



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

NEWS RELEASE

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Education Loan Repayment Available for Eligible Attorneys in Iowa

The John R. Justice Grant Program relieves debt load for attorneys in public interest positions

Des Moines, IA., October 25, 2011 – Public defenders and prosecutors in Iowa may be eligible for federal student loan repayment assistance as an incentive to serve in these critical roles. The John R. Justice (JRJ) Grant is a federally-funded program that encourages qualified attorneys to choose careers as prosecutors and public defenders, and to continue in that service within the state of Iowa. The Iowa College Student Aid Commission administers the federal program on behalf of the State of Iowa.

As attorneys graduate with overwhelming levels of educational debt, many are driven to seek employment in the more lucrative private sector, leaving both prosecutor and public defender offices struggling to attract talented attorneys. “Student loan debt is consistently cited as a reason attorneys decline or leave positions as prosecutors and public defenders,” stated Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “The JRJ Program allows talented professionals to make employment decisions based on their desire to serve the public interest instead of being driven by education loan debt.” The program reduces the federal student loan debt burden for eligible attorneys who agree to remain employed in Iowa as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years. Repayment benefits cannot exceed \$10,000 in any calendar year.

To apply for the JRJ Grant Program, applicants must provide required documentation and complete the application found at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov. The priority application deadline is December 31, 2011. Conditionally eligible applicants will be named in February, 2012. For more information about the program, please contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456.

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About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa’s students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling nearly \$60.0 million annually, administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) program, provides borrowers with assistance to avoid the serious consequences of default, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being used to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.