

# Rural Attorney Recruitment Program Bill House File 1001

Last Action:  
House Appropriations  
Committee  
April 9, 2025

Executive Summary Only

**An Act creating a Rural Attorney Recruitment Assistance Program, and making appropriations.**

**Fiscal Services Division  
Legislative Services Agency**

**NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)**

Available online at [www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/information/appropriationBillAnalysis](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/information/appropriationBillAnalysis)

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**NEW PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR ACTIVITIES**

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Requires the College Student Aid Commission (CSAC) within the Department of Education (DE) to create a Rural Attorney Recruitment Assistance Program within the DE to assist in the recruitment of attorneys in rural counties and municipalities. The Bill requires counties and municipalities to apply to the CSAC to be included in the Program and establishes the eligibility requirements to participate in the Program. Page 1, Line 1

Permits a county or municipality to be eligible to participate in the Program if all of the following criteria are met: Page 1, Line 20

- The county or municipality has a population of less than 26,000 and is located more than 20 miles from a city with a population of at least 50,000, based on the 2020 federal decennial census.
- The county or municipality agrees to provide the county's or municipality's portion of the incentive payment. Such payments shall be in addition to the advertised salary and benefits of the attorney position.
- The CSAC determines that the county or municipality is eligible.

Creates incentive payments for attorneys who fulfill the requirements of the Program. The payments will be made in five equal annual installments and amount to 90.0% of the annual University of Iowa College of Law resident tuition and fees as determined on July 1, 2026. Page 1, Line 34

Requires the CSAC to adopt administrative rules necessary to administer the Rural Attorney Recruitment Assistance Program. Page 4, Line 4

Prohibits the Program from providing assistance to more than five attorneys during the first year of implementation (FY 2026). Page 4, Line 6

**FUNDING FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

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Requires the county or municipality served by the attorney to pay 35.0% of the total amount of incentive payments. Once the county or municipality certifies to the CSAC that the county or municipality has paid the required amount, the CSAC must pay the remaining 65.0% to the attorney. Page 2, Line 8

Specifies that agreements for payment under the Program must require the attorney to become a contract attorney within the Office of the State Public Defender and participate in volunteer lawyer projects through nonprofit organizations. Page 2, Line 26

Establishes the Rural Attorney Recruitment Assistance Program Fund, which is to be administered by the Page 3, Line 19

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **RURAL ATTORNEY RECRUITMENT PROGRAM BILL**

**HOUSE FILE 1001**

CSAC. The Fund may consist of gifts, grants, bequests, and private contributions as well as State or federal moneys. Up to 5.0% of the moneys in the Fund may be used to cover implementation and administrative costs. Funds that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert, but will remain available for the Program. Any interest earned on moneys in the Fund will remain in the Fund.