG organization, is an independent, statewide 501(c)(3) private nonprofit corporation established in 1999. The ultimate objective of an iJAG program is to provide participants with classroom and work-based learning experiences that result in a quality job, leading to a career after graduation, or completion of a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). The primary process objectives differ depending on the program type. The iJAG has four types of program applications:

- **High School Model:** The primary objective is to keep participants in high school through graduation, and improve the rate of success in achieving education and career goals. This model is currently offered for 11th and 12th graders at 18 high schools, and for 9th and 10th graders at three high schools.
- **Middle School Model:** The primary objective is to significantly increase the number of low-income students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. This model is currently offered at four middle schools (Marshalltown, Sioux City, Council Bluffs, and Davenport).
- **Out of School Model:** The primary objective is attainment of graduation requirements or a GED and the attainment of occupational-related skills. This model is currently being offered at a Metro High School in Cedar Rapids and at United Township Education Center in East Moline, Illinois.
- **Early College Success Model:** The primary objective is completion of a degree-seeking program at the community college level. This model is currently being offered at the Urban Campus of the Des Moines Area Community College.

The iJAG programs are taught by a certified JAG Specialist that may or may not be an Iowa-licensed teacher (school districts decide if they would like a licensed teacher in the position). The JAG Specialists provide individual and group instruction to 35-45 students.

Funding

The iJAG Program had a nine-year average annual appropriation of \$472,000 from FY 2005 to FY 2013. The state appropriation is typically made from the General Fund, except in FY 2011, when an appropriation of \$540,000 was made from the Cash Reserve Fund. Since FY 2015, the iJAG Program has received an annual General Fund appropriation of \$700,000. The Program also receives funding from the private sector and from school districts that have an iJAG program.

Related Statutes

[281](#) Iowa Administrative Code

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More Information

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates: <http://www.ijag.org/>

Iowa Department of Education: <http://educateiowa.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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