



AIA Iowa ARE Candidate Matching Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Program Goal: To support AIA Iowa members with an affordable, grant-based subsidized subscription to the PrepARE online studying platform for Associate AIA members who are actively preparing for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) and do not receive employer support for study materials.

General Program Information

Q: What is the AIA Iowa ARE Candidate Matching Grant Program?

A: This is a financial assistance program that offers a **50% reimbursement** for the cost of an annual subscription to the PrepARE online studying platform. It is designed to make high-quality ARE preparation materials more affordable for eligible AIA Iowa Associate Members.

Q: What is PrepARE?

A: PrepARE is an online studying platform (created by AIA East Bay) that provides comprehensive study materials, practice exams, and resources for candidates preparing to take the Architect Registration Examination (ARE).

Q: How does the "Matching Grant" portion work?

A: The program operates on a 50/50 basis. Selected candidates agree to cover 50% of the cost of the PrepARE subscription upfront, and AIA Iowa will reimburse the remaining 50% after the candidate submits proof of purchase.

Q: How many grants are available?

A: Up to three (3) grants will be awarded in 2026. They are based on eligibility on a first-come first-served basis.

Eligibility and Application

Q: Who is eligible to apply for this grant?

A: To be eligible, you must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Be an active **AIA Iowa Associate Member** in good standing.
- Be an **NCARB Record Holder**.

- Be **actively studying for the ARE**.
- Be employed at a firm or organization that **does not cover the cost of ARE study materials** for its employees enrolled in AXP.

Q: I am an AIA Iowa Student Affiliate. Am I eligible?

A: You may be in the future! This grant is specifically reserved for **Associate AIA members** who are actively working toward their first license. Learn more about becoming an [AIA Iowa Associate AIA](#) member.

Q: My employer offers to pay for some study materials, but not all of them. Am I still eligible?

A: This grant is specifically for candidates whose employers **do not cover the cost of study materials** for the ARE. If your employer provides *any* form of direct financial support for ARE study materials, you are unfortunately not eligible for this program.

Q: What materials do I need to submit to apply?

A: You must complete the online application form and upload a Letter of Interest. The letter should:

- Verify your AIA Iowa Associate Membership status.
- Confirm that you are an NCARB Record holder.
- Confirm that you are in the midst of studying for the ARE.
- Confirm that your employer **does not** cover the cost of study materials.

Q: What is the application deadline?

A: The application deadline for the current cycle is **December 1**.

Selection and Reimbursement Process

Q: When will candidates be notified of selection?

A: Selected candidates will be notified between **December 2nd – 4th**.

Q: If selected, when do I purchase the PrepARE subscription?

A: Selected candidates must purchase their year-long PrepARE subscription in **January 2026**.

Q: How do I get my 50% reimbursement?

A: The reimbursement process is as follows:

1. **Purchase:** In January, you will purchase a year-long PrepARE Annual Pass (using a specific AIA Iowa code for an additional discount).
2. **Submit:** You will submit the receipt from PrepARE to Chris Huling at chuling@aiaiowa.org.

- 3. Reimbursement:** AIA Iowa will then issue a check to you for **50% of the cost** shown on the receipt.

Q: If I receive the grant, am I required to provide a testimonial?

A: Yes. Part of accepting the grant is agreeing to provide a testimonial about the program and allowing AIA Iowa to use your name and testimonial in future program promotions.

Q: What happens if I am selected but do not purchase PrepARE by the January 30th deadline?

A: The grant is tied to the current program cycle. Failure to purchase the subscription and submit the receipt by **January 30, 2026** may result in forfeiture of the grant.

For more information contact AIA Iowa Staff at 515-244-7502 or info@aiaiowa.org.