



IowaCollegeAid.gov

# Iowa College Aid

## Because College Changes Everything



Created as a state agency in 1963, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) serves Iowa students and families by providing essential **resources** and services to make higher education **possible**. Our mission: to advocate for and help Iowa students and families as they explore, finance and complete educational opportunities beyond high school to increase family and community **success**.

### GEAR UP IOWA

Iowa College Aid's **GEAR UP Iowa** program is helping prepare an estimated 6,300 students across 30 of Iowa's highest-need schools in 12 districts for college access and success. The seven-year, \$22 million dollar, federal GEAR UP grant is the second statewide grant awarded to Iowa College Aid to support the program, with an additional \$22 million of in-kind support from partners across the state.



Partnering with nearly 40 institutions of higher education and community-based organizations, **GEAR UP Iowa** supports students through their first year of college by building a collaborative support network with direct services to students, parents and schools. In addition, GEAR UP Iowa students will be eligible for a scholarship for up to four years of postsecondary education.



### COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Iowa College Aid's collective impact initiative, **College Changes Everything**, aims to equip more Iowans with the skills, education and training needed for Iowa's future jobs. Through the initiative, Iowa College Aid works with community leaders and key stakeholders to plan, organize and establish local networks of organizations with the goal of increasing educational attainment within each respective community. This commitment and collaboration of partners is key to reaching Iowa's ambitious goal of ensuring 70 percent of Iowans in the workforce have college degrees, certificates or industry credentials by 2025.

Six communities in Iowa have been awarded College Access Challenge Grant subgrants to support local efforts to increase educational attainment and Americorp Vista volunteers provide on-site support and assistance in five Iowa communities.



### STATE GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

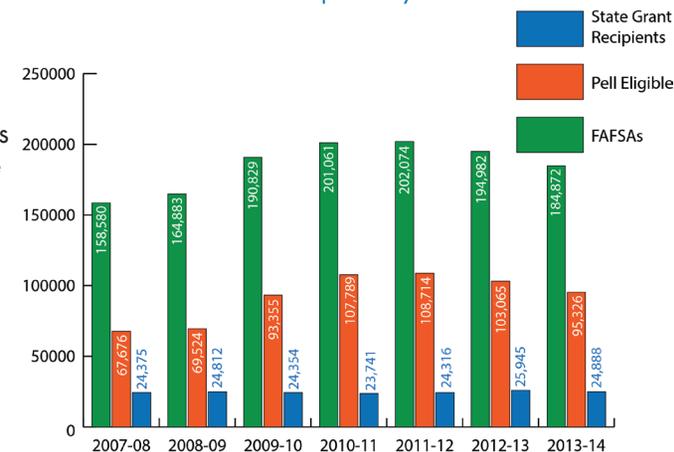
Iowa College Aid helps Iowa students and families pay for higher education through the administration of over \$70 million in state-appropriated financial aid programs. Approximately 27,000 awards are made to Iowa students each year in the form of state scholarships, grants and loan forgiveness.

Applying for state financial aid, made easy!

The Iowa Financial Aid Application, accessible at Iowa College Aid's website, [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov), allows students to apply to multiple state-administered financial aid programs with one application.

Over 50 percent of Iowans who file for financial aid each year are determined to have financial need and are eligible for the federal government's primary need-based aid program - the Pell Grant. Funding for state-appropriated financial aid programs has only been enough to further assist a fourth of Iowa's neediest applicants. For that reason, Iowa College Aid continues to seek ways make education and training beyond high school possible for all Iowans.

FAFSAs Filed by Iowa Residents, Pell-Eligible Filers and State Grant Recipients by Award Year



## SCHOOL-FOCUSED COLLEGE ACCESS INITIATIVES



Iowa College Aid coordinates a 3-Step Process to help Iowa high schools build a college-going culture and to promote the importance of postsecondary education, especially to those from underserved populations.

The [Iowa College Application Campaign](#) helps Iowa high school seniors navigate the college admissions process with the assistance they may not receive at home and ensures students apply to at least one college.

Through the [Iowa FAFSA Completion Initiative](#), schools, districts and designated entities can receive student-specific FAFSA completion information to identifying students who haven't completed the process and to increase the number of students who ultimately apply for federal student aid, a key college access step.

The goal of [Iowa College Decision Day](#) is to recognize high school seniors for their college plans, celebrate their successes and encourage the college aspirations of underclassmen.

## POSTSECONDARY REGISTRATION

Iowa College Aid regulates postsecondary institutions and other instructional schools under Iowa Code Chapter 261B and sections of Iowa Code Chapter 714. Iowa Code Chapter 261B requires certain colleges and universities to be authorized by Iowa College Aid prior to operating in the state of Iowa. Sections of Iowa Code 714 require entities conducting or selling postsecondary courses in Iowa to provide financial protections for students.

Another provision prescribes a minimum tuition refund for an Iowa resident who withdraws from a for-profit postsecondary institution.

Iowa College Aid also responds to and investigates complaints from students attending Iowa schools or from any Iowa resident student attending an out-of-state school.

## HIGHER EDUCATION DATA CENTER

Iowa College Aid hosts a Higher Education Data Center on its website, [www.iowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.iowaCollegeAid.gov), to make it easy to access higher education data related to college costs, postsecondary preparation, state scholarships & grants, student loans, federal student aid and other college-related data.

The Higher Education Data Center includes an [Iowa College & University Snapshots](#) section where students can:

- Access information for degree-granting colleges and universities in Iowa.
- Easily find college-specific data through the College Navigator.
- Access net price calculators for each Iowa college and university to help students estimate the cost to attend a particular institution based on the family's particular financial situation.

## OTHER RESOURCES

### Free Publications

Iowa College Aid offers many free publications regarding financial aid, college planning and career exploration that can be ordered at [www.iowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.iowaCollegeAid.gov).

### [IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://IowaCollegeAid.gov)

Our website provides resources to help students and families plan, prepare and pay for college.

### Social Media

Connect with Iowa College Aid through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, blogs and e-newsletters.

### Customer Service

Iowa College Aid provides a single point of contact for all customers regarding Iowa College Aid products and services.

### Research & Evaluation

The primary purpose of the Research and Evaluation team is to evaluate program effectiveness and provide information for planning, policy formation and decision-making regarding higher education in Iowa.



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Go to [www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/connect-us](http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/connect-us)

