



# Iowa College Aid

## Products and Services



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. Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa's students and families as they plan, prepare and pay for college. The agency administers state scholarship, grant and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$68.0 million annually; conducts research and distributes higher education data; promotes college-access and career planning initiatives and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information.

### I HAVE A PLAN IOWA®



I Have A Plan Iowa®, the state-designated career information system, is a web-based, college and career planning tool provided free to all Iowans.

I Have A Plan Iowa® users can complete interest, skill and value assessments; create high school course plans; explore career options; investigate education opportunities; prepare for the ACT, SAT and GRE; research financial aid for college; and access career planning and preparation tools.

As an enhancement to I Have A Plan Iowa®, Iowa College Aid provides Iowa educators with *Roads to Success*, a free college and careers curriculum. *Roads to Success* aligns with the Iowa Core 21st Century Skills and ASCA standards.

### FINANCIAL LITERACY

Iowa College Aid provides the following financial literacy programs free to Iowa students, accessible through I Have A Plan Iowa®:

**Vault™** is an online, interactive tool for Iowa students in grades 4 through 6. It is designed to introduce financial literacy skills early in a child's cognitive development empowering children to create good financial habits that will stay with them throughout their lives.

The **Iowa Financial Literacy Program** is an online financial literacy platform offered free to all Iowa high schools to help Iowa educators teach, assess and certify Iowa high school students in over 600 core concepts of personal finance. The program consists of ten interactive modules that meet the financial literacy essential concepts and skills of the Iowa Core and includes a pre-test and post-test to assess student improvement.



Iowa College Aid administers a \$16.8 million federal GEAR UP grant for the state of Iowa to increase the number of academically at-risk and economically disadvantaged students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

**GEAR UP Iowa** works to create and sustain a college-going culture through statewide and school-based services provided to a cohort of approximately 7,000 high school students from the class of 2014 in more than 200 Iowa high schools.

All students in the **GEAR UP Iowa** cohort will be eligible to receive a **GEAR UP Iowa** scholarship of up to \$2,600 upon high school graduation to help pay higher education costs.

More information is available at [www.GEARUPIowa.gov](http://www.GEARUPIowa.gov).

### STATE GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Iowa College Aid helps Iowa students and families pay for higher education through the administration of over \$68 million in state-appropriated financial aid programs.

Approximately 26,000 awards are made to Iowa students each year in the form of state scholarships, grants, and loan forgiveness programs.



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



# www.IowaCollegeAid.gov

## POSTSECONDARY REGISTRATION

Iowa College Aid is responsible for registering postsecondary institutions and other instructional schools under Iowa Code Chapter 261B and sections of 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 file evidence of responsibility. Another provision prescribes a minimum tuition refund for an Iowa resident who withdraws from a postsecondary institution under certain conditions.

Iowa College Aid also responds to and investigates student complaints regarding postsecondary institutions registered in the state.

## HIGHER EDUCATION DATA CENTER

Iowa College Aid hosts a Higher Education Data Center on its website at [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.

## PAWS IN JOBLAND

Paws in Jobland® is an online career awareness program that Iowa College Aid provides for free to help elementary school students build self-awareness, identify personal interests and explore the world of work.

Accessible through I Have A Plan Iowa®, Paws in Jobland® helps Iowa's elementary school students see the connection between school and work and the possibilities for their future.



## OTHER RESOURCES

### Training Support

Iowa College Aid provides regional, on-site and webinar training to educators, counselors and financial aid administrators on a variety of topics, including the use of agency-administrated programs.

### Free Publications

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

### Websites

The websites [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov) and [www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov](http://www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov) provide resources to help students and families plan, prepare and pay for college.

### Social Media

Connect with Iowa College Aid through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogs and electronic newsletters.

## CONNECT WITH US!

Find Iowa College Aid, I Have A Plan Iowa®, and GEAR UP Iowa on Facebook & Twitter



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