

College Savings Iowa New 2019 Tax Deduction

Deduct up to \$3,387 per account
A family of four could deduct up to \$13,548



²⁰¹⁹ My office recently announced that the Iowa income tax deduction has been raised for those saving with College Savings Iowa*. Iowa taxpayers can deduct the first \$3,387 they contribute per beneficiary account from their state taxable income. This means a married couple with two children will be able to deduct up to \$13,548 in College Savings Iowa contributions on their 2019 state taxes.

Iowa taxpayers may also elect to contribute to their College Savings Iowa account up through the tax deadline for filing an individual Iowa state income tax return. This means there is still time to contribute for 2018. All Iowa taxpayers can still contribute for the 2018 tax year up through April 30, 2019 and claim a tax deduction of up to \$3,319 per College Savings Iowa account.

College Savings Iowa lets parents, grandparents, friends and relatives invest for college on behalf of a future scholar. It takes just \$25 and 10 minutes to open an account online. Investors in the plan can withdraw their investment tax-free to pay for qualified higher education expenses, which include tuition, books, supplies and room and board at any eligible college, university, community college or accredited technical training school in the United States or abroad.** While participants do not need to be an Iowa resident to invest in the plan, they do need to be an Iowa taxpayer to take advantage of the Iowa income tax deduction.

For more information about College Savings Iowa, call 888.672.9116 or visit CollegeSavingsIowa.com and connect with the plan on Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date on current giveaways and events.

**Adjusted annually for inflation. If withdrawals are not qualified, the deductions must be added back to Iowa taxable income. The availability of tax or other benefits may be contingent on meeting other requirements.*

***Earnings on non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal income tax and a 10% federal penalty tax, as well as state income taxes. The availability of tax or other benefits may be contingent on meeting other requirements.*

Yearning to See Something Green? Try the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt



While we are all yearning to see something green after record amounts of snow this winter, you don't have to wait until St. Patrick's Day. The Great Iowa Treasure Hunt might just add some green in the form of unclaimed property to your wallets.

Throughout the year, I encourage all Iowans to check our website for forgotten treasure. We explored our list to find those Irish connections this St. Patrick's Day.

Names include Irish, Ireland, Clovers, Shamrocks, Greens and even a Lucky Pub Grub in Ankeny. Even if you have claimed property in the past, there is a chance your name could reappear.

Since 1983, the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt has returned over \$258 million. Corporations, business associations, financial institutions and companies across the nation report millions of dollars in unclaimed property to the state treasurer each year. Common examples of unclaimed property include money in forgotten savings and checking accounts, uncashed insurance benefit and payroll checks, lost stock and dividends, abandoned safe deposit box contents, utility refunds or deposits.

Visit the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt at GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov to begin your search. Like Great Iowa Treasure Hunt on Facebook and follow the program on Twitter @GreatIATreasure to stay up to date on future events.

Outstanding Debt Obligations Increase 2.9 Percent

As state treasurer, one of my obligations is to report the outstanding debt obligations for state and local governments in Iowa. As of June 30, 2018, Iowa's outstanding debt obligations totaled \$16.3 billion. Overall, this represents an increase of 2.9% from last year, which is similar to the previous year's increase. All political subdivisions, instrumentalities and agencies of the state are required to disclose outstanding long-term obligations, including bonds, notes, capital leases and loans, to the state treasurer annually. Iowa continues the trend of moderate increases in outstanding debt obligations. Public units borrow money in order to pay for capital projects, such as public buildings, schools, and utility improvements. The 2.9% increase is likely due to financing normal infrastructure needs.

The debt of Iowa cities continues to account for the largest share of outstanding debt at 37% of the total outstanding debt. For the first time, debt held by cities surpassed the \$6 billion mark, increasing by \$197 million from 2017 to 2018.

School-issued debt held steady in fiscal 2018 at 23.5% of the total outstanding debt. Debt held by schools was \$3.8 billion, an increase of \$97 million from 2017.

My office makes this information available to all Iowans by county so they can see the total debt and changes over the years in their own communities. Click [here](#) to view the report and additional information by a specific reporting entity.

	FY 18	FY 17	\$ Change	% Change
Cities	\$6,016,499,641	\$5,819,641,424	\$196,858,217	3.38%
School Districts/AEAs	\$3,831,392,177	\$3,734,766,801	\$96,625,376	2.59%
State Authorities	\$2,280,994,654	\$2,109,713,840	\$171,280,814	8.12%
Board of Regents	\$1,833,960,571	\$1,786,067,132	\$47,893,439	2.68%
State Agencies	\$762,793,000	\$808,740,917	(\$45,947,917)	-5.68%
Counties	\$917,425,070	\$913,639,972	\$3,785,098	0.41%
Community Colleges	\$626,501,877	\$631,617,394	(\$5,115,517)	-0.81%
Others	\$55,064,021	\$58,226,690	(\$3,162,669)	-5.43%
Total	\$16,324,631,011	\$15,862,414,170	\$462,216,841	2.91%

IABLE Celebrates Two-Year Anniversary



January marked the two-year anniversary of Iowa's Achieving a Better Life Experience program (ABLE). IABLE is our newest savings program, offering people with disabilities and their families the ability to save and earn tax benefits at the same time. Additionally, eligible account owners can save for qualified disability expenses without losing their eligibility for certain assistance programs, such as SSI and Medicaid.

These accounts can be used for short term savings or long term investing. There are a total of seven investment options, including a checking option with a debit card. Investment earnings grow federally tax-deferred and qualified withdrawals are federally tax-exempt. For Iowa taxpayers, savings also grow state tax-deferred and withdrawals state tax-exempt. Additionally, Iowa taxpayers who contribute to an IABLE account can deduct up to \$3,387 in contributions from their 2019 adjusted gross income.

Since the program's inception in January 2017, over 440 accounts have been opened across two-thirds of Iowa's counties, with more than \$2.4 million invested. Eligible individuals can open one account for themselves, or an authorized individual can open one account on their behalf. Accounts can be opened online in just a few minutes, with as little as \$25.

Please visit IAble.gov to learn more. You may also call the program at 1-888-609-8910, or email us at ia.clientservices@savewithable.com.

Last Chance to Claim your City of Des Moines Class Action Franchise Tax Lawsuit



In September 2016, I announced the addition of over 60,000 Des Moines-area properties to the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt. The additional properties represented over \$11 million added from the City of Des Moines class action franchise tax lawsuit. The amounts range from \$10 to over \$300,000 and my office was given 18 months to find the rightful owners through the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt. Owners have until April 25, at which time any remaining funds will be returned to the City. Over the course of the last 16 months, our office received a record number of calls, people stopping by our office, visits to our website and claims submitted. But even more importantly, 11,000 people or businesses have received checks for a total of \$3.8 million! Visit GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov to begin your search.