

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FAFSA assistance program expands across Iowa**

More than 130 locations in 2021 to help students and parents complete financial aid forms.

YOUR CITY, IOWA – (*October 15, 2021)*– College-bound Iowa students will find themselves with options when it comes to seeking out financial aid assistance this winter. Students and parents needing help with financial aid forms will find more options closer to home through the FAFSA Ready Iowa program, which will host more than 130 FAFSA completion assistance events in 81 communities in Iowa.

Volunteers for FAFSA Ready Iowa will help students and their families fill out and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as part of a national program that helps students qualify for federal financial aid. The FAFSA, which is a free form available in paper and electronic formats from the U.S. Department of Education, is the first step in the qualification process.

“Data shows that students have an 85% chance of being awarded financial aid simply by completing the FAFSA. This program is great for anyone who has questions, is overwhelmed by the process, or wants free help with the form,” said Brittania Morey, ICAN vice president, marketing and communications and state coordinator for FAFSA Ready Iowa. “It’s especially helpful for students who are low-income or are the first generation of their families to attend college, or both.”

FAFSA Ready Iowa will hold events over a six-month period. Beginning in October events will run through March 30, 2022 in Alburnett, Algona, Alleman, Ankeny, Bedford, Belle Plaine, Bettendorf, Boone, Brooklyn, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Centerville, Churdan, Clarence, Clinton, Colfax, Columbus Junction, Conrad, Coralville, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Delhi, Denison, Des Moines, DeWitt, Dubuque, Dyersville, Eagle Grove, Edgewood, Elkader, Emmetsburg, Fort Dodge, Grinnell, Griswold, Guttenberg, Harlan, Holstein, Huxley, Hiawatha, Ida Grove, Indianola, Jefferson, Johnston, Keokuk, Keosauqua, Lake View, Lansing, Liberty Center, Lisbon, Manchester, Marion, Marshalltown, Mason City, Mondamin, Monroe, Mount Vernon, Muscatine, Newell, Newton, Norwalk, Ottumwa, Perry, Postville, Reinbeck, Rock Rapids, Sioux Center, Sioux City, Sioux Rapids, Spirit Lake, Springville, Sully, Tama, Tipton, Troy Mills, Urbandale, Vinton, Waterloo, West Burlington, West Des Moines, West Liberty, and Wilton. There is no cost for FAFSA assistance received at an FAFSA Ready Iowa location.

The FAFSA Ready Iowa planning committee has secured specific dates for each site and is beginning its recruitment of volunteers to assist families at each event. “The success of the FAFSA Ready Iowa program is due, in large part, to the volunteers. For the 2021-22 events we have professionals from college financial aid offices, local banking institutions, and state and private education organizations represented in our volunteers,” said Morey. “Their knowledge and expertise makes all the difference in providing assistance and helping families understand the financial aid process.”

For more information, please visit the FAFSA Ready Iowa website, [www.icansucceed.org/fafsareadyia](http://www.icansucceed.org/fafsareadyia). Details are also available from ICAN by calling (877) 272-4692 or e-mailing [FAFSA@ICANsucceed.org](mailto:FAFSA@ICANsucceed.org).

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**About ICAN**

ICAN is a nonprofit, educational organization. ICAN is the College Access Network for Iowa, and a member of the National College Access Network (NCAN). ICAN has locations in Ankeny, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Sioux City and Waterloo, which provide programming and advising support to students and their families as they plan for education and training after high school. All ICAN programs and services are provided without charge. For more information about ICAN, call (877) 272-4692 or visit [www.ICANsucceed.org](http://www.ICANsucceed.org).