
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2027

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2026



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Workforce Training and Economic Development Funds — Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund (SWJCF)

Purpose

Each community college has a Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund that was established to receive funding from State, federal, and private sources. The Funds are administered by the Department of Education and used to support a variety of job training and retraining programs, as well as career academies for high school students. At least 70.0% of the funds must be used on projects in the areas of advanced manufacturing, information technology and insurance, alternative and renewable energy, and life sciences, including biotechnology, health care technology, and nursing care technology.

Funding

Although the Funds were established in FY 2004, annual appropriations from the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund (SWJCF) did not begin until FY 2012.

The appropriation is administered by the Department of Education and allocated to community colleges using the formula established in statute for the annual General Aid appropriation. The annual appropriation is not subject to reversion to the SWJCF until the close of the succeeding fiscal year.

In 2025 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 647](#) (FY 2026 Education Appropriations Act), an appropriation of \$15.1 million was made to the Department of Education. This represents no change in funding compared to estimated FY 2025. The SWJCF appropriation includes an annual allocation of \$100,000 to the Department of Education for administration of the Workforce Training and Economic Development Funds.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [260C.18A](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [281—21](#)

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More Information

Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund: educate.iowa.gov/higher-ed/community-colleges/iowa-skilled-worker-job-creation-fund/wted

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