
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2018

Fiscal Services Division

December 15, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

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 career after graduation, or completion of a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) and the HiSET exam. 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 the completion of a HSED and the HiSET exam and the attainment of occupational-related skills. This model is currently being offered at 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 Des Moines Area Community College.

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates programs are taught by a certified JAG Specialist, who is not required to 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 to 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

More Information

Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates: www.ijag.org

Iowa Department of Education: educateiowa.gov

LSA Staff Contact: Jocelyn Gerrietts (515.725.2249) josie.gerrietts@legis.iowa.gov

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 participating school districts.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Administrative Code [281](#)