

# AGENCY PERFORMANCE REPORT

State Fiscal Year 2022

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



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## **Introduction**

The annual agency performance report for Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) is compiled to meet the agency's commitment to manage for results and to be open and accountable to citizens. The information is provided in accordance with the Accountable Government Act to improve decision-making and increase accountability to stakeholders and citizens. This report contains performance information on the agency's three core performance plan functions.

## **Agency Overview**

Iowa College Aid helps students and their families plan, prepare, and pay for college. Iowa College Aid administers Iowa General Fund appropriations for scholarships, grants, and loan repayment assistance and advocates on behalf of Iowa students in public policymaking. In addition, Iowa College Aid offers services directly to students, families, educators, and the general public. These services include college and career planning, community engagement support, professional training for educators, regulatory oversight of postsecondary education in the state, and postsecondary education research.

## **Agency Mission**

We advocate for and support Iowans as they explore, finance, and complete educational opportunities beyond high school to increase family and community success.

## **Agency Motto**

Because college changes everything.

## **Agency Vision**

All Iowans can achieve an education beyond high school.

## **Agency Strategic Goals**

- Be a trusted source of information for Iowa residents and higher education stakeholders on postsecondary education access, affordability, success, and completion.
- Align programs and services with the postsecondary needs of Iowa residents and key stakeholders.
- Increase and align resources to support agency programs and services.

## **Agency Core Functions**

The agency's services, products, and activities relate to the following core functions:

- Education through the administration of scholarship, grant, and loan repayment programs.
- Community coordination & development to provide support and resources for schools and communities to cultivate a college-going culture.
- Regulation and compliance through administering the state's postsecondary authorization requirements and consumer protection laws ensuring compliance with state and federal laws, rules, guidelines and program requirements.

## **Agency Annual Report**

Iowa College Aid's annual report can be accessed at <https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/AnnualReports>.

# Results: Services, Products, and Activities

Iowa College Aid provides a number of services, products, and activities that support the Future Ready Iowa goal to have 70 percent of Iowans with education and training beyond high school by 2025. These include:

## Administration of over \$90 million a year in state-funded grants, scholarships, and loan repayment programs

For FY23, \$94,601,015 is budgeted for 13 programs. In FY22, 28,218 awards across 12 programs went to 21,977 students, representing all 99 Iowa counties.

