Last-Dollar Scholarship FAQs

1. **What is the Last-Dollar Scholarship?**

The goal of the Last-Dollar Scholarship program is to increase the number of Iowans with education or training beyond high school up to a two-year degree to fill high-demand jobs across the state. The scholarship will cover tuition – after all other non-repayable federal and state financial aid – for Iowans who enroll in one of numerous eligible programs of study leading to high-demand jobs. This effort is geared toward getting Iowans trained and in great careers (starting at a minimum of $14 per hour), meeting the needs of Iowa employers and growing Iowa’s economy.

How much money does the program have for scholarships? $13,004,774

To find out more information go to [www.futurereadyiowa.gov](http://www.futurereadyiowa.gov) and click on Last-Dollar Scholarship.

1. **Who can qualify for this scholarship?**

Individuals who enroll in any of the eligible programs of study leading to certificates, diplomas and two-year degrees at community colleges and participating private colleges. There are two categories of students:

High school students –must enroll in an eligible program of study full-time in the fall immediately after high school graduation.

Adult learners (20 and older) – must enroll in an eligible program of study full-time or part-time.

1. **How can people apply for this?**

Everyone interested in the Last-Dollar Scholarship must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and list the community college or participating private college they want to attend. A deadline to complete the FAFSA for the 2019-20 academic year will be announced in June, so complete the FAFSA as soon as possible.

1. **Why is this scholarship important to Iowans?**

The scholarship is important because it helps connect students with education and training opportunities for high-demand fields. Education and training beyond high school is the new minimum in a technology-driven, knowledge economy. By 2025, 68% of jobs in Iowa are expected to require training or education beyond high school.

To have the most future-ready, capable workforce, we have to connect Iowans with opportunities to obtain required education or training. This will help employers and the economy while helping Iowans earn higher incomes and improve their quality of life.

1. **How does this scholarship impact the high-demand jobs it is designed for?**

Iowa is currently experiencing a workforce crisis because we lack enough skilled workers to fill all the great jobs that require education or training beyond high school. The scholarship aims to close this gap and prepare our workforce for the future.

1. **What kinds of industries are included in the Last-Dollar Scholarship program?**

The scholarship helps cover tuition for eligible programs of study leading to high-demand jobs in many fields such as information technology, health care, energy, services, and building trades. These programs were selected by the State Workforce Board because they represent high-demand jobs here in Iowa. The full list is available at [www.futurereadyiowa.gov](http://www.futurereadyiowa.gov)

1. **What can students expect from this program?**

The scholarship will cover tuition– after all other non-repayable federal and state financial aid – for eligible programs of study leading to high-demand jobs. All qualified students will receive at least $500 a year even if, for example, a federal Pell grant fully covers tuition. Each program of study is geared toward providing students with the education or training needed to enter the workforce or improve their skills to land a better-paying job.

**What are the long-term goals of the Last-Dollar Scholarship?**

The Last-Dollar Scholarship is part of the Future Ready Iowa initiative, which aims to develop 70% of Iowa’s workforce with the necessary training and education beyond high school by 2025. It is estimated that 68% of jobs in Iowa will require post-secondary training and education, so it is important to connect people with resources like the Last-Dollar Scholarship. We want it to make it easier for Iowans to get the necessary training for good-paying jobs in high demand fields.

1. **When will this scholarship program go into effect?**

The scholarship is effective for the 2019-20 academic year. In order to be considered, you must complete the FAFSA as soon as possible and enroll in an eligible program of study at a community college or participating private college.