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Iowa College Aid Receives \$50,000 to Promote Health Careers Grant from Telligen Community Initiative will focus on Wapello, Cerro Gordo counties

Iowa College Aid has received a \$50,000 grant from Telligen Community Initiative to increase the number of Iowa students, particularly students from rural communities, who enter health professions. The state agency will work through its existing Local College Access Networks (LCANs) to focus this effort on Wapello and Cerro Gordo counties.

"We applied for this grant because Ottumwa and Mason City have a shortage of health care workers," said Christina Sibouih, Outreach Division Director at Iowa College Aid. "The approach we're taking is known as 'collective impact.' That means we'll coordinate with local partners to help students in these communities connect with health care education opportunities."

Telligen Community Initiative supports projects in the areas of health innovation, health care workforce development and access to care for the underserved. It received a record 128 applications for its 2016 Iowa-based grant cycle and made 10 awards totaling \$440,663. Iowa College Aid received the maximum possible for an individual request.

"We are proud to serve as a catalyst and funder for this project to attract students to health care fields, particularly in rural areas," said Telligen Community Initiative Executive Director Matt McGarvey. "We recognize the urgent need for skilled medical workers in many communities across the state. This effort will work to expand the pipeline of students to health care careers, ultimately benefitting the long-term health and wellness of Iowa."

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About Iowa College Aid: We provide college access, financial literacy and outreach services to Iowa's students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. We administer state scholarship, grant, work study and loan forgiveness programs totaling more than \$70 million annually; conduct research and distribute higher education data; and offer Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information.

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