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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

August 28, 2020



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### COVID-19 — CORONAVIRUS RELIEF EMPLOYER INNOVATION FUND

**Program.** The [Iowa Employer Innovation Fund](#) was established during the 2018 Legislative Session by [HF 2458](#) (Future Ready Iowa Act). The funding is provided to the Iowa Department of Workforce Development (IWD) and is used for the Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Program, which matches eligible employer moneys to expand opportunities for education and training leading to [high-demand jobs](#), to encourage Iowa employers to provide leadership and support for regional workforce talent pools throughout the State, and to fund Future Ready Iowa education and outreach. A “high-demand job” means a job identified by the IWD Board or a community college pursuant to Iowa Code section [84A.1B](#)(13A). The new Coronavirus Relief Employer Innovation Fund expands opportunities for Iowans whose jobs have been impacted as a result of COVID-19.

**Funding.** Governor Kim Reynolds has allocated \$5.0 million in federal [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) funds to the IWD for the [Employer Innovation Fund](#) to support the new Coronavirus Relief Employer Innovation Fund. Applications for this additional funding will be accepted through September 16, 2020. Recipients will be notified of awards by September 23, 2020. Awards must be expended by December 31, 2020. All applications must be submitted at [www.iowaGrants.gov](http://www.iowaGrants.gov). Unlike the Iowa Employer Innovation Fund, no matching funds will be required from applicants for the new Coronavirus Relief Employer Innovation Fund funding.

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Doc ID 1150862