

CHAPTER 9

ALL IOWA OPPORTUNITY FOSTER CARE GRANT PROGRAM

Overview

The All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant is a statewide program assisting Iowa residents who were previously adjudicated in the Iowa foster care system. Recipients must make satisfactory academic progress to receive awards. Awards are prorated for students enrolling less than full-time and based on the student's enrollment status and college choice.

Date Established: July 2007

Funding:

| ALL IOWA OPPORTUNITY FOSTER CARE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING HISTORY | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| ACADEMIC YEAR | STATE APPROPRIATION | TOTAL FUNDING |
| 2007-08 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |
| 2008-09 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |
| 2009-10* | \$687,510 | *\$618,759 |
| 2010-11 | \$594,383 | \$594,383 |
| 2011-12 | \$554,057 | \$554,057 |
| 2012-13 | \$554,057 | \$554,057 |

* Reduced by 10% due to across the board cut on 10/8/09.

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. College and University

The Code of Iowa limits eligibility to Iowa colleges and universities accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (NCA).

Students attending undergraduate or vocational training programs at the colleges and universities listed on the following page are eligible to receive All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grants.

| Iowa Foster Care Grant Participating Colleges and Universities | |
|---|---|
| <u>Regent Institutions</u> | |
| Iowa State University | Ames |
| University of Iowa | Iowa City |
| University of Northern Iowa | Cedar Falls |
| <u>Private Colleges and Universities</u> | |
| AIB College of Business | Des Moines |
| Allen College | Waterloo |
| Briar Cliff College | Sioux City |
| Buena Vista University | Storm Lake |
| Central College | Pella |
| Clarke University | Dubuque |
| Coe College | Cedar Rapids |
| Cornell College | Mount Vernon |
| Dordt College | Sioux Center |
| Drake University | Des Moines |
| Emmaus Bible College | Dubuque |
| Faith Baptist Bible College | Ankeny |
| Graceland College | Lamoni |
| Grand View University | Des Moines |
| Grinnell College | Grinnell |
| Iowa Wesleyan College | Mt. Pleasant |
| Loras College | Dubuque |
| Luther College | Decorah |
| Maharishi University of Management | Fairfield |
| Mercy College of Health Sciences | Des Moines |
| Morningside College | Sioux City |
| Mount Mercy University | Cedar Rapids |
| Northwestern College | Orange City |
| St. Ambrose University | Davenport |
| St. Luke's College | Sioux City |
| Simpson College | Indianola |
| University of Dubuque | Dubuque |
| Upper Iowa University | Fayette |
| Wartburg College | Waverly |
| William Penn College | Oskaloosa |
| <u>Proprietary Colleges</u> | |
| Ashford University | Clinton |
| Kaplan University | Cedar Falls Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Davenport Des Moines, Mason City Forest City |
| Waldorf College | Forest City |
| <u>Community Colleges</u> | |
| Eastern Iowa Community College | Clinton, Scott, Muscatine |
| Des Moines Area Community College | Bettendorf |
| Hawkeye Community College | Des Moines |
| Indian Hills Community College | Waterloo |
| Iowa Central Community College | Ottumwa |
| Iowa Lakes Community College | Fort Dodge |
| Iowa Valley Community College | Estherville |
| Iowa Western Community College | Ellsworth, Marshalltown |
| Kirkwood Community College | Council Bluffs |
| North Iowa Area Community College | Cedar Rapids |
| Northeast Iowa Community College | Mason City |
| Northwest Iowa Community College | Calmar |
| Southeastern Community College | Sheldon |
| Southwestern Community College | Burlington |
| Western Iowa Tech Community College | Creston |
| | Sioux City |

2. Student

In addition to the general eligibility requirements found in Chapter 1, eligible All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant recipients must be currently enrolled in at least 3 credit hours (or planning to enroll) in an undergraduate degree or certificate program at an eligible Iowa college or university. All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grants are not available for summer terms.

To receive an All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant, a student must have been:

- In a licensed foster care placement under a court order as described in Iowa Code chapter 232 under the care and custody of the Department of Human Services or Juvenile Court Services on the date the youth reached the age of 18 or during the 30 calendar days before or after that date;
- Under court order under Iowa Code chapter 232 to live with a relative or other suitable person on the date the youth reached the age of 18 or during the 30 calendar days before or after that date;
- In a licensed foster care placement under an order entered under Iowa Code chapter 232 prior to being legally adopted after reaching the age of 16; or
- In the State Training School or the Iowa Juvenile Home under court order under Iowa Code chapter 232 under the care and custody of the Department of Human Services on the date the youth reached the age of 18 or during the 30 calendar days before or after that date

B. STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS

Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible to receive the All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant. Additionally, the Commission will provide an annual online application (www.iowacollegeaid.gov) that must be completed by the student.