**\$90M**

State appropriations

**7**

Scholarship and grant programs

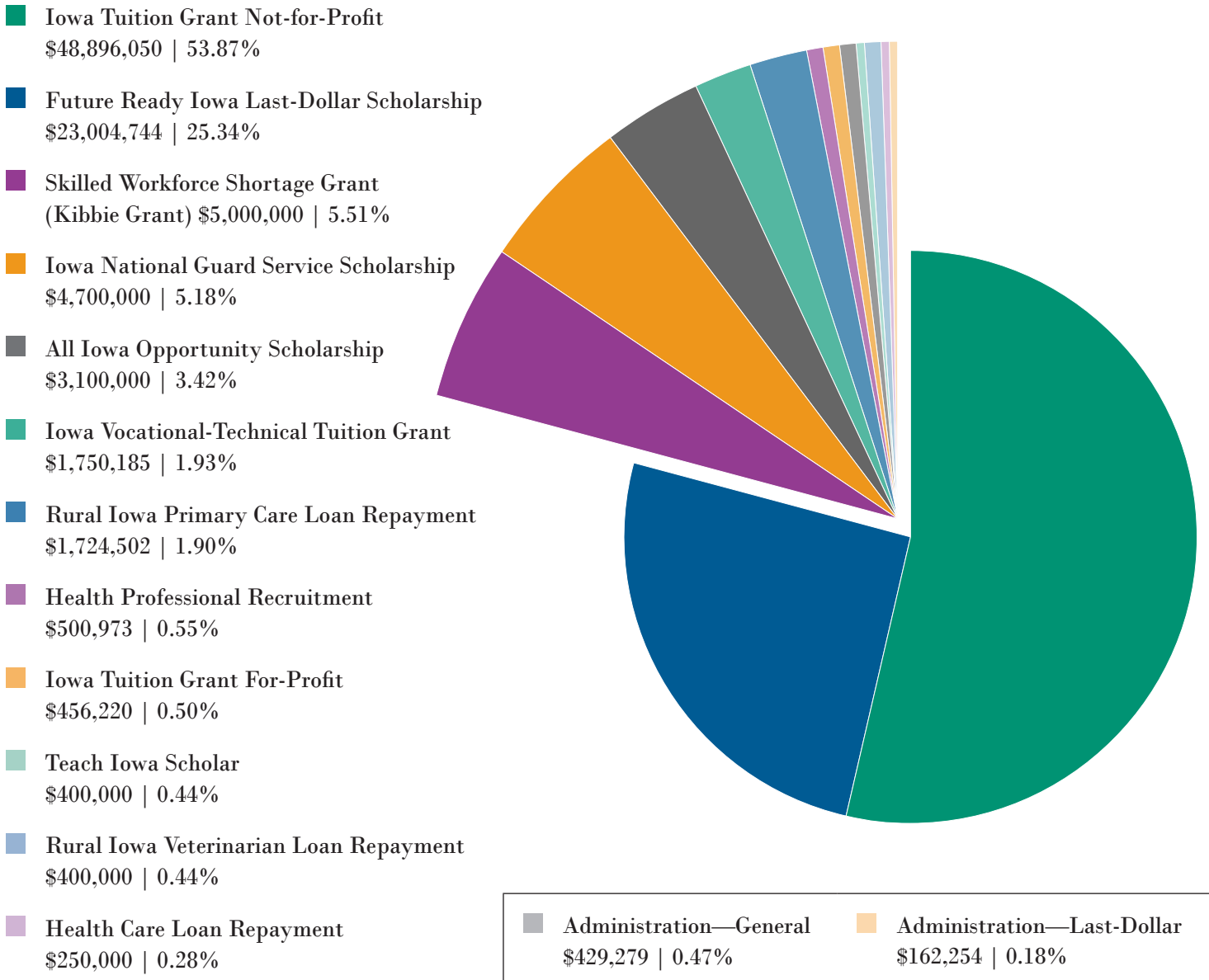
**5**

Loan forgiveness programs

**28K+**

Awards made in FY22

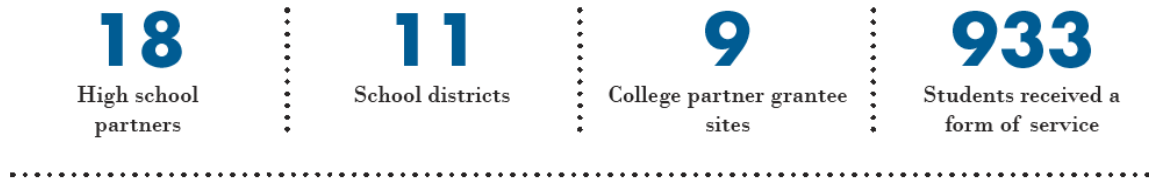
### FY 2022 state appropriations: \$90,774,207



## GEAR UP Iowa (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)

Iowa College Aid administers a statewide \$22.4 million federal GEAR UP grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which serves more than 9,000 students in 26 schools in 12 low-income districts. GEAR UP Iowa follows students from seventh grade through the first year of college to improve academic performance and preparation, raise high school graduation rates, and build student and family awareness of college options, preparation, and financing. During FY22, most GEAR UP Iowa students were wrapping up their first year of college and the program dedicated its support to building infrastructure to support the future grant program, as well as evaluating outcomes.

GEAR UP Iowa received supplemental funding of \$232,740 to support evaluation of the program through 2025. Additionally, GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready was launched in March 2022 with approximately \$1.4mil in annual funding from State and Local Federal Recovery Funds through 2025. The GEAR UP Iowa Future Ready program supports 11 low-income districts across the state, targeting support to 5,000 9th grade students through their graduation in 2025. The program also serves around 5,000 12th grade students each year, and provides middle school capacity building in these same districts.

