
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2027

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2026



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant — Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund (SWJCF)

Purpose

The Skilled Workforce Shortage Grant Program provides assistance to students enrolled in career-technical or career option programs at Iowa community colleges. The programs must be in industries identified as having a shortage of skilled workers or offering high-demand jobs. Students must be Iowa residents enrolled in at least three credit hours (or 12 weeks) of a qualified program of study in an identified workforce shortage area.

Shortage and high-demand industries are identified by the community colleges based on regional analysis and by the Department of Workforce Development. If an industry is removed from the program, students enrolled in related programs will continue to qualify for funding until earning a credential up to an associate degree as long as the student is continuously enrolled and meets all other eligibility requirements. The College Student Aid Commission identifies this Program in administrative rule as the Kibbie Grant, in honor of former State Senator John Kibbie, who played a key role in the founding of the community college system in Iowa.

Awards

The maximum award is one-half of the average tuition and mandatory fees for Iowa community colleges, and cannot exceed a student's identified financial need. Students must complete coursework within two years or the equivalent of two years for part-time students.

Funding

The Program was initially funded in FY 2013 by a General Fund appropriation. Since FY 2014, the Program has been funded by an annual appropriation from the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund (SWJCF). In 2025 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 647](#) (FY 2026 Education Appropriations Act), an appropriation of \$5.0 million was made to the Department of Education from the SWJCF. This represents no change in funding compared to estimated net FY 2025.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [256.227](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [283—23](#)

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

Kibbie Grant: educate.iowa.gov/higher-ed/financial-aid/scholarships-grants/kibbie-grant

College Student Aid Commission: educate.iowa.gov/college-aid-board

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