
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2023

Meeting. The College Student Aid Commission (CSAC) met on Friday, September 15, 2023, and materials related to the meeting can be found [here](#).

Executive Directors Report. The Commission received updates from Julie Ntem, Fiscal Division Administrator and acting Bureau Chief and Executive Director, including the following highlights:

- The Iowa College Aid Processing System (ICAPS) opened September 1, 2023, for the reporting of fall disbursements. This new application provides Iowans with a centralized location to apply for scholarships, grants, and loan repayment programs.
- The awards for the [National Guard Service Scholarship](#) were finalized. Recipients receive approximately \$9,000 or 100.0% of tuition covered, whichever amount is less. The Scholarship received \$4.7 million from the General Fund for FY 2023.
- [GEAR UP](#) (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) Iowa Future Ready launched its third year with a kickoff event on August 1, 2023. The U.S. Department of the Treasury has provided \$5.6 million through the American Rescue Plan Act to support this four-year project.
- The new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) rollout has been delayed from the normal October 1 date to an unspecified date in December 2023. Additionally, as of August 30, 2023, 54.4% of Iowa high school seniors have submitted their FAFSA compared to the national average of 56.2%.

Administrative Rules. The Governor signed [Executive Order No. 10](#) on January 11, 2023, ordering State Executive Branch agencies to perform a comprehensive review of existing administrative rules. Agencies must review rules or chapters to rescind or rescind and readopt them.

Todd Brown, the Division Administrator of the Financial Aid Program Administration, presented three recommendations, and the Council adopted the following changes:

- Rescind rule [283 IAC 10.2](#) and adopt a new rule in lieu thereof.
- Rescind [283 IAC 16](#), "Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Grant," and adopt a new 283 IAC 16 with the same name in lieu thereof.
- Adopt a new [283 IAC 34](#), "Workforce Grant and Incentive Program."

Staffing Updates. The job posting for the Bureau Chief and Executive Director of Iowa College Aid was posted on September 8, 2023, and will remain open for 30 days. An internal committee made up of members of the Higher Education and Iowa College Aid leadership team will evaluate applications for further consideration. Hiring for the Division of Higher Education Administrator position will follow after the Bureau Chief role is filled.

Financial Reports. Roscoe Lewis updated the CSAC on the financial condition of the organization after wrapping up FY 2023 Actuals. CSAC begins FY 2024 with \$24.8 million in the Strategic Reserve Fund. Expected FY 2024 revenues are estimated at \$7.4 million and expenditures totaling \$13.4 million, which includes \$6.0 million in pass-through expenditures from grant receipts. The Commission operates 15 State programs which received \$104.2 million in appropriations from the General Fund for FY 2024.

Postsecondary Registration, SARA, and Exemptions Report. Lisa Pundt, the State Authorization Compliance Officer, provided updates on postsecondary registration approvals, applications under review, and applications pending review. One larger update not included in the meeting notes included

DeVry University becoming a State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Institute in Illinois. SARA allows interstate access to postsecondary opportunities by establishing reciprocal state-level authorizations.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the CSAC is scheduled for November 17, 2023. The agenda for each meeting is available on the CSAC [website](#).

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