



## Income and Expected Family Contribution – How Do They Relate? May 2012

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Expected Family Contribution, or EFC, is a measure of one's ability to pay for college. Based on information that prospective college students provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the EFC is used in calculating students' eligibility for federal need-based financial aid as well as, often, state- and institutionally-funded aid. The higher a student's EFC, the more the student or student's family is expected to contribute to the costs of college.

In order to calculate EFC, the FAFSA collects information related to a broad range of individual circumstances, such as whether a student is dependent or independent, whether the student has dependents of his or her own, how many members of the family are attending college, and other considerations. By design, student or family income alone cannot be used to estimate EFC. Rather, the purpose of the EFC is to provide a measure of ability to pay for college based on a more comprehensive range of factors. (For more information about the EFC formula, see the 2011-12 EFC Formula Guide at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/efcformulaguide/attachments/101310-EFCFormulaGuide1112.pdf>.)

While the EFC takes into consideration numerous factors in addition to income, the table on the following page provides background on the relationship between income and EFC. It shows the average EFC for various value ranges of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), as reported by financial aid applicants on their U.S. federal individual income tax returns. The table is based on an analysis of FAFSAs filed by Iowa residents between July 2010 and June 2011. This table cannot be used to estimate any individual family's EFC. Rather, it is intended to provide only a broad sense of the relationship between family income and expected family contribution (EFC).

In addition to the table on the following page, Iowa College Aid provides a link to an online EFC estimator at [www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov](http://www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov). This online EFC estimator takes users' individual circumstances into account and can provide a clearer sense of one's own EFC prior to completing the FAFSA.

Average Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for  
Financial Aid Applicants in Iowa in 2010-2011

AGI Range (\$)	Dependent Students Average EFC (\$)	Independent Students Average EFC (\$)
<0	2,312	781
0	119	91
1 thru 5,000	266	145
5,001 thru 10,000	287	151
10,001 thru 15,000	310	756
15,001 thru 20,000	462	1,618
20,001 thru 25,000	660	2,370
25,001 thru 30,000	980	3,000
30,001 thru 35,000	2,476	3,838
35,001 thru 40,000	3,152	4,582
40,001 thru 45,000	3,939	5,031
45,001 thru 50,000	4,945	5,608
50,001 thru 55,000	5,725	6,548
55,001 thru 60,000	6,872	7,534
60,001 thru 65,000	8,185	8,113
65,001 thru 70,000	9,476	9,264
70,001 thru 75,000	10,843	10,620
75,001 thru 80,000	12,077	12,046
80,001 thru 85,000	13,766	14,050
85,001 thru 90,000	14,958	15,261
90,001 thru 95,000	16,952	17,516
95,001 thru 100,000	18,533	18,003
100,001 thru 105,000	19,926	19,924
105,001 thru 110,000	20,856	21,131
110,001 thru 115,000	22,914	23,442
115,001 thru 120,000	23,951	24,493
120,001 thru 125,000	25,568	24,670
125,001 thru 130,000	27,150	26,277
130,001 thru 135,000	28,370	30,461
135,001 thru 140,000	30,127	29,048
140,001 thru 145,000	31,937	30,901
145,001 thru 150,000	33,451	32,990
150,001 thru 155,000	35,467	33,183
155,001 thru 160,000	37,980	34,418
160,001 thru 165,000	39,861	42,416
165,001 thru 170,000	39,667	41,629
170,001 thru 175,000	40,015	37,740
175,001 thru 180,000	44,182	51,467
180,001 thru 185,000	44,000	39,448
185,001 thru 190,000	46,272	51,582
190,001 thru 195,000	48,369	51,062
195,001 thru 200,000	47,114	46,676
Greater than 200,000	67,194	82,819

Data table based on analysis of Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSAs) filed by Iowa residents July 2010 through June 2011.

Source: Iowa College Student Aid Commission