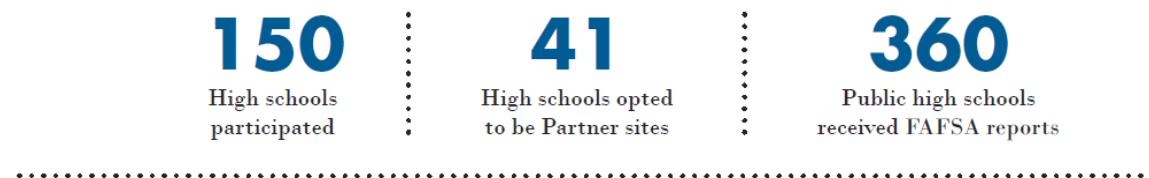


## Course to College

The Course to College program works with all Iowa high schools to increase college enrollment and attainment by providing resources, tools, guidance, and support to school counselors and staff in support of all students on their path to postsecondary education. In FY22, 150 high schools participated, an increase of 30 schools from the previous year, with 41 making the additional commitment to serve as partner sites. 370 high schools also receive weekly, automated student-level FAFSA reports. This includes all public high schools in the state, as well as some virtual and private schools.

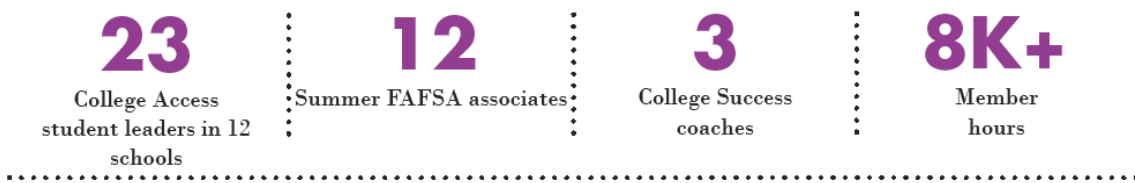
The five Course to College steps are:

- Prepare
- Apply
- Finance
- Decide
- Go



## College Access and Success AmeriCorps and Course to College Coaching

AmeriCorps members provide college-access and college-success assistance to high school and college students in Iowa. In FY22, a total of 34 members served 23 schools and communities. This included 23 student leaders in 12 Iowa high schools, providing one-on-one assistance to their peers in completing steps to prepare, enroll, and succeed in college, as well as capacity building for college access programming, specifically around Iowa College Aid’s Course to College Program. 11 high school counselors also served as summer FAFSA Associates in 11 high schools, supporting student summer transition. Iowa College Aid partnered with two community colleges to host two AmeriCorps members as success coaches to guide and support recipients of the Last-Dollar Scholarship throughout the academic year.



Iowa College Aid hosted a dedicated member for virtual assistance, in addition to providing Virtual College Coach Texting. Launched in January 2020, the Virtual College Coach Texting expanded in FY 22 to include all LDS recipients, all high school grade level students, as well as parents, providing personalized, timely college access and success text messages. In FY22, 9,170 students were served, and a total of 184,681 messages were sent. The College Access and Success AmeriCorps program has evolved into the Course to College Coaching program, which includes all of the above program components, and works together with Future Ready Iowa mentors, to make up the three levels of mentor support for Future Ready Iowa initiatives.



## Iowa College and Career Readiness Academy

The academy is a suite of Iowa-specific online courses for college access and success professionals developed by Iowans for Iowa. Academy graduates help their schools and districts develop practices that lead to postsecondary access and success, ensuring that all students—especially low-income and first-generation—have access to postsecondary opportunities.

In FY22, the IA CCR Academy provided 8 courses across 15 course offerings, including the launch of 602: College & Career Readiness for Systems-Involved Youth. Since its start in 2018, the program has had 757 participants. To date, 42 individuals have earned the College Access Professional certificate by completing 101-301. An additional 22 participants have earned the College Access Specialist certificate with completion of 101-501. Enrollees may also elect to earn licensure renewal or graduate credit by taking the courses.

**66**

Enrolled  
in courses



**8**

Courses available



**29**

Schools and agencies  
enrolled



## Local College Access Networks (LCANs)

The LCAN initiative began in 2015 with a College Access Challenge grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Now funded by Iowa College Aid, LCANs represent communities across the state that are dedicated to engaging in the Collective Impact model—bringing together different sectors of the community—to increase college attainment. LCANs are awarded a four-year grant series and are provided dedicated technical assistance to seed locally driven collaborative measures and set the stage for long-term sustainability of community-wide efforts to improve college attainment. In FY22, \$545,000 was available in grant funding to 11 community and population-specific networks in Iowa.

