

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



College Work Study

Purpose

State funding for college work study programs is intended to stimulate and promote the part-time employment of students attending Iowa postsecondary educational institutions and the part-time or full-time summer employment of students registered to attend those institutions during the coming year. The funding is intended for students in need of employment earnings in order to pursue postsecondary education.

Requirements

Students are to be employed by the postsecondary institution itself or by a public agency or private nonprofit organization under a contract with the institution or the College Student Aid Commission.

The work cannot result in the displacement of employed workers or impair or affect existing contracts for services. State funds provided to the institutions for college work study cannot be used to supplant existing jobs or financial aid programs provided for students by the institutions.

State Funding

Statute provides a standing General Fund appropriation of \$2.8 million for College Work Study. However, in practice, the General Assembly frequently notwithstanding the statute to eliminate funding for a particular year. The last time state funding was appropriated for the program was in FY 2009 in the amount of \$980,000. That year, the Department of Education transferred an additional \$4,000 to the Commission for College Work Study from unspent funds previously appropriated to the Community Empowerment Program, as directed by the General Assembly.

Federal Funding

The federal government appropriates approximately \$980.0 million annually for the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program. The federal Program requires institutions or employers to pay up to a 50.0% share of the student's wages. When combined, the federal and local contributions fund between 700,000 and 800,000 new awards annually nationwide, with the average new award being \$1,600 in FY 2011.

In FY 2012, Iowa institutions received a total of \$23.4 million in FWS funding and made 15,300 awards to students. Approximately 10.0% of the funding went to community colleges, 22.0% to Regents universities, 62.5% to private nonprofit institutions, and the remainder to private for-profit institutions.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [261.81](#)
[283](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [18](#)

Revised September 6, 2016

More Information

College Student Aid Commission: <http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/index.html>

U.S. Department of Education, Federal Work-Study Program: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fws/funding.html>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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