Awards are made to students between ages 17-24 however, certain conditions apply.

- 1) Students must submit an application each year. No awards are renewed without a current application on file.
- 2) Students may receive awards until age 24 only if their initial Foster Grant application was received prior to age 23. In addition, students must also begin attending college and have a foster grant awarded to them before their 23rd birthday in order to continue to receive awards until age 24.

C. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

Awards will first be made to returning students who submit applications by the priority deadline. Once all on-time renewal applications are awarded, new applications and late renewals will be considered in date-received order.

Once funds have been committed for an academic year, any unfunded applicants will be added to a waiting list based on the date and time the online application was received.

D. AWARD AMOUNTS AND LIMITS

During academic years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-2010, students were eligible to receive Foster Grant awards up to the full cost of attendance minus all other state, federal and institutional gift aid and work-study. The awards were not subject to the Commission's gift aid regulations (Chapter 2) as the award could cover a recipient's EFC.

Beginning in academic year 2010-2011, Foster Grant annual award amounts are determined based on a student's enrollment status and the type of college or university at which the student attends. Annual full-time award maximums have been calculated using cost of attendance and gift aid averages at each sector.

Annual full-time awards for the 2012-2013 academic year are:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Community College | \$2,270 |
| Regent | \$3,560 |
| Private College/University | \$8,000 |

Students enrolled full-time may receive the full-time award for that term, students enrolled less than full-time will be eligible for pro-rated awards based on the number of hours in which they are enrolled.

The following two tables contain the full-time and pro-rated award amounts for both colleges/universities operating on a semester calendar or on a quarter calendar.

2012-2013 Foster Grant Awards for a Semester Calendar

| | Community College | Regent | Private |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Full-time/semester | \$1135 | \$1780 | \$4000 |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ time | \$851 | \$1335 | \$3000 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ time | \$568 | \$890 | \$2000 |
| < $\frac{1}{2}$ time | \$284 | \$445 | \$1000 |

2012-2013 Foster Grant Awards for a Quarter Calendar

| | Community College | Private |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Full-time/quarter | \$757 | \$2667 |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ time | \$567 | \$2000 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ time | \$379 | \$1333 |
| < $\frac{1}{2}$ time | \$189 | \$667 |

Eligibility for this program ends when the student reaches age 24.

Payments are disbursed on a per term basis and may be used by college or university officials to pay tuition, fees, books and room and board charges. If credit balances remain after charges are paid, college or university officials may distribute grant balances to students. Students must use the proceeds for other bona fide education expenses such as books, equipment, and transportation.

E. AWARD NOTIFICATION

The Commission will provide award notices to All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant recipients. Award notices will clearly indicate award amounts and will include the following award notification statement:

“In the event that available state funds are insufficient to pay the full amount of each approved grant, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission has the authority to administratively reduce the award.”

F. AWARD NOTIFICATION

College and university officials should provide award notices to All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant recipients. Award notices must clearly indicate award amounts and the state programs from which students will benefit. All notices concerning state grants must include the following award notification statement:

“In the event that available state funds are insufficient to pay the full amount of each approved grant, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission has the authority to administratively reduce the award.”

G. RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY

Students must complete and file annual FAFSA and Iowa Financial Aid Applications by the deadline established by the Commission. If funds remain available after the application deadline, the Commission will continue to accept applications. To be eligible for a renewal, a student must maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the eligible college or university. Financial need is determined annually on the basis of a new FAFSA filed by the applicant.

H. CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Students are responsible for notifying the Commission immediately of any change in name, enrollment status, or address. Any changes in awards must be provided to Commission staff electronically via the State Scholarship and Grant Reporting System (see Chapter 3).

I. VERIFICATION/COMPLIANCE

College officials are responsible for completing required federal verification procedures and for coordinating all aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility and allowable award amounts.

Disbursements of state-funded student financial aid may be made prior to completing the Verification process as long as college or university officials have no reason to believe application information is inaccurate. If Verification indicates that students are ineligible for aid, refunds must be made to state-funded programs.