**11**

Communities funded



**\$545K**

Awarded in grants



**163**

Leadership team  
members



**150+**

College-going events  
hosted





## Postsecondary School Authorization

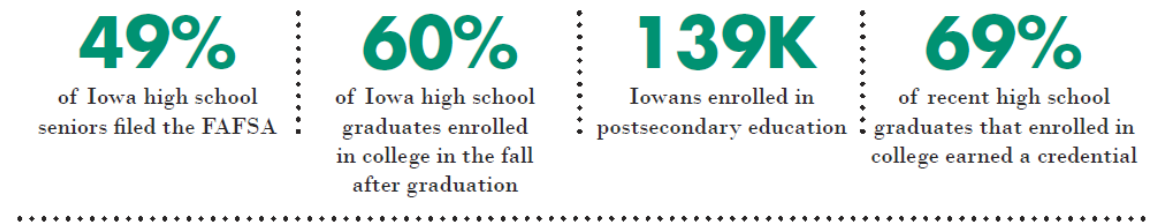
Iowa College Aid authorizes postsecondary schools to operate in Iowa and to offer postsecondary education programs to Iowans. This authorization includes schools with an actual physical location in Iowa as well as schools offering instruction to Iowans via distance education. Iowa College Aid ensures that nonpublic schools adopt additional consumer protections for students attending Iowa schools and Iowa resident students attending online programs.

Throughout FY22, the team authorized 250 institutions to operate in Iowa and to offer postsecondary education programs to Iowans, whether from a physical location in Iowa or via distance education. Of these institutions, 174 were based in Iowa and 76 were based out of state. In addition to postsecondary school authorizations, the team vetted 18 Iowa student dispute cases.



## Research

In addition to evaluation of agency programs, the Iowa College Aid research team provides analytics and insight for higher education stakeholders, the media, and the general public. In FY22, the team released several reports as well as individual district dashboards for every state legislator. Additionally, this year the research team worked on evaluating the FAFSA Simplification Act and the transition from the Expected Family Contribution to the Student Aid Index, and the effect it would have on federal and state financial aid.



# Agency Performance Plan

Outcome Measure(s)		2022 Target	2022 Outcome	2023 Target
<b>Core Function: Education</b>				
Families will have access to student financial aid	# of Students completing the Iowa Financial Aid Application	6,464	6,491	6,802
	# of Students completing the FAFSA	145,194	144,881	145,194
	# of Iowa Tuition Grant Awards	8,633	8,878	8,102
	# of Iowa Tuition Grant Proprietary Awards	211	210	217
	# of Iowa Vocational - Technical Tuition Grant Awards	2,455	2,559	2,349
	# of All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Awards	n/a	747	752
	# of Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship Awards	8,300	7,764	10,405
	Average State Scholarship and Grant and Work Study assistance per student	\$4,523	\$4,388	\$3,787
<b>Core Function: Community Coordination &amp; Development</b>				
Provide support and resources for schools and communities to cultivate a college-going culture	# of school buildings participating in at least one community engagement program	n/a	n/a	175

<b>Core Function: Regulation and Compliance</b>				
Administer the state's postsecondary authorization requirements and consumer protection laws ensuring compliance with state and federal laws, rules, guidelines and program requirements	Number of postsecondary education institutions providing educational opportunities to students in Iowa	2,375	2,538	2,579
	Number of postsecondary education institutions registered in Iowa to provide educational opportunities to students in Iowa	43	42	46
	# of Postsecondary Education Institutions operating under an approved exemption from registration providing educational opportunities to students in Iowa	n/a	69	78
	# of Postsecondary Education Institutions authorized to operate with evidence of Financial Responsibility or Exemption from Financial Responsibility to provide educational opportunities to students in Iowa	n/a	118	140
	# of Postsecondary Education Institutions eligible to provide educational opportunities to students in Iowa through a SARA (State Reciprocity Authorization Agreement)	n/a	2,309	2,315

Note: Agency measures changed between FY22 and FY23 resulting in some FY22 measures not reported.

**Agency Contacts